

ANNUAL REVIEW



DECEMBER 2022



Cordelia O of Antrim

Cordelia O, Kinship Caregiver

Cordelia O of Antrim is a mother and grandmother to 6 grandchildren. Beginning in 2007 she became their primary caregiver due to her adult daughter's struggle with substance use disorder (SUD). Their mom tried to maintain an active presence in her children's lives as Cordelia raised them. Tragically, her daughter passed away two years ago and Cordelia has fought hard to gain custody of the grandchildren who were not in her care at that time. Her grandchildren have experienced trauma and personal challenges but through it all, she is committed to raising them and giving them what they need.

Cordelia first came to the Grapevine about 12 years ago and formed a special connection with Grapevine staff member Carol Lunan. "Throughout the years, Carol has helped me so much - home visiting, parent support, and when I've needed resources for my grandchildren", says Cordelia. Cordelia also joined our Grandparent Support Group when it first began back in 2014. "I'm older and raising kids today is different. I learned from other parents and from the programs and classes I took at the Grapevine about how to talk to them and how to deal with different situations. I learned about different parenting techniques and was just trying to learn and grow. I've felt a lot of support mentally and emotionally from Carol and others. Everyone at the Grapevine is so happy and helpful and I've always felt really comfortable there."

Maureen and Pat Troy

Maureen & Pat Troy of Frankestown and their three children found the Grapevine a few years ago while looking for a preschool program for their oldest daughter. With the pandemic in their midst, they were excited to find a program based outdoors, where masks were not needed and the preschool experience would feel relatively normal. Their daughter thrived in the Learning Vine preschool and their second born daughter is now enrolled as well. Maureen and her family began participating in other programs including Stay and Play and special events like SnowFamilies in the winter and the Annual Spring Walk for Families. Maureen describes an environment of trust and comfort at the Grapevine: "It's been an amazing place for all of us.

The staff are friendly and welcoming and I really appreciate the no pressure atmosphere. I've felt like our kids can go at their own pace because learning is play based so it's basically structure without the structure and child led. I like that my children aren't pushed to do things until they are ready and can just be who they are." Maureen also appreciates the support she's felt as a parent. "I feel like the programs we've joined are really supportive of parents and offer great ideas. The Grapevine is truly a place for everyone-regardless of where you live or your economic status. It is accessible, you can call or just walk in, I feel like everyone can find something of benefit there."

Maureen and Pat Troy and their three children



SUPPORTING BASIC NEEDS

The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center is an organization based in primary prevention. We offer an array of programs and services to children, teens and families to support a variety of needs including basic forms of assistance to ensure essential needs are being met. We have seen first hand the continued impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our community and families. With the rise of inflation and the country still in post-pandemic recovery, we have seen more families faced with financial hardship. Thankfully, we received special funding from several sources, including a major grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to directly assist families with pressing financial needs.

AVENUE A TEENS T.A.C.O. CLUB SERVING FOOD AT THE ANTRIM COMMUNITY SUPPER.



The Grapevine is often called “the place to go when you don’t know where to go”. People from our small, rural community often start here. We can help with emergency needs such as quick access to food, heat, shelter and clothing. This might be in the form of gift cards, paying a bill or emergency repair to a car or home. Our goal is always to get people on the path to more sustainable forms of support. We offer in person appointments to assist with applications for housing, food stamps and other forms of state assistance. We also offer home visits for families who have this need or preference. We recognize that not everyone can come to us, so we try to be flexible with how people access help.

What we’ve observed in the past year especially is an uptick in requests for help with basic needs. We attribute some of this to increased outreach and promotion of our services as well as kind, caring staff. When someone calls the Grapevine, our phone is answered by a live person, and is usually the same person every time. We are a small, close knit staff that can quickly problem solve and come up with a solution to address a pressing need. With inflation, the cost of food, heat and electricity are at all time highs and families are stretched beyond their means. Some people who have reached out for help have shared that it is the first time they have ever done so. It can be really hard to ask for help!

In addition to offering direct assistance, we partner with our local food pantries and our local End 68 Hours of Hunger programs to offer food bags and a stocked pantry at our Teen Center for teens to take food as they need it. Our emergency community wood bank is a critical resource for people who are having a hard time paying for fuel. Often it gets cold well before fuel assistance dollars become available.

These services often act as a “carrot” to getting families more involved with our programs. Sometimes this is as natural as helping a person load wood into the trunk of their car. We ask other questions about what is happening for them and they learn that there are a number of ways that they can get support from us. Having the means as an organization to support basic needs often leads to deeper, more meaningful relationships and connections. In just the first 6 months of 2022 (January - June), we distributed over \$18,000 in direct financial assistance to families.



BIRD WATCHING PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HARRIS CENTER
(Harris Center photo: Martha Duffy)



THE SNYDER BOYS HELP STACK FIRE WOOD IN OUR BEN PRATT WOOD BANK



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KEENE COMMUNITY KITCHEN MOBILE FOOD PANTRY EVENT AT THE GRAPEVINE

FROM JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022:

The Grapevine served over 1,300 children, youth and adults across our region.

- 265** Teens & Adults served at Avenue A Teen & Community Center
- 127** Families received Free Tax Preparation and Budget Assistance
- 69** Parents & Children supported in our Home Visiting Program
- 44** Families enrolled in our Better Beginnings and Hillsborough Playgroup Programs
- 59** Individuals received Intensive Case Management support
- 34** Families received emergency relief funds; a total of \$18,921.20 distributed
- 46** Kinship Caregivers and relative children assisted in our Kinship Support Program; a total of \$9,500 distributed in assistance funds
- 5** Cords of emergency wood distributed for heating
- 0** People turned away from services

IN FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 OUR MAJOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDED:

The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust
All Saints Parish & The Serendipity Shop
Antrim-Bennington Lions Club
Bantam Grill Restaurant
Bellow-Nichols Insurance, Inc.
Bridgebuilder Foundation
Concord Hospital Trust
The David Day Memorial Foundation
Eversource
First Presbyterian Church of Antrim
Gilbert Verney Foundation
The Glass Museum
Grand Monadnock Rotary
Grove Street Fiduciary
Hancock Women's Club

The Masiello Group, Ltd.
Monadnock Paper Mills
Monadnock United Way
MoonRivers Technology Group, LLC
NH Charitable Foundation
NH Children's Trust
NH State Council of the Arts
Robin Colson Memorial Foundation
Perceptics Foundation
Perry Family Dental
Town of Antrim
Town of Bennington
Town of Hancock
Town of Hillsborough

TREE DONATION FROM EVERSOURCE AND JOHN BROWN & SONS



WHAT SUPPORT LOOKS LIKE

In 2021-22, The Grapevine continues to rely on local support and holds many fundraising events during the year to support our programs.

Highlights include:

2021 Annual Online Auction: Raised \$6,461

2021 Annual Appeal: Raised \$42,190

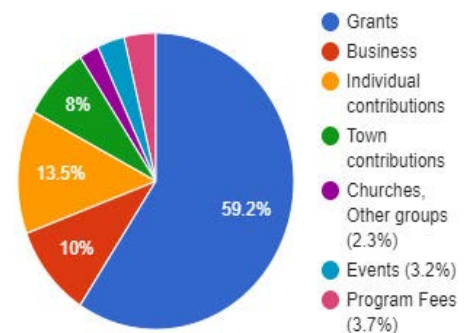
2022 Spring Walk for Families: Raised \$9,620.55

2022 Yard Sale: Raised \$663

2022 Annual Bantam Grill Restaurant Beast Master Classic! (Private dinner event Raised) \$8,165

2022 NH Gives Campaign for Avenue A: \$13,073.75

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 FUNDING



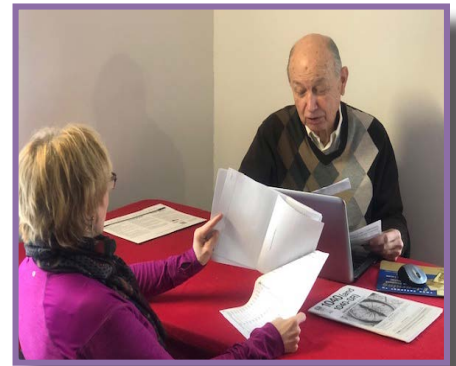
We wish to thank and recognize the family of Carole Webber, a long time resident of Antrim and friend to the Grapevine who passed away earlier this year. Carole's family directed donations in her honor to several worthy non profit organizations including the Grapevine.

FAREWELLS & WELCOME:

Farewell to Grapevine staff member of 10 years, Nancy Macalaster. Nancy served as a facilitator for the Better Beginnings programs, in addition to supporting families through home based visiting. In this time Nancy has connected with hundreds of families, and has formed deep rooted relationships with not only children, but their parents and various members of their circles and community. After dedicating over 60 years to a career in early childhood development, working with various organizations in differing capacities, Nancy is retiring. She's offered gentle guidance and created a non judgmental environment for caregivers to form trust and be vulnerable, which is often hard to do. Thank you, Nancy for your years of love and dedication and for making the Grapevine, and the world, a better place!



In January 2022, the Grapevine was designated a Family Resource Center of Quality (FRC-Q) by the NH Wellness and Primary Prevention Council. Our application was years in the making, involving all Grapevine staff and several of our Board members. The designation process fosters organizational commitment to continued quality improvement within programs and operations and serves as an indicator to supporters, donors and the public that we are meeting the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support.



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 - John Brown & Sons - Robblee Tree Service, LLC - Monadnock Paper Mill - MoonRivers Technology Group, LLC - AND THE MANY VOLUNTEERS involved with our Community Wood Bank, Commmunity Tool Shed and Avenue A Teen + Community Center!

Thank you to our 21/22 Board of Directors:

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

Thank you and Farewell to Kathleen Robbins of Hancock, Board member for 7 years

Welcome new board members: Jenine Rubin of Antrim & Dana Brien of Deering

Thank you to our incredible staff:

Sarah Beaumont, Paula Coombs, Amy Doyle, Melissa Gallagher, Michelle Heath, Andrea Jurewicz, Carol Lunan, Nancy Macalaster, Rosemary Nugent, Jacqueline Roland, Erica Snyder, Lisa Swarbrick & Arlene Soule

We also welcome our new staff members Kate Carnaroli & Sueren McKinnon

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

4 Aiken Street | PO Box 637 | Antrim, NH | 603-588-2620 | Grapevინeh.org

