

# Annual Review



December 2025

## Jo Kilbourne-Antrim

Jo Kilbourne has lived in a lot of places. But nothing, she says, is like this community. "I've lived all over the country - in small towns, in cities - I was born in the mine country of Pennsylvania. There is nothing like the sense of community I have found here in Antrim." Jo moved to the area in 2021, into a small housing development alongside many older adults. She was looking for resources and learned about the Grapevine from her neighbors. "Karen at the Grapevine and all the people there are wonderful. They were able to help with a dental expense and a car repair, which were big needs for me". And as Jo has settled into her new community, she notes that it isn't always easy to get around. "I have a car, but not everyone does. I see some of my neighbors who are isolated, lonely, and depressed. So I try to help them get places." She notes that as part of her integration into this community, staying social and active have been important. She's been attending the Grapevine's monthly social gatherings for older adults, as a way to make connections and meet new people. Still, she would love to see more activities for older adults and options for those without vehicles in this area. "The lack of transportation can be a huge barrier for people", says Jo. Despite the challenges, she appreciates where she is: "I prefer the Antrim way of life".



*Jo Kilbourne at the Grapevine*

## Heather Wandrei and Family- Francestown

Heather Wandrei and her growing family moved to Francestown in 2022. As a new mother living in a small rural town, she was seeking connection and new friendships. She saw a post on her town's Facebook page about a baby group at the Grapevine, and she has been here ever since. "Being a part of the Grapevine community has been a great experience for me and my children", says Heather. I've met other parents, received guidance, have a stronger connection to my community and am a much better and more confident mom". In her time here, Heather has participated in multiple programs including the Better Beginnings baby group, Parent Support & Child playgroups, Out & About family hiking and the monthly Moms Campfires. And, she even summoned up the courage to enter a boat into our Blindfolded Boat Race event this past summer! When she reflects on her time with the Grapevine she says, "I love how kid friendly it is and that I have also found time for myself as a parent. It seems like there is something for everyone here. If you are looking for ways to connect with others, especially if you are new to the area, give the Grapevine a try!"



*Heather with her husband Brian, son Wade, and daughter Willow.*

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



# Supports for Older Adults

A story like Jo's on page 1 is an example of what the Grapevine has observed over the past few years: a steady rise in the number of older adults seeking help, support, and connection. A critical role of ours is staying connected and responsive to changing community needs. We have begun offering more targeted supports and activities to address what we have identified as *a gap in services for older adults in our community*.



In 2023, we partnered with the Town of Antrim Recreation Department to offer the SAIL (Stay Active and Independent for Life) exercise program, supported by the John Vance ACCESS Fund. Offered three days a week at no cost to participants, SAIL focuses on balance and strength training in standing or sitting positions. It is geared toward older adults from across our region and has become a popular, well-attended program. In addition to promoting a healthy and active lifestyle, SAIL has offered more opportunities for social and neighbor-to-neighbor connections.

In 2025, we began offering monthly gatherings with tea and coffee for older adults. Now held at our new Avenue A Teen Center, it provides ample space to play pool, foosball, and other games. These gatherings have built in time to answer questions and focus on topics of interest and concern. We have plans to bring in special guests to provide further education and assistance in areas such as Medicare.

This past fall, we partnered with the statewide advocacy organization, New Futures, to profile a number of older adults in our community who were willing to share their stories - their joys, challenges, and concerns, especially as it relates to "aging in place" in our under-resourced community. These stories are being produced as video vignettes and should be ready for sharing in early winter! In addition, The Grapevine has been actively seeking more funding opportunities to provide direct financial assistance to older adults who are faced with a pressing need. As Jo's story highlights, we were able to help her with a dental and car bill, but these dollars are limited. We hope to secure more funds to assist seniors in times of financial hardship.

## Our New Avenue A Teen Center

**THERE WERE SO MANY EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE WHO SUPPORTED THIS YEAR LONG PROJECT!! THE FOLLOWING GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING THIS PROJECT TO COMPLETION:**



**ANTRIM - BENNINGTON LIONS CLUB~AVENUE A WOODWORKING GROUP AND TEEN VOLUNTEERS~  
JOHN & SUE CONKLIN~MIKE CONNELLY~TYLER REDMOND~MYRA REDMOND~THE TOWN OF ANTRIM  
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT~ECKMAN CONSTRUCTION~ECHO FINCH PRODUCTIONS~NOVO STUDIO ARCHITECTS~  
AND OF COURSE, THE NH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY FOR FUNDING THIS PROJECT  
ALONG WITH PRIVATE MATCHING DOLLARS, INCLUDING THE JOHN VANCE ACCESS FUND!  
WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!**

**We would like to thank the families and friends who chose to honor their loved ones with a gift to the Grapevine in the past year. In memory of:**

Andy Gregg - loving father of longtime Grapevine supporter and volunteer, Robin Gregg  
Beth Kelly - Grapevine volunteer/supporter and loving mother of staff member, Paula Coombs  
Sidney Wilson Smith - longtime Grapevine friend, supporter, advocate, staff & board member



We would also like to acknowledge the passing of Mr. Richard Verney, longtime friend and supporter of the Grapevine. He has provided funding to us for 25 years through his company, Monadnock Paper Mills, as well as the Gilbert Verney Foundation. Mr. Verney was one of our earliest financial supporters. His belief in our work and mission has helped make us the organization we are today.

Richard Verney visits our Learning Vine Preschool

**In Fiscal Year 2024-25 our Major Financial Contributors included:**

The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust, All Saints Parish, Antrim-Bennington Lions Club, Bantam Grill Restaurant, Bellow-Nichols Insurance Inc., The Bitty Foundation, The Boston Foundation, Concord Hospital Trust  
Connected Families NH, ConVal Regional High School (Break the Stigma),  
First Congregational Church of Hancock, First Presbyterian Church of Antrim, Gilbert Verney Foundation,  
Grand Monadnock Rotary, Hancock Women's Club, John Vance ACCESS Fund, Keith M. Sullivan Foundation  
Kiwanis Club of Peterborough, Monadnock Paper Mill, Inc., Monadnock United Way,  
MoonRivers Technology Group, LLC, NH Charitable Foundation, NH Children's Trust,  
NH Community Development Finance Authority, Osram Sylvania, Perry Family Dental,  
Peterborough Unitarian Church, The Quigley Foundation, Renew Church of Hancock, Scott Equipment Services,  
Town of Antrim, Town of Bennington, Town of Frankestown, Town of Hancock, & Town of Hillsborough

**From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. The Grapevine served over 1,400 children, youth, and adults across 18 towns in our region! Here are just some of the highlights:**

**352** Teens served at our Avenue A Teen & Community Center; **156** Adults & Children enrolled in our Parent-Child Programs; **109** Individuals received intensive case management support & delivered **670** hours of one-on-one assistance; **67** Families received holiday meal and gift assistance; **67** Families received emergency relief funds, a total of **\$17,557** distributed; **55** Participants enrolled in our SAIL exercise program in partnership with Antrim Recreation; **44** Kinship Caregivers and relative children assisted in our Kinship Support Program, a total of **\$5,249** distributed in assistance funds; **39** Adults & Children supported in our Home Visiting Program; **10** Families enrolled in our Learning Vine Outdoor-Based preschool program; **8** Families received free emergency wood from our Community Wood Bank; **0** People turned away from programs and services

**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 for FY 24-25 include:

*Annual Appeal: Raised \$52,175.00*

*Spring Walk for Families: Raised \$18,494.29*

*Annual Bantam Grill Restaurant Beast Master Classic!*

*A private dinner event; Raised \$13,880.00*

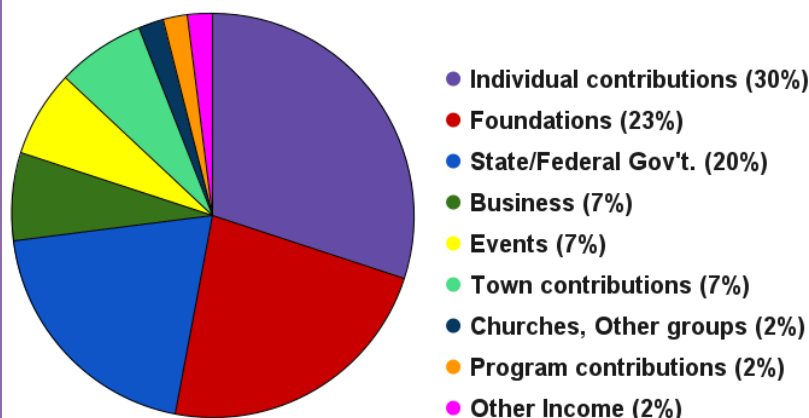
*Blindfolded Boat Race: Raised \$11,933.00*

*NH Gives Campaign for Avenue A: Raised \$9,105.38*

*Annual Online Auction: Raised \$8,548.58*

*Yard Sale: Raised \$1,041.84*

**The Grapevine's Operating Budget for FY 24 - 25 was \$552,330.00**



This year, Carol Lunan celebrates 25 years with the Grapevine! We simply would not be who we are without her. In her time with our organization, she founded the Learning Vine preschool, which still runs today; formed the model for our Better Beginnings parent support programs, and has led many workshops and special classes for parents and caregivers, and early childhood professionals. She has touched countless lives.

**We love you, Carol!**



## **Thank you to our Board of Directors 24/25:**

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

## **A warm welcome:**

Thank you to Kim Bylancik for her role at Avenue A and welcome Hannah Matteson as our new Avenue A Coordinator! An additional warm welcome to Teresa Bohorquez, our new Director of Family Supports & Services! We are so happy to have them as part of our Grapevine family!

## **Thank you to our incredible staff:**

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



Board Member, Facility Volunteer, & Dads Group Leader:  
Rick Edmunds!

Some of our amazing team members!



Fresh Food Pickup from our Friends at Fiddleheads Cafe & Hancock Market!

**There are many ways to give to your community and the Grapevine!**

**We thank these local businesses and groups for their donations of time, goods, and services:**

Antrim Bennington Lions Club - Antrim Recreation Department - Blu Box Storage, LLC - Edmunds Ace Hardware - Fiddleheads Cafe, Jim Craig Electric, John Brown & Sons - MAX-T makerspace - Monadnock Paper Mill - Moon Rivers Technology Group, LLC Renew Church, Rick, Diane's & Family Brick Oven Pizza, The Hancock Market, AND THE MANY VOLUNTEERS involved with our Community Wood Bank, Community Tool Shed and Avenue A Teen + Community Center!

**A special thanks to the many community partners/agencies who we rely on to coordinate support, make referrals, and strengthen our ability to serve children, teens, and families in our region, including:**

All Saints Parish, Antrim/Bennington Food Pantry, Conval Regional School District, Divine Mercy Church, Brown-Knight Memorial VFW, End 68 Hours of Hunger, First Presbyterian Church of Antrim, First Congregational Church of Hancock, Hillsborough-Deering School District, Monadnock Family Services, NH-CAPHR, Rise for Baby and Family, Home Healthcare & Hospice Services, Monadnock Area Transitional Shelter, Peterborough Food Pantry & The River Center Family Resource Center!

For a full listing of Grapevine supports and services, please visit our website at [grapevinenh.org](http://grapevinenh.org)

4 Aiken Street | PO Box 637 | Antrim, NH | 603-588-2620 | [Grapevinenh.org](http://Grapevinenh.org)



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TO DONATE  
ONLINE!**