CAPITALIZING ON SOCIAL CAPITAL

Presentation by: Lewis Feldstein
Thursday, February 24, 2011 – Noon – 1pm
St. Francis Room, Jack Ketchum Library
Light lunch and refreshments

"We must learn to view the world through a social capital lens. We need to look at front porches as crime fighting tools, treat picnics as public health efforts and see choral groups as occasions of democracy. We will become a better place when assessing social capital impact becomes a standard part of decision-making."... -- Lew Feldstein

Communities with higher levels of social capital are likely to have:

- higher educational achievement,
- better performing governmental institutions,
- faster economic growth,
- and less crime and violence.
- And the people living in these communities are likely to be happier, healthier, and to have a longer life expectancy.

Lewis M. Feldstein served for 24 years before retiring last June as the President of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, a statewide community foundation.

Feldstein worked with the civil rights movement in Mississippi and served for seven years in senior staff positions to New York City Mayor John V. Lindsay. Prior to coming to NHCF, Feldstein served as Provost of the Antioch/New England Graduate School. Among his singular achievements were a seven-year tenure as the MC of the International Zucchini Festival, and a stint as wine steward and personal assistant to John Wayne on his yacht in the Mediterranean.

In the late 1990's he worked with friend and Harvard professor Bob Putnam, author of *Bowling Alone*: *The Collapse and Revival of American Community,* to develop a three year seminar that convened leaders from across the country – E.J. Dionne and George Stephanopolis among them – to talk about social capital and community building. Feldstein and Putnam went on to write a book together called *Better Together: Restoring the American Community*, which profiles successful community building efforts throughout the country.

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