

Message from the Chair



Harry A. Schibanoff, Chair

Dear Friends:

This will be my last year as Director and Chair of the HNH*foundation*, and I wanted to use this opportunity to reflect upon the past ten years of my involvement with this remarkable organization. I must say that my experience as Chair of the HNH*foundation* has stretched me and challenged me in many ways that I couldn't have imagined when I assumed this role in 1997.

Perhaps most important, being a part of this organization has helped me clarify a few of my personal priorities, as well as the priorities I feel we must deal with as a community, state, and nation.

I believe that our collective self-image reflects the vision of a community and a culture that cares for one another. All of us care for our loved ones and for those more vulnerable than ourselves—like many of New Hampshire's children. I'm sure that there is little disagreement about the worthiness of that vision. However, there is often a difference between our self-image and the reality of how we actually live our lives in the world.

In our everyday world, who is responsible for providing health coverage to our children? Who pays for it? Who is it that assists families in bringing their children into our health care system and for providing the services our current system lacks? Who is it that helps children learn about the importance of physical activity and healthy eating to live long and healthy lives?

What has become clear to me over the past ten years is that access to quality health insurance coverage in our state and nation—for children as well as adults—is not only a personal responsibility, but also a community, state and national responsibility. I believe it is not only possible—but also essential—to create a culture where access to basic health needs and the opportunity to live a healthy lifestyle are available to all New Hampshire residents.

All of us who have been involved with the work of the HNH*foundation* over the years represent the community that has made, and will continue to make, a difference. Making a difference is all about how we choose to get involved, how we vote, and how we think of ourselves as residents of this state.

One of the things I've learned over the past ten years is that each choice I make makes a difference—even the small ones. Whether it's talking with family and friends about the work of the HNH*foundation*; staying informed about the national and state health care debate about covering the uninsured; listening for evidence of best practices to reduce childhood obesity; or voting in an informed way in each local, state, and national election, my choices reflect my values, and what I truly believe is the best—not just for me and my family—but for my community and its future.

Whatever role you have played in the important work of the HNH*foundation*, I extend my most sincere thanks. I particularly applaud our board and staff, and the exemplary leadership they have exhibited over the years. I would also like to thank all of the past directors, staff, colleagues, and friends of HNH*foundation* for their efforts to make the HNH*foundation* what it is today. Our journey was a total team effort and we should all be proud of our accomplishments.

My life, and the lives of thousands of children and families across our state, has been enriched and strengthened—and certainly made healthier—through your impassioned commitment and tireless efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harry A. Schibanoff". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Harry A. Schibanoff, Chair