

# HORIZONS

WINTER 2023

Today's Special!  
Community,  
with a side of  
Opportunity



# A Beautiful Scene

On Thursday, October 26, I enjoyed a drive up to northern New Hampshire. It was a gorgeous tour through the blazing reds, yellows, and oranges of New England scenery, peak autumn season for the natural beauty that makes the Granite State so special.

But that wasn't the highlight of my day. Not even close.

Because as lovely as it was, what really made that day special was my destination: the CMF Kids Fall Partnership meeting.

This gathering took place in Whitefield, NH, and brought together teachers and staff from our partner organizations and school districts. The event was a combination of learning, coordinating, and connecting these low resource schools to each other and to community partners that can provide support to them and to the kids with disabilities that we serve. Two years after the inception of CMF Kids, we are now seeing the substantial impact in our partner schools. This was a wonderful crystallization of what makes CMF Kids so groundbreaking and so impactful.

Last year, we signed three-year partnership agreements with six schools in the North Country: Lisbon, Milan, Berlin, White Mountain, Northumberland/Stratford/Stark, and Littleton. Each of these partners presented their progress towards achieving better results for kids with disabilities. We heard about new infrastructure, new equipment, new technology, and staff training that have impacted the education of these kids. We saw videos of kids playing on their new accessible playgrounds, heard the joy in their voices, and witnessed the emotion of their parents.

This year, we have expanded our CMF Kids partner schools into the Manchester, Nashua, Warren, and Newports schools districts and are excited about the new initiatives that they have planned.

In this issue of *Horizons* you will read the stories of success that you made possible—as well as see what the future holds. In fact, as you can see to the right, our impact is increasing at a rapid rate and we welcome more partners to the CMF Kids and Crotched Mountain Foundation family.

This shared mission—powered by you!—is making a true difference in the lives of New Hampshire's most vulnerable neighbors.

Yes, the fall foliage is nice, but your generosity is what makes New Hampshire so special.

Thank you for all you do to make it possible for people of all abilities to live, learn, and thrive in their community—and have a wonderful holiday season! ■

Warm wishes,



Ned Olney  
President and CEO



## WELCOME TO NEW CMF KIDS COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

### Manchester Community Music School

Thanks to YOUR support, MCMS is creating a new sensory room for children and young adults, ages 3-22 with disabilities who benefit from the school's music therapy program.

### Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country

CMF Kids is partnering to bring inclusive, accessible recreation, sports programs, and athletic scholarships to kids with disabilities in our partner schools.

### New Hampshire Best Buddies

Your generosity will allow Best Buddies to implement school-based friendship programs in CMF Kids school partnership communities for students grades 1 – 12.

# THE FACE OF PHILANTHROPY

## Leave a Legacy that Will Last Lifetimes

When you include Crotched Mountain Foundation in your planned giving, you are not simply getting peace of mind that your financial legacy will echo forward. You can be confident that your values will have lasting impact! Your planned gift will make a tangible, positive change on the lives of children and adults with disabilities for lifetimes to come!

Anyone who makes a planned estate gift to Crotched Mountain Foundation will be welcomed to The Don Kent Legacy Society, which was established in 2009 to recognize and honor the compassionate and huge-hearted donors who have made provisions in their estate plans for the future well-being of Crotched Mountain Foundation.

The Don Kent Legacy Society is named after longtime WBZ weatherman Don Kent, who, for years, changed the world for countless children with disabilities through his “From the Kids at Crotched Mountain” weather reports.

Join the Don Kent Legacy Society and make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities that will carry forward for generations to come. How do you do it? It's easy! Just contact us and let us know you'd like to include Crotched Mountain Foundation in your estate plans or through the establishment of a trust naming Crotched Mountain as its beneficiary. In addition, Individuals who have established a charitable gift annuity, or other life-income arrangements, are automatically included within the Society's membership.

Your legacy gift can be a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA), a gift of stock, an IRA, life insurance or real estate, or as a specific amount or percentage of your residual estate.

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

- would like to maintain or increase your cash flow through 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 \$10,000+ for people with disabilities served by Crotched Mountain Foundation
- are at least 60 years of age ■

Please contact Kevin Harte, VP of Advancement for Crotched Mountain Foundation, at 603-669-0821 to learn more and get started!



## Thank You Recent Grant Partners!

Crotched Mountain Foundation is grateful for the organizations below who have generously supported our various programs.

**C&S Wholesale Grocers  
Foundation (CMF Kids)**

**Mascoma Bank (CMCC)**

**M&T Charitable Foundation  
(CMCC)**

**RBC Foundation-USA  
(CMCC)**



# Part Of It All

## Did You Know?

Nationally, across all age groups, persons with a disability were much less likely to be employed than those with no disability. In New Hampshire, 45% of adults with a disability have a job (a little better than the national average).

Kurt has many people pulling for him: his tireless mom, his great friends, his committed teachers—and, of course, you, the supporters who have helped change his life.

Kurt has a crew. Since the eighth grade, he and his pals have hung out together. They're tight. They're boys.

Kurt has autism, and though this can create enormous challenges, his friends are always there for him. Their bond from middle school has carried forward to today, where Kurt is now 17 and they're seniors. This is a precious arrangement and Kurt's mom, Toni, is aware that this sort of social connection can be rare in the tumultuous environment of

public school, "He has an incredible group of friends," she says. "They really took him under their wing. It's amazing to watch them together and to see Kurt engaged, playing soccer, joining in homecoming events, really being a part of it all."

But life wasn't always this idyllic. For most of Kurt's life, Toni was operating in a vacuum of the unknown. At the age of four, Kurt was given a non-autism diagnosis, due to cognitive delays. But Toni was skeptical and never thought it was the accurate diagnosis.

“So I just pushed. I knew he needed more support. I knew something wasn’t right.”

She continued to push, while educating herself about autism and working closely with the pediatricians; “I fought to the end,” she recounts.

Eventually, Kurt received an autism diagnosis: in 2020. This proved to be a relief, but also challenging in its own right.

There was so much to learn, so many resources to seek out, and, unfortunately, Berlin and the North Country do not have nearly the options that other, more populous and wealthier New Hampshire communities enjoy.

“I had pretty good people in my corner,” she says. “But at the same time, there were periods when the school didn’t know how to deal

with him, and Kurt would just be sent home. I was getting phone call after phone call.”

This past year, Kurt has found his groove with the Mountie Mart Cafe, the innovative vocational training program operated out of Berlin High School and supported by CMF Kids and Crotched Mountain Foundation. There, at the Cafe, Kurt is able to receive hands-on training in the food retail business, working alongside staff and peers and putting his new-found knowhow to good use at events like the local farmers market.

“He really enjoys it,” Toni says, “I think it’s a great program. The students are engaged and are learning the life skills that will help them in the real world.”

When Kurt is “off the clock,” and enjoying the memories that high school can provide, he can be seen

with his friends, perhaps playing JV soccer or unified basketball.

Or maybe, just maybe, Tori will again receive the phone call she took a couple of years ago, when Kurt, on the other line, exclaimed: “My friends voted for me! My friends voted for me.”

Baffled, Tori turned to her daughter for explanation, who instantly knew what Kurt was talking about: Kurt had been voted on the Homecoming Court. That year he wore the sash, rode on the float, waved to the crowd—all of it.

“He’s shooting for it again this year,” Tori says.

And why not? If anything, Kurt has proved he can accomplish anything—especially with his friends, his teachers, and, most importantly, his mom in his court. ■





# THE (SCENIC) BEAUTY OF VOLUNTEERISM





It was a busy fall for Crotched Mountain volunteers, especially at the Accessible Trails and Memorial Garden in Greenfield, NH. Our expert contingent of UNH Master Gardeners worked hard to assess, tend, and cultivate the flowers and plants that will add to the peerless scenery of the Memorial Garden. On September 17, a team of ten workers took part in the Fall Planting Day, installing perennials, planting shrubs, and prepping for the winter.

The day prior, our great friends from the Appalachian Mountain Club sponsored a special trail cleanup day on the Gregg Trail, which was in critical need of repairs following severe late summer thunderstorms. There were 14 participants in all, and Crotched Mountain Foundation Board President Jim Piet welcomed the work crew for the day. ■



“Sometimes you can’t beat some good old-fashioned hard work during a beautiful fall day,” said Kathryn Renzi, a Crotched Mountain donor and a volunteer at the trail work day. “It was so rewarding to join other like-minded friends and neighbors for a day of volunteerism, surrounded by the beauty of the Crotched Mountain accessible trails. As both a Crotched Mountain Foundation volunteer and a donor, I feel there are few things more rewarding in life than the knowledge that I’m making a life-changing difference in the lives of people with disabilities.” ■

# SNAPSHOTS



## Play for All!

It was a ribbon-cutting to remember! Just in time for the start of the school year, CMF Kids partner Milan Village School unveiled their new-look playground, now enhanced with a variety of brand-new, cutting-edge adaptive equipment. Thanks to your support and through CMF Kids, Milan was able to purchase and install a new, inclusive wonderland that unites children of all ages and abilities in the pursuit of big-time fun!

“I would like to thank Milan School and Crotched Mountain for getting some equipment that my son and so many others in the community will be able to enjoy for years to come,” says Jessica Savage, a parent of a student from Gorham. “To see his face light up that he's able to swing with all of his friends is heartwarming and nice that he now has a place to go play with his friends and not just sit on the sidelines.” ■



# SNAPSHOTS

## A Trip Down Memory Lane with Mother Goose

This September, Crotched Mountain Foundation stopped by StoryLand in Glen, NH to participate in the annual sensory-sensitive weekend. Every year, StoryLand dedicates two days to making their attractions and the overall park as sensory friendly as possible, while also inviting local disability-focused organizations to set up exhibits for families to check out.

While there, we met Mother Goose herself—and we were excited to hear that as a child, she went to StoryLand when it first opened and had lovely memories of dropping coins into the iconic wishing well that greets visitors at the park's entrance. Those donations over the years from thousands of park attendees have gone to support Crotched Mountain's mission. What an amazing impact this has had for decades!

Truly, this magical relationship between Crotched Mountain Foundation and StoryLand has stood the test of time and we are grateful for the continued connection—and, especially, to all the generous attendees who have dropped coins into the well over the decades to support our mission! ■



## Connecting to the Community

It's been a busy several months for Sandra Beliveau George, the Grant Administrator for the Harry Gregg Foundation. Sandy has been networking with people and agencies all across the state, spreading the word about the unique grant opportunities the Harry Gregg Foundation provides directly to New Hampshire residents with disabilities.



Here, Sandy visited with Maria and Allison of Dawn-Mar Ranch Riding Academy in Hopkinton, which offers Equine Therapeutic Driving and Riding for people with disabilities. This is an example of the kind of recreation programming that the Harry Gregg Foundation can help fund.

Opportunities for grant support also include home modifications, educational services, adaptive equipment, therapeutic recreation, medical bills, and technology. ■

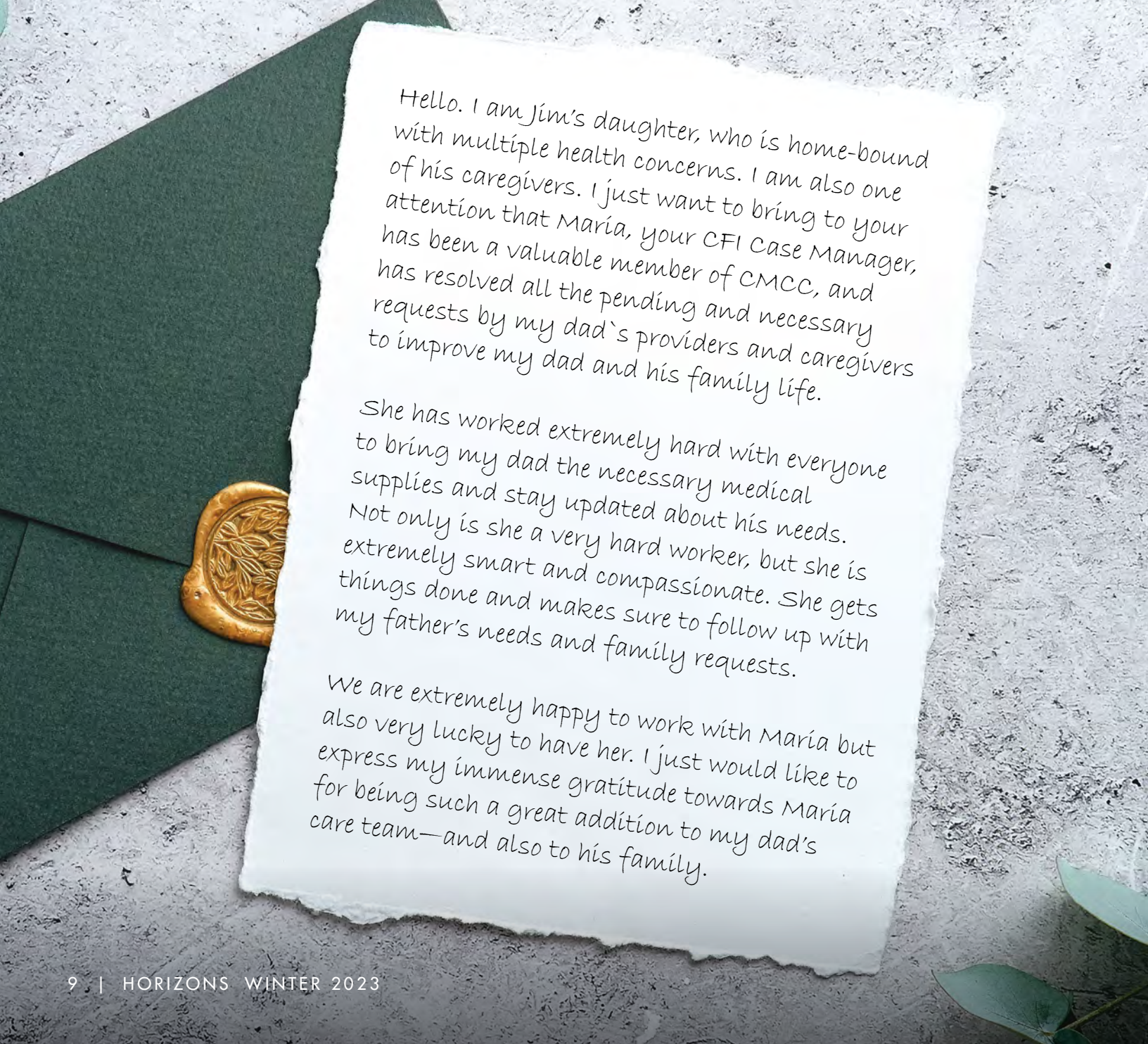
Learn more at [www.harrygreggfoundation.org](http://www.harrygreggfoundation.org).

# "We Are Lucky to Have Her"

This email showed up out of the blue from one of our Crotched Mountain Community Care (CMCC) clients and we wanted to share it with you. We are incredibly proud of the work our Case Managers do every day to help adults with disabilities, chronic illness, and other unique needs remain independent and in their own communities, and out of nursing homes. (Note: the client's name has been changed.)

The Case Manager noted here is Maria Sauerwald, who has been with CMCC for three years and is an awesome member of the team!

Here is yet another example of how your support changes lives! ■



Hello. I am Jim's daughter, who is home-bound with multiple health concerns. I am also one of his caregivers. I just want to bring to your attention that Maria, your CFI Case Manager, has been a valuable member of CMCC, and has resolved all the pending and necessary requests by my dad's providers and caregivers to improve my dad and his family life.

She has worked extremely hard with everyone to bring my dad the necessary medical supplies and stay updated about his needs. Not only is she a very hard worker, but she is extremely smart and compassionate. She gets things done and makes sure to follow up with my father's needs and family requests.

We are extremely happy to work with Maria but also very lucky to have her. I just would like to express my immense gratitude towards Maria for being such a great addition to my dad's care team—and also to his family.



## Caleb's Comeback Story



Caleb used to sit alone at lunch.

And that was when Caleb would actually go to school. Caleb has autism, which can make him terrified of trying to communicate with the world around him. For Robbi, his mom, it was a constant sting to her heart, knowing that the days that should be filled with laughter and camaraderie were instead times of isolation and anxiety and alienation.

Robbi was always scrambling for support. Her hometown of Berlin, NH—like so many other communities in the North Country—is strapped for resources and there simply isn't enough funding or staff available to offer a breadth of services for children with disabilities.

And that's when CMF Kids—and you!—showed up in a big way. Because of your support of CMF Kids, an amazing job skill program at Berlin High School was strengthened and Caleb found his purpose working at the Mountie Mart Cafe.

For Caleb it was like a switch flipped. Now, he is eager to be with his friends and co-workers, as, together, they fine-tune their food service skills and create a recipe for a life of maximum independence and success.

These days, Caleb looks forward to going to school. He looks forward to learning a new job skill. And, more than anything, he looks forward to eating lunch—with his friends. ■

## WELCOME ABOARD, ISADORA!

We are thrilled to welcome Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre, our newest Crothed Foundation Board member. Isadora currently serves as the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities.

She has been a 15+ year senior executive with vast experience in social services and is well-practiced in addressing the needs of various underserved populations. Isadora's proven service to others and her passion for making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities makes her a perfect fit for Crothed Mountain leadership and we are delighted she is part of the team to carry us forward to bigger impact in the future. ■





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## EVERGREENS FOR AUTISM

**It's that time of the year again! Evergreens for Autism is a retail business selling Christmas trees and wreaths, located in Kingston, NH at the corner of Route 125 and Newton Junction Road.**

Owner Ed Cyr sells Balsam and Fraser fir trees and wreaths in different sizes. Each year, a portion of the profits will go to Crotched Mountain Foundation in support of the new CMF Kids Autism Fund, which supports families who struggle with out-of-pocket expenses for services for their children with autism.

Learn more at [www.cmf.org/autism](http://www.cmf.org/autism).



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