

HORIZONS

SPRING 2026



THE ART OF COMMUNITY

Teamwork Changes Lives

We have just passed Superbowl season and it occurs to me that sports so often reflects life. You can do all the right things, make the best choices you can, even benefit from a little luck here and there: but a winning result is not always guaranteed. Circumstances beyond anyone's control can act as a disruptive force: a freak blizzard in a football game, a season-ending ankle injury on the soccer pitch, an overeager fan swiping away a surefire catch in the outfield.

Life is filled with joy, love, friendship, caring, as well as those unanticipated health curveballs. For those of us who have lived within the general population without major difficulties with our health, those curveballs can be truly devastating—a spinal cord or head injury or a degenerative ocular disease or a multitude of chronic illnesses.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that 45.8 million Americans have a disability. But there is a large group of people who have a new disability. For example, 80,000 people a year sustain severe head injuries. There are 25,000 new diagnoses of Multiple Sclerosis each year. Or yet another child receives an autism diagnosis or a parent or a spouse is diagnosed with dementia.

For these individuals, life changes dramatically for them and their families. And for those people with disabilities, there is a thin and delicate line of support that any change can severely impact their quality of life. Funding can be cut for adult services, or a school district can reduce the budget for a single special education teacher, or a wheelchair can break. Just like that, the game plan shifts, and there is a whole new set of rules to live by.

For nearly a century, this has been the reality that Crotched Mountain Foundation has been a part of. From the early days of supporting people suddenly infected by polio, to our expansive work today supporting children and adults with disabilities across the region, we have witnessed what setbacks, obstacles, and disadvantages can mean for a person and their family.

The major learning from those decades of experience? It takes a total team effort to find success. Be it nurses, clinicians, and physical therapists, to our current adult case management team, as well as the teachers, staff, and professionals in school districts and the support of students with disabilities throughout New Hampshire (and beyond)—camaraderie in common cause represents the best path forward to make a lasting difference in the lives of people of all abilities. We do this because we all live within the human condition and we are all better when we support each other.

These stories populate the pages of this issue of *Horizons*. From Rocky's Rangers to the See Science Center to the Newport School District, these are examples of the community coming together to ensure the playing field is as level as possible, to give the opportunity for everyone to succeed. And, of course, I would be remiss if I didn't mention our most important ally: you!

Your generous and faithful support ensures these vital programs and services continue changing lives.

Thank you for all that you do and as we look to the impact you will have in 2026 there is only one word to describe you and the likeminded supporters of Crotched Mountain and our evergreen mission: champions.

Warm regards,



Ned Olney
President and CEO



Letter from the President

Cover Painting by:
Char Russell, NH artist
and Memorial Garden
garden volunteer



THE FACE OF PHILANTHROPY

Rocky's Rangers Breaks Their Record

The smell of BBQ was inescapable. As soon as you pulled into the American Legion Post 100 parking lot in Pelham, NH, and stepped out of the car, your senses were bombarded with the rich, smoky scent of game roasted on an open flame. On the landing up to the meeting hall's entrance, several guys (who may or may not have been sporting impressive beards) manned the grill, cradling beverages and exchanging small talk. They are amiable and happy to see you, and they point you toward the hall.

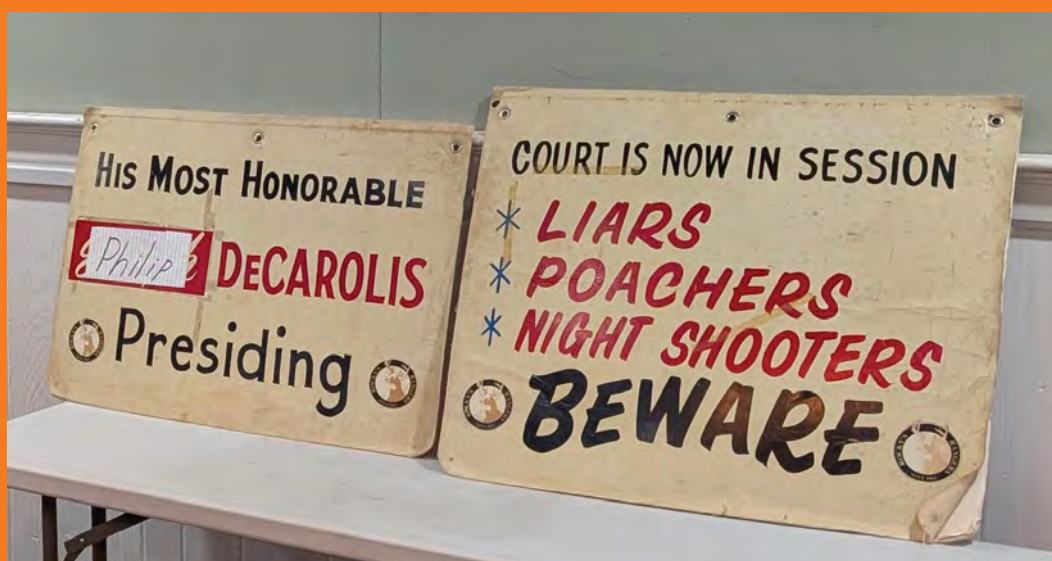
The good tidings continue indoors. Conversation ripples throughout the

hall, and a grand buffet of food is being prepped and organized. Buns, cheese, condiments, plasticware, and entrée after entrée of piping hot venison and other meats have been positioned for a wave of hungry hunters.

It's the annual Rocky's Rangers banquet, a tradition that spans decades. As he has for years, Phil DeCarolis sits in the seat of honor, providing "judgement" on the hunters who come up to the front to share their

hunting stories of the past season; the playful "fines" he hands down are collected and donated to Crooked Mountain Foundation. This year set the all-time record with a stunning \$3,310 donated!

Rocky's Rangers traces its history back to the 1950s, when Phil's brother Rocco (Rocky) DeCarolis discovered our mission during a trip to Greenfield and happened to come across Crooked Mountain Rehabilitation Center.



THE FACE OF PHILANTHROPY

“Rocky connected his passion for helping children with disabilities with his love of the outdoors,” Phil recalls. “Once a year, he gathered us together for a game food buffet to raise funds for Crotched Mountain. We became Rocky’s Rangers.”

Tragedy struck during a group fishing trip to Moosehead Lake in Maine in 1964. A sudden storm capsized the fishing boat carrying Rocco, his wife Mary, and her parents, Sam and Dorothy McLaughlin. Though Mary survived, Rocky, Sam and Dorothy perished.

In his honor, friends and family members have continued Rocky’s beloved banquet tradition to this day. This year’s edition stood out—not just because of the record-breaking donation—but due to the packed house. It was one of the most well-attended banquets in years thanks to new faces and new generations of Rocky’s Rangers.

“It’s great the tradition continues,” Phil says. “We have fun and feel good about supporting a cause that was near and dear to Rocky.” ■



WILL RECENT TAX LAW CHANGES AFFECT YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING?

Some tax return implications within the OBBA bill, enacted in July 2025:

- **If you don’t itemize on your tax return:** There is a new charitable deduction. Starting in 2026, nonitemizers can deduct up to \$1,000 (single) or \$2,000 (married) in cash gifts to public charities, like Crotched Mountain Foundation. Gifts to Donor advised funds (DAFs) do not count for this deduction.
- **If you do itemize on your tax return:** Your charitable deduction is limited to the amount of your annual charitable giving that is above 0.5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). A simple example: if your AGI is \$100,000, your first \$500 is not deductible, and your annual charitable giving above \$500 is tax deductible. Additionally, for high-income filers (in a 37% marginal income tax bracket) a 35% deduction cap is applied.
- **For filers 70.5 and older,** a Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) directly from your IRA to a charity like Crotched Mountain Foundation is considered fully excluded from your income and a wonderful way to avoid tax on that IRA distribution. The QCD limit is \$111,000 for 2026. ■

TOP TIPS

For Non-itemizers: Consider automatic monthly donations directly from your checking account or credit card. \$84 monthly totals \$1,008 (\$167 monthly if married). We send you a charitable receipt in January and you use the new \$1,000 or \$2,000 charitable deduction on your tax return. Easy!

Gifts of stocks or other appreciated assets help you avoid capital gains and are a great way to manage tax obligations.

Check with your broker or retirement account manager about **a QCD directly to Crotched Mountain Foundation**—another excellent tax strategy! ■



MY THREE SONS

How your generosity changed the lives of a family of five

Maria is mom to three young boys ages nine, seven, and six. All have autism. As each successive diagnosis came down, she was able to negotiate the emotional impact well enough; after the shock from her oldest son's initial diagnosis, she became well-versed in the services landscape and the reality of being a parent of a child with autism. So when her other sons were identified as having autism, she had enough experience to understand the new reality facing her and her family.

"We understood that is just kind of how it is," she said. "The first time around I didn't know what was wrong with my son and was fearful of what the future held. With my second son I had experience, I knew what I was doing. For my third son, I was confident I knew what the kids needed. We decided we were just going to move forward and not get into the 'What are the chances?' type of thinking."

The biggest source of confidence and optimism was therapy. When Maria enrolled her boys into therapy services at Pediatric Therapy Center (PTC) in Nashua, the results emboldened her. Her sons showed significant improvement. While each child experienced autism in their own way, across the board she saw them grow and develop and travel their own paths to a future life of success.

But for three boys taking part in multiple therapy visits a week, there is a real cost. Despite the insurance coverage, copays present a substantial burden. Over time, these out-of-pocket fees result in a deluge of costs, which can cause tremendous financial burdens for a family's budget.

"We have to pay literally thousands of dollars a year on co-pays with all the services that they receive," Maria says. "Now therapy for our children is obviously a non-negotiable thing, but there is a cost burden. It's not

100 percent covered. We still have debt from paying over \$1,000 a week."

So when Maria learned that her family had qualified for a grant from CMF Kids Logan's Giving Fund for Autism, her relief was immediate.

"It was incredible," she says. "To have this type of financial release is so helpful. We are able to put our money towards other necessities."

Logan's Giving Fund provides co-pay relief to families via providers who provide diverse therapies, including Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Music Therapy, Equine Therapy and more. Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) support has made up nearly 90% of Fund requests

PTC has been a program partner since the initiative went live in 2018. The benefits that Maria saw in her children thanks to these supports were life-changing.

"When my youngest was 21 months old, he stopped talking," she recalls. "He had a lot of really difficult behaviors, and his team from PTC and the school worked to figure out some other kind of communication method for him, and then, all of a sudden, he just started talking. And now, he's telling me about his day at school using past tense in a sentence. It's amazing how much he's grown over the past year, just with the help of his therapists, who are literally angels on Earth."

And for you, the donors who make all of this possible through your support of CMF Kids and Logan's Giving Fund for Autism, and the CMF Kids Action for Autism Program, Maria has a simple message:

"Thank you so much for helping me take care of my babies. You have no idea how much this means to us." ■



CMF Kids
and the
Newport
School
District
teamed up
to steward
and support
a community

**“Inclusion
Isn’t Just a
Buzzword”**

We took a moment to speak with Darlene Ayotte, the Director of Student Services for the Newport School District. Newport and CMF Kids entered into a fruitful partnership project together focused on enhancing the inclusivity of school culture and supporting the academic infrastructure to strengthen the education for students with disabilities.

How would you explain your partnership project with CMF Kids?

A primary focus of the funds will be the professionalization of our paraprofessional staff. We are launching an initiative to provide these dedicated educators with the training required to become Behavior Technicians (BTs). By sharpening the skill sets of those working directly with students who have intense behavioral needs, we ensure that every child—regardless of their challenges—has meaningful access to the general education curriculum. When staff are equipped with evidence-based strategies, the entire classroom benefits from a more stable and focused learning environment.

The grant will also support building-level staff in a concerted effort to foster a positive school culture and climate. This holistic approach is designed to benefit the entire student body, with a specific emphasis on our intensive populations.

Finally, the funding will be utilized to sharpen the technical and legal expertise of our special education teachers and related service providers. By focusing on high-level IEP (Individualized Education Program) writing, we are ensuring that every student's roadmap to success is precise, ambitious, and legally sound.

“At its heart, this initiative is about inclusion. We are building the professional infrastructure necessary to ensure our students with the most significant needs are fully integrated into the heart of our school community.”

By investing in the people who teach and support our children, we aren't just managing behaviors—we are unlocking potential.

What district challenges have you seen that will benefit from this funding?

Despite strengths in staff and community support, weaknesses in programming, skills, training, funding, and culture persist, along with challenges in staffing and systems. The district has initiated strategies aligned with these needs, including strengthening community partnerships,

innovative leadership, and staff expertise. Priority areas include improving climate and culture, ensuring access to general education, and creating positive learning environments. Proposed actions include training paraprofessionals as behavior technicians, providing SEL and behavior management training, and aligning practices with IDEA law, with crucial collaboration with administration.

Through the partnership project, what specific impacts on students with disabilities have you seen or expect to see?

While this funding targets specific professional supports, the ripples of its impact are felt throughout the entire school community. As we implement these initiatives, we are seeing a fundamental shift in how our students with disabilities engage with their education.

By training our paraprofessionals as Behavior Technicians (BTs), students with intense behavioral needs no longer just “occupy space” in a classroom. They are receiving the specialized, real-time support necessary to bridge the gap between their unique challenges and the general education curriculum.

With special education teachers receiving advanced training in IEP writing, students are benefiting from more precise, data-driven goals. This ensures that their educational “roadmaps” are not just compliant, but are aggressive engines for personal and academic growth.

A positive, informed school climate means fewer disciplinary interruptions and more time spent on instruction. For students with disabilities, this creates a predictable, safe environment where they can focus on social and emotional development alongside their peers.

It is important to note that these improvements are not happening in a vacuum. All of our students are being impacted by this work. When staff are better equipped to manage intense needs and foster a positive culture, the “calm in the storm” benefits every child in the building. A more inclusive classroom isn't just better for the student with a disability—it creates a more empathetic, stable, and diverse learning environment for every student.

How has this CMF Kids partnership impacted (or will impact) parents?

For parents, especially those of children with the most intense needs, the impact of this partnership is found in the “message” the district sends: Your child matters. Better-trained staff leads to better data collection and more transparent communication. Parents can feel confident that their child’s progress is being tracked with professional accuracy and that the school is a true partner in their development.

For our donors, how would you describe the impact they are having on your community?

Your support is more than just a financial contribution; it is providing Newport School District an opportunity to become a more compassionate and capable school community.

If we could speak directly to the CMF Kids donors, we would tell them that their generosity is doing something truly transformative: it is turning the ideal of “inclusion” into a daily reality.

In many schools, the desire to help students with intense needs is there, but the specialized training is often out of reach.

Your support has changed that. By funding behavior technician training for our paraprofessionals and advanced IEP training for our teachers, you have moved our staff from a place of “trying their best” to a place of “expert-level execution.” You are empowering our educators with the clinical skills and professional confidence to change lives.

Beyond the technical training, your support is the foundation of a healthier school culture. You aren’t just funding a program; you are funding a climate where students with disabilities feel safe, seen, and supported. This positive environment doesn’t just stay in the classroom—it follows our students home and radiates through their families, reducing the stress and isolation that parents of children with intensive needs often feel.

Most importantly, we want you to know that your impact is universal.

While this work focuses on our students with the most significant needs, all of our students are being impacted by this work. When a school is equipped to support its most vulnerable members, the entire community becomes more empathetic, more stable, and more academically successful.

Your investment ensures that ‘inclusion’ isn’t just a buzzword on a flyer—it’s a promise kept to every family in our district. You are giving our students the tools to thrive and our staff the skills to lead them there. ■





SCIENCE IS FOR EVERYONE

How Crotched Mountain and the See Science Center made learning and fun more accessible for all.

The sounds of laughing and banging and bouncing echo well beyond the entrance to the SEE Science Center. Located squarely in the mill district in downtown Manchester, the SEE Science Center—currently celebrating its 40th anniversary—is a fixture of fun and learning in the Queen City.

“Our mission is to engage our community in the joyful, active exploration of science and innovation,” says Executive Director Shana Hawrylchak. “The key word for us is ‘joy.’ We want people to think of learning as a fun experience, because so often it gets equated with tests or drudgery. But learning is fun!”

Learning is fun—and we agree. Which is why a partnership between the SEE Science Center and CMF Kids made all the sense in the world.

“We’re the sort of space that’s designed to reach people of all abilities,” Shana says. “We are already developed to reach many developmental ranges and physical abilities, so it’s a natural space to welcome the disability community.”

To augment that welcoming atmosphere, CMF Kids embarked on a special partnership project to help the SEE Science Center become more sensory-friendly. The learning space is loud and boisterous, and for

children with autism, this clatter can sometimes be distressing. But they’re still there to have big-time fun—so what’s the solution?

“The Crotched Mountain partnership allowed us to get sensory materials to help folks with self-regulation or just aid them in calming periods,” Shana says. “These materials will allow them to enjoy a full visit because they can take time away, get themselves reoriented, and then go and explore more.”

In addition to self-regulation, these sensory materials support touch, sight, sound, and movement, enhancing the visitor and learning experience for children. Thanks to CMF Kids — and you, the donors who make this all happen — the SEE Science Center now has a mobile cart equipped with a diverse array of sensory-sensitive equipment, including weighted items, fidget toys, lighting elements, and much more.

“This partnership allows us to make sure that we can get more children, youth, and adults to be able to visit this space in a comfortable way where they’re going to have a safe learning environment,” Shana says. “It helps bring people who have different abilities together and makes public spaces even more welcoming.” ■

SNAPSHOTS



EVERGREENS FOR AUTISM EXPANDS ITS MERRY IMPACT

Thanks again to Ed Cyr and Evergreens for Autism, the annual Christmas tree and wreath retail operation that donates a portion of sales proceeds to support CMF Kids and its mission to enhance the lives of children with autism and other disabilities.

This year, Evergreens for Autism expanded its sales to American Legion Post 27, where the merriment and cheer was spread to Londonderry. ■

Pictured: Hannah Halle,
Good Ol' Saint Nick, and Ed Cyr.

If you have a love of the outdoors and a passion for things that grow, then please consider joining our team of volunteers who help maintain and beautify Crotched Mountain's Memorial Garden and Accessible Trails in Greenfield. No experience needed.

These stunning places rely heavily on volunteer support, and are always in need of additional help, especially on our volunteer days in early Spring/Summer when many hands make light work of winter damage.

Throughout the growing season our garden volunteers help water and weed on their preferred days. Our Trails and Garden volunteers also meet for 3-4 volunteer workdays every year. Save the date for April 25 and May 16, our two upcoming volunteer cleanup and planting days at the Trails and Garden. ■

We'd love to see you there! Learn more at www.cmf.org/memorial-garden and at www.cmf.org/trails



The Harry Gregg Foundation: A Legacy of Improved Lives

For over three decades the Harry Gregg Foundation has occupied a unique role in the charitable landscape. The Foundation was originally established to provide grants directly to New Hampshire residents with disabilities and their families, addressing the cost of needed products and services to improve the lives of the recipients.



And that mission continues to this day. Since its inception, the Harry Gregg Foundation has made more than 8,000 grants to people in need, totaling more than \$3 million.

These grants support home modifications, educational services, adaptive equipment, therapeutic recreation, medical bills, and technology. ■

Learn more and apply at:
harrygreggfoundation.org

Staff Spotlight: Marge Goudreault Makes a Difference Every Day



Margorie Goudreault has been a part of the Crotched Mountain Family for nearly 18 years. She serves as a CFI Case Manager, covering the Greater Manchester area. In her role as a Case Manager, Marge is responsible for a full caseload of clients with chronic illnesses and other needs who require services and supports to remain independent and living in their own community—and not in a nursing home. Marge's job is to coordinate these services and to be an advocate and a voice for the people she serves.

"If anyone deserves a special shout out, it is Marge," says Liz Griswold, Case Manager Supervisor for Manchester and Portsmouth. "She lives the CMCC values through her service, empathy, and integrity. Her tireless efforts uplift the individuals we serve, giving them full control of their life plan. Her teamwork, collaboration, and willingness to support team members strengthen our entire organization. She consistently steps up, shares resources, mentors, and works alongside others to ensure the best outcomes. She is a champion. Thank you, Marge!" ■



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186 Granite Street, Suite 3C
Manchester, NH 03101
crotchedmountain.org

Horizons Spring 2026



Make a "Net" Impact on the Lives of Children with Autism!

Hit the beach and make a difference! Sign up your team today!

Build your team of four or more for an exciting day of beach volleyball at the **2026 Winnepesaukee Volleyball Classic!** Music, food, and friendly competition, with all proceeds going to support Logan's Giving Fund for Autism - don't miss it!

Saturday June 6, 2026
Akwa Marina Yacht Club
95 Centenary Ave, Laconia, NH

Sign up your team at: volleyballclassic.org

