**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Merrimack County Savings Bank is newest Step Up Parents Corporate Sponsor**

**Statewide, NH - August 11, 2020 -** Portsmouth-based Step Up Parents (SUP) recently received $2,500 from Merrimack County Savings Bank (the Merrimack), a donation that will help the nonprofit agency continue to help kinship families throughout the bank’s service area.

According to President, Linda Lorden, the Merrimack is “proud” to support Step Up Parents.

“We’re happy to give and do as much as we can to ensure children are being cared for and raised in stable, loving homes, and we encourage others to do the same,” she said. “The Merrimack is grateful for the incredible work and services that Step Up Parents provides and we thank them for their community leadership.”

Denyse Richter, SUP Founder, said she is “thrilled” to partner with the Merrimack.

“25% of the families we serve come from the bank’s service area of southern NH and the greater Concord region,” she said. “The Merrimack is our first corporate sponsor outside the Seacoast area, and we couldn’t be more excited.”

SUP offers financial assistance to kinship caregivers throughout New Hampshire who have ‘stepped up’ to raise children with parent(s) who struggle with substance use disorder. Since its founding in 2019, SUP has given assistance to over 80 families.

To learn more about SUP, make a referral, or donate, visit www.stepupparents.net. Donations may also be mailed to PO Box 1603, Portsmouth, NH, 03801.

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