

HORIZONS

The magazine of Crothed Mountain Foundation



CROTCHED
MOUNTAIN

SPRING 2022

CMFkids STRONG!



From Education to Independence

At Crotched Mountain we are ambitious and committed to make big changes for people with disabilities. Doing more for the neediest kids with severe disabilities is the very bullseye of our forward strategy. We are aggressively identifying and going out to the communities, schools, and kids with disabilities that need our help.



Did you know that in New Hampshire there are 30,000 students with disabilities? Did you know that in one of our partner schools, Berlin, 23% of students have a disability? This is 250 kids in one school district.

Of these 250 kids, 57% are classified as economically disadvantaged by the New Hampshire Department of Education. Life is challenging enough, without having two additional hurdles: poverty and disability. The lottery of birth isn't fair for many folks in New Hampshire, but at least these kids have Crotched Mountain and our supporters to provide them and their schools with additional resources to succeed.

So the question is “how” are we going to make life changing impact in the lives of these children: education. Education is where Crotched Mountain started. Back in the 1930's, we had a simple commitment to educate poor New Hampshire kids with disabilities. This is how we started, and we remain laser-focused on education.

Via our new program, CMF Kids, we are working with the front line of special education in the poorest towns in New Hampshire. We can only make a sustained impact in the lives of kids with severe disabilities if they receive an early and high-quality special education. It is proven that education is the only thing that can make a difference to help them learn the necessary skills to live independent and productive lives. Building the capacity of public schools to serve these kids will not only help the children in school today, but also the kids needing special education in the years to come. We will provide to these special education programs: teacher and skills training, infrastructure improvements, and learning technology. This is an important and necessary investment in our schools and in our children.

Once the students depart from school, we are still there for them via our adult programs to help them live independent lives.

Whether we're talking about Crotched Mountain Community Care, which provides critical case management to older adults and individuals with special needs, keeping them in their own homes and out of nursing facilities, or our accessible housing programs, which provides safe and supportive residential opportunities for low-income adults and people with disabilities, we remain committed to a life long alliance with people living with disabilities.

Warmly,

Ned Olney, President and CEO
Crotched Mountain Foundation

Face of Philanthropy

Sustained Giving, Sustained Friendships

Crotched Mountain is grateful for old friends

Nearly a century ago, Harry Gregg needed a lot of charitable support to realize his vision for a Foundation serving children with disabilities. Many thousands of individuals, businesses and civic groups answered his call for help and many have sustained their commitment to Crotched Mountain since then.

One group's consistent support is a stellar example of charitable giving. Since their first gift over six decades ago, the Masonic Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts has been one of our most ardent supporters with total giving exceeding \$360,000 and counting! They promote Crotched Mountain at Chapters throughout Massachusetts and beyond.

The order's Grand High Priest, Ernest A. Bean, recently stated: "As Masons, we are committed to help each other and seek ways to improve our communities. We thank Crotched Mountain for this opportunity to practice charity."

"Charitable giving from Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts has always been used for the most urgent needs of those we serve," says Ned Olney, President and CEO of Crotched Mountain Foundation, "Whether to pay for an AAC device to allow a child to speak for the first time, or specialized teacher training to create the best educational outcomes for their students with complex disabilities, the possibilities sustained giving creates are endless. The needs of our most vulnerable citizens can only be met through reliable, regular support from all stakeholders."

Crotched Mountain Foundation is honored by Grand Royal Arch Chapter's partnership over many decades and extends this appreciation to the individuals within all the Masonic Chapters and Lodges who have generously supported the children and adults with disabilities that we serve.

We would really like to hear how *you* prefer to practice charity. *Your* opinion will help us fund-raise wisely to further our mission for the hundreds of people who benefit from our programs every day.

To learn more about ways you can make your charitable impact, please contact Kevin Harte, Vice President of Advancement, at 603-669-1821 and at kevin.harte@crotchedmountain.org.



CMFkids discovers

A TOWN'S TREASURE

Warren Village School, nestled among the hills of northern New Hampshire, may be small, but it is mighty. And thanks to your generosity, it is on its way to becoming the gold standard for supporting children with disabilities.

In Warren, NH, there is a jewel in the center of town that is treasured by the residents. It is Warren Village School, a small school (65 total K-8 students) that mirrors the smallness of the town (825 residents). But don't let the numbers deceive you; Warren Village School may be diminutive, but it is mighty.

As was the case with so many other schools, the massive disruptions that Covid wrought exhausted the teachers and stretched the school's resources. But Michael saw his staff rally around their students and persevere in a big way.

"As tired as they are, no one is complaining," says Principal Michael Galli. "I like to say we're the hardest working village school in the state."

This reputation is well-earned. Over 10% of Warren adult residents have an income below the poverty level, making the town one of the poorer in New Hampshire.

"As you learn the background of some of these kids, you're amazed they're even at school in the first place," says Principal Galli.

He notes that some children come from homes with no running water. As such, resources - even pre-Covid - were scarce. And as valued as Warren Village School is to the community, funds are finite, and help is appreciated.

Enter CMF Kids. Enter you.

Warren Village School was one of the first CMF Kids partners, receiving support in 2021 for an exciting project designed to improve special education outcomes for children with complex disabilities. Specifically, the school focused on these goals: students gaining skills in the areas of social awareness, self-awareness, self-management, relationship building and responsible decision making; improving the rates of children with disabilities increasing their time in the general



education setting; helping students improve their scores in math and reading; and increasing a sense of belonging for students and families alike.

To facilitate this, the school brought in renowned special education experts Michael Anderson and Michael McSheehan to lead the school staff in a special training focused on social-emotional learning.

“They worked with teachers to develop better teaching practices,” Principal Galli says. “The training went over well and everyone was really, really excited. We have such a high poverty rate, to have that extra support to bring in the experts has had an immeasurable impact.”

Even without substitute teachers (a shortage facing nearly every school), the school collectively made it work. With bands of teachers tagged for two hour blocks of coaching with the “two Mikes,” nurses, the administrative assistant, and Principal Galli

himself covered classrooms to give the teachers the time for the training.

“The training encouraged the providing of more choice for the kids and we’re really seeing students respond to that,” Principal Galli says.

He points to one shining example: a fifth grader struggling with focusing issues in class was prompted to build a “goal template” and set her own goals.

“We saw an immediate turnaround,” Principal Galli says. “One day, she came up to me and said ‘Mr. Galli, I wrote a play. I have it here.’ And she pulled out her script. This was a kid you couldn’t get to write at all. It’s seven pages long. And we’re going to perform it.”

“We really feel incredibly fortunate,” he continues. “What I would tell Crooked Mountain supporters is that we’re making it happen.”



Students from Warren Village School doing a read-through of the upcoming play!

A Conversation with Laurie Melanson, SAU 23 Superintendent

How would you describe Warren Village School?

Warren Village School is the little engine that could, Everyone is very hard-working and when you step into the school, it's palpable. You just feel it. There's a genuine commitment to the kids there. They are like a family.

What are some of the school's challenges?

It's hard to be a village school, since they don't have the resources bigger schools have. We share resources around the SAU. We share speech, psychology, guidance, and behavioral services. Just don't have a lot of full time staff dedicated to students with disabilities.

How would you characterize the relationship between the town and the school?

The town looks at the village school as the golden nugget of the town. The community has been very supportive of our budget.

What does the CMF Kids partnership mean to Warren Village School?

I think it has really helped the teachers focus on not just what they're doing well, but how to come together as a team to develop new strategies for the students.

What would you like to say to Crotched Mountain's donors?

We are so grateful for the support for the program. This is something that Warren Village School would have never been able to afford. The partnership went above and beyond just meeting basic needs, but to improving the whole climate and culture of the entire school. It has been a blessing.

Your support makes all this happen! Your gifts are changing the lives of the most vulnerable children in New Hampshire. Thank you!

CMCC Powers Independence in the Community



Meet Linda, a client of Crotched Mountain Community Care (CMCC). She recently received a new power wheelchair thanks to the hard work of Dave, her CMCC case manager. Dave pieced together funding through a special grant applied for and distributed by Crotched Mountain Foundation as well as community grant programs from Womenaid and Easter Seals to help her pay for functions of the chair that weren't covered by insurance (for example, the seat riser, which Linda shows off in the picture).

"She wanted the seat riser so she could talk to people face to face as well as access different parts of her apartment," Dave says.

What's even niftier? Linda's favorite color is purple - most things in her apartment are purple - so she was thrilled to get her new power chair in purple (special-ordered even!).

Thanks to donors like you, Linda is able to remain independent and in her community through the expert and life-changing work of CMCC!



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Horizons Spring 2022

Join us for the Third Annual Winnepesaukee Volleyball Classic, benefiting CMF Kids

Bump, set, and spike your way to big-time impact for children with autism! The Winnepesaukee Volleyball Classic combines the fun of beach volleyball with the great feeling that you're making a difference in the lives of young children with autism.

All proceeds will go to Crotched Mountain's CMF Kids program, which supports children with autism and other disabilities in their schools and communities.

Learn more at cmf.org/volleyball

Saturday, June 4, 2022

Akwa Marina Yacht Club
95 Centenary Ave
Laconia, NH 03246



Akwa Marina
yacht club