

Bio for Melinda Little

When Melinda first moved to Saranac Lake full-time 23 years ago, she found the community she had craved all her life (but didn't know it) and feels incredibly lucky to be a part of it.

Melinda is an entrepreneur by background, and she brought that experience to bear in 2006 by leading the successful effort to establish The Community Store, now The Village Mercantile. In 1996 she co-founded Independent Means, the leading provider of family-centered financial education programs and products in the United States until it was acquired in 2015 and in the late 1980's founded The Company of Women, a national mail order catalog company. She is currently focusing her entrepreneurial skills on managing Point Positive (www.pointpositiveadk.com), an angel investor group which since its inception in 2014 has committed \$2.75 million to eight ventures across the Greater Adirondack Region, fueling new jobs and a stronger diversified economy in the Adirondacks.

In addition to her ongoing role with The Village Mercantile, Melinda has served for over 12 years on the board of the Tri-Lakes Humane Society and just recently stepped down as president. Having also co-fostered several litters of wayward momma cats and their kittens for TLHS, it may come as no surprise that she currently lives with four cats of her own, two of whom were "foster failures," and until recently with the late Piper McGee, her loyal walking companion and best friend who knew Saranac Lake like the back of her paw.

Some of Melinda's earlier volunteer roles included serving on the board of Pendragon Theatre, as a member of the Human Rights Committee of the Adirondack ARC and for the last four years as the Saranac Lake rep to the board of ROOST. She is currently a Trustee for the Village of Saranac Lake.