

To whom it may concern,

My name is Christina Benoit, my husband Greg and I own Benoit's Design Company, a manufacturer and retail shop in Westbrook, Maine. We are writing in support and gratitude of Common Threads of Maine. We have found that this organization has been and will continue to be an integral part of, not only our business, but to many others in the state.

In June of 2020, we were in the process of developing a new product line for our business. We worked with Dory Waxman of Common Treads of Maine to help us find people who were motivated and taught them the skills needed to create our products. They worked with us to find a person who would be a good fit for our team and our product line. The skills that Common Threads teach also goes beyond stitching, they teach their graduates how to be a good employee. We hired a graduate of the program in October of 2020. She is a valuable member of our company. She's not only a good seamstress, she's dedicated, hardworking, and always willing to help her co-workers.

Common Threads is a great partner as well. They continued to check in on us and her for several months after she joined our company. In late 2020 we were able to successfully launch our new wearables line. Our partnership with Dory and the Common Threads of Maine team helped make this possible.

We hope that the funding for Common Threads of Maine will continue. The benefits of this Organization go beyond the graduates of the training, many who may not have otherwise had an opportunity to learn a skill, but also to the businesses who are able to hire trained stitchers to help them grow their business, the local economy and the communities where we all live and work.

Best,
Christina and Greg Benoit