

~Our Mission is to promote family and community health and well-being through support, education and the sharing of resources.~



A Mother's Story:

A decade ago, Vicki Robblee and her two sons Dominic and Parker, found connection at the Grapevine. After her divorce, Vicki relocated to Antrim and as a single mom, was worried about how she would make ends meet. As luck would have it, they moved close by to the Grapevine, where they played in the yard and on the swings. It was an uncertain time for Vicki as she created a new life for herself and her boys. When they entered school, both children joined the Grapevine's Before and After School Club. Says Vicki, "Without the option to put my kids in morning and after care it would have been a lot worse for me. It was such a blessing deciding to make Antrim my home... and that The Grapevine was here to offer the children's programs that kept me on my feet." As the boys have grown, they have continued to benefit from Grapevine programs. "Dominic began attending Avenue A (Teen Center) six years ago. He could be himself and actually learn who he was and grow. He picked up a hammer for the first time with volunteer Ted. He volunteered with Ave A for monthly dinners at the church. He rode in the parade on the Grapevine float. He met great friends.



Vicki with her sons, Dominic and Parker

Avenue A does more than just give your child a place to go for a few hours. It opens up so many doors for the kids to learn and start on a path of community service, caring for others, accepting others and learning about themselves." And Vicki's younger son Parker, now 11, has also joined programs at Avenue A. "What an incredible space for him to meet people and have fun in a non-judgmental, caring environment. There is so much to say about Avenue A and the programs they offer...a sustainable, trusted place for my sons to go to learn and safely be introduced to different things. These programs really help keep families functioning and connected. Mental health is so incredibly important ...and sometimes all it takes is having that one connection to save a young person." Vicki goes on to share, "My boys are growing into such great young men and The Grapevine, Jacqueline, Arlene, Sarah Beaumont and Lisa Hennessy were such a big part of providing a trusting caring circle for my boys." -Vicki Robblee, Antrim, NH

A Grandmother's Story:

Deb Perry is a woman who has loved and sacrificed for the sake of her grandchildren. When their mother was unable to care for them, Deb says she didn't hesitate to take them in. "The alternative was not even a thought for me", she says. Deb is a single grandmother living in Bennington and caring for her grandchildren ranging in ages from 7 to 19. Along the way, she has received help and support from the Grapevine. "I can always go to the Grapevine when I need help", says Deb, "and Carol is amazing". Deb has been a part of our Grandparent Support Group (facilitated by Carol Lunan) and received help through our Kinship Navigation program in the form of financial assistance and resources. Her grandchildren attended Grapevine summer adventure programs and she has also benefited from holiday and food programs. And Deb's teenage grandson has attended programs at Avenue A Teen Center. "He has loved it there and has gone most of his teen years. Jacqueline is wonderful and you can tell how much she cares about the kids." Deb sums it up by sharing, "I know that if I need something, the Grapevine is going to be there for me".

-Deb Perry, Bennington, NH



Three of Deb's grandchildren: Starr, Gabe and Savannah



A Year of Crisis Response and Prevention

Suicide Awareness & Prevention

In the fall of 2019 our community lost a young person to suicide. This tragedy shocked and saddened our youth, parents and community. As we grieved, we acknowledged the importance of preventing a loss like this again. The Grapevine partnered with NAMI NH and the Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (DBHRT) of NH and brought in immediate support and education for our youth and the adults who care for them. We provided mental health support at Avenue A for teens who needed help processing their grief and loss. We convened a community gathering to honor this loss and set a path forward for our community. We created “Tough Stuff” talking groups at our Avenue A Teen Center for middle and high school students, to give them more opportunities to connect and share their feelings and experiences. We offered a full day NAMI Connect Suicide Prevention training, attended by **34 adults who are now trained as “gatekeepers”** to recognize signs and symptoms of depression and suicidality. We continue to provide ongoing support for youth to process grief and loss and are planning future Suicide Prevention programs and training.



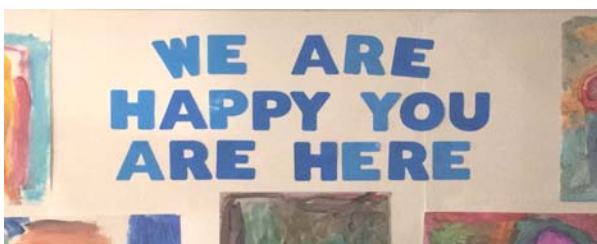
NAMI NH Connect Suicide Prevention program training at Ave A in Antrim

Grandparents & Relative Caregivers

In early 2020, the Grapevine became an official **Kinship Navigation Site** in partnership with the NH Children’s Trust. In addition to the support we have been offering grandparents and other relative caregivers for several years, we now have more funds to directly assist these families. Grandparents and other relatives who take on the care of children are often unprepared and overwhelmed. Finding support and connection with peers is important, as well as being able to draw upon financial resources to help with sudden, unexpected expenses. Rosemary Nugent, herself a grandparent caring for her grandson, is our Kinship Navigator. If you or someone you know could benefit from this program, please get in touch with the Grapevine.

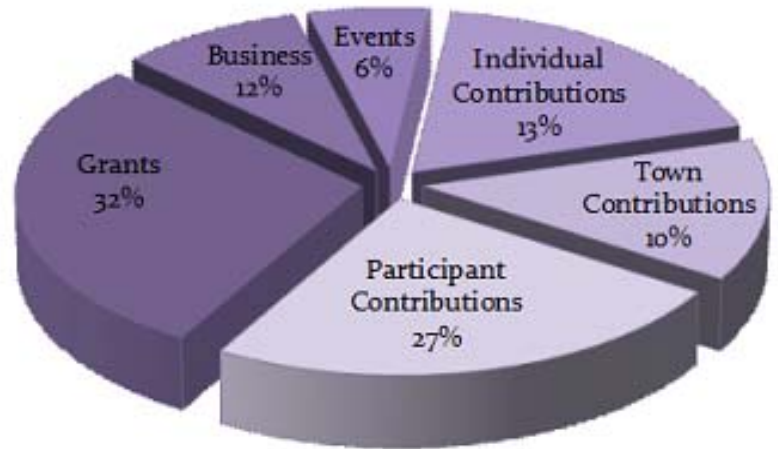
COVID-19 Emergency Relief

The Grapevine acts as a leader and convener in response to what our community needs in times of crisis. When schools, businesses and other establishments were forced to close this past March, we quickly adapted to this new reality. Programs and support groups for parents and teens as well as home visiting moved to a virtual setting. Outreach to get people’s basic needs met was done through increased communication and coordination with local partners such as our schools and hospitals. In the spring and summer months, **The Grapevine assisted 42 local families** with emergency needs due to COVID, thanks to emergency funds provided through Monadnock United Way and the NH Charitable Foundation. We helped connect volunteers to those who needed assistance such as grocery delivery and meals and set up a mask making kiosk for supplies and donations. We created opportunities for connection for people who have felt isolated and lacked support. As health and gathering restrictions have eased, we have offered safe opportunities in summer and fall to re-convene in an outdoor based setting.



From July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, The Grapevine served nearly 1,500 children, youth and adults across our region.

- 34** Local adults trained in Suicide Prevention
 - 469** Teens & Adults served at Avenue A Teen & Community Center
 - 143** Families received Free Tax Preparation and Budget Assistance
 - 34** Families supported in our Home Visiting Program
 - 11** Children enrolled in our Learning Vine Co-operative Preschool
 - 42** Families received emergency supports during COVID 19 shutdown
 - 19** Babies and Parents joined our Center and Hospital based Baby Programs
 - 316** Adults and Children participated in special groups, events and programs
 - 23** Grandparents and Relative Caregivers served in our Kinship Support Program
 - 12** Families received emergency firewood from our Community Wood Bank
 - 46** Families enrolled in our Better Beginnings Parent Child and Hillsborough Playgroup Programs
 - 0** People turned away from services
- Most of our programs are offered at no cost.**



The Grapevine continues to rely on local support and holds many fundraising events during the year to support our programs. Highlights include:

- Annual Online Auction:** Raised over \$7,000
- Virtual Spring Walk for Families:** raised \$6,440
- Annual Bantam Grill Restaurant Beast Master Classic!** A private dinner event; raised \$15,000
- NH Gives Campaign for Avenue A :** \$11,400
- Annual Appeal +Individual Donations:** Raised \$31,000



Some of our Virtual Spring Walkers 2020

In Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020, our major financial contributors include:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Amazon Smile | Concord Hospital Trust | Antrim-Bennington Lions Club |
| Bank of NH | Bantam Grill Restaurant | Bellow-Nichols Insurance, Inc |
| Cogswell Benevolent Trust | Fidelity Charitable | Madeline G. Vonwebber Trust |
| Gilbert Verney Foundation | Grove Street Fiduciary | Hancock Women's Club |
| HPE Packard | Keith M. Sullivan Foundation | Monadnock Roller Derby |
| Monadnock Paper Mills | Monadnock United Way | MoonRivers Technology Group, LLC |
| NH Charitable Foundation | Perceptics Foundation | Perry Family Dental Care |
| NH Children Trust | Rick & Diane's Restaurant Pizzeria | Robin Colson Memorial Foundation |
| Town of Antrim | Town of Hillsborough | Town of Bennington |
| Town of Frankestown | Town of Hancock | The Agnes M Lindsay Trust |

For a complete list of donors please visit our website: grapevინeh.org





Farewell and Thank You:

This past year we said farewell to a long running program of the Grapevine’s, the Before and Afterschool Club (BASC) based at Antrim Elementary School. As of Fall 2020 we have transitioned this program, which will be run by the Souhegan Boys and Girls Club. For over a decade, BASC provided a critical program for working parents and a fun, enriching place for kids to be afterschool. We are grateful to the staff of BASC for their years of love and dedication including Sarah Beaumont, Linda Bryer, Danielle Grandmaison and Lisa Hennessy. Thank you to all the past staff members and all the BASC families.



A very special farewell and thank you to Lisa Hennessy.

Kind, loving and loyal, Lisa was employed with the Grapevine for 12 years and in that time emerged a true leader in our organization. Lisa directed our Before and After School Club at Antrim Elementary School and managed our finances and office administration. She is missed and we are grateful! We love you and thank you for everything, Lisa!



There are many ways to give to your community and the Grapevine! Consider donations of **time, goods and services** like these incredible local businesses and groups: **Antrim Bennington Lions Club - Antrim Recreation Department -Antrim Elementary School - James A. Tuttle Library - Edmunds Ace Hardware- Eversource - Larry Schwartz with PHC Financial - Great Brook Middle School - Lemire & Sons - Monadnock Paper Mill - MoonRivers Technology Group, LLC - Ragdoll Animations - AND THE MANY VOLUNTEERS involved with our Community Wood Bank, Community Tool Shed and Avenue A Teen + Community Center!**

For a full listing of Grapevine supports and services, please visit our website at grapevინeh.org

Also, thanks and gratitude to departing staff member Alana Lavoie and departing board member Molly Cook.

Welcome New Staff: Michelle Heath, Children’s Program Assistant; Rosemary Nugent, Kinship Navigator; Lisa Swarbrick, Financial Coordinator; Erica Snyder, Home Visitor and Parent Facilitator

Thank you to our Board of Directors: Benjamin Pratt, Rosemary Novotny, Rick Edmunds, Kim Fletcher, Diane Yeo, Tom Badgely, Dottie Bauer, Matthew Ferrisi and Kathleen Robbins



Avenue A teens construct performance stage in Bennington

Thank you to our staff: Sarah Beaumont, Paula Coombs, Amy Doyle, Melissa Gallagher, Danielle Grandmaison, Michelle Heath, Carol Lunan, Nancy Macalaster, Mackenzie Nichols, Rosemary Nugent, Jacqueline Roland, Erica Snyder, Arlene Soule and Lisa Swarbrick

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