

# HORIZONS

WINTER 2025



Dear Friends,

There is a reason why we are so proud of our accessible trails. More than what it is—the largest mountain-based accessible trail system in the country—but what it represents.

These trails tell the world that all people, regardless of ability, have the right to experience the majesty of nature, the joy of recreation, and the delight of just getting out and moving.

And it goes beyond our trails. Every corner of our mission weaves in the power of recreation, from our adult services to our CMF Kids programming to our collaborations with partners like the University of New Hampshire's Kinesiology Department on groundbreaking research examining the physical activity of children with disabilities.

In addition to our accessible trails, CMF Kids is proud to partner with outstanding community organizations such as Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country, the Manchester Police Athletic League, the New Hampshire Dance Institute, and the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative.

These partnerships open doors for children with disabilities to experience the joy and confidence that come from participating in activities like jiu-jitsu, dance, skiing, kayaking, therapeutic horseback riding, swimming, biking, and so much more.

Access to inclusive recreation and the arts is not simply about play—it's about belonging, discovery, and building the physical and emotional foundations that help every child thrive.

We do this because we know how important it is for children and adults with disabilities to take part in the simple pursuits of having fun. The things that we all enjoy!

That commitment to inclusivity is what it means to “live, learn, and thrive in the community.”

As we wrap up 2025, and another year of transformational impact in the lives of people with disabilities, I want to thank you for your generosity.

Together we are changing lives every day—onto 2026, and the next adventure!

Warm regards,



Ned Olney  
President and CEO



## Letter from the President



# THE FACE OF PHILANTHROPY

## Jill Collier's Legacy Lives On

Tuesday, June 17, 2014.

The voice on the phone: "Hi! This is Jill Collier. Almost 40 years ago, Crotched Mountain helped train me as a young special education teacher."

Jill phoned to share how that training had inspired her 38-year career teaching hundreds, if not thousands, of children with disabilities. She was already planning to 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 the Jill Collier Memorial Fund. Since then, Jill's

partner, Andy Card, has helped steward additional contributions from friends, family and others.

"As an endowed fund, it generates income and growth," Andy says. "Now, through CMF Kids, Jill's legacy helping special education teachers and paraprofessionals in our poorest communities—providing training that inspires teachers for their own decades of service." ■

**To support special education training in the poorest communities now, you can write 'Jill Collier Memorial Fund' in the memo section of your check or the online form at [cmf.org/donate](http://cmf.org/donate).**



On Sunday, October 26, our amazing friends and partners at Story Land wrapped up their 2025 season with a final autumn day in the park (including trick or treating!). In addition, it was "Crotched Mountain Day," where families and children served by Crotched Mountain and CMF Kids were able to access the park free of charge.

We are grateful to the ongoing partnership between our two iconic New Hampshire organizations—a connection that goes back decades! ■

# THE FACE OF PHILANTHROPY

## Don Kent Legacy Society Impacts Generations to Come

Our 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. ■



## Ways YOU can Create YOUR Legacy Now!

### 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 people and programs.

### As a Beneficiary in Other Financial Assets

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

### 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

This approach begins with your gift of fixed annual payments to Crotched Mountain Foundation while leaving assets to your family or other heirs and reduces applicable taxes.

## 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 is a great way to avoid capital gains taxes. Call or email us to learn more about your options.

This is easier than you think! Contact Kevin Harte at 603-831-8424 or [kevin.harte@crotchedmountain.org](mailto:kevin.harte@crotchedmountain.org). Visit [www.crotchedmountain.org/donate](http://www.crotchedmountain.org/donate) to make an impact today!

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.

**Harry Gregg  
FOUNDATION**

### Providing Decades of Hope

Over thirty years ago the Harry Gregg Foundation was established to provide support grants to help the people of New Hampshire with disabilities and their families cover the cost of needed products and services.

As one of the few charitable foundations to provide funds directly to individuals, the Harry Gregg Foundation has made over 8,000 grants totaling more than \$3 million.

Opportunities for grant support include home modifications, educational services, adaptive equipment, therapeutic recreation, medical bills and technology. The Harry Gregg Foundation strives to help improve a person's quality of life by providing funds that will enhance their independence. ■

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



# ADAPTIVE PLAY MAKES JOY ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL AT GOSSLER PARK

## Your Support of CMF Kids Means Students of All Abilities Can Have a Blast with their Peers

It was a ribbon cutting to remember! Last month saw the grand opening of a brand new accessible and inclusive playground at Gossler Park School in Manchester, made possible through our CMF Kids program and you, our generous donors.

Through this groundbreaking partnership, Gossler Park secured adaptive equipment and classroom resources for students with multiple disabilities and resurfaced the playground area with a rubberized surface, ideal for students who use wheelchairs.

“This project has truly opened doors for our students,” said Principal Lori Upham. “To see our children laughing, playing, and sharing those joyful moments together on the playground is absolutely heartwarming. It’s more than just a playground, it’s inclusion in action.”

“Crotched Mountain Foundation and CMF Kids believe the joy of play is for all children of all abilities,” said

Melissa White, Executive Director of CMF Kids. “We are honored to partner with Manchester School District to make inclusive play a reality for the Gossler Park community.”

The Gossler Park construction is the latest addition to a growing portfolio of CMF Kids adaptive playground projects. A similar effort was made possible at Bakersville Elementary School, another example of collaboration between Manchester School District and Crotched Mountain Foundation/CMF Kids.

“This work reflects what’s possible when schools and community partners come together,” said Superintendent Jennifer Chmiel. “Gossler Park’s new playground will provide a welcoming space where all children, regardless of ability, can play, learn, and grow together.” ■

Thank you to the Manchester School District for the photos.



# COMMUNITY IS

## The Residents of McIntyre School Apartments are All About Going Out and About

Whitefield, NH. It may not be known for its legendary night life, but that doesn't mean there isn't adventure to be had. Just ask the crew at McIntyre School Apartments (MSA), Crotched Mountain Foundation's affordable housing complex for adults 62 and over. As a HUD-supported program, MSA provides safe, stable residential living for some of New Hampshire's most vulnerable residents.

But, as we all know, there's more to life than just, well, living. Getting out and adventuring, spending time with others, and enjoying the benefits of

community—these are the joys that can be challenging to obtain as a senior (perhaps with a disability) living alone.

The MCA staff is keenly aware of these barriers and the importance of leisure and recreation. Beth Vincent, who has been the long-time case manager in Whitefield supporting the needs of the residents, understands the power of community.

"Whitefield is a low-Income area, so there are not a lot of resources around us," she says. "For folks who probably have enough stresses in their lives, whether finances or health, isolation can negatively affect them."

To combat that isolation, the tenants formed the Resident Activity Committee, where they would work together to create outings and events for their neighbors to take part in. Momentum was going strong until the pandemic hit, waylaying the committee and, sadly, leading to increased “stop-the-spread” isolation. The Committee was suspended, until it returned recently to generate a whole new slate of opportunities.

So far it's been a steady stream of outings: an excursion to an apple orchard, a foliage field trip and a picnic lunch, a visit to a nearby state park, and an afternoon at the famous Flume gorge followed by ice cream.

The fun isn't limited to the outdoors either. The tenants take pride in making MSA a nexus of socialization for the greater Whitefield community. Case in point: the

annual Halloween party, a spine-tingling bash hosted by the tenants at the MSA community room (the old auditorium during the building's life as an elementary school). Families and their children are invited to come by for an afternoon of trick or treating. The 2025 edition was another homerun.

“It was fantastic,” Beth says. “Initially, at 4:00, we had maybe seven kids and I was really surprised. I was, like, ‘Wow, I really miscalculated this,’ because it was so popular last year. But then they just all poured in for the rest of the hour and a half. We had around 300 people show up!”

And though costumes were everywhere, for the tenants of MSA, there was no masking their smiles. ■

# EVERYWHERE



Tenants at McIntyre School Apartments enjoyed a summer outing at Cannon Mountain with a complimentary pass for all seniors 65 and up. They rode the tram to the top of the mountain and enjoyed the view from the observatory deck of the beautiful fall colors.

A View for  
the Ages

# MOVING AND GROOVING WITH CMF KIDS



## Radical Rec

Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country  
Franconia, NH

CMF Kids partners with Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country to offer recreation, sport, and adventure opportunities in communities served by CMF Kids school district partners. Adaptive Sports Partners provides inclusive programming for athletes of all abilities—supporting individuals with physical, developmental, emotional, and behavioral disabilities through adaptive equipment, personalized instruction, and a shared commitment to the joy of participation. ■

## Super Science

SEE Science Center  
Manchester, NH

The SEE Science Center is rooted in playful discovery, believing in the power of play to spark scientific curiosity and positive development in children, families, and the community. CMF Kids is proud to support and celebrate the Center's commitment to creating inclusive opportunities that enhance museum education and the visitor experience for children and youth with disabilities—ensuring every child can explore the wonder of science. ■





## Amazing Grace

New Hampshire Dance Institute  
Keene, NH

CMF Kids is pleased to support the New Hampshire Dance Institute's REACH Program (Realizing Excellence and Creating Happiness)—an inclusive and adaptive dance initiative for children with disabilities and special needs.

Through specialized instruction and collaborative performances that bring together dancers with and without disabilities, REACH fosters empathy, creativity, and community. CMF Kids celebrates NHDI's commitment to inclusive dance and to ensuring that every child can experience the joy of movement and artistic expression. ■

## Success is so "Sweep"

Manchester Police Athletic League  
Manchester, NH

CMF Kids partners with the Manchester Police Athletic League (MPAL) to support the Real Champions Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Program, designed for individuals with intellectual disabilities, including Autism and Down Syndrome.

MPAL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit after-school organization that connects police officers and youth through athletic and enrichment programs. By providing a safe, positive environment where officers serve as mentors and coaches, this program fosters confidence, skill-building, and inclusive opportunities for all participants. ■



# RAMPING UP IMPACT



## How CMCC Helped Kim Regain Her Independence



Kim is a client of Crotched Mountain Community Care (CMCC), Crotched Mountain's independent case management program for adults on the CFI Medicaid waiver. This waiver services folks who are at risk of entering a nursing home, many of whom have a disability or chronic condition. Kim uses a wheelchair and has been without a ramp at her house for some time, severely limiting her opportunity to get out of her house and live a life of maximum independence.

Working closely with her CMCC case manager, Dawn, Kim was finally able to get a ramp installed using CFI funds. To say she was grateful is an understatement. She was so appreciative she wished to share her feelings in her own words, which you can read below

**Crotched Mountain Foundation has been instrumental in making my life so much easier and more enjoyable.**

**First of all, I've been assigned an amazing case manager, Dawn Facella. As an amputee, my challenge was definitely there when my son bought the house that we currently live in. Prior to CMCC, I was having to go up-and-down the stairs without a ramp, which, as a wheelchair patient, is incredibly challenging.**

**Dawn has gone out of her way to make a couple of things happen, including getting a ramp for the outside of my house. This has made attending my appointments a lot more accessible. She also made it possible for my bathroom to become accessible. She also helped me get into a physical therapy program.**

**She continues to help me every time that she's here, including getting new mobility additions to my wheelchair through the program.**

**I honestly can't say enough good things and I hope that this makes people realize that this program is an amazing addition to our community.**

**Kimberly Nelson Tremblay**

## CROTCHED MOUNTAIN THROUGH THE YEARS

**1965**

Crotched Mountain Foundation hosted the first ever New England Wheelchair Games, which was founded by Marilyn Warren (pictured), who had paraplegia due to polio as a baby and later became a well-known disability advocate.



**1970**

Crotched Mountain's Mobile Vocational Assessment Laboratory brought evaluation services directly to clients in their towns throughout New Hampshire, previewing the community-focused impact CMF would become known for.

# CMF Super Search

Find the hidden words related to the impact you make happen every day. Happy hunting!

A	N	R	A	E	L	S	F	D	H	J	O
S	M	E	C	N	A	D	I	N	E	Y	L
D	A	C	K	A	Y	A	K	U	G	T	I
N	O	R	B	C	M	N	S	O	Y	I	N
E	G	E	L	C	R	T	L	R	U	N	C
I	B	A	X	E	F	O	W	G	P	U	L
R	D	T	K	S	I	C	N	Y	Z	M	U
F	T	I	P	S	M	U	H	A	C	M	S
T	R	O	E	I	F	R	I	L	P	O	I
J	A	N	Q	B	B	L	K	P	W	C	O
M	I	B	N	L	I	V	E	M	Q	E	N
K	L	W	I	E	V	I	R	H	T	R	Q

Accessible  
Dance  
Recreation  
Community

Live  
Learn  
Thrive  
Trail

Friends  
Inclusion  
Hike  
Kinesiology

Kayak  
Playground  
Fun





CROTCHED  
MOUNTAIN  
FOUNDATION

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MANCHESTER NH  
PERMIT NO. 724

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**Horizons Winter 2025**

## 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).



**Evergreens  
for Autism**  
supporting  
**CMFkids**

Scan here to donate  
securely online!

