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NEWS

Krepfels Center named NH Neighborhood Champion by Bank of America, receives \$50K grant

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PORTSMOUTH — Bank of America announced Wednesday it has chosen the Krepfels Center as this year's Neighborhood Champion for the state of New Hampshire. The honor comes with a \$50,000 grant over two years.

At the center at Portsmouth's Community Campus, Ken Sheldon, president of Bank of America New Hampshire, made the announcement to a gathering of Krepfels Center staff and board members, which included the center's founder David Krepfels.

Krepfels founded the center in 1995 after surviving a traumatic car accident resulting in a brain injury. He created the organization with his own resources to support others living with a brain injury and their families.

Since then, Krepfels Center has evolved from its origin as an emergency financial assistance program into New Hampshire's leading brain injury survivor support organization with the mission to improve the quality of life of people living with brain injury through programming, shared experiences and support in a welcoming community.

The Neighborhood Champion grant will support the center's expansion of its services to help more brain injury survivors and leadership development opportunities for its staff.

"We are thrilled to have been chosen for this grant, and it couldn't have come at a more impactful time, with our eye on growth, to meet the needs of more brain injury survivors in our communities," said L. Renee Couture, executive director of Krepfels Center. "And with growth comes an even more pressing need for leadership development among our staff. ...

All our thanks to Bank of America NH for believing in our mission and vision, and putting that into action with both multi-year operational funding and leadership development opportunities."

Couture thanked Bank of America for recognizing the non-profit's readiness for growth and "the quality of exceptional leadership that is key to that success. So often at nonprofits, leadership development is sidelined to focus on just keeping the lights on."

"We're extremely proud to be able to give this to your organization," Sheldon said. "It's a testament to your small staff that you are able to have the impact that you've had and now Krepfels Center is at an inflection point where it's broadening its impact. ... We support leadership development and the value it brings to an organization."

Bank of America names Neighborhood Champions in more than 42 communities across the U.S. each year as part of its commitment to investing in the long-term health of communities. The program is invitation-only for nonprofits who are poised to take their work to the next level.

"As communities continue to recover and navigate a changing landscape, nonprofits are still experiencing significant demands and are in need of resources to serve people, including brain injury survivors and their families," Sheldon said. "Krepfels Center helps survivors and their families find new life after brain injury and chart a path toward personal success, economic opportunity and stability. Programs like Neighborhood Champions help these organizations grow sustainably and strategically for greater positive impact in the community."