

ANNUAL REVIEW



DECEMBER 2024

James Panico & Family

James and his wife Fae moved to Antrim in 2019 with their three children. At the time, their youngest child Joyana was 1 year old and they were looking for ways to socialize her with other children. As they were seeking community connections, they quickly found the Grapevine. They have especially enjoyed special family events including our Black Fly Community Art in the spring and Snowfamilies in the winter, and their teenage daughter got involved at our Avenue A Teen Center. As is the case with many parents that come here for their children, they end up finding something for themselves! James found connection with the Dads group, led by Rick Edmunds every month by the campfire. Says James, "Dads campfire time has been a great experience for me. I feel like men tend to be more closed off, and it's a way for dads to get together with other



James and his daughter, Joyana in 2024
on a summer trip

men outside their immediate circle. We had that first thing in common that we are all dads and can relate to each other in that way. But as we got to know each other we became more interested in each other's lives and sort of, how we are 'doing' life. We've had a chance to bond more and have even enjoyed a hike together."

As the pandemic caused disruption in their lives and prevented them from traveling back to Canada to see family, the Grapevine remained a constant. "The Grapevine is full of people who are inviting and knowledgeable, with warm hearts. They are always willing to help. Whenever I meet someone who is new to town, I always tell them to check out the Grapevine!"

Owen Palmer

Owen discovered Avenue A three years ago, when he came to Avenue A's Halloween Party. He says that the community and people at the Teen Center made him want to come back. Over the last few years, he's participated in Avenue A's Pizza Talk, Summer Theatre, Open Hours, and Leadership programs. Leadership day trips are his favorite Avenue A memory!

Owen describes Avenue A as a great place to meet new people or spend time with old friends. "This place is important because I can't be alone for long amounts of time—I need to get out. Avenue A's helped me not feel depressed because of isolation." Most of all, he says that Avenue A is "something to always look forward to."

Owen has high hopes for how Avenue A will grow in our new space at 4 Aiken Street. He's also excited about the accessibility of the new space: "When disabled people have a space that they can get to and access, it makes them feel like the person they are and not an afterthought."

Owen at Avenue A



The Grapevine's Mission: To promote family and community health and well-being through support, education and the sharing of resources.

NEW AVENUE A TEEN CENTER

By now, many of you have heard of the exciting construction project underway at the Grapevine - a new home for our Avenue A Teen Center! A new space for Avenue A had been a dream of ours for years and was identified as a priority in our 2024-2026 Grapevine Strategic Plan. And as fate would have it, in late 2023, we became aware of a special funding program that seemed to be a perfect match for The Grapevine and Avenue A! It is known as the Community Center Investment Program and headed by the NH Community Development Finance Authority. This competitive funding program provides non profits and municipalities with critical dollars for capital projects demonstrating a significant community benefit. With only a month long application window, we set out to convey the specialness of this community and the individual support we receive, and also demonstrate why a new teen center was so clearly needed. We put forth compelling evidence of its impact and benefit and also surveyed teens who talked about what they wanted to see and experience in a new space. The intensive application process led to months of waiting. When we received the news this past February that our project had been selected for funding, it was one of the most joyous days we've ever experienced as a team! Being able to share this news with the many teens that call Avenue A their second home, made it all the more real and exciting!



Fast forward to September and the project is underway! In a matter of two months, the building frame is up and is officially connected as an addition to our existing Grapevine Center. Our new Teen Center is larger and designed with multiple spaces, so that we can offer more than one program at the same time. It is accessible to those with mobility challenges, and in a safer setting with more space for teens to move around outdoors, away from the busy road on Route 202. We can't wait to officially introduce the new Center to our community in the Summer of 2025! To quote one Avenue A Teen who has been watching the progress of this new building, "I can't believe you guys are building this for us!" Teens feel seen and heard at Avenue A, and they know that a lot of adults in our community care about and value them. We know that investing in our young people with safe, supportive environments pays in dividends!

Despite all of the excitement and energy around this project, this major award does not fund our organization in any way. It is solely to build the building. Individual, business and foundation support is more important than ever, so that we can continue offering our wide range of programs and services.



WEEK 1!



WEEK 4!



WEEK 6!

The Grapevine staff and board reflect a diversity of perspectives and experiences, making us a stronger organization. We are a mindful, respectful, reflective staff and board who are consistently working toward that. The Grapevine staff and board are enriched by the perspectives of others.

FROM JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024:

The Grapevine served over 1,400 children, youth and adults across 18 towns in our region! Here are just some of the highlights:

- 321** Teens served at our Avenue A Teen & Community Center
- 145** Adults & Children enrolled in our Parent-Child Programs
- 102** Families received holiday meal and gift assistance
- 91** Adults & Children supported in our Home Visiting Program
- 86** Individuals received intensive case management support; delivered over 400 hours of one on one assistance
- 62** Families received emergency relief funds; \$18,073.00 distributed
- 59** Adults trained in Suicide Prevention
- 58** Seniors enrolled in our SAIL exercise program in partnership with Antrim Recreation
- 38** Kinship Caregivers and relative children assisted in our Kinship Support Program; \$3,528 distributed in assistance funds
- 11** Families received free emergency wood from our Community Wood Bank
- 10** Families enrolled in our Learning Vine Outdoor Based preschool program
- 0** People turned away from services

IN FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 OUR MAJOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDED:

100+ Women Who Care Monadnock
A.C.C.E.S.S., INC.
The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust
All Saints Parish
Antrim-Bennington Lions Club
Bank of NH
Bantam Grill Restaurant
Bellow-Nichols Insurance, Inc.
Bridgebuilder Foundation
Concord Hospital Trust
Connected Families NH
Eversource
First Presbyterian Church of Antrim
Gilbert Verney Foundation
Grand Monadnock Rotary
Hancock Woman's Club

Kiwanis Club of Peterborough
Monadnock Paper Mills
Monadnock United Way
MoonRivers Technology Group, LLC
NH Charitable Foundation
NH Children's Trust
NH Community Develop. Finance Authority
NH State Council of the Arts
The Boston Foundation
The Quigley Foundation
Robin Colson Memorial Foundation
Town of Antrim
Town of Bennington
Town of Franconia
Town of Hancock
Town of Hillsborough

A SPECIAL DONATION FROM
BANK OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

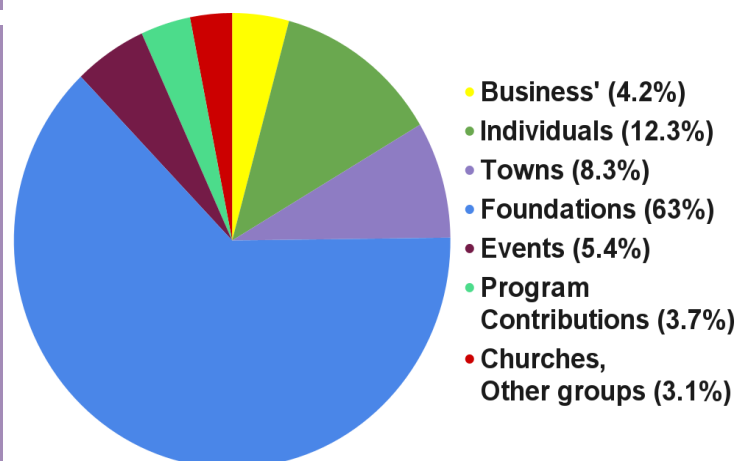


WHAT SUPPORT LOOKS LIKE

The Grapevine continues to rely on local support and benefits from fundraising events throughout the year to support our programs. Highlights include:

- 2023 Annual Online Auction - raised \$7,228
- 2023 Annual Appeal - raised \$35,800.00
- 2023 Annual Beast Master Classic - A private dinner held by Bantam Grill, raised \$9,000.00
- 2024 Spring Walk - \$7,000
- 2024 NH Gives Campaign for Avenue A - \$14,255
- 2024 Other Events (Break the Stigma 5K; Boat Race, Yard Sale) \$10,760

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 FUNDING



We would also like to thank student and staff leaders at Conval High School, who designated funds from the 2024 Break the Stigma 5K event to our Avenue A Teen Center!

BIG SHOUT OUT:

A special thank you to the extraordinary people who supported The Grapevine this past summer and early fall to get ready for our Avenue A construction project including: the Antrim-Bennington Lions Club, Robblee Tree Service, LLC, Pineview Excavation, Blu Box Portable Storage, the Town of Antrim Highway Department, Eckman Construction, Novo Studio Architects, Rick Edmunds, and our Dads Campfire volunteers! And of course, the NH Community Development Finance Authority for funding this project along with private matching dollars including the John Vance ACCESS Fund!

ROBBLEE TREE SERVICE
MOVING OUR TOOL SHED



BLU BOX DONATION FOR TEMPORARY
STORAGE



PINE VIEW EXCAVATION SITE WORK



**-Antrim Bennington Lions Club - Antrim Recreation Department - Blu Box Storage, LLC-
-Edmunds Ace Hardware - Eversource - Larry Schwartz with PHC Financial - John Brown & Sons-
-Monadnock Paper Mill - MoonRivers Technology Group, LLC - Pine View Excavation-
-Robblee Tree Service, LLC - AND THE MANY VOLUNTEERS involved with our Community Wood Bank,
Community Tool Shed, and Avenue A Teen + Community Center!**



LEARNING VINE PRESCHOOLERS ENTHRALLED
WITH CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES!

A fond farewell to Grapevine Staff Member:

Michelle Heath, who left the Grapevine last January. Michelle worked in our Children's programs at the Grapevine and in Hillsborough. Michelle brought warmth and a welcoming energy during her time with us and we miss her a lot! Thank you, Michelle!

A warm welcome to Grapevine Staff Members:

Brenda Hennessy, who has joined our children's programs as a staff member. Kim Bylancik, who transitioned to a full-time role as our Avenue A Coordinator! The Grapevine is incredibly fortunate to have such kind, committed staff leading our programs!

Thank you to our Board of Directors:

Rosemary Novotny, Rick Edmunds, Kim Fletcher, Diane Yeo, Dottie Bauer, Dana Brien and Jenine Rubin

Thank you to our incredible staff:

Sarah Beaumont, Kim Bylancik, Paula Coombs, Amy Doyle, Mikayla Essex, Leigh Frosch, Melissa Gallagher, Brenda Hennessy, Andrea Jurewich, Carol Lunan, Rosemary Nugent, Karen Pellicano, Jacqueline Roland, Lisa Swarbrick, and Maureen Troy



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