

HORIZONS

SUMMER 2023



THE
BUILDING
BLOCKS OF
AMAZING



BUILDING IMPACT, BRICK BY BRICK



None of us can predict an emergency, nor do we as individuals plan for a crisis, but Crotched Mountain Foundation can. Crotched Mountain is there for people with disabilities for the long term, but also in those critical times when emergencies happen.

Case in point: one such emergency happened recently to two of our adult clients with disabilities. On March 30, in Greenfield NH, a fire destroyed the home belonging to a provider family that is caring for our clients. This family (which included six children) nearly lost everything, but, thankfully, survived the fire.

Crotched Mountain was there within hours to make sure that all were safe and to provide immediate resources for clothes, shelter, and food. But also importantly, as an organization that supports people with disabilities, we were able to assess their particular needs and replace the iPad that Mike, one of our clients, depends upon to communicate. You can read more about this story in the pages that follow.

We are now developing our new Strategic Plan that will look out into the future. We are talking to our clients, our communities, our partners, our staff and our donors to ensure that we are addressing the most pressing social issues for people with disabilities by filling critical gaps and that we are relevant to making an immediate and lasting change for the people with disabilities in New Hampshire.

Crotched Mountain Foundation will be with children and adults with disabilities, helping them overcome their daily challenges. Whether through CMF Kids, which improves special education or via our broad network of CMCC case managers who help adults with disabilities and chronic conditions stay independent and in their own homes—all these services are geared to help in times of crisis and create immediate and lasting change.

And in the middle of it all is you, our amazing supporters, without whom our mission would not live. You have been our allies from the beginning and I cannot wait to share with you our bold and impactful plans.

Thank you for journeying with us—and thank you for being a critical part of the bright future that lies ahead. ■

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ned Olney'.

Ned Olney
President and CEO



Special thanks to our cover art builders:
Erich and Leah Asperschlager

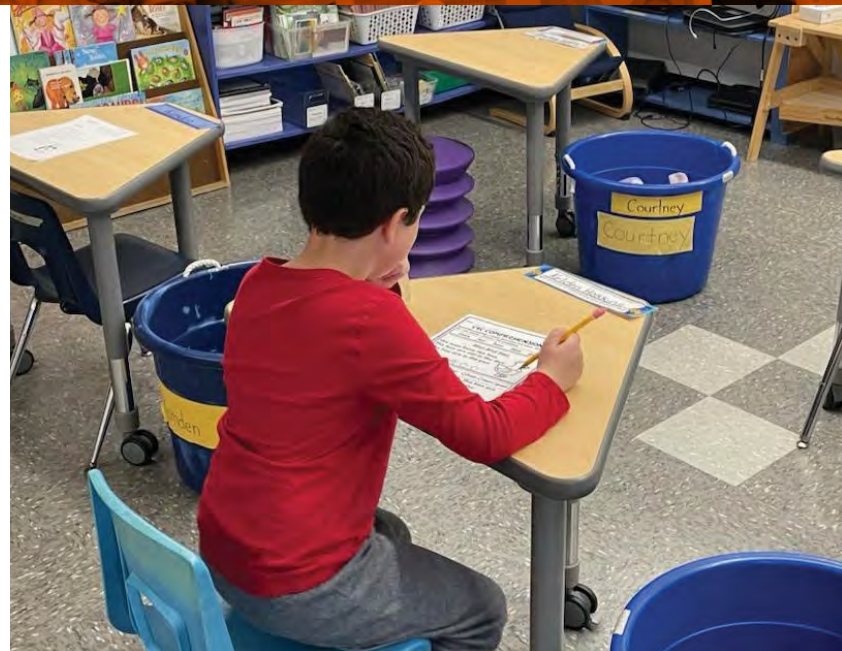
BUILDING BIG THINGS IN LITTLETON

Thanks to you, CMF Kids is making a huge difference in the lives of students with complex disabilities in the North Country

Sometimes, the smaller things are required to build up to the bigger impact. This concept can apply to the brick-by-brick-laying that empowers constructing a school or a playground or the steady layering of learning that goes into the transformation of a student to a member of the community.

For the Littleton School District in Littleton, NH, all of this applies—and thanks to the mission of CMF Kids and the power of your generosity, students with complex disabilities are finding pathways to independence and future success.

Bill Hart, Superintendent of the SAU, has witnessed this first hand and you just have to exchange a few words with him before you realize how indelible the CMF Kids investments have been for his teachers, families, and, most important, his students.



“We’ve tried awfully hard to keep all of our students that are living in our community, staying in the schools,” he says. “We want to keep students with disabilities with their peer groups and integrate students who may be a little bit different from others. We want Littleton children to participate in Littleton as much as possible.”

That is the North Star for CMF Kids—community participation, school integration, and awesome educational outcomes for children with complex disabilities. To that end, thanks to the support of funding partners and, especially, donors like you, CMF Kids was able to make a substantial impact in the Littleton community.



Mastering life skills are worth smiling about!

Pathways to Independence

First, was our infrastructure initiative that dramatically improved the life skills program operated by the school district, which provides important, practical, essential life skills needed for living an independent life within the community. The life skills room is outfitted with the appliances and infrastructure that gives students the chance to test-run their skills in advance of adulthood, helping them learn how to cook, master laundry skills, plan meals, maintain a home environment, learn money management, practice interviewing techniques, and more.

“It’s been quite some time since any of the equipment in the program has been updated,” Bill says. “The support from CMF Kids helped replace stoves and refrigerators, washers and dryers, and change the layout of the room for better workflow and accessibility for all students.”

Why the need for CMF Kids?

“When you’re looking to make those kinds of changes, unfortunately, getting those into your budget can take years,” he says. “Kids in school now can’t wait; they needed these infrastructure projects now.”

“Life Skills programs like the one in Littleton can be catalysts for success for students with disabilities,” says Melissa White, Executive Director of CMF Kids. “Students are getting ready for a future of independence, to be employed in their community, to live on their own, and build their own social networks.”

The revitalization of the life skills area means more than new appliances; it is a message to these students that they are worthy of more than dilapidated equipment—especially when that equipment can offer a stainless steel ticket to, as Bill says, “a basic life skill set that they are going to need to have autonomy as adults.”

“People are thrilled,” Bill says. “Your physical environment is so important. Years ago, I read research that talked about the unspoken message kids can get from how the physical environment is maintained. When we’re able to invest with CMF Kids support, it gives students, staff, and parents, this message: ‘you matter.’”

Sending in Reinforcements

But that’s not all! Your support of Crocheted Mountain Foundation and



CMF Kids goes even further in its impact for Littleton families. Beyond the life skills area, CMF Kids brought game-changing opportunities to the school, aimed at enhancing educational outcomes and building a durable and cutting-edge academic structure.

To this end, CMF Kids brought two pieces of innovation to this north country community: 1) the Orton-Gillingham district-wide reading program and 2) a new teaching fellowship opportunity with Plymouth State College that supports community-based networking and recreational activities to facilitate acclimation to the region to assist with teacher retention.

The Orton-Gillingham program is a renowned reading approach, geared to equip students of all needs and abilities with the tools they need to achieve new heights in literacy.

General education and special education teachers are using the same approaches in reading, so that when students toggle between general education and special education they are receiving a consistent approach to learning.

As for the teaching fellowship, the need is apparent:

“It is a time of critical shortage in New Hampshire for special educators, which profoundly affects rural, remote communities,” says Melissa. “CMF Kids is supporting the Littleton School District and Plymouth State special education teaching residency program through opportunities that help lead to special education teacher retention.”



The new classroom tables help students with special needs toggle into a smaller group and the new seating easily accommodates this adjustment.



Stay tuned for more information about how your support will help launch a special education pilot program later this year!

“We have these talented people getting cutting edge strategies on how to support students with special needs,” Bill says. “They’re getting concrete experience but also sharing all of what they are learning at PSU with our teachers.”

He continues: “We’ve already seen that in classes with teacher residents, the scores were higher on literacy testing. And, for us, it’s a great recruiting tool. One of the residents from our first cohort applied for and received a lead teacher position that had been open all year long. We’ve got this great young, talented, well-educated teacher that will lead this program.”

Indeed, things are just getting started, and the building blocks are there for a new dawn of amazing outcomes for children of the greatest need.

But, before we end, a message from Bill Hart, on behalf of the families and teachers and students of Littleton, to you, the supporters who made this all happen:

“You are making a difference.” ■



Crotched Mountain welcomes Sandra Beliveau-George as the Grant Program Administrator for the Harry Gregg Foundation —a rare source of direct grant support for people with disabilities with limited income. Sandy is already very busy helping the Foundation provide small grants to meet all sorts of urgent needs. Do you know someone with a disability whose life could be improved by a small grant?

Please visit www.harrygreggfoundation.org to learn more and apply! ■



THE FACE OF PHILANTHROPY

Charitable Gifts Annuities – Regular Income And Ready-Made Legacy

Friends and supporters of Crochted Mountain Foundation often ask about charitable ways that can augment retirement income in these volatile financial times. The question most asked is: “Can I get attractive rates using a ‘Charitable Gift Annuity?’” The answer, quite simply, is yes.

Many of our friends found the best answers, not at their local banks or brokerage offices, but right here with Crochted Mountain Foundation. We offer a few options that allow you to address important financial objectives. Among the most effective are the attractive yields offered by our charitable gift annuities (CGAs). The combination of higher annuity rates and substantial deductions makes gift annuities even more appealing to donors seeking to make a gift and receive fixed payments for life—for one person or for a couple!

For those of you in, or approaching, retirement, a priority is making sure you have enough income. However, you may also wish to continue support of your favorite charities. Creating income and charitable giving are not necessarily competing priorities. Charitable gift annuities provide fixed payments for life in exchange for a gift of cash or securities; the choice depends on your specific goals. **In addition, your gift qualifies for a substantial charitable income-tax deduction.**

Depending on age, donors 65 or older will receive 5.4% to 9.7% of their original gift annually while shielding part of their assets from market downturns in exchange for dependable income.

A charitable gift annuity with Crochted Mountain may be worth considering if you:

- Would like to maintain or increase your cash flow though fixed, dependable payments for life.
- Could benefit through lowering your income taxes or capital gains taxes.
- Would like to create income that is partially tax-free.

- Wish to donate \$5,000+ for people with disabilities served by Crochted Mountain Foundation
- Are at least 60 years of age.

In addition, our CGA friends automatically become members of the Don Kent Legacy Society.

You can also become a member by including Crochted Mountain Foundation in your estate planning (Visit www.cmf.org/don-kent-legacy-society to learn more). Your legacy gift can be a CGA, an IRA, a gift of stock, life insurance or real estate, or as a specific amount or percentage of your residual estate.

Members are included on the Don Kent Legacy Society plaque and are honored in perpetuity for supporting future generations of people with disabilities. Why don't you join hundreds of friends who remembered our mission in their estate plans with gifts from \$5,000 to over \$2 million? ■

It's easier than you think! If you have questions about CGAs, the Don Kent Legacy Society, or any other giving matter, please contact Kevin Harte, Vice President of Advancement at 603-831-8424 or email kevin.harte@crochtedmountain.org. He will be happy to speak or meet with you!

The information contained herein is offered for general information and educational purposes. Your personal circumstances, your State laws, and other factors may impact results. It is always recommended that you consult with your financial advisors before making important financial decisions.



MEMORIAL GARDEN REVITALIZED AND MEMORIAL INSTALLATIONS RELAUNCHED

Master Gardener Volunteers secure \$2,000 funding from NHMGAA

Great news! Our wonderful group of seven volunteers from the UNH Extension Master Gardener Program, assisted by our Grant Program Manager, Kara Reeves, secured a \$2,000 award from the New Hampshire Master Gardener Alumni Association.

This award will be used to purchase shrubs, trees, flowers, seeds and materials that they'll incorporate into their transformation of our Memorial Garden in Greenfield. The design will emphasize native plant species.

Designed by landscape architect Joseph E. Thompson, our beautiful, contemplative, and accessible Memorial Garden offers a place to lovingly honor or memorialize family and friends whose lives were deeply touched by the beauty and bounty of the outdoors. If you haven't yet visited the garden, make a plan to stop by this summer when the new plantings are done and the flowers are in bloom.

Finally, after a three-year hiatus on installations at the Memorial Garden, we are accepting requests from the public for new memorial installations of benches, paving stones, trees, and shrubs. This comes after a review of designs for landscaping and bench installations that help this beautiful space reach potential.

For a full list of options as well as photos and costs, please visit www.cmf.org/memorial-garden to view your choices for memorials to honor your family and friends. ■

Memorial options include:

- Stone Benches - with permanently carved inscription
- Paving Stones - with permanently carved inscription
- Landscaping - without signage - option to add an inscribed Paving Stone



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CROTCHED MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION SUPPORTER SURVEY

We appreciate your friendship, your support, and your input. Our community has overwhelmingly responded to our 2023 Supporter Survey with many wonderful comments and suggestions. Responses are still coming in and it's not too late to send us your survey and have your input heard.

Meanwhile, here is a sample of some of the comments we received:

"I heard about your organization from Don Kent, the weatherman, a long time ago."

"You're doing the very best you can regardless of the financial status of those served."





"Keep up the wonderful work you do!"

"Crotched Mountain Foundation is on the right path."

"I think you are doing an excellent job of informing me of your programs through mail, email, and newsletters."



"Please keep providing Adult Day Care Services. They are definitely needed."

"Continue to make your story known, emphasizing the real differences you make in the lives of children and adults."



You can still return the survey sent to you by mail using the envelope provided, or fill out the survey online at www.cmf.org/survey. And remember, your feedback is always important to us, please reach out to us with questions or comments anytime. ■





HOW KINDNESS HELPED REBUILD LIVES

The Crotched Mountain community responds in a big way to a house fire

In the blink of any eye, normalcy can turn to emergency. That is what happened on March 30, when a fire devastated the home of one of Crotched Mountain's shared living providers.

As this edition of *Horizons* went to press, the provider family, including their six children and two of our adult clients with disabilities, remain safe and cared for in a temporary shelter. They hope to have a permanent home to move into soon.

We put out the call for aid: and the Crotched Mountain family answered! The public's response to this emergency has been remarkable. Many donated to our emergency fund to help provide basic needs, including food, clothing, and shelter costs. This has been a celebration of community action, of kindness overcoming adversity.

Someone who especially felt the impact of this generosity: Mike, a Crotched Mountain client. The fire took away all of Mike's personal

items, including his "voice," his adaptive iPad that functions as a communication device to "speak" with family, friends, and caregivers. Your donations helped purchase Mike's new device and he is thrilled; he, and all members of his host family, are grateful for your kindness.

Your amazing support for Mike and this family inspired us to establish an 'Emergency Fund'. This is for unforeseen disasters when one's vulnerability is worsened by a disability. To contribute, please return your gift in the enclosed envelope. For your gift to help Mike and the rest of the family with ongoing, urgent basic needs, just mark "House Fire" on the check. Thank you for supporting people with disabilities when disaster strikes. ■





BUMP! SET! SPIKE! MAKE AN IMPACT!

Are you ready to join us on Saturday, June 3 for the Annual Winnepesaukee Volleyball Classic?

There is no better way to make a difference in the lives of children with autism and other disabilities and have a (beach) blast doing it! This wonderful annual event is free and open to the public at the Akwa Marina Yacht Club at 95 Centenary Ave, Laconia, NH.

The 2023 Winnepesaukee Volleyball Classic combines the fun of beach volleyball with the great feeling that comes when you make a difference in the lives of young children with special needs.

All morning, beach volleyball teams will square off on the courts, framed

by sunny blue waters and classic Winnepesaukee views. Meanwhile, there's lots of activities for the kids, including a pool and all the amenities of the beautiful Marina waterfront.

Swing by and enjoy live music, indulge in a delicious beachside BBQ grill-fest, and cheer the teams seeking volleyball glory. Proceeds go to CMF Kids, our groundbreaking initiative bringing advanced technologies, space modifications, specialized training and more to kids with autism and other complex disabilities. ■

If you or someone you know wants to secure a sponsorship or sign up as a team (there is no fundraising quota for teams), please email Melissa White at melissa.white@crochedmountain.org or visit www.volleyballclassic.org

Northeast Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$19,200 to Support Urgent Dental Needs

Our good friends at the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation recently awarded \$19,200 to Croched Mountain Community Care (CMCC), which provides independent case management to low-income individuals with chronic illness and disabilities. This will fund much needed dental services for CMCC clients statewide.

“A grant like this from the kind folks at Northeast Delta Dental can save lives,” said Kara Nickulas, Executive Director of Community Services at Croched Mountain Foundation. “Our clients have very low incomes with no options for dental care. We help them remain in their own homes and in their own communities, but left untreated, a serious dental condition can have disastrous medical consequences and even result in institutionalized placements or worse.” ■

Thank You Sponsors!





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Horizons Summer 2023

IT'S HIKING SEASON AT THE ACCESSIBLE TRAILS

Are you ready to hit the trails for a memorable adventure through Crotched Mountain in Greenfield? To nature enthusiasts of all abilities: we've got some great news! With the passage of mud season and the recent completion of repairs, clean-up, and maintenance, Crotched Mountain's trails—the largest accessible mountain-based trail system in the country—are open for your hiking pleasure!

Our Dutton Brook and Gregg Trails give you two unique ways to explore the views and vistas that Crotched Mountain offers. (Don't forget the bug spray!)

Be sure to visit the trails pages on our website (cmf.org/trails) for all the latest updates before you leave—just to make sure they have reopened. If you're looking for a memorable day trip, think about a drive to Crotched Mountain and experience the great outdoors on trails designed for people of ALL abilities! ■



Your gifts have an impact! The magic of the Crotched Mountain trails is available for all to enjoy thanks to you and Crotched Mountain Foundation's amazing supporters!