

ANNUAL REVIEW



NOVEMBER 2021

Kate & Family of Hillsborough



Kate Carnaroli & Family

Kate and her family came to the Grapevine in 2018, after hearing about the Better Beginnings program from a friend. She was looking for a place to go where her boys, Parker (now 5), and Kaleb (now 3), could socialize and meet other children. Kate shares that the boys have grown very comfortable at the Grapevine, “They love it and always ask if it’s Tuesday,” she laughs, “I say the group is for them but really, it’s for me!” Kate says she didn’t realize how beneficial being a part of a

parent group would be. “I love having the time to talk, vent and learn from other parents and to know that everything I say is confidential and isn’t going to be shared outside of the group. Having this program helps us reset and creates a better flow to our day.”

And now that her son Parker is 5, he has graduated to the Grapevine’s Learning Vine preschool. Kate loves that it is an outdoor based program. “I think he learns better that way, actually. In addition, both of the boys are still in a playgroup together, and I see them working together and how good it is for them.” And as a volunteer parent, Kate has helped with several Grapevine events and is looking forward to getting more involved. She is also excited about the opportunities at Avenue A Teen Center for her stepdaughter, who is 12. Kate sums it up by sharing, “The Grapevine seems to have checked all the boxes for the things our family needs right now!”

Stephanie & Mikala Mackesy

Mikala Mackesy’s first introduction to the Grapevine was at the age of four in our Learning Vine Preschool. She remembers the “wonderful Miss Carol” and hours of fun outdoor play, circle time, and her favorite—sing time with parents. It’s not often that teenagers talk of preschool with such enthusiasm. For Mikala, Learning Vine Preschool was a formative experience, or as she puts it “such a happy place.” Her mother, Stephanie, was part of the parent cooperative preschool, and says that working with Carol Lunan was “incredible.”



Stephanie & Mikala Mackesy
of Bennington

Years later, Mikala came back to The Grapevine as a 6th grader, as a member of our Avenue A Club afterschool program. She remembers making crafts with Arlene and feeling like it was a great place to unwind after the school day. At an Avenue A summer cooking program, Mikala’s world expanded. “I met my best friend at Avenue A! It’s hard to top that!” Throughout the years Stephanie has remained connected with The Grapevine through programs such as Guiding Good Choices for parents of pre-teens. Stephanie says she gathered ideas and information that she’s applied to parenting a teenager. “When Mikala became involved with Avenue A, it opened up so much for my daughter. She loves it there.” Over the years, Mikala has participated in Avenue A’s Creative Writing Club, art group, and other teen programs. Mikala describes Avenue A as “A place for everybody. Everybody has a place there. Everyone belongs.” Stephanie adds, “The Grapevine and Avenue A are safe places for children to be. That’s very important to us.”

FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

The Grapevine recognizes the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our community and families. Social Isolation, financial hardship, and changes in family and home circumstances have affected our mental health and well being. This past year we continued to shine a light on mental health awareness and bring information and resources to our community.

In March, in partnership with James A. Tuttle Library, we welcomed local author Irene Buchine to a Zoom presentation and discussion on Childhood Depression. Irene related this to her book, *Celia and the Boy*, a poignant story of a boy hiding under a staircase and the girl who tries to reach him. In June, we welcomed renowned Childhood Anxiety expert and therapist Lynn Lyons who presented on childhood anxiety and the impact of the pandemic on children and parents. Over 60 people attended this session and were given time to ask questions of Lynn on managing challenging behaviors and stressful situations at home.

We have also heard from parents and teens that finding a mental health counselor or therapist can be challenging and frustrating. People seeking this support in our region will often encounter barriers such as waitlists and lack of insurance coverage. With financial support from the NH Charitable Foundation, The Grapevine initiated a pilot effort this year in partnership with The River Center to bring mental health providers together to share information and resources. We have begun to identify gaps in services, as well as connect providers to one another so that people might access services more quickly.

This year two Grapevine staff members were qualified as trainers in the NAMI Connect Program Suicide Prevention training. We now have the ability to offer this “gatekeeper” training to anyone in our region who wishes to understand the signs and symptoms of a person at risk of suicide and what they can do to prevent it. As an organization, we are committed to promoting mental health and suicide prevention awareness across our region.

Children participate in the Bugapalooza event cosponsored by The Grapevine & The Harris Center



Summer camp fun at The Grapevine



NEC Student Volunteers painting a bench at the Grapevine



Avenue A teens complete the renovation of a bench for the James A Tuttle Library



FROM JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021:

The Grapevine served 1,266 children, youth and adults across our region.

- 204** Teens & Adults served at Avenue A Teen & Community Center
- 134** Families received Free Tax Preparation and Budget Assistance
- 110** Parents & Children supported in our Home Visiting Program
- 33** Families enrolled in our Better Beginnings and Hillsborough Playgroup Programs
- 16** Families received emergency firewood from our Community Wood Bank
- 40** Individuals received intensive case management support
- 42** Families received COVID relief emergency funds; a total of \$4,710 distributed
- 42** Kinship Caregivers and relative children assisted in our Kinship Support Program; a total of \$6,790 distributed in assistance funds
- 0** People turned away from services

IN FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 OUR MAJOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDED:

100+ Women Who Care Monadnock
All Saints Parish & The Serendipity Shop
Amazon Smile
Antrim-Bennington Lions Club
Bantam Grill Restaurant
Bellow-Nichols Insurance, Inc.
Bridgebuilder Foundation
Brookdale Foundation
Concord Hospital Trust
Fidelity Charitable
First Presbyterian Church of Antrim
First Congregational Church of Hopkinton
Generations United, Inc.
Gilbert Verney Foundation

Grove Street Fiduciary
Hancock Women's Club
Matrix Business Concepts, LLC
Monadnock Alliance for Families
Mondanock Paper Mills
Monadnock United Way
MoonRivers Technology Group, LLC
The Masiello Group, Ltd.
NH Charitable Foundation
NH Children's Trust
NH Council of the Arts
Perceptics Foundation
Peterborough Women's Club
Rick & Diane's Pizzeria

Robin Colson Memorial Foundation
Town of Antrim
Town of Bennington
Town of Frankestown
Town of Hancock
Town of Hillsborough

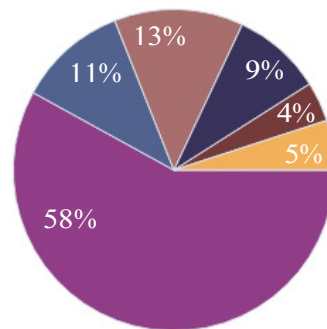


WHAT SUPPORT LOOKS LIKE

In 2020-21, The Grapevine benefitted from generous local business support, as well as community events. Some highlights include:

- 2020 Annual Online Auction - raised \$6,444
- 2020 Annual Appeal - raised \$21,375
- 2021 Virtual Spring Walk - \$10,470
- 2021 NH Gives Campaign for Avenue A - \$11,400

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 FUNDING



Percentages

- Grants
- Business
- Town contributions
- Individual contributions
- Churches & Other groups
- Events

BEN PRATT MEMORIAL

We honor and thank the late Ben Pratt, a founding member of the Grapevine. Ben was a friend, supporter, and our longest serving board member. Our Community Wood Bank has been named in his honor and we thank his family for joining us for the dedication this past September.



The Pratt Family

In Honor and Memory

We wish to thank the following families for requesting donations to the Grapevine in memory of the loss of recent loved ones:

Lisa Swarbrick & Family of Francestown in memory of James Swarbrick

Carol Lunan & Family of Francestown in memory of John Lunan

The Hennessy Family of Antrim in memory of Anne Hennessy

The Beauchamp Family of Antrim in memory of Mike Beauchamp

We are also grateful for the generosity of the Elders of the recently closed Francestown Community Church, who selected the Grapevine as a benefactor of their remaining church funds.

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!

Thank you to our Board of Directors:

Tom Badgely, Dottie Bauer, Rick Edmunds, Rosemary Novotny, Kim Fletcher, Diane Yeo and Kathleen Robbins.

Thank you to our staff:

Sarah Beaumont, Paula Coombs, Amy Doyle, Melissa Gallagher, Michelle Heath, Andrea Jurewich, Carol Lunan, Nancy Macalaster, Rosemary Nugent, Jacqueline Roland, Erica Snyder, Lisa Swarbrick & Arlene Soule; and a special thanks to our marketing consultants Tonya Dreher & Liz Swan

Farewell and thank you to our Community Resource Coordinator, Mackenzie Nichols. She is replaced by Erica Snyder. We also welcome our new staff member Andrea Jurewich.

FOR A FULL LISTING OF GRAPEVINE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT GRAPEVINENH.ORG

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