

**Berkshire South Regional Community Center**

15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230

3/4/19

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Pittsfield Cooperative Bank Issues Significant Gift  
to Berkshire South Regional Community Center**

Berkshire South Regional Community Center (BSRCC) announces a matching gift from The Pittsfield Cooperative Bank in the amount of \$20,000. The gift was presented by Jay Anderson, Pittsfield Coop President and CEO, and Emily Davis, Assistant Vice President and Great Barrington Branch Manager; and accepted by Jenise Lucey, Executive Director of BSRCC, with Ethel Patterson, BSRCC Board Chair, on Friday, March 1, at the Community Center.

“Berkshire South does an amazing job and we could not be happier to support such a wonderful organization to help them strengthen the vitality of the communities we serve.” said Jay Anderson.

The gift matched funds raised by BSRCC in a recent community appeal, bringing those efforts to \$40,000.

“We are deeply appreciative of today’s donation,” said Jenise Lucey. “The Pittsfield Cooperative Bank has been a strong community partner of the Center since our very beginning in 2002. We are also grateful for the countless critical services we are able to provide for the citizens of our region and beyond due to the solid foundation created by our donors.”

The Pittsfield Cooperative Bank’s gifted funds will have a significant impact at Berkshire South.

As a non-profit, Berkshire South must raise 40% of its annual income – about \$1 million – from individual donors and foundations. Because of the generosity of major supporters like Pittsfield Cooperative Bank, this year BSRCC was able to serve over 4,500 free meals at our Monday night Community Suppers; our highly-skilled staff taught 330 hours of adaptive needs swim instruction for individuals with disabilities; and the Center awarded financial assistance to more than 250 people toward their membership, pre-school and after-school care.

“I want to especially acknowledge Jay Anderson for approaching us with a desire to provide additional support to the Center. The relationship between Pittsfield Cooperative Bank and Berkshire South is a wonderful example of two entities deeply valuing the community they” said Ethel Patterson. “We look serve, forward to many more years of this mutual work.”

BSRCC strives to address the needs of all their members. At the Center you will find a specially trained team that offers classes and individualized trainings for all abilities. The adaptive member base is a priority, and we continue to educate ourselves in

order to address the needs of these members while staying focused on keeping programs accessible and adaptable to everyone.

Berkshire South Regional Community Center is a non-sectarian, nonprofit organization open to all, regardless of ability to pay. Our mission is to build a sense of community and common purpose throughout the region, and to enhance the recreational, educational, cultural, health and social well-being of the residents of the Southern Berkshires.