



## making a difference

By Resident Sarah LaCroix

# THE MCKERYN BRIDGE FOUNDATION

*helping families in distress*

A New Hampshire single mother, beset by bad luck and struggling to make ends meet, has a chance to rise above her circumstances at her job in a fast food restaurant. The offer of an assistant manager position is her chance to succeed, but the late hours the job entails are not possible without a car.

Enter the McKeryn Bridge Foundation.

Eight years ago, Bedford residents Bob and Kathy Brown saw a need to address a certain type of hardship that has been particularly prevalent of late – that brought on by specific, often temporary circumstances. Such hardships, only exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, can often be

addressed by specific, targeted aid. This is the purpose of the McKeryn Bridge Foundation. In partnership with the late Hayden Edwards, the Browns formed the McKeryn Bridge Foundation to fill a unique need for people who have found themselves in a temporary situation, through no fault of their own, needing financial help. Just as the name implies, the Bedford-based McKeryn Bridge Foundation was created to “bridge” the gap for these short-term needs.

Since its inception, the foundation has helped over 260 families and individuals in financial distress, granting more than \$600,000. A parent who needs to take a leave of absence from work to care for a sick child. A

furnace in need of replacement before the cold of winter sets in. A modification to a house to accommodate changing medical needs. We have all known people in such circumstances. McKeryn Bridge is there to help.

“What makes us unique is how quickly we can act in a way that will immediately help an individual or family in distress. By partnering with organizations such as My Turn, with locations throughout New Hampshire, or the Dana-Farber Institute in Boston, the McKeryn Bridge team of advisors are poised to respond in a rapid turnaround, knowing that every day of suffering is a day too long,” says Bob Brown.

The advisory board is made of Robert Brown and his family (wife Kathy and children McKenzie, Ryan, and Erik), Lori Ashooh, Regina Longfellow, Mary Monty, Jason LaCroix, William Donohue, Kayla Zwirko, Deborah Whitten, and Susan Williams.

More information can be found on their website: <https://mckerynbridgefoundation.org/>.

