

HORIZONS



CROTCHED
MOUNTAIN

The magazine of Crotched Mountain Foundation

SUMMER 2022

THE FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT

**CMFkids GONNA
need SHADES!**



The Summer of Impact

New Hampshire is a special place in the summer. The expectation of school vacations for the kids, blossoming gardens, the flocking of vacationers to the lakes and mountains, and, yes, the hope for warmer weather and sunshine. That annual excitement, which we all feel in New Hampshire, is acutely felt for us at Crotoned Mountain Foundation this year.

June was a tremendous month for us and for CMF Kids, starting with the Third Annual Winnepesaukee Classic Charity Volleyball Tournament, held at Akwa Marina Yacht Club in Laconia, and what a day it was! Intense beach volleyball action, delicious BBQ, and a sea of people gathered together, united in a common purpose to support children with complex disabilities. Proceeds from the event went to CMF Kids, which, as you know, is our newest initiative designed to strengthen special education outcomes for schools in some of the Granite State's most under-resourced towns.

Also in June, the latest CMF Kids awards were announced and they are much larger than ever before. These initiatives are three-year commitments to six New Hampshire public school districts, raising Crotoned Mountain's investment in the North Country to over \$1 million! This is a bold and transformative effort to support the poorest kids with complex disabilities.

The six recipient school districts come from Coos and Grafton counties and include Berlin, Milan, Littleton, Lisbon, White Mountain, and Northumberland Stratford and Stark. The awards are all designed to strengthen the social, emotional, and educational outcomes of children with complex disabilities.

As we have for nearly 100 years, Crotoned Mountain Foundation is committed to serving the most vulnerable children in New Hampshire and through CMF Kids and your support, we're able to serve the hardest to reach children in some of the poorest communities. Working closely with our school partners, and powered by your amazing generosity, Crotoned Mountain is proud to help children with disabilities from the North Country succeed. It is only possible because of your commitment to our shared mission and your generosity to make it a reality.

Thank you for joining us on this life-changing journey!

Warmly,



Ned Olney, President and CEO
Crotoned Mountain Foundation

Welcome New Trustees!

Ed Cyr is the Founder and Owner of Evergreens for Autism selling Christmas Trees and Wreaths. Since 2014 some of the proceeds of all sales have supported our programs and services, most recently CMF Kids. For 21 years **Kelly Ward** served the Crotoned Mountain Foundation in senior finance positions such as Controller and Vice President of Finance. Kelly has also provided many years of service to the Harry Allen Gregg Foundation.



Face of Philanthropy

Kurt and Sarah Mailloux infuse powerful purpose in a fun-filled day of volleyball

On the beachfront court, Amy Corbett, captain of the 'Here to Winni' volleyball team, raised the ball, smacked it over the net, and set it in the sand between the feet of the opposing team. And so was won the first point in the 3rd Annual Winnepesaukee Volleyball Classic on June 4th. For the next several hours, teams squared off on the courts around the Akwa Marina and Yacht Club framed by sunny blue waters and classic Winnepesaukee views. Music played, and for lunch the beach bar opened and Hart's Turkey Farm fired up their beachside BBQ grill fest for players and spectators and the island vibe was set.

Kurt and Sarah Mailloux, whose family owns the Yacht Club, founded this annual fundraising event for Crotoned Mountain in 2018, after their son, Logan, received services from a CMF program.



The Mailloux family

"Years ago, Logan received specialized services from highly skilled and caring professionals, and Crotoned Mountain Foundation was there for him and for us," said Kurt. "Today we see the tremendous impact Crotoned Mountain Foundation is having on children with their most challenging disabilities in poor communities where resources are scarce. My family and friends believe we should do whatever we can to support CMF Kids."

Congratulations to the 4 Middles team, as the Volleyball Classic champions, *Team Fuller* as the fundraising champions, and to all our players and attendees for supporting CMF Kids. Special thanks to our sponsors: RBC Wealth Management, Devine Millimet, Lifeline Financial Services, and CGI Business Solutions. And of course, we thank Kurt and Sarah, their kids Charlotte, Logan and Porter, parents Dick and Pat, siblings Adam, Troy, Shanna and Lauren, and all of the Mailloux family for being the inspiration and the engine behind an awesome event, bringing awareness and resources to kids with complex disabilities in our poorest communities.



To watch the 2022 Volleyball Classic video, please visit cmf.org/volleyballvideo. And SAVE THE DATE for the 2023 Winnepesaukee Volleyball Classic, which will happen on June 3, 2023. If you or someone you know wants to secure a sponsorship or team spot, please email Kevin Harte at kevin.harte@crotonedmountain.org.

Groveton's Summer Reading List

Groveton Elementary School and CMF Kids are joining forces to change the trajectory of the lives of students with disabilities - and maybe, just maybe, an entire town's future. All thanks to *you!*

Groveton, NH. For many people it is a place to pass through on their way to the top of the state. Remote and quite rural, Groveton was once well known for its booming paper manufacturing mills and all that the mills offered this small town. Now a tender memory for many, "This is the town that was devastated when that mill closed down."

But for the staff and teachers of SAU 58 and the Northumberland School District contained therein, Groveton is not merely a footnote in the memoir of the North Country. It is a place where all children no matter their circumstance or diagnosis can chart a path to a bright future.

"At our SAU, we try to make it feel like a family-rich environment," says Michelle Mason, Student Services Administrator. "Here, we can rely on one another and support one another."

Which is important, because the needs at Groveton Elementary School are significant. Over 25% of the student population (according to the NH DOE I-report for 2021) of the K-5 school are considered special education students, who are diagnosed with a variety of disabilities including autism, developmental delay, hearing impairment, and learning disabilities.

Of that percent 50% are economically disadvantaged (according to the NH DOE I-report for 2021). The Language proficiency number is even more staggering: of the entire special education population, 75% are not proficient in English and Language Arts (i.e., reading). In Math?

Only 17% are proficient.

"We know that our special education population under-performs substantially," Michelle says.

What to do? Teachers had clamored for the Orton-Gillingham curriculum, which provides a multi-sensory, phonetics reading program for both the special education and general education student populations. But the resources were just not there to fund the curriculum.

This opportunity proved to be a perfect fit for Crotched Mountain Foundation and CMF Kids, and, working with the school district, the Orton-Gillingham curriculum was purchased and teachers were trained in June 2022. This is the type of resource that can change the course of children's lives, and it is thanks to you, the dedicated supporters of CMF Kid and Crotched Mountain, that this school will be so positively impacted.

And the Orton-Gillingham curriculum will make an enormous impact. Because, as Michelle, notes that so much academic achievement emanates from reading prowess, and students who are lacking language arts capability have an uphill climb towards school success

"Reading hits every content area," she says. "It is crucial for functioning in life. My mindset was, if we target reading

first, then we're helping science, social studies, and real-life math."

She continues: "The best years in developing reading are in kindergarten to second grade. With Orton-Gillingham, we really wanted to target those foundational grades."

Michelle sees the introduction of the curriculum having a ripple effect throughout the school district, from elementary school to high school. In fact, the reverberations will likely travel through the entire North Country, as several out-of-district teachers will attend the training. Beyond the classroom, Michelle is confident the improved reading skills will have a major positive impact in the home as well.

"When parents feel like their children are making academic progress, they're pleased, they're happy," she says. "It helps connect family and school."

School is stressful for many special education students. That means even the smallest gains are the biggest success stories."

And that's the goal of CMF Kids: to make an investment that will make a difference in the lives of children with disabilities - and their families - for years to come.

Your generosity is responsible for this, and it is not lost on those who see the results first-hand.

"We have scarce resources up here," Michelle says. "We don't have a lot of the programming and trainings available to us in the North Country. A gift like this not only enhances the quality of our children's lives and their future, but it impacts our entire town. We hope the children that are homegrown here want to stay here. The next kindergartner, in 20 years, might start a new business in the old mill property."



Your Generosity at Work! CMF Kids Unveils New North Country Special Education Awards

Nearly \$1 million invested in local school districts from under-resourced communities to support children with complex disabilities

Crotched Mountain Foundation is pleased to announce the largest round of partnership awards through its CMF Kids program. CMF Kids collaborates with under-resourced New Hampshire school districts to support and strengthen special education for kids with the most complex disabilities. With this new round of awards, Crotched Mountain will have dedicated more than \$1 million since 2021.

The six recipient school districts come from Coos and Grafton counties and include Berlin, Milan, Littleton, Lisbon, White Mountain, and Northumberland Stratford and Stark. The awards will fund initiatives over three years, all designed to strengthen the social, emotional, and educational outcomes of children with complex disabilities.

“As we have for nearly 100 years, Crotched Mountain Foundation is committed to serving the most vulnerable children in New Hampshire,” said Ned Olney, President and CEO of Crotched

Mountain Foundation. “With CMF Kids, we’re able to serve the hardest to reach children in some of the poorest communities. Working closely with our school partners, and supported by our donors, Crotched Mountain is proud to help children with disabilities from the North Country succeed in their schools and their communities.”

The CMF Kids investments will support the following initiatives: specialized curriculum training for general and special education teachers, expansion of a life-skills-vocational training program, paraprofessional training leading to credentialed certification as behavior technicians, the building of more inclusive special education programs that promote cultures of acceptance and competence, and wrap-around support services to include; case management, tutoring, and rehabilitative supports. Special education equipment, technology and infrastructure support is also provided to schools.

Harry Gregg Foundation - A Stronger Partnership

Bridie Moulton (pictured) recently assumed the new position of Grant and Advancement Administrator, a unique role serving both the Harry Gregg Foundation and Advancement department at Crotched Mountain Foundation. The position reflects decades of partnership between the Foundations and a shared purpose empowering people with disabilities. Welcome Bridie!

Bringing the Joy of Swimming to All Children

CMF Kids is partnering with our friends at the Granite YMCA to help reestablish the Adaptive Swim Program. In addition, this collaborative will launch the Global Training Program, which prepares aquatics staff to work with all swimmers who have sensory and motor challenges, as well as the training of YMCA Aquatics staff members in the Swim Angel Fish adaptive swimming program. Stay tuned for the great success stories about this exciting new initiative!



From the Ashes

How does someone rebound when she's lost everything? She relies on her friends and allies - and life-changing donors like you.

It was Saturday last November when Marge Goodreault received news that caught the breath in her lungs. The local news had reported an apartment fire in Manchester, NH, an inferno that consumed the entire building and had, tragically, claimed a life.

Marge, a case manager for Crotched Mountain Community Care (CMCC), felt a surge of panic because she recognized the address of the building; it was where her client Susan lived. Eventually, after many phone calls, Marge located Susan, who had been put up in emergency shelter through the Red Cross.

Susan had just barely escaped the fire, jolted by the smoke alarm, and running out with no shoes or jacket, just her nightgown and phone representing the last of her world possessions (she, sadly, lost her pets in the blaze).

As a CMCC client, Susan receives medical and personal care services to help her remain in her home and out of nursing care placement. She is in her 70s, suffers from chronic illness and has mobility challenges, which made her bounce-back from the building fire all the more imposing.

“After the initial shock, we tried to return Susan to as much normalcy as possible,” Marge says. “That

meant rerouting her services and personal items to her hotel and getting equipment like a walker and shower chair so she could move around her place safely.”

Once these pieces fell into place the heavy lifting of finding a new apartment settled in. The collaboration among Susan’s case workers from CMCC, Manchester Mental Health, and Catholic Medical Center, brought many “almosts” and near-successes (the affordable housing market in New Hampshire is vanishingly small). Eventually, a new apartment was located and Susan moved into it in February.

Through CMCC grant funding, Susan was able to outfit her new home with a kitchen table, chairs, bureaus, and a microwave cart.

“She persevered,” Marge said. “There was lots of collaboration and many phone calls to housing providers and emails to the other social workers. We all played a part and now she’s good to go. She even has two new cats.”

Thank you for your support of Crotched Mountain Foundation - your generosity is directly responsible for giving Susan hope following a hopeless situation.



Susan, happy and stable in her new home.



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Brewing Up Some Good Times with CMF Kids!

This past school year, at Berlin Middle–High School, the popular coffee cart café reached new heights with its vocational training program for students with disabilities. Berlin Middle-High School is a CMF Kids partner, and used the CMF Kids partnership award to support the coffee cafe, which provides real-world retail experience for students in its special education program.

The school's Coffee Cart Café emulates the inspirational business model of Bitty's and Beau's Coffee, a nationwide cafe that provides employment opportunities to people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As part of the CMF Kids partnership award, Berlin students were able to take a field trip to Bitty and Beau's in Boston.

“We felt this was a wonderful way to connect their experiential learning to the real-world and to meet other people with disabilities who are working at Bitty and Beau's,” said Melissa White, Executive Director of CMF Kids. “It would help to dispel stereotypical attitudes, create more inclusive workplaces, and demonstrate gainful employment opportunities for people with disabilities.”

