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*Max Delsignore:* Northern New York Community Podcast. Stories from the heart of our community.

Hi again and welcome to the Northern New York Community Podcast, I'm your host, Max Delsignore. We hope you enjoy this community story, featuring Ben and Peggy Coe. While having grown up in two different parts of the country, or different parts of the US respectively, they had spent a substantial part of their adult lives making the North Country better. No matter the cause or commitment, they have an advocates for Northern New York and the organizations and groups that make it whole. To learn more about where their core values come from in their personal efforts in helping the region thrive, we're honored to have them here on the podcast.

And Ben and Peggy, we certainly appreciate your time and willingness being here today, so thanks for joining us.

*Peggy:* Thank you.

*Max Delsignore:* Also, as part of our conversation today the Executive Director of the Northern New York Community Foundation, Rande Richardson, is here to have a few questions and be part of the conversation. To open up, I thought we would mention kind of the beginning for two of you and that you're not natives of the North Country. Could you just share with us a little bit about where you're from and where you grew up?

*Peggy:* Well, I was born in New York State, in Brooklyn. I think I lived, you know, a few months there and then we moved to New Jersey. Then we were in Pennsylvania, then we were in Illinois, then we were in Indiana, and back to New Jersey a couple of times. So I was used to moving. I was an only child. I still have friends from every place that I've lived, that I still am in contact with after over 70 years, yeah.

*Max Delsignore:* And was the reason for moving to the different communities -

*Peggy:* My dad was an electric engineer and he ended up in sales, was really good at it.

*Max Delsignore:* Ben, you grew up on the other side of the coast in the United States?

- Benjamin Coe:* Right, yeah. My dad was a naval officer and we followed his ship, usually a Destroyer, up and down the West Coast and Hawaiian Islands and so I was in two or three, four schools a year. So like Peggy, it made me fairly flexible.
- Max Delsignore:* What do you remember most about a childhood where you spent such brief times in these communities? You know, Peggy, you mentioned that you were able to have relationships from all the places that you've been and still have those to this day. Was it tough to really kind of get entrenched in the culture of the community at first when you were children, because you were moving to different places?
- Peggy Coe:* I didn't find it so, no. You know, when you're in school you make friends right away, and if you're in something like girl scouts or something, you have a set of friends that you're with a lot. So when we moved to Indianapolis I had my high school friends there, and then we moved to Winchester, Mass and I had my senior year in high school. Now we have friends from our high school days, and now college. It's – we got together with my college friends every year.
- Max Delsignore:* Can you share the story of how you and Ben met?
- Benjamin Coe:* Oh, well, let's see. My family moved to Winchester, Massachusetts when I was – well, the end of my freshman year in high school. It was still during World War Two. My dad was assigned to the First Naval District in Boston and so anyway, we settled in Winchester, Massachusetts and my senior year, just before the senior year Peggy moved to town and I met her. I was an only child as well, so we called each other brother and sister. You want to pick it up from there?
- Peggy Coe:* Well, I sat between Ben and his girlfriend, because we were alphabetical. So it was Norma Bergquist, Peggy Butler and Ben Coe. So I was the note passer. But we never dated, but we double dated all the time. And through high school and college, and then I got my first job in Boston and Ben was still at MIT, and we were driving into town and my dad says – I said to my dad, 'By the way, Ben Coe was here.' And my dad says, 'We're taking him out to dinner.' And my mother says, 'He's such a good eater.' Which was very high praise for my mother. And the rest is history.
- Max Delsignore:* So after the two of you meet an opportunity arises to finally make your way to the North Country. Ben, can you talk a little bit about

what the opportunity was and how you and Peggy arrived here in Watertown, in the North Country?

*Benjamin Coe:* Yeah. I had been involved – well, I was – I had been the Executive Director of an organization called Volunteers for International Technical Assistance, and that was started up by GE scientists and engineers.

*Peggy Coe:* He had started in GE there.

*Benjamin Coe:* I spent 12 years with GE before that. So when that organization moved to DC, into Washington DC, I started looking for a job and I answered an ad in the Wall Street Journal and for the job as Executive Director of the newly established Tug Hill Commission, Temporary State Commission on Tug Hill at the time. I answered that ad and we came up and I somehow was selected to do that job, which was an amazing – turned out to be amazing opportunity and experience for me, and for Peggy too. We've always done everything together, really.

*Max Delsignore:* What did you know about the North Country before you arrived here?

*Benjamin Coe:* I knew virtually nothing about it. I had never been to Watertown until my interview.

*Peggy Coe:* We didn't know anybody here. He brought me up in October, after he had accepted the job, and we were driving along the Black River coming North, and the trees were – the place was aflame. I mean the trees were so beautiful and everything and we climbed the fire tower and outside the tower some place, and had this wonderful view. And then we ate at the Hulbert House and, well, we were hooked.

*Max Delsignore:* I was just going to ask, was that – were those memories the moments that you said maybe this is where we would like to settle?

*Peggy Coe:* No.

*Benjamin Coe:* It took a while.

*Max Delsignore:* Took a while?

*Peggy Coe:* No, because when you're coming to a temporary state commission you don't make that kind of decision.

*Benjamin Coe:* But we got to know people in a hurry. We were walking by a lot of folks and asked to get involved. Of course, with the Tug Hill Commission I was out meeting people in the towns in this four county area that the commission was involved with, and so we met a lot of people, got to know the countryside.

*Peggy Coe:* Enjoyed the snow.

*Benjamin Coe:* Yeah.

*Peggy Coe:* Two weeks after we were here Ben brought me his pair of snow shoes so I could get to the market.

*Max Delsignore:* So you mentioned that you got involved or were asked to get involved right away, but you had some experiences, as you alluded to already. You know, was that one of the main things you wanted to do once you arrived in Watertown? Who could we help and where can we play a role in this community?

*Peggy Coe:* Well, you really want to fit into a community, and why not get involved in the things that you already believe in. So for me at first it was the church, girl scouts, bird club, Historical Society, those are really the first things that -

*Benjamin Coe:* And then Catherine Johnson came.

*Peggy Coe:* Yeah, Catherine Johnson said I had to come and be on the board of the – and then I had to become the Nature Center, and I spent 20 years on that board. She was a terrific leader.

*Max Delsignore:* A lot of those values you already had, it seems. You know, when being asked to help, it didn't seem like you waived. Where did some of those values come from when you were younger, and what might some of those have been?

*Benjamin Coe:* Well, I think those values for me came in connectivity as we learned about giving in the church there. Peggy really brought me into the Episcopal Church. And then when I left – I left General Electric to become a part of Vita, I had to learn how to raise money. That was quite an eye-opener. It taught me why people give and why I would feel like giving, and I got involved with the United Way there. So I think it all started in those days.

*Max Delsignore:* Peggy, you were responsible I think in many ways for being the founder of the AAUW, and really getting the chapter started here in Jefferson County.

*Peggy Coe:* I had been very active in Schenectady. It was a very large branch of AAUW there, and I had sort of worked my – you know, I'd had different jobs and finally became president. And that time there were 700 members of that branch. And I had been to a national convention and then I was State Treasurer, and we moved up here and there was no local branch. There was a very nice college women's club and they had about 300 members. But they had monthly programs, but they didn't do programming and they didn't really have a mission, like AAUW has. So to provide opportunities for women and girls particularly in education, in society, essentially.

I joined College Women's Club and talked to them about AAUW and there were several reasons why they couldn't – we couldn't merge. We had 50 charter members for our branch and we co-existed for quite a while, and it was fine because people belonged to both and it was a good arrangements.

*Max Delsignore:* What were the keys do you think to creating that kind of collaboration and bringing some of that leadership together into a really focused cohort model?

*Peggy Coe:* Well, I think believing in the mission of AAUW. Philanthropy is one of the cornerstones, advocacy, and research. The philanthropy is one of the cornerstones. I think that's probably what appealed to people, and there were – there was lots to do about, you know, as it turned out, that Title Nine was just sort of beginning, or maybe it hadn't even begun then, about equal opportunities for women and girls and sports and other things. We were interested in – well, of course the whole domestic violence problem, and what could be done to mitigate some of the problems that these women were going through. So that was I would say an outgrowth of just the sense that women had.

*Max Delsignore:* What were some of the challenges, were there any challenges? You know, that was a very clear community need that, you know, you and others -

*Peggy Coe:* It wasn't that clear.

*Max Delsignore:* Well, there were [Crosstalk] Well, I think the way I was going was there are clear community needs that are visible, this was one that was not.

*Peggy Coe:* It was not visible.

*Max Delsignore:* So as a group, bringing that to the forefront of everybody's mind and thinking about taking care of the older folks who had this need in the community, what were some of the challenges, were there challenges you had to face as you were bringing this and raising the visibility for the effort?

*Peggy Coe:* It was difficult, because people in Watertown really didn't want to believe there was a problem, and you can't blame them for that. So what we did is that the YWCA gave us a place on the square where we could say we were the Women's Center and sometimes we paid them and sometimes we didn't pay them any rent, and then we had a shelter on the third floor, after a year or so. And we then helped write some grants too, to fund this so that we could hire an Executive Director. And you really had to have somebody there, and you had to have somebody be up in the shelter with people, and children were welcome in the shelter because most women will not leave – of course they won't leave their kids at home.

Gradually people began to understand that this was a real problem, and when you start getting doctor's wives, lawyer's wives, people who are well known in the community and their spouses are coming in for help, you realize how pervasive this problem can be. It's not just – it's not the homeless. And so then we started hooking up with people in the wider community and state wide.

*Max Delsignore:* Can you share an example, I think just for the audience to understand, can you share an example or two of the type of care and service being provided when you were in the YWCA and as you were just beginning to start the effort and helping these families?

*Peggy Coe:* Well, it was a place for – women could be safe, and quite often, I have to say, you know, they would be safe for a while and then they'd get a bouquet of red roses, or they'd – and they'd figure the guy wasn't so bad after all, and they'd go back and then, you know? There was a lot of repeats there. And you can understand that. When you have some success in pointing people in the right direction, people who need medical care, people who need some kind of job, people who need housing, and then you work through DSS and they get all these support services, you're sort of the center of support services that way. It grows. But it takes a long time. It was a long time.

*Max Delsignore:* And you were very much – I mean that effort in many ways was the impetus for the victims of Assistance Center?

*Peggy Coe:* Oh yeah, it morphed.

*Max Delsignore:* And the way that agency has evolved over time, I mean having, you know, your input and your expertise behind that to help, what have you, as you kind of reflect back now, how the organization has changed and impacted this area? You know, what do you think have been some of the greatest accomplishments for that agency?

*Peggy Coe:* Well, people now know where to go. And because they're on the New York State network for victims assistance centers, you know, the ad comes up on television, there's a phone number there. Domestic violence is now – people talk about that now, you know, they didn't talk about that in 1977. I think probably the visibility is now good. People don't know where the shelter is. They did build a shelter, they are in a safe location, and they're open 24/7. They have people who staff, that can go to the hospital, in case of serious trauma or rape, and they can help with lawyers. So it's really expanded far beyond what we envisioned in the beginning.

*Max Delsignore:* How does it make you feel, to see how far it's come?

*Peggy Coe:* It's great. Yeah, yeah. But it's had good leadership, so that's really important.

*Max Delsignore:* Ben, you know a little bit about leadership too, given your investment and time into starting another organization here, the Volunteer Transportation Center, and being at the ground floor for that. What were the early years like in taking a need, a great need too, and figuring out a way that you can provide or create an infrastructure that folks could have transportation to get different places in this area?

*Benjamin Coe:* Well, it started out in 1989, and the Fort Drum expansion was upon us, and by then I was either Vice President or President of the United Way. And it was then just United Way of Jefferson County, now it's three counties. But I felt that there was a need for a traditional volunteer center where you go out and recruit people to help different organizations where they need volunteers of certain types with certain skills. And we got the United Way to try that out, to open up an office. We raised some money and the United Way matched it and – but we found that in a community this size, and I'm talking not just Watertown but Greater Jefferson County, people knew each other well enough and knew what was around pretty much. So that wasn't a great need, and you couldn't raise money for it very effectively here for that reason.

But we did have Office for the Aging come to us and say, 'Look, we need volunteer transportation, we need to get older people to medical appointments and to other activities, so might you consider recruiting volunteers to drive their cars and deliver people to these destinations.' We looked at that and decided we would do that, and in a short time there was enough need that that was all we decided we would do. That grew, trying to keep up with the fundraising side of that was not easy, and we got a lot of help from the foundation at key points in our history, in the 90s and as late as 2009, where we had a major grant, because we had over expended accepting too many requests, and we got a major grant from the foundation and that started us off in a more controlled fashion, but essentially wiped out the debt that we had built by doing too many transports.

*Rande Richardson:* I remember that.

*Benjamin Coe:* You remember that well, Rande?

*Rande Richardson:* I do, I do, I do.

*Benjamin Coe:* That was very significant and interesting history in that organization, because before that we had a lot of demands and hadn't really figured out how to raise enough money and we thought of merging with some other organizations. And actually, well, we had Merkel, Eileen Martin, who had got some funding from the state of New York to take a look at what the greatest needs were among the people with disabilities that they served, and transportation rose right to the top. So she applied for a grant and they approached us to do transportation for that group of people, served by NRCIL, Northern independent -

*Rande Richardson:* - Northern Regional Center for Independent Living.

*Benjamin Coe:* Thank you, Rande. And based on that we decided not to merge, we had enough funds to hire an Executive Director. Before that actually I was acting as a Volunteer Director, Executive Director, and we had one staff person. That launched us on a path that led to the growth and development of the organization independently, which was very important. We wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for that move, that came at the right time, thanks to Eileen.

*Max Delsignore:* Well, and the growth and now sustainability of the organization, to be in three counties and to have that kind of impact for a need that's still so vital, when you look back again, you reflect, to see

where the organization is today, how does it make you feel to know that the VTC's on some strong grounding?

*Benjamin Coe:* Well, it feels great and it – I think it owes a lot to Sam Purrington, who's the Executive Director, who's been able to lead the organization in that direction, with a strong dedicated board of directors.

*Peggy Coe:* Yeah, five million miles last year.

*Max Delsignore:* It's amazing. And it could be higher, I'm sure, too?

*Benjamin Coe:* Oh, it's going to be higher this year, because Saint Lawrence County is taking off. And they have an office now in Kent.

*Max Delsignore:* You know, one thing that's interesting in visiting with the two of you is, and we've talked about this a little before, is you do like to give together. You know, if you're thinking of what you're going to invest your time and your talent and your resources, your energy into something, you seemingly always do it together, no matter the cause. Explain what that means to you, to be able to give together.

*Peggy Coe:* Well, we tend to think alike. We have the same values, we're interested in a lot of the same things, but there are certain things that Ben is more interested in than I am, and vice versa. But we respect that commitment. You know, if Ben was working 40 hours a week as a Volunteer Executive Director for the Volunteer Transportation Center, that was fine with me, because I believed in the Volunteer Transportation Center. I even did some drives and things like that, so we've always sort of worked together, and when the Victims Assistance Center was really right down to its last nickel, Ben wrote a couple of grants for that. It meant that we could hire somebody to be in the office. We do appreciate what each other does.

*Benjamin Coe:* I was governor of a district of Rotary, our district. It's part of the – not just Northern New York over – from here over to Plattsburg, but a large part of Ontario and Quebec.

*Peggy Coe:* Ontario, including Ottawa, Quebec, including Montreal and the Laurentian.

*Benjamin Coe:* And so I had to go visit every club in this Rotary district, and Peggy came with me to visit all but three. She was -

*Peggy Coe:* I drove -

- Benjamin Coe:* - with me driving and I was trying to figure out what I was -
- Peggy Coe:* - I drove 10,000 miles and he – he -
- Benjamin Coe:* - trying to say.
- Peggy Coe:* - he worked.
- Benjamin Coe:* So it's been a real partnership, and we each have our things, but we work together on a lot of things and bounce ideas off each other, which has always been really helpful.
- Rande Richardson:* So and in that respect, obviously you have to believe in the work and the mission of a project or an organization you're supporting, but what other things do you look for when you're considering making a commitment, either time or financially, as far as an organization? What do you expect from that organization?
- Peggy Coe:* Well, I guess we expect that the organization would use our money wisely and would have us use our time on projects that would be helpful. I don't think we've had any trouble with things that we've supported. I think we've looked at an organization maybe being asked to do something for an organization and deciding that it was something that we really liked to do and something that we believed in.
- Benjamin Coe:* We tend to when we get involved with something, we tend to get up to our -
- Rande Richardson:* Be all in?
- Benjamin Coe:* Yeah.
- Rande Richardson:* Be all in.
- Benjamin Coe:* But we know from long experience what kind of a team you have to build to make something work well, and what to watch out for to avoid getting out of line and into trouble. Because it's not easy to not run a non-profit organization, and the person who runs it has a wide open number of things they can do. In many ways it's more difficult than a business that has a clear focus. A volunteer organization that needs to raise money for what they do has to make choices on what their mission and plan to carry it out must be, and you can't do everything. I think we've been able to help, both of us, in helping to guide organizations, helping to bring in

people who could work together for good and could help raise the money needed and so on.

*Rande Richardson:* One of the reasons that we're doing this is we know these stories are going to be retold to the next generation, and I'd like to get your sense of one, how you feel what you've done is going to help with that, and what more can be done to continue to make sure that we have this same type of thinking in our community in the future.

*Peggy Coe:* Well, one thing we talked about with Max was that for a number of Christmases now we, with our children, we ask them to give instead of something material, to give a donation to a charity that either they really support or that we support. And in turn we do that for them, and I know that they are gift – gifts, but I was particularly touched at this particular – this birthday I got a card from Mount Holyoke saying that our granddaughter had given money to the Mount Holyoke Alumni Fund in my name, in honor of my birthday. So we're sort of in an age where we really don't need stuff so that that kind of giving, so I know our grandson does the same thing, and I'm sure a lot of the grandkids will, because they have the example of their parents now.

*Benjamin Coe:* Getting youth involved is really extremely important, and I know the foundation has done -

*Peggy Coe:* Yeah, sure. Youth -

*Benjamin Coe:* - some really good thing.

*Peggy Coe:* - Philanthropy Program is great. What a wonderful -

*Benjamin Coe:* And Rotary has tried to do that kind of thing too, programs, one's called Interact that has to do with sort of miniature Rotary clubs in the high school. And Rotor-Act is at the college level, and the more of that the better, because our – really the only way to teach that is by example, and by giving an opportunity to volunteer, to raise money for something they believe in. Those first donations that a young person, or a young family gives and what they choose to give and the satisfaction they get is the key, I think, to this country's philanthropy.

*Max Delsignore:* I want to follow up on that. So let me present a scenario. If you had a group of school students before you and you were sharing a message about the importance of philanthropy and giving for that first time, what would your message be to them, about how important it is to give for that first time? It could be financially, it

could be just a volunteer. What would that message be from you to the youth?

*Benjamin Coe:* Well, one would be to look around your community. Open your eyes and see what you think some of the problems are and some of the needs are. Make a connection with organizations that are involved, or dream up something on your own, and give your first volunteer hour and your first dollar. And once you do that you begin to understand philanthropy.

*Peggy Coe:* It's the act of the first time doing it. Because once you've done it once then you realize the benefits, not only to the organization but to yourself.

*Rande Richardson:* What are those benefits to yourself?

*Peggy Coe:* Well, I think it makes us better people, better citizens, we're more aware of what's going on in the community. Maybe it makes us more sympathetic.

*Benjamin Coe:* I think we learned a lot from our church membership over the years, and that our purpose on earth is to serve, and not be served. And we're following the message of what we've learned in the Bible and by those who teach it, and there's no higher calling than to be a servant.

*Max Delsignore:* You could've settled anywhere in the US and you've lived in many places. Why have you made the North Country your home?

*Peggy Coe:* We like it here.

*Max Delsignore:* In what ways?

*Peggy Coe:* Well, we're comfortable here. There's no beltway. That's really nice. I hate beltways. We like the snow, we started cross-country skiing here and that's a plus, and we like being this close to the border, because we have a lot of Rotarian friends across the border and we go to plays and restaurants and things, you know, they're our neighbors and we're delighted to be a neighbor of Canada. And of course it's beautiful here. I mean it's – think of the water and the greenery and all the recreational opportunities just right at hand.

*Benjamin Coe:* We really, when we travel to a city of any size, we're so grateful to get back. Of course driving in traffic becomes more difficult as you get older, but it never was any fun.

*Peggy Coe:* Get off the plane and get on route NE1 and breathe a sigh of relief.

*Max Delsignore:* You touched on this a little bit, but I want to go back briefly, with regards to the Christmas story. And I think it would be important to hear you articulate for those that will be listening, or are listening, how important is sharing the concept of philanthropy with your family? It's obviously made an impact, but for those that maybe haven't demonstrated with their own children yet, how important has philanthropy meant in sharing those values with your family members, your kids, your grandkids?

*Peggy Coe:* Well, as Ben said, it's really important that the next generations practice giving. And I think that our kids understand that by giving maybe we're – they're going to get a few dollars less after we're gone. They've all been totally supportive, and maybe if they haven't thought about it yet, which is possible, I mean we started the Christmas giving, what, maybe six, seven years ago?

*Benjamin Coe:* Yeah.

*Peggy Coe:* So you know, we were already almost 80 by then. So it's -

*Benjamin Coe:* I think my parents started doing some of that too. We may have been influenced by them.

*Peggy Coe:* I think they did, yeah. And I'm sure my parents gave, but it was never obvious to me, that they were giving people. So I -

*Benjamin Coe:* I think we learned in the church about proportional giving, where you try to have a target of what you think you can do, and for us it started as a very low percentage. It gradually – your target is the tithe, and we interpreted that as not just giving, not giving ten percent to a specific church but giving ten percent to -

*Peggy Coe:* Total to -

*Benjamin Coe:* - that we – in causes that help the community and the individuals, and other things we believe in, like supporting the arts and -

*Max Delsignore:* Well, that type of philanthropy has been part of this community's fabric for many, many years, and what you've demonstrated together has been another terrific example of the impact and the importance of philanthropy in this region. How important is continuing with philanthropy? How important is that to the future of the North Country as a whole?

*Peggy Coe:* Well, I think the people who might consider moving here might look to see how the charitable institutions are supported. Do people support the Historical Society, do they support the library, do they support different things in a – the United Way, the foundation.

*Benjamin Coe:* We have a pretty strong infrastructure here in the North Country, we've -

*Peggy Coe:* Yeah, we do, we do.

*Benjamin Coe:* - been fortunate. And part I think that came from the Fort Drum growth. It really spurred recognition that we've got to help each other build this community.

*Peggy Coe:* So increasing awareness, the program, the youth philanthropy, and people now know about the foundation. I can't think of anybody that we know who doesn't know about the foundation, and what it does. It just makes the community stronger. If you live in a community where everybody's selfish, it doesn't seem like it would be a very happy place to live.

*Rande Richardson:* You know, you've been a longtime advocate and supporter of the Foundation. What would you say you appreciate and like best about what a community foundation brings to a community?

*Benjamin Coe:* Well, one would be participation. You found ways through advice funds and similar funds established, named funds.

*Rande Richardson:* Designated funds.

*Benjamin Coe:* Yeah. I know Tug Hill tomorrow, Land Trust is working on getting enough together to start its own name fund. And a lot of – that's been a movement that you've helped promote and I think it's an excellent movement. So you know, that's one thing we help support because we were involved.

*Peggy Coe:* There's the Scholarship Fund, and you involve community members as part of choosing the recipients.

*Benjamin Coe:* And Memorial Funds. So there's a lot of different ways that this foundation has made it possible for pretty wide participation, and you don't necessarily have to have a lot of money to participate.

*Rande Richardson:* If someone asked this question and if you could answer it with three words, and I'll ask both of you, Ben Coe is? Peggy Coe is? Three things.

*Benjamin Coe:* There's going to be a long pause here.

*Rande Richardson:* That's good. That's exactly what I was hoping for.

*Benjamin Coe:* Devoted to family, community and loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

*Peggy Coe:* How could I top that one?

*Rande Richardson:* Give it a shot.

*Benjamin Coe:* Sorry about that.

*Peggy Coe:* Yeah, that's alright. I -

*Benjamin Coe:* That wasn't three words, was it?

*Peggy Coe:* No. If I see that something needs to be done, I try and do it. I try to give my best when I do something. I guess I try to see humor in situations too. I think laughter is a wonderful part of living. He makes me laugh every day, so it's wonderful.

*Rande Richardson:* Can I add one? Wonderful and great friend to many.

*Peggy Coe:* Thank you. That's very nice.

*Rande Richardson:* It's true. We've known you a long time. And that's an important thing, to be a friend.

*Peggy Coe:* Oh yes.

*Rande Richardson:* Not everybody knows how to do that.

*Peggy Coe:* Yeah, I feel that we have lots of friends.

*Rande Richardson:* You do.

*Peggy Coe:* But they're around the country and across the border and friends are a real treasure, you're right. And they're the ones that help us out when we need help, give us joy.

*Max Delsignore:* Well, we certainly appreciate the fact that you chose this area as your home many years ago, to be able to give the way that you have. And I don't want to speak for Rande but I feel like what you have done, whether it's through the Community Foundation or the agencies you've been a part of is the impact behind what you've done is really immeasurable, and it's made the community so much better and very good example of what philanthropy means, and we hope that those that hear this, and particularly the younger generation that hears this, can understand and follow the example that you have set forth for the rest of us. And we appreciate you sharing your story on the podcast as well.

*Peggy Coe:* Well, thank you for the opportunity, because it really has been an opportunity. It's nice to be able to talk about what you believe in and particularly when it's something as important as philanthropy.

*Max Delsignore:* Well, thank you for believing in this area and the mission of this community, and thanks again to each of you for listening to the Northern New York Community Podcast. We hope you enjoyed this episode and a major thanks to WPBS TV and the Northern New York Community Foundation for their support and production of the podcast. Please come back and join us again for another inspiring story from the heart of your community.

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