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Focusing on the relationships cultivated by our caring and dedicated staff

Dear Easterseals Friends,

During the past year, Easterseals NH set a new course for the future. Longtime President & CEO, Larry Gammon, transitioned out of his role after 48 years of serving people with disabilities and special needs. His commitment is not only reflected in the successes outlined in this annual report, but in decades of Easterseal's achievements as the entity grew from a small and struggling affiliate into a thriving organization that helped more than 25,702 people of all ages last year. Thank you, Larry! We are indebted to you for your vision, leadership, and the culture of caring you leave as your legacy.

When we learned of Larry's retirement, we knew that our search for a new leader would have to be thoughtful and deliberate. Following a months-long, national search, we selected President & Founder of Families in Transition— New Horizons, Maureen Beauregard, to carry the baton forward as the new President & CEO of Easterseals New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine & Farnum. Maureen is known as a savvy leader with an acute understanding of the needs of the greater New Hampshire community and a proven track record of successful day-to-day leadership, mergers and acquisitions, and creating programs to help families and individuals in need. Easterseals is, most assuredly, in immensely capable hands!

Standing by Maureen's side will be an amazing team of nearly 1,800 staff who are dedicated to carrying out our mission of changing the way the world defines and views people with disabilities and special needs by helping them live, learn, work and play in their local communities. They walk the talk of caring about the people we serve and are committed to forming Partnerships With Purpose. Throughout the pages of this annual report, you will read about partnerships across our twelve core programs and how they support our clients to face challenges and live with greater independence.

As we move forward into a new era at Easterseals NH, we remain steadfast in our commitment to change the way the world defines and views disabilities by making profound, positive differences in people's lives. We are grateful to our donors and supporters who believe in and support the lifechanging work we do. Simply put, we can't thank you enough.

With sincere thanks,

Matthe Bouchen

Matthew Boucher Chairman of the Board

## Our Leadership Team

Thank you to the members of the Executive Leadership Team at Easterseals NH. You truly do set the tone for excellence and success.

Maureen Beauregard President & CEO

Joe Emmons Chief Development Officer

Nancy Rollins Chief Operating Officer

**Cynthia Ross** Executive Assistant

Tina Sharby Chief Human Resources Officer

**Elin Treanor** Chief Financial Officer

Karen VanDerBeken Sr. Advancement Officer

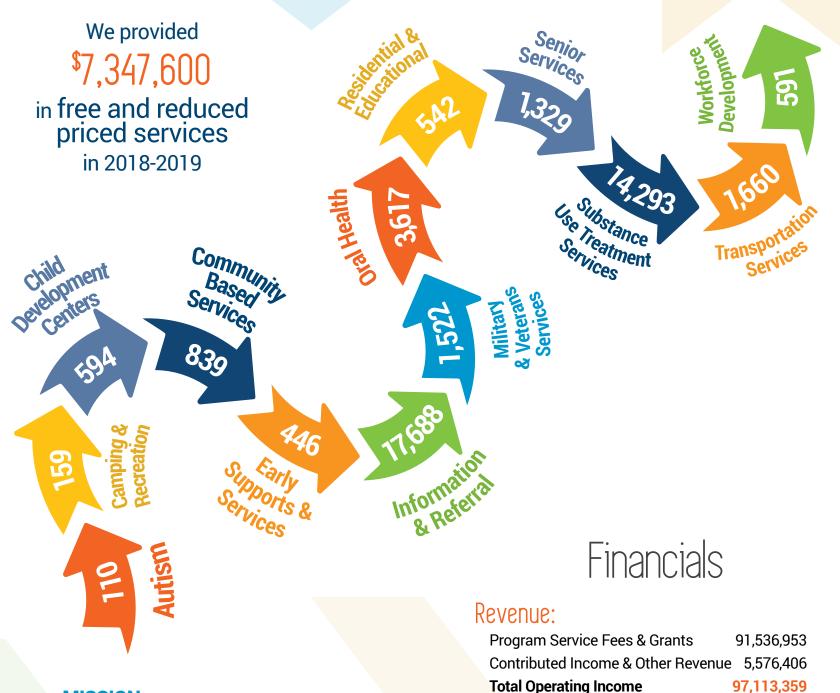
**Cheryl Wilkie** Chief Operating Officer

## Our 12 Core Programs

Autism Services Camping & Recreation Child Development Centers Community Based Services Early Supports & Services Military & Veterans Services Oral Health Services Residential & Educational Services Transportation Services Senior Services Substance Use Treatment Services Workforce Development

## We Focus on Services to help people in need

Total People Served 25,702



#### **MISSION:**

To provide exceptional services to ensure that all people with disabilities or special needs, and their families, have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in their communities.

## Expenses:

Program & Support Services	85,577,953
Administration	9,864,863
Total Operating Expenses	95,442,816

The monies invested in Easterseals New Hampshire are managed efficiently and impactfully. We are proud to report **an Administrative Rate of 10%.** 

## Easterseals Launches Gammon Academy

At our annual Graduation ceremony in June, we announced that our Residential & Educational program will be named Gammon Academy, in honor of our longtime President & CEO, Larry Gammon, who has dedicated his 48-year career to helping people with disabilities or special needs. Larry has a special place in his heart for our res/ed program where his Easterseals employment began in 1971 as a teacher. Gammon Academy will be the umbrella name that all of our res/ed programs fall under, for example: The Robert B. Jolicoeur School at Gammon Academy.



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## Expanding Our Reach for Older Adults



In September 2018, our Senior Services program merged with the Homemakers and Health Services program located in Rochester. We welcomed 40 amazing staff to the Easterseals family: a medical day program with a capacity for serving 35 older adults daily, in addition to an in-home support program with nursing services complementing our existing statewide services for older adults and people with disabilities. A new, threeyear \$1,000,000 grant received for this location is enabling us to further our reach to those with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. With the funds, a Community Care Coordinator will provide an anticipated 250 people with assistance and services to support their independent living. This support includes memory organization and planning, community connections, troubleshooting home issues, social engagement issues, and an emergency flex fund for necessary goods and services. Additionally, a new program called "Well Connected," a senior center without walls, will be piloted and

will feature facilitated phone groups, online-based activities and a social phone call check-in feature. We look forward to the year ahead with great anticipation and growth.

## Celebrating Larry Gammon

President & CEO Larry Gammon has made an indelible mark on Easterseals, the people we serve, and our community and we are extremely thankful for the dedication he has demonstrated throughout his 48-year career. Larry joined Easterseals in 1971 as a special education principal/teacher. He steadily advanced and was promoted to President & CEO in 1988. Over Larry's years at Easterseals, he set the tone for collaboration, kindness, and compassion. He has focused on finding gaps in service and creating programs so people with disabilities and special needs are given every opportunity to increase personal independence and thrive. Additionally, the organization has grown to serve more than 25,000 clients of all ages, annually, with a staff of nearly 1,800. In honor of Larry's tremendous impact and to ensure his legacy, the Larry J. Gammon Endowment Fund, which has raised over \$80,000, will support unfunded or underfunded needs across Easterseals' core programs.

## A New Era at Easterseals

We are pleased that Families in Transition-New Horizons President Maureen Beauregard is now President & CEO of Easterseals NH, VT, ME and Farnum as of October 31, 2019. Moving forward, Maureen will be a great leader to steward Easterseals' growth and success. Maureen brings the experience of working directly with many of the same clients that Easterseals serves; veterans, children and adults with disabilities, and people with substance use disorder. She is an inclusive and consensus-building leader. Maureen is an entrepreneur. She has a proven track record of working with key stakeholders and a broad donor base to attain the funding required to create sustainable, successful programs. Most importantly, Maureen is passionate about our mission and she has dedicated her life to serving the most vulnerable children and adults.



## **Autism Services**

Kelly began working for Autism Services about a year ago as a Registered Behavior Technician. Each week she sees about six children who are ages 2 to 6 years in their home or in an Easterseals clinic.

> Each child is on the Autism Spectrum and has different strengths and challenges, which makes it important for Kelly to tailor therapy to individual needs. Her formula is simple and complicated: find out what each child likes and what works for them and then make sure they have fun and learn while doing it. In the process, Kelly has fun too. "I'm never bored spending time with the kids and seeing them progress," she says. I'm always looking for new, creative ways to make their work seem like fun for them."

> > The first step in developing a unique plan is to meet with the child and his or her family as well as their Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Together, they set goals for the future. They come together often to assess how therapy is progressing and what needs to be changed to be more successful.

"My purpose is to provide support and to help the children get to a place where they can get along without needing support," says Kelly. "I want to see them living their best life."

## President's Council Individual Gifts Our Presid

Our President's Council recognizes individuals whose charitable contributions are \$1,000 or greater in a fiscal year.

#### Inspiration \$50,000 - \$99,999

Dennis & Linda Beaulieu Cynthia Makris Kevin Murphy

#### Independence \$25,000 - \$49,999

Ben M. Gamache The Labrie Family Michael Labrie Bob & Dawne Litterst Tom & Diane Tessier (Nashua)

#### Empowerment \$10,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous Benjamin Auger The Honorable Craig and Denise Benson Frank & Irene Buhl Thomas Bullock Dwight & Helene Churchill Carolyn & Denis Cloutier Steve & Elaine Cormier Rick & Marcia Courtemanche David & Noreen Farr Richard & Karen Green Laurence Knowlton Dick & Lorraine Lavalliere Brian & Linda McLaughlin Renee & Daniel Plummer Denise A. Poulos David & Leslie Prothro Michael & Judith Salter Jack & Lisa Solloway Larry J. Gammon & Patricia A. Stavolone Mark & Sally Stebbins Thomas & Dede Sullivan Elin Treanor Alan & Sharon Weston

#### Opportunity \$5,000 - \$9,999 David Araujo

Joshua & Carrie Ayers Walter & Patricia Bardenwerper Elizabeth Bauman & Luke Gullick Mary Jane Beauregard David Bellman Brvan Bouchard Matthew & Chastity Boucher David Brady Robert & Kathleen Brown Wendell & Shirley Butcher James Carney Ron & Alice Cohen Susan J. Conway Robert & Kathleen Eberle Michael Falzone Terry & Bonnie Flahive Paul & Martha Forte

Charles & Jaye Goodwin & Family Robert & Beverly Grappone David & Jo Ann Hampson Polly Henkel Timothy & Louise Huyck James & Mary Judge Michael J. Kane Andy MacWilliam & Marie Terhune John C. & Cynthia H. Madden Sean & Kirsten Mahoney Paul & Sandra Montrone Joesph Mullen Hollie Noveletsky Richard & Marsha Rawlings Nancy L. Rollins Amy Shaftmaster Loretta & Robert Sivret Grace & Kenneth Solinsky John & Gladys Sullivan, Jr. Renee & Mark Walsh

## **Camping & Recreation**

Paxton and her Camp Sno-Mo Counselor Lauren had a blast this past summer. The most important thing for Lauren was "making sure Paxton went to bed happy and that she had the best week possible." They sure did! Days were spent listening to music, making bracelets, swimming and more! Paxton really loved horseback riding and archery.

> Aside from having fun with Paxton, who she describes as "amazing, positive, and smiley," Lauren is confident that her own experience at Camp Sno-Mo has solidified her dedication to pursuing a career working with young adults with disabilities or special needs.

> > "Paxton taught me that you should never give up," says Lauren. "She opened my eyes to see things differently. I learned not to be quick to judge or say you can't do this or that. Always try, be open minded, and give it your best."

Paxton and Lauren definitely enjoyed their time together at camp and both grew from the experience.

"My goal was to help Paxton but also to be her friend and enjoy my time with her," said Lauren. "Working at Camp Sno-Mo is such a rewarding job and I will never forget it."

#### Dignity \$2,500 - \$4,999

Matt & Kathleen Albuquerque Donat Aubuchon Raymond & Lisa Marie Bald James J. Barry Traci & Steve Beaurivage James & Sue Bee **Thomas Brueckner** Kevin M. Casey Michael & Gail Clark Vincent & Kathleen Colella The Lester & Doris Cushman Family Beth Decato Beaulieu & Brian Beaulieu Gary Donoghue Dan Drawbaugh Melinda Driscoll Jamily & Spencer Dunfee Eddie & Cindy Edwards Jesse & Laurie Farris Mark & Elizabeth Fichera Mary & Roger Plourde Chris & Cheryl Gamst The Honorable & Mrs. Theodore Gatsas

Lucy Gobin Debra E. Grott Andrew & Jennifer Guyton **Bill Irwin** Nancy L. Jodoin Jason & Rachel Kroll Lucy Lange Elizabeth Lavallee Jay Lucas Ian & Susan MacDermott David Martin Richard A. Mason Owen & Beth McGarrahan Jason Noel Lee & Bernadette Olivier Paul F. O'Neil Tom & Anne O'Reilly Charles & Paula Panasis Tracey & Eric Pelton Lisa M. Plotnik George & Lori Powell Michael Reed **Timm Runnion** Jane Seitz

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The late Stephen Smith Kent & Donna Swanson Philip & Julie Taub Larry Thibodeau Raymond Truncellito Fernand & Linda Vachon Karen & David Van Der Beken Jeremy & Karen Veilleux John Venezia Kurt & Beverly Wicks Robert J. Wieczorek Dr. Cheryl Wilkie Bruce & Mary Louise Wilson Vincent & Ivy Woo

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Anonymous Mark Abare Donna Airoldi Paul & Teresa Albiani Ronald & Sherry Alie Adrienne & John Allen Jeffrey & Karen Amaro Dick & Demetria Anagnost John & Anna Arico David & Michelle Armstrong Senator Kelly Ayotte & Joe Daley Gary & Patricia Barr James & Katherine Bartels Donna Beaulieu Claudia Bedoya Ruth C. Bee Derek & Shanna Bekar Melissa Bianchi Donna & Scott Bickford William & Suzanne Birchard Chris & Jean Bishop Andrew Blain Judith Blake **Richard Bohan** Dermot Bolger Michael & Fawn Bonfanti Joseph & Theresa Bourbeau Barry & Caryl Brensinger Aron & Kim Brown Christopher & Donna Brown Shirley Brown Robert & Susan Brusa John & Betty Burke John & Diana Call Elizabeth Carey Carlo & Bobbi Carluccio

## **Child Development Centers**

As a teacher with 30 years of experience, Martha's philosophy is simple: all children have certain needs and individual gifts. Work with them on what can be nurtured, and they'll be successful. This could not be truer for Lincoln, a student in her All Stars classroom. When Lincoln first came to her class, there were a lot of challenges with his social and emotional behaviors.

> "He needed his own space to play in or introduce other children into so he could learn how to be a friend," says Martha. "So we created different, safe areas in the classroom where he could do that."

> > Martha also worked on building a strong relationship with his parents Lorisa and Andy. Together, they worked as a team to ensure Lincoln's successes despite obstacles and road blocks.

"The bond Lincoln has with Ms. Martha is strong," said Lorisa. "Even if he's impulsively reacted in a negative way during the day, he would discuss how Ms. Martha was his favorite, that she is amazing, and he loves her. The fact that he can struggle, be corrected and maybe even have consequences and yet feels so strongly, means he trusts her the way he does a trusted adult in his family." Focusing on Lincoln's needs and individual gifts was the right approach!

"He quickly became very social and developed into a wonderful friend and helper to other students," said Martha. "He worked hard and now has the tools he needs to manage his emotions and reactions to circumstances."

Danielle Goodwin Christine Gordon Dr. Douglas Goumas Robert Grady Michael Griffin Wayne & Jacqueline Griffin Daniel & Patricia Guerrette Lisa Guertin Kevin Halloran Lloyd Hamm Paul Hanley Edward Hannigan David & Sheila Harrold The Honorable Margaret Hassan Dr. Joseph & Nancy Hedstrom Lee Hess **Rosalind Hewsenian** Douglas & Carrol Horrocks Brian Hughes Lynne & Shawn Joyce Michael & Colette Jurnak Peter Kane

Newton & Arlene Kershaw Paul Koza Brad & Beth Kreick Steve & Doris Labbe Cheryl & Dennis Paradis William & Maria Lambrukos Ovide & Bettie Lamontagne Peter & Susan Desjardins Lori & David Levesque Robert A. Litterst, Jr. Richard & Linda Lovering Christopher & Mary Lucas Maher Family Sy & Janet Mahfuz Kathleen Mahoney Roland & Stacy Martin William & Ann Marvin John Mason Stephen McMahon & Grace Freije James & Jenny Menning Robert Miller Eve & Daniel Hoefle

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Gerry DesRosiers Kevin & Debbie Duffy David Dunfee Gilbert & Abby L'Hommedieu Dunham Barbara Dunkle Ken Duschene **Rick Elliott** Stanley & Patty Emanuel Joe & Stephanie Emmons Joseph Errante Jamie & Kathy Fahey Kathy & Bob Flynn Jeff & Melissa Foy Myra Frain August G. Fromuth Gloria Fulmer Claire & Paul Gagnon Joanne & Raymond Gagnon Justin & Rebecca Gamester Sherry Garretson Lyn & Stuart Gelinas Jay & Mary Pat Gibson Brian & Cynthia Godzyk David & Kathleen Goldberg

Leah & Michael Desroche

## **Community Based Services**

Some days you can find Community Based Services client Fallon hamming it up in a thrift store with her Direct Support Associate Jacqueline. Other days, Jacqueline is helping Fallon to manage her anxiety, work at a local country club, or teach her about finances. This sassy duo has formed a fast friendship. And, as Jacqueline puts it "my purpose is to help Fallon succeed in life. I want to keep her safe from negative relationships and herself because she can get down on herself and I don't want her to do that."

> Life has not always been easy for Fallon. While growing up, she was bullied and endured significant difficulty at home. But, with Jacqueline by her side, she has continued to thrive and Fallon says not only is Jacqueline "the person I look up to, but she is the reason why I'm here today."

This Easterseals partnership with purpose has certainly changed the lives of both of these women.

As Jaqueline says, "I've seen how she's thrived since she's been in this program and seen how many doors have opened for her and how many doors she's opened for me."

Douglas & Karen Monchamp Al Montoya Jim & Donna Moody Laura & Michael Morrison Dan & Pamela Morrison Jason & Erin Mullen Cara Murray Tim & Eileen Murray Michael & Catherine Naczas Colin & Rose Nadeau Christy & Tom Nault Charles & Joan Neal Carolyn Neff Mark Nieman Karl & Louise Norwood Deborah Novotny Ann Olkkola William M. O'Malley Brian & Marci Palmer Benjamin & Marie Parker John & Julie Parolin Jonathan Pastor Thomas & Janet Paul Kevin & Christine Pederson Dianne Peterson Arnold & Marilyn Piquette

Debra Plaza Todd & Joy Pozefsky Lori Preve Douglas Priebe Warren & Leanne Purdy Msgr. John P. Quinn Michael Raymond Alan & Joan Reische Paul & Joyce Rheingold Barbara & Paul Ribeiro Fred & Denise Roberge Joyce & Robert Robitaille Cynthia & Dana Ross Linda & Philip Roth Robert Russell John & Sue Samenfeld James Saturley Jeff & Bernie Seifert Tina Sharby Harry & Barbara Shepler D. Michael Sherman Ernest Shipman Linda & Bill Sirak Erik Skean Kevin & Suzy Smith Tim & Kim Socha

John Soucy, Jr. Thomas & Diane Sullivan Lynn A. Surprenant Christine Sweeney, Ph.D. Barbara Sweet Walter Swist, Jr. Guy S. Sylvester Pam Telfer William & Fawn Terwilliger Leslie & Dale Thompson Roger Toupin Jeffrey Towle Ed & Jean Travelyn John & Jennifer Troiano James & Lynda Truncellito Earle Tryder Kathy & Joe Turco Thomas Turmelle Erin Turner Bernice Wakeman Peter C. Walsh Donald & Sharon Welch Robert W. Wentworth Gregory & Vicki Whalen Grace Wieczorek Christine Williams & Ken Ames Thomas Williamson Cynthia Winthrop David W. Wood Grace Zartarian

#### Determination \$500 - \$999

Anonymous (2) Taylor Albertini Mirielle Alcide John & Karen Allard Susan J. Allen Sharon Ames Jared Anderson Barry & Susan Armstrong Michael & Lorri Badolato Ann Bailey Ron & Eveleen Barcomb Cindy Barker Douglas Bates & Christina Cook John & Kelly Belviso John F. Bielagus Dan Boisvert Robert & Diane Bonfiglio Paul Bosakowski Patricia & Paul Bouchard **Rich & Jennifer Bradbury** 

## **Early Supports & Services**

In Lynne's 39-year career at ESNH, she's impacted the lives of thousands of children and their families. One of those children is Max, age 2, who came to Lynne as a fragile infant with complex issues.

In the beginning, Lynne and Max's parents, Andrea and Dan focused on movement and feeding. Progress was slow and steady. Max's needs and priorities changed once he become mobile. At about 8 months old, Max was diagnosed with hearing loss in both ears. Lynne responded by focusing on listening and talking. She added a speech pathologist to Max's team. More recently, she's added a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing to expand Max's signed vocabulary.

> "There's no doubt Lynne has greatly impacted Max's development physically," said Andrea. "Just as important, but harder to measure, she's helped build his confidence and determination. Max has no fear and refuses to even consider he is less capable than any of us."

Lynne knows Max's successes are due to the most important members of his team—his parents. "It is their goals and dreams for Max that are most important," said Lynne. "I'm driven to educate each family about their child's issues and teach them how to be their child's best advocate. I attempt to join each family where they are in their journey and work on their priorities for their child."

Scott Briggs James & Kristen Broom Janet Brown Anna C. Buford James & Bernice Burgoyne Terry Burris Matthew & Laurie Butcher Jeremy Butts Katie Cabrera Don Caldwell Thomas & Joan Callahan Edward & Michele Cantlin Jack & Andrea Carnevale Donald & Barbara Carow Patrick & Wendy Caveny **Robert Chaikin** James & Amy Chase Stephanie & Bryan Chouinard Louis Clarizio James F. Clark Neil & Sherri Clerk James Collins Ellen & David Constant The Conway Family Kenneth Copman Philip L. Cote

Donald S. Cox George & Bonnie Culotta Kenneth & Lorenda Currier Robert & Valerie De Pinguertaine Thomas Delacey & Lisa Williams David Depuy Andrea Deshaies Joseph & Lisa DiBrigida Don Dignan Ronald & Donna Dion Donald Doak & Lisa Smith Kristy & John Donaghy Michael & Diane Donahue Laurie & Thomas Duff Bob Eldridge Linda Elkinton Leslie Ellis Todd & Margaret Emmons John M. Florek **Timothy Ford** Paul & Lisa Forester Benantonio Forgione Leopold & Ruth Friedman Brian Gately Paul Gaudet

Max's parent know this approach works! "Max truly is excited to see Lynne, there is no doubt that he knows she will challenge him, but we also feel like he knows she is helping him," said Andrea. "She does not let him quit or get off track."

Wendy Gazaway Bob & Sue Giordano John Girald Marc & Louise Gomes-Casseres Jim Grasso Marion Griscom Harvey Gurney David B. Hampson Scott Hay William Hoagland Charles & Virginia Howland Ed & Mary Hudson John Hudson Beatty & Susan Hunter Rhonda Jablonski-Hodsdon John Jachowicz Lin & Karl Jaeger Gregory & Susan Johnson Eric & Melissa Kagan Marcia Kass Matthew Kfoury Darren Kittredge

Karlton J. Klardie Barry LaBombarde Michael & Nina Labonte Yolande & Paul Labonte Jim Lacava Peter Ladd Dallas & Stephen Lagerquist Lori Lambert Pierre Laroche Jonathan & Frances Leavitt Gary LeBlond Rene & Fayne Leclerc Diane Levy Marie Longo Timothy Lorenz Hillary Louis William Luk Gloria MacVane April Martin Robert & Marlene May Terrence & Julia McCartney Dennis & Constance McCullion

**Special Acknowledgement** We gratefully recognize the 4,534 donors whose charitable contributions are under <sup>\$</sup>500. Too numerous to list individually, we appreciate the generosity and support demonstrated in making these gifts.

## **Military & Veterans Services**

When Care Coordinator Glenn first met Arthur seven months ago, the Army veteran with a decorated career in covert operations and counter terrorism, was struggling. He was homeless and living at an extended stay motel. He had very little clothing, was hungry, and unemployed due to PTSD. He was working with DCYF to be a caregiver for his two grandchildren, whose parents were battling addiction. He saw his therapist infrequently and often isolated himself.

> To get Arthur back on track, Glenn worked with Arthur to form a partnership of mutual respect, honesty, encouragement, and communication.

"I was facing a long tunnel but Glenn made me see the light at the end of it," says Arthur. "I've seen heroism and Glenn is a hero. He saved my life and, in doing so, he's changed the lives of everyone who knows me. I haven't felt alone since the day I met him." Together, they secured a voucher for affordable housing, opened a savings account, built a wardrobe, and budgeted for a healthy diet. "My goal is to advocate for and walk alongside him as he faces the challenges of rebuilding his said Glenn.

Arthur has turned his life around and has inspired his daughter and son-in-law to do the same. Soon they'll have custody of their children and Arthur has a home his grandchildren can visit. He's connecting socially and volunteers weekly at the soup kitchen. He's meeting with his therapist regularly and is a patient at the ESNH Oral Health Center, where he will get a full set of dentures. There's lots to smile about!

John McDermott Danny & Linda McKnight Annette S. McLaughlin Debbie & Matthew McLaughlin Dianne & John Mercier Peter & Patricia Messinger Thomas Mitchell Richard Mohrmann Courtney Morin Mark Mulcahy Brian & Lindsay Murphy Karen Murray Steven & Theresa Negron Courtney O'Connell The late Martin Orth Bette S. Ouellette Toni & Bill Pappas Michael Pare **Rob Parsons** Terry W. Penner Gerry & Maddy Perron Alan Peterson

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life

Paul Routhier **Rick Roy** William J. Schuler Emily & Nick Shakra Chris O. Sharpe Joseph Simeone & Gerry Weidema Michelle Singer Nicholas A. Skinner Kevin Slattery Alan & Wendy Smigelski Luther W. Smith Joseph Sobol Karl & Janet Soderquist John & Sondi Stanton **David Staples** Heather & Richard Stratton Christina & Brian Sullivan Janice Sylvester Jennifer Thomas

Ramsay F. Thurber H. Jay Tischler Ann Tracy Michael Trombley Jennifer Vancelette David & Dorothy Verani Adam Wagner Steven & Jean Wentzell Kenneth Whitaker Heather Whitfield Brian Yetman Stephen Zawisza

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## **Oral Health Center**

A trip to the dentist can cause anxiety for some and it was no different for Rita when she first came to the Easterseals Oral Health Center in 2011. Aside from the convenience of the center being close to her home, she instantly felt comfortable with the staff and began coming every four months for cleanings with her hygienist Ellen, who she describes as "very compassionate."

> Ellen's goal with Rita, and every patient, was to provide quality dental care and build a relationship to promote Rita's lifelong oral health.

> > "I'm very lucky to be a patient," says Rita. "They do so much for me and it's a wonderful place for seniors." In particular, Rita appreciates the staff's kindness and compassion.

In addition to cleanings, Rita has also received a filling and crown. She managed to conquer her fear regarding these two treatments because she "felt cared for and at ease." When a patient is nervous, I always take the time to explain the procedure to the patient so they are not fearful of the unknown," said Ellen. "I believe it's important to let the patient know we are here to help them and support them." Thanks to Ellen, Rita truly has found her dental home.

## President's Council

#### Corporate and Organizational Gifts

#### Visionary \$200,000+

The Mary Gale Foundation

#### Achievement \$100,000 - \$199,999

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Eversource Energy Service Credit Union

#### Inspiration \$50,000 - \$99,999

Cogswell Benevolent Trust CVS Health LTC Partners Northeast Delta Dental RiverStone Swim With A Mission Verani Realty Our President's Council recognizes businesses and organizations whose charitable contributions are \$1,000 or greater in a fiscal year.

#### Independence \$25,000 - \$49,999 The Bobby Stephen's St. Patrick's Day Fund

Bottomline Technologies, Inc. The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation Citizens Bank Granite United Way Maine Community Foundation Masiello Family Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Naswa Resort Pearl Manor Fund People's United Community Foundation Satellite Insurance Agency Alliance The Schleyer Foundation

#### Empowerment \$10,000 - \$24,999

- All Metals Industries, Inc. Amoskeag Beverages LLC Atlantic Broadband Auger Building Company **BAE Systems** Bank of America Norwin S. and Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation **Brady Sullivan Properties** Carey and Giampa Realtors Comcast NBCUniversal Donna Anne Poulack Foundation Dunkin' Donuts – The Scrivanos Family Eastern Propane and Oil Elliot Hospital Gamache Properties
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## **Residential & Educational Services**

Ken, a special education teacher at Easterseals Gammon Academy, has a tight bond with his student Aaron, age 19. They spend their days together focused on activities and learning that help prepare Aaron to transition to adult life by working on his behaviors, communications skills, and coping skills he can use in the community. They accomplish this through pre-vocational work such as delivering lunches to the Easterseals Child Development Centers and classroom work at school.

> "The more I press him to do and the more experiences I give him, I am amazed by his ability to rise to any occasion," says Ken. "We're like a family here and it's important to keep a perspective on why we are here and what we're here to achieve."

Aaron agrees and has so much respect for his teacher who has helped him and taught him so much. During the time they've worked together, Aaron has become much more comfortable in both school and work settings and is always ready for a new challenge.

"He's done a great job with his ability to turn things around quickly," says Ken. "No one puts a smile on my face first thing in the morning quicker than Aaron."

Severino Trucking Co., Inc. Sullivan Construction, LLC TD Charitable Foundation USI Insurance Services, LLC WB Mason Wells Fargo Foundation

#### Opportunity \$5,000 - \$9,999

Airmar Technology AmWINS Program Underwriters Annette P. Schmitt Foundation Associated Grocers of New England Baker Newman & Noves Bank of New Hampshire **Bauman Family Foundation** Bellman Jewelers, Inc. Bellwether Community Credit Union Catholic Medical Center Central Paper Products Co. Chick-Fil-A The Common Man Restaurants Construction Services of New Hampshire

**Continental Paving** Easterseals National **Eckman Construction** Envy Sports Club & Cafe Fannie Moulton McLane Trust **Fidelity Investments** The Frederick Smyth Institute of Music Glenbervie, Inc. Holy Rosary Credit Union ID Fund Financial Advisors, LLC Just Flow, LLC Knights of Columbus #4442 Liquid PC Little Bay Lobster, LLC Madelaine G. von Weber Trust McIntyre Ski Area Microdesk, Inc./M2 Technologies Monarchs Care Foundation New York Community Trust Northeast Communications Novocure Pittsburg Ridge Runners

Snowmobile Club The River Radio Rosebud Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Scrub Oak Scramblers Snowmobile Club Sheehan Phinney Soil-Away Cleaning and **Restoration Services, LLC** St. Mary's Bank Stebbins, Lazos & Van Der Beken, P.A. Sullivan Development Sysco of Northern New England Uncanoonuc Mountaineers Union Leader Corporation Weare Winter Wanderers The Weirs Times White Mountains Insurance Group, LTD. YouYou Japanese Bistro Zoo Entertainment

#### Dignity \$2,500 - \$4,999

1st LT Michael J. Cleary Memorial Scholarship Fund AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies Andover Snowmobile Club, Inc. Arthur Getz Charitable Trust Asplundh Tree **Bangor Savings Bank BANKW Staffing** Baron's Major Brands Bellavance Beverage Co. **Belmont Bogie Busters** BerrvDunn Bill Jones & Sons Lawncare and Landscape Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast, Inc. Club National Inc. Corfin Industries, LLC DHL Donahue Tucker & Ciandella, PLLC Early Day Construction, Inc. Enterprise Bank Enterprise Holdings Foundation Frontstream Gemini Electric, Inc. Give with Liberty Hampshire Fire Protection

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## **Senior Services**

Brothers Teddy and Daniel were referred to Easterseals Community Care Coordination by their physician because of a bedbug infestation that nearly drove them to eviction. "We tried to manage our housing situation, although unsuccessfully," Daniel says. "We were very concerned about our health."

> Their Community Care Coordinator, Laurie, helped them get their lives back on track, which included fumigating their apartment, replacing bedding, and providing them with community resources that helped them overcome obstacles, such as transportation to medical appointments and filling out paperwork. Additionally, Laurie provides support and friendship to the brothers.

> > "Laurie has been an angel," Daniel and Teddy agree. "Without her, we wouldn't know anything about these programs. We don't know where we would be. She's helping us age with dignity and respect."

These days, the brothers are doing well. Daniel's health has improved and he no longer needs to take insulin. They've also joined the Easterseals Adult Day program where they stay active and social.

"I've always been drawn to older people for their amazing sense of resilience, history, fortitude, and humor. My clients make my world a bigger, more interesting place," says Laurie. "I believe in meeting people where they are in life and going from there. I've learned that BEING PRESENT (as in your caring presence) is often more important than an actual solution."

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## Substance Use Treatment Services

When you are an addict you're always trying to feed your addiction," said Ben, a Farnum client since 2010. "I would tell myself lies all day long and I knew the game had to stop." For the first couple of years that Ben received Outpatient Services, he still struggled and then in 2012, he met Farnum's Medication Assisted Treatment Program Coordinator, Kevin Wilkie, who is in long-term recovery himself.

> Ben will forever remember the rainy day that Kevin told him he was in jeopardy of being asked to leave the program as a result of too many positive drug screens. "He had a heart-to-heart conversation with me and said changing my life was in my hands. That hit home," said Ben.

> > "I knew he was struggling," recalls Kevin, whose focus was on working with Ben to get his life back together. "I could tell he really wanted to be successful in the program and was willing to do the legwork to make it happen."

As a team, they worked to put Ben on his path to recovery. Now, seven years later, Ben still attends monthly outpatient support meetings and has not had a positive drug screen since 2012.

Ben, who credits Kevin with saving his life and holding him accountable, has lots to be proud of. In addition to living a sober life, he is happily married with a three-year-old daughter. He has a great career in sales and loves playing golf.

"Life is short and I spent so many years getting banged up," said Ben. "I've learned that if you are grateful then you can conquer anything."

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14

## **Transportation Services**

Rodderick has driven an Easterseals Special Transit Service vehicle for 13 years. That's a lot of miles and smiles! And, it also means that Rodderick has been an Easterseals ambassador for hundreds of clients who have needed a ride to help them stay connected to their community.

> "My favorite thing about this job is the people," says Rodderick. "I love coming into work and can't wait to interact with everyone. The clients always bring smiles and laughter into my life. This is something I strive for."

> > Although Rodderick's interactions with clients only last the length of a ride, he often drives the same folks over and over again and likes to make connections with them.

"I form relationships with my clients by genuinely caring for them and getting to know them," he says. "A simple, "Hello" and "How are you?" is the easiest way to start a relationship with them." From there, it is easy. Rodderick takes the time to get to know their interests and what is important to them.

"My purpose is to provide the best possible service to our clients so that whenever they are transported, it is a safe and enjoyable ride," says Rodderick. "I hope to give them a sense of appreciation and caring so they always feel comfortable."

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## **Workforce Development**

Lily and her Youth Support Specialist, Lyndze, teamed up seven months ago and spend their days together. Lily, who is self-motivated on her fitness journey, loves going to the gym and using the virtual studio for dancing cardio workouts with Lyndze. They also enjoy going to the movies where Lily can work on her social skills while ordering food and learning about budgeting and handling her money. These ladies get along so well and enjoy singing together in the car. Lily will often share new songs she has created.

> "We enjoy lots of laughs while guoting Lily's favorite shows or songs," said Lyndze. "She feels comfortable with me and is able to express her feelings and ask me questions about what is on her mind."

> > As far as Lily is concerned, Lyndze is 100% correct. "Lyndze is great and I like my time with her," she said. "She is nice to me and understands me."

While there's lots of fun and laughter between this duo, Lyndze is focused on ensuring Lily becomes a successful adult who enjoys her time in the community. To that end, Lily has had success with her communication skills. "She talks to me about frustrations instead of making her stress noise," said Lyndze. "She's also built relationships with some of the Market Basket staff that wait on her often and now makes small talk instead of only asking about their birthdays.

an excellent job that her next goal is to eventually achieve paid

Iribute Each year, gifts are made by friends of Easterseals who wish to honor someone special. These gifts are in memory of, in honor of, or in celebration of the lives of family members, friends and others who have touched the donors' lives in some way. Easterseals is pleased to recognize the following individuals whose lives we celebrated over the past fiscal year.

Lily just began volunteering at Walgreens and has done such employment. Lyndze plans on helping her get there!

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