

HORIZONS

SPRING 2024

The gift



The Thrill of Independence

I had my first job as a paperboy in third grade. Up before sunrise and school, I would hop on my bike, regardless of snow or rain, and sling the news to my neighbors. As meager as my income was, it was mine, and it meant opportunity and independence to save some money for the skis and boots.

For a New Hampshire kid who just wanted some new ski equipment, it was an opportunity to achieve my (modest) dreams.

Those feelings of contribution and independence are such important lessons for our human experience. When we are out working and volunteering, we are part of something bigger than ourselves. For kids with disabilities, these early work opportunities are much harder to find. Adults with disabilities have a 50% unemployment rate nationally. That sense of community and togetherness is critically important for all of us and yet so very hard for people with disabilities.

Regardless of disability or diagnosis, all people have that drive to determine how to live their lives. For the children and adults that Crotched Mountain Foundation serves, independence is the key to happy and fulfilled lives.

For many, that may mean recreation and leisure for adults with disabilities in our day services; or a stable, supporting home in our shared living programs; or the medical and personal supports that we provide for clients to stay in their homes; or the students with disabilities from under-resourced communities who are able to stay in their local public schools because of the improved special education that CMF Kids supports.

Crotched Mountain Foundation is out there, working every day to change lives and create success. And your support makes all of this game-changing impact a reality. ■

Kindest regards



Ned Olney
President and CEO

PS: I did get my new skis and boots, but broke my leg on the race team early in the season. Thanks to Mom and Dad for delivering my papers for me!





BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO AUTISM SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN

Just imagine. Imagine choosing between groceries and a month of therapy for your child with autism. Or choosing between a shipment of heating oil or therapy for your child with autism. Car repairs, cell phone bills, school clothes, Christmas presents—or a month of therapy for your child with autism.

For many parents, these impossible choices are familiar and feared. Their child, perhaps newly diagnosed with autism (and the diagnostics have become more advanced, identifying signs of autism as early as one year old), requires a suite of therapies to aid in intervention. Because when it comes to autism, the sooner the treatment, the better the opportunities for success.

But therapies are expensive, even if the families have insurance. Office visits require copays, and high-frequency, consistent visits can generate a staggering copay dollar amount.

“We only get a short window for early intervention,” says Christi Heath, Vice President for Related Services for Gersh

Autism, who oversees the Ready, Set, Connect Autism Centers. “These treatments can be intensive, with some children getting 30 to 40 hours a week of therapy. We’re working to set them up for success before they go to school, so they can be more independent in the future. But it certainly is more expensive for parents to receive these services, on top of all the other services that children with autism require.”

To ease the financial burdens on parents, Crotched Mountain Foundation and CMF Kids have developed Logan’s Giving Fund for Autism. The Fund helps families of children 2-6 years of age by directly paying their child’s service provider for services and treatment they would otherwise not be able to afford—services such as applied behavioral therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and music therapy.

Logan’s Giving Fund for Autism was designed to fill the gap for families in need who are struggling with covering their copay costs. The fund is named for Logan Mailloux, whose family hosts the annual Winnepesaukee Volleyball Classic, the proceeds of which support the Autism Fund. In addition, the annual Evergreens for Autism event, run by our Trustee, Ed Cyr, who sells Christmas trees and wreaths, generates proceeds to strengthen the fund (this year, over \$5,000 was raised!).

“We’ve had parents who have been really emotional and really excited about this,” says Natalie Kitching, Billing Insurance Manager for Ready, Set, Connect. “It’s really lightened the burden to parents financially and has even made it possible to bring their children more frequently.”

“Seeing the community rally around supporting families of children with autism is so heartening,” says Melissa White, Executive Director of CMF Kids. “That is the engine of CMF Kids: partnerships, compassion, and real impact in the lives of children with autism and other complex disabilities.” ■

Autism by the Numbers

- 1 in 36 children in the U.S. have autism
- Boys are nearly 4 times more likely to be diagnosed with autism than girls
- In NH, more than 3,000 children ages 3-21 have been identified as having autism
- Early intervention programs help children gain the basic skills that they usually learn in the first 2 years of life, such as: physical skills, thinking skills, communication skills, social skills, emotional skills
- According to the CDC, in addition to medical cost, intensive behavioral interventions for children with autism cost \$40,000 to \$60,000 dollars per child per year.
- Autism spectrum disorder is one of the fastest-growing developmental disorders in the United States. ASD is more common than childhood cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined.



How You Can Create Your Legacy Now!

Through your will or trust

A gift to Crotched Mountain Foundation through your estate helps you pursue your financial goals while also benefiting Crotched Mountain’s Peoples and Programs.

As a beneficiary in other financial assets

Using vehicles like your retirement plan, life insurance policy, or annuity is another way to create your perpetual legacy.

Using life income gifts

Charitable Gift Annuities are tax-smart ways to create income for you and your family for life, while leaving a future gift supporting people with disabilities.

A charitable lead trust

Give fixed annual payments to Crotched Mountain Foundation, while leaving assets to your family or other heirs, all while reducing applicable taxes.

Join the Don Kent Legacy Society!

Crotched Mountain Foundation’s legacy society honors renowned WBZ weatherman, Don Kent, who supported Crotched Mountain throughout his life. Become a member by letting us know that you’re including Crotched Mountain in your estate planning through a Charitable Gift Annuity, a gift of stock, an IRA, life insurance or real estate, or as a specific amount or a percentage of your residual estate.

Your name will be included on the Don Kent Legacy Society plaque, and you will be honored in perpetuity for a gift that lasts for generations. Join hundreds who’ve included Crotched Mountain in their estate plans with gifts ranging from \$5,000 to more than \$2 million.



THE FACE OF PHILANTHROPY

Jill Collier: Big Heart, Enormous Legacy

Tuesday, June 17, 2014: an ordinary day that featured an extraordinary phone call.

“Hi! This is Jill Collier. Almost 40 years ago, Crotched Mountain helped train me as a young special education teacher.”

Jill called to share how that training had inspired her 38-year career teaching hundreds, if not thousands, of children with disabilities. At the time of the call, as she was setting off on her retirement, Jill was already thinking of how Crotched Mountain could help provide special education training for generations to come.

Less than 15 months later, Jill lost her life in a tragic accident.

But Jill had already sown the seeds of her enduring legacy. A distribution from Jill’s estate created an endowment fund, the Jill Collier Memorial Fund. Since then, Jill’s partner, Andy Card, has helped perpetuate Jill’s passion for special education by stewarding additional contributions from friends, family and others.



“As an endowed charitable fund,” Andy says, “it generates income and growth, and supports essential training to providers of special education for generations.”

While schools were closed during the pandemic and remote learning was the new normal, students with special needs were struggling at an alarming rate. Crotched Mountain Foundation used proceeds from Jill’s fund to provide life-changing tutoring to students with disabilities.

Now, through CMF Kids, Jill’s legacy endures, helping special education teachers and paraprofessionals in our poorest communities. Thanks to her, teachers and staff are receiving needed training to improve the lives of thousands of children with disabilities. ■

To support this important endeavor, please give with a gift by check (write “Jill Collier Memorial Fund” in the memo section of the check) or donate securely online at cmf.org/donate.

Other Tax-Smart Ways to Make a Gift Now!

Use your IRA

Are you required to take a minimum income distribution (RMD) as taxable income? A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to Crotched Mountain Foundation is not taxed as income. Crotched Mountain Foundation’s ID number is 02-0222168.

Use appreciated stock

Stock held for more than a year and gifted directly to Crotched Mountain Foundation are a great way to avoid capital gains taxes. Provide the following to your financial advisor: Deliver to: The Depository Trust Company. Account: 0164, Code 40. For credit to Crotched Mountain Foundation (Call 603.831.8424 for account number)

Questions?

Contact Kevin Harte, Vice President of Advancement at 603-831-8424 or Kevin.Harte@crotchedmountain.org. Learn more and give securely at crotchedmountain.org/donate.

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



FUELING A RESCUE MISSION

How Your Generosity Lifted a Family Out of Crisis

Kathy is a 56-year-old woman diagnosed with severe epilepsy and a client of Crothed Mountain Community Care (CMCC). She lives in a home she owns with her two brothers. In addition to the three of them, eight other family members live there, including several young children.

One day in December, Kathy called Marge Goudreault, a Case Manager for CMCC. Desperation was in her voice. They had run out of heating oil and had no money to fill the tank. And it was getting cold outside.

Marge immediately contacted her CMCC colleagues to see what grant funds were available. Thankfully, there was money available, made possible by continued grant awards from CMCC's community foundation partners.

The next call was to the oil company and within the hour got confirmation that the driver was at Kathy's home delivering a shipment of oil, funded by a CMCC grant.

The family was extremely grateful. And CMCC and Crothed Mountain Foundation is grateful for the foundations that award these grants, for our community partners who help find solutions, and for donors whose generosity impacts the lives of people like Kathy and her family. ■

Thank You 2023 Grantors!

Northeast Delta Dental Foundation, Inc.
Mascoma Bank Foundation
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation The
Blanche Hyslop Fund at
The Boston Foundation
The Byrne Foundation
Constance O. Putnam Foundation Bishop's
Charitable Assistance Fund Susan A. and
Donald P. Babson Charitable Foundation
Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of NHCF

Eversource Energy Foundation Elizabeth H.
Whittemore Charitable Trust RBC Foundation -
USA
Roger R. and Theresa S. Thompson
Endowment Fund
The M&T Charitable Foundation
Getz Charitable Trust
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Harry
Gregg Foundation
Samuel P. Hunt Foundation
Athletic Brewing Company, DCU For Kids,
Bank of NH, NH Electric Co-Op Foundation)



A Chat With Hannah Halle, Crothed Mountain Foundation's New Annual Fund Manager

What interests you about the CMF mission?

When I think about our mission, I look forward to having the opportunity to help people thrive. When I think about someone thriving, I see them as grounded and motivated for self-growth, there is stability in their life and a sense of empowerment that comes from within. I am interested in being part of an organization that helps people get to this point in their life.

What part of donor engagement/ advancement work are you most excited by?

My favorite part of donor engagement/ advancement work is definitely thanking people. Truly expressing gratitude to the people who make our work possible is something that I always look forward to. It is moving to see so many long-standing donors who remain committed to our mission of helping children of adults with disabilities live, learn, and thrive in the community.

What excites you the most about the future for CMF?

In the short term, I am excited to meet our donors and volunteers at the upcoming accessible trail clean up days in April and our annual Volleyball tournament in June. In the long term, I am excited to learn about amazing people living, learning, and thriving in our communities. I look forward to sharing stories about how donors have created those opportunities in their communities. ■



THE ENDURING LEGACY OF ROCKY'S RANGERS

There was something happening at the American Legion in Pelham, NH. The parking lot was filled with pickup trucks and conservation license plates and the sweet smell of barbecue emanated from an outdoors gas grill. The two men tending the grill offered a friendly hello as you walked past and slipped into the hall.

There, before you, is a buffet fit for kings: homemade chili, venison cooked to perfection, and an array of side dishes. Welcome to the domain of Rocky's Rangers.

Legend has it that one day, about sixty years ago, Rocky DeCarolis, an avid hunter and outdoorsman, was exploring the wilderness around Crooked Mountain in Greenfield. His orienteering led him—to his surprise!—to the headquarters of Crooked Mountain Foundation. A conversation with some staff opened his eyes to the organization's work and he was immediately moved by Crooked Mountain's mission to serve people with disabilities.

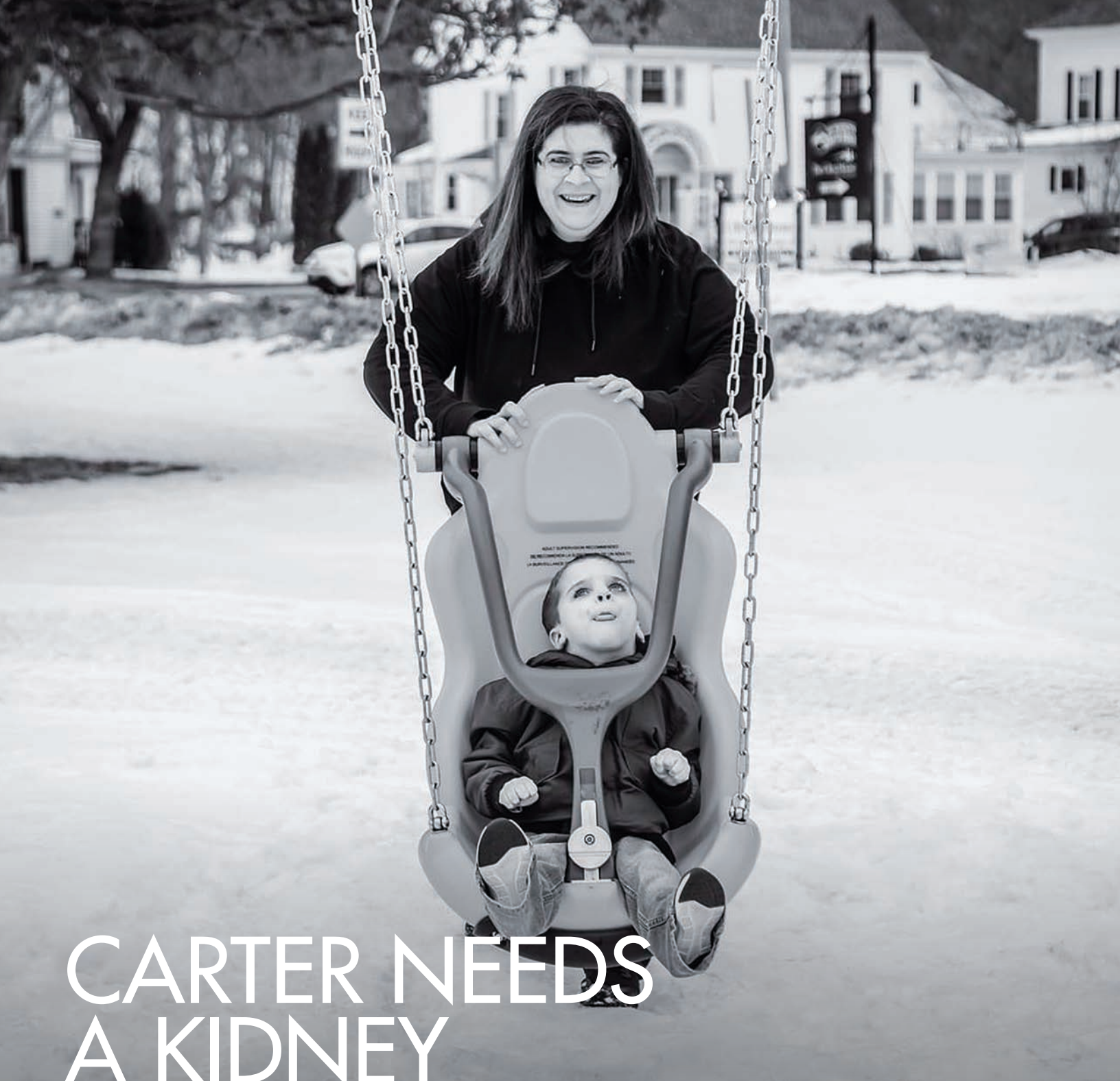
Thus began the six-decade-plus relationship between a tight-knit, eclectic group of friends and family, bonded by their love of the outdoor recreation and Crooked Mountain. These outdoorsmen would sojourn together into the woods for hunting trips. At the end of the hunting season, they would gather to share stories, offer some good-natured ribbing, and even generate donations through their "kangaroo court" to give to Crooked Mountain.

Tragically, this tradition was permanently impacted when, during a fishing expedition on Moosehead Lake in Maine in 1964, a freak storm capsized Rocky's boat. Rocky and his parents-in-law, who were on the boat at the time, lost their lives.

But the Rangers carried on, hoisting the banner of camaraderie and generosity that Rocky championed. For the next 60 years the trips continued, the end-of-season banquet and storytelling grew in popularity, and the children and adults served by Crooked Mountain benefitted.

Which brings us to that night at the American Legion. As the 40 or so fathers, sons, uncles, nephews, friends, neighbors and more cleaned their plates, Rocky's brother Phil—the Rangers' standard-bearer—stood up and led the crew in a moment of silence for his brother. And then, the storytelling began, with each Ranger coming to the front to spin their hunting tales. The failures and successes, the misses and the bullseyes, and the ever-present respect they all share for the natural world.

At the end of the ceremony, Rocky's Rangers presented the evening's donations: \$3,000, the most ever given. It was a gift of tremendous purpose, and not just because of the dollar amount. There was a deep, emotional history laced within that generosity, enriched by the legacy of a man who took to heart the most important lesson that Mother Nature teaches us—we depend on each other. ■



CARTER NEEDS A KIDNEY

Carter is an eight-year-old boy from Gorham, NH. He is diagnosed with Joubert Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that affects one in 100,000 newborns. He is nonverbal and is unable to walk. And he needs a kidney.

Jessica, Carter's mom, has been a tireless advocate for her son, especially since he received his diagnosis at five days old. Part of the charge she has taken upon herself is to introduce as much normalcy as she can into her little boy's life—especially when it comes to getting out into the community.

"It's been very hard to find things that he enjoys," she says. "He has significant sensory issues and it can be overwhelming outdoors with all the stimuli. He likes to be outdoors, though if there are too many kids screaming, or if somebody talks to him too much, then he gets a little overwhelmed and then he'll start screaming."

Add to that, there's the simple fact that many playgrounds simply do not have the accessible equipment capable of accommodating a child with Carter's needs. This is particularly true in the North Country, where there are few funds available to install this specialized, high-cost equipment.

That's where CMF Kids comes in. Last year, Crotched Mountain Foundation and CMF Kids partnered with Milan Village School in Milan NH to open a new inclusive and accessible playground featuring specially-designed adaptive and sensory-friendly equipment like a non-transfer swing for children who use wheelchairs, an adaptive climbing structure, a sensory chair, an accessible whirl, and sensory musical equipment including a xylophone, bongo drums and wind chimes. The project was made possible through a \$50,000 CMF Kids resource investment.

"The new accessible and inclusive playground is a perfect example of the Kids vision," said Melissa White, Executive Director of CMF Kids. "We are excited to help our friends at the Milan Village School bring the joy of play to all children. There are more than 30,000 children identified in New Hampshire Public Schools as having a disability. Creating inclusive and accessible play spaces means all children of all abilities are able to play, learn and grow together."

"He loves to swing," Jessica says. "It's so nice to go so he could do something he enjoys so much. And it's important that it's a swing made for a boy his age, not one of those baby swings. As a mom, it's important for me to have that type of normal experience."

Because community is important and no one knows that more than Jessica. Despite the relative scarcity of resources in the North Country, Jessica sees a great advantage to the closeness of those towns.



With CMF Kids able to supply needed support and partnership with economically disadvantaged school districts to help improve special education outcomes, Crotched Mountain is able to build on the strong, neighborly culture that makes up the bedrock of northern New Hampshire.

"Being in such a small area, Carter won't get lost in the system," Jessica says. "He won't be just a number. I know that my son is getting what he needs."

What Carter needs now is a kidney. Joubert syndrome is known to gradually weaken the kidneys and time is ticking. The school support, the specialized attention, and, most recently, the new accessible playground in Milan are wonderful gifts.

Yet there is another gift to give to young Carter. It is the most special present of them all: the gift of future, the gift of hope, the gift of life. ■

**Spread the word far and wide!
Carter needs a kidney. To learn
more please reach out to Jessica at
jessie_03584@hotmail.com.**



A CONNECTION TO CHERISH

Sometimes, all it takes is a shared interest to create a fulfilling relationship. Meet Sharon and Gail, who have forged a mutually rewarding bond, thanks to the mission of Crothed Mountain Community Care (CMCC).

Sharon is served by CMCC through the Choices for Independence Waiver. As a CMCC client, Sharon receives needed care coordination from her case manager as well as the needed services to help her maintain her independence, stay out of a nursing home, and live safely in her own community.

Gail is Sharon's Personal Care Service Provider worker, who offers support for Sharon's day to day tasks like cleaning, meal prep, laundry, grocery shopping, medication reminders, and more. Beyond this needed help, Gail frequently brings Sharon out for walks in the community and plays a key role in fostering Sharon's interests.

One such interest? Genealogy! Sharon has discovered a love of researching her family tree, and Gail helps her navigate this journey. Recently, the two ventured to an old grave-site and a homestead that had belonged to Sharon's family.

"When Sharon told me about it, she was really excited," says Dave, her CMCC Case Manager.

"These are the connections that are so wonderful to see," said Kara Nickulas, Executive Director of Adult Programs for Crothed Mountain Foundation. "When we partner with other agencies, we are able to support our clients so they can lead independent, fulfilling lives in their own community." ■

A Big Swing for Doing Good

We are so grateful to the Ranauro family, who made CMF Kids the beneficiary of the Amanda Ranauro Charity Golf Tournament.

Pictured, Justin Ranauro and his son Nick present a check for \$15,000 to Melissa White, Executive Director of CMF Kids. This was made in honor and memory of Amanda Ranauro, an educator who taught children with autism. After her untimely passing, Amanda's family made a commitment to honor her memory through the Amanda Ranauro Charity Golf Tournament.

"The generous gift from the Ranauro family will support multiple CMF Kids initiatives," says Melissa. "These include supporting families who struggle with the costs of clinical services, and other community-based services for children with autism." ■

This year's golf tournament is scheduled for June 24. To learn more please visit: www.anniesangels.org/amanda-ranauro-golf-tournament



June 22, 2024

Akwa Marina Yacht Club
95 Centenary Avenue
Laconia, NH 03246



BUMP, SET, AND SPIKE YOUR WAY TO CHANGING LIVES!

It's that time of the year again! Bring your A-game to the biggest-impact beach volleyball event in New Hampshire!

You definitely want to be in Laconia at 9:00 am on Saturday, June 22 for the 2024 Winnepesaukee Volleyball Classic. All morning, teams will square off on the courts around the stunning Akwa Marina and Yacht Club framed by sunny blue waters and classic Winnepesaukee views.

There's the pool and a bouncy castle for the kids, island music and the beach bar for the adults, and a delicious beachside BBQ grill-fest. Best of all, this day of fun in the sun will generate over \$40,000 for Logan's Giving Fund for Autism—a CMF Kids program supporting families whose kids with autism require specialized services.

CMF Kids named Logan's Giving Fund for Autism in honor of Logan Mailloux, whose parents, Kurt and Sarah Mailloux, started this fundraising event for Crotched Mountain in 2018. The fund operates statewide, helping

parents struggling with out-of-pocket expenses for specialized autism services or treatments. These include Applied Behavioral Analysis Therapy, Speech, Occupational, Physical and Music Therapies, and social skills groups.

"We know first hand how challenging it can be to raise a child with autism," Sarah says. "Getting the right services can help these amazing kids reach their potential and become more independent. We started this event to help families in New Hampshire get much needed services for their children."

100% of the funds goes directly to families to help cover copays. Some of these kids require daily services, and copays can add up to hundreds or even thousands of dollars per month. Since 2018, the community has contributed over \$125,000 to this wonderful cause. Please help us to support these children if you can! Thank you."

We're grateful to all the Mailloux family for being the inspiration and the engine behind an awesome event, bringing awareness to challenges faced by some parents. ■

To watch the 2023 Volleyball Classic video, please visit cmf.org/volleyballvideo.

If you or someone you know wants to secure a sponsorship or team spot, please visit volleyballclassic.org.

To sponsor, please contact Hannah Halle at hannah.halle@crotchedmountain.org or 603-851-2400.



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Horizons Spring 2024

A Year of Amazing Impact

In 2023, Crotched Mountain Foundation, powered by our donors, supporters, and community partners, touched the lives of children, adults, and families across New Hampshire, helping people of all abilities live, learn, and thrive in the community.



180

Special Education staff and teachers received specialized training to improve outcomes for students with autism and other disabilities.



2,057

Students with disabilities from New Hampshire's most under resourced communities receiving improved special education in their schools.



25

Adults with disabilities living in homes with, and supported by, families in our communities.



960

Vulnerable adults with disabilities and chronic illness supported by Crotched Mountain Community Care to remain independent and living in their own homes.

