



Simon Says “Impact”

The power of Crotched Mountain Foundation’s supporters has transformed the lives of children who are struggling the most during the pandemic.

“You are a lifesaver! We have struggled so much in the last month and we appreciate the financial support as well as the support with learning and accommodations you are able to make for him.”

- Parent of a kindergartener

To say the pandemic has placed an immense strain on education is an understatement. While all children have been impacted by the effects of school disruption and the scarcity of in-person education, students with special needs have faced increased adversity,

According to a parent survey published in NPR last summer, 35% of parents of children with special needs reported that their children are doing little to no remote learning, compared with 17% of their general education peers. And, 40% of parents of children with special needs are concerned about their child’s mental health (versus 23% of parents of other children).

Recognizing this, Crotched Mountain Foundation reached out to two prominent community partners - the Granite YMCA and the Upper Room - and developed a partnership built around quick-impact, emergency grants. The purpose? To reach New Hampshire families of children with special needs struggling with distance learning.

“The disability community has been hit especially hard by the pandemic,” said Ned Olney, CEO of Crotched Mountain Foundation. “As we have since our inception, Crotched Mountain is committed to supporting the most vulnerable among us. Our generous donors heeded the call and rallied to support children with disabilities and help them succeed despite such adverse circumstances.”

The Upper Room has begun accepting referrals from local school districts to enroll children in their expanded special education program at their Derry location and the Granite YMCA has been able to leverage the funding to immediately support children currently part of their on-site remote learning program. Crotched Mountain Foundation’s partnership with the Granite YMCA has allowed them



to bring on additional staff to focus on children with disabilities.

Take Simon for example.

A whip-smart five-year-old boy with ADD/ADHD and speech delays, Simon has been able to receive his one-to-one Speech therapy over the computer, but with a YMCA staff assisting him and keeping him on task.

In addition, he also attends a small reading group with another student twice a week. To help him focus, and with the support of staff, Simon uses noise cancelling headphones, privacy screens, and sensory items.

Continued on page 3

A New Chapter for Crotched Mountain



There are many changes at Crotched Mountain Foundation, but we are committed to keeping you up to date via our latest edition of *Horizons*. The previous year was a tumultuous chapter in our organization's storied history. COVID hit us hard and early, as we rallied to keep our residents as healthy as possible. Then the economic fallout of the pandemic led us to make the difficult decision to close Crotched Mountain School. These were very dark days. But as we quickly moved to close the school safely, we also considered options to keep the school operating.

It was this desperate search which led to a chance communication with Kevin Gersh, the President of Gersh Autism, which put us on a path to saving Crotched Mountain School. Since November, Gersh Autism has been supporting the school via a management agreement. Gersh Autism is providing technical assistance, management support, and financial resources to the school, Ready Set Connect, and CMARS.

Because of this committed partnership, the school is getting stronger, accepting new students, and positioning itself for a longer and better future. Within the next three months we expect Gersh to receive full licensing from the state of New Hampshire and take over all operations of Crotched Mountain School. This is a thrilling outcome for our kids, families, and staff. And at that point, a page turns on our story.

We are so excited for Gersh and Crotched Mountain School's families and students and staff, and also so very enthusiastic about the future of the Crotched Mountain Foundation. While the school will continue on without us, our mission of building a lifelong alliance with people with disabilities remains as focused and important as ever. Our reorientation towards serving people with unique needs in their communities opens new avenues of impact - while also allowing us to continue much of the life-changing programming we've developed for decades.

That means Crotched Mountain Community Care (CMCC), around for nearly 40 years, will still serve nearly 900 adults with special needs throughout New Hampshire via independent, high-quality, person-centered case management. And that our Shared Living homes - where adults with disabilities live with a home provider as part of the family - continue to grow across the Granite State.

And now, new for the Foundation, is our "quick impact" grant-making, which supports children from low income families with special needs who are living in the community but facing academic challenges, most notably related to distance learning amid the pandemic. As donors, you make this possible. Your generosity impacts the lives of people with disabilities. Please consider returning a gift in the enclosed remittance envelope - it means the world!

We treasure the history and the legacy of Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center, Crotched Mountain Specialty Hospital, and Crotched Mountain School. We can look forward to a new future as the Crotched Mountain Foundation - a bright future, an optimistic future, a new beginning where, together, we can address the newest and most urgent needs facing people living with disabilities today.

Ned Olney is the President and CEO of Crotched Mountain Foundation.

Making a gift doesn't have to be taxing

A quick phone call is all it takes to donate gifts of appreciated stock or to make a qualified charitable distribution from your retirement account. Donating appreciated stocks held for more than a year directly to Crotched Mountain Foundation remains a great way to support children and adults with disabilities. And you avoid paying capital gains taxes. It's easy to do! Simply contact your financial advisor or brokerage firm and provide the following information:

Deliver to: The Depository Trust Company
Participant Account: 0164, Code 40
For credit to Crotched Mountain Foundation (Call 603-831-8424 for account number)

If you have a retirement account and are 70.5 or older, you are required to take a minimum income distribution each year. This is taxable income for some. But, when you give a gift directly from your retirement account to Crotched Mountain Foundation, the IRS does not tax that portion as income. Simply call your financial advisor or retirement account administrator. Crotched Mountain Foundation's identification number is 02-0222168.

Impact *continued*

“We are so happy by the ongoing progress he was able to make during these last five weeks of remote learning,” said Stacy Neville, Granite YMCA’s Association Child Care Director.

It doesn’t stop with Simon, however - the extra staff funded through the grant have allowed the YMCA to keep ratios at one-to-one for special education services.

Children who require support like Speech therapy can get their own staff-supervised quiet space to work on their lessons. Your gift has made this happen.

“We have been able to help so many kids with the funds,” Stacy says. “One of the teachers told us today how great it is that their student hadn’t lost his skills and has been able to still get his services in a way that shows progress during this remote time. It has been super helpful and we can’t thank Crotched Mountain Foundation and their donors and supporters enough for this.”



But you don’t have to take Stacy’s - or our - word for it. This, from the mother of a third grade student, says it all:

“I have cashed in all of my PTO just to be able to afford sending her to the remote program so I am still able to work. This is so nice of you and Crotched Mountain Foundation to think of us parents and our kids who are struggling during this time.”

A place to rest, remember, and honor

Crotched Mountain’s Outdoor Recreation Initiative in Greenfield, NH encompasses a broad range of projects to provide accessible outdoor recreation activities to people of all abilities.

Our accessible trails stretch over three miles through forest, fields, wetlands and mountains. They are designed to universal accessibility standards so that everyone is welcome to enjoy nature up close - people in wheelchairs, seniors, and families with children.

Crotched Mountain’s Memorial Garden near the trail entrance offers stunning vistas and a quiet place for rest and reflection before and after hiking.

Designed by landscape architect Joseph E. Thompson, the beautiful, contemplative, and accessible Memorial Garden offers a limited number of dedication opportunities to honor family and friends whose lives are and were touched by the beauty and bounty of the outdoors:

Stone Benches - with permanently carved inscription

Paving Stones - with permanently carved inscription

Landscaping

Interested in any of the above? Contact Kevin Harte, Vice President of Advancement, 603-669-0821 or email kevin.harte@crotchedmountain.org.





186 Granite Street, Suite 3C
Manchester, NH 03101
cmf.org

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
MANCHESTER NH
PERMIT NO. 724

Horizons Winter 2021

Face of Philanthropy Ed Cyr and Evergreens for Autism

By Kevin Harte, Vice President of Advancement

On behalf of everyone at Crotched Mountain Foundation, including our staff, friends, donors, and the people we serve, we would like to offer a gigantic thank you to our awesome friend, Ed Cyr and his Evergreens for Autism Tree and Wreath Sale business in Kingston, NH.

Every year, Ed offers a portion of his sales to support the services of Crotched Mountain Foundation and this year, as always, he came through big time with another generous gift.

Ed felt even more motivation this year as he saw the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic presented to children with disabilities in distance learning environments.

“Children with disabilities need extra help now because of remote learning,” he said. “We’re delighted to support the Foundation’s efforts to provide tutoring services to these kids. My thanks to all my customers who make these donations possible every year.”



Ed Cyr presents Kevin Harte with Evergreens for Autism’s donation from Christmas tree and wreath sales. COURTESY PHOTO