



SPRING 2024

Mission Possible



A New Home on Main Street for our Bennington Office

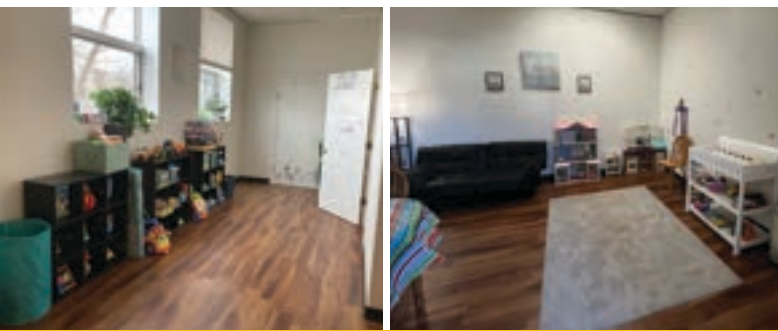


Easterseals VT staff at their new office location at Bradford Common on Main Street in Bennington.

Earlier this spring, our Bennington office moved into a new location at **Bradford Common** on **Main Street**, offering easy access, more privacy, and a comfortable location for families seeking services.

We've been providing services in Bennington for 15 years, previously sharing a space with the Department for Children and Families on Veterans Memorial Drive. To mark this milestone, Easterseals VT hosted an open house for the community, featuring tours and light refreshments.

Susan Reed, Director of Operations at Easterseals VT, expressed gratitude for the longstanding partnership with Bennington's support network for children and families. "Easterseals VT has appreciated being an essential partner within Bennington's support network for children and families for many years. Our new location offers a more homelike, private setting for our Family Time Coaching sessions and other activities, including Post-Permanency Support Services. We are confident that this more centralized office location will offer families easy access to our services and team of helpful professionals."



A Sound That Soothes

How do you help a toddler process separation from their family? Staff in **Easterseals VT's Family Time Coaching Program** found a unique way to support a young child who was overwhelmed by transitions.

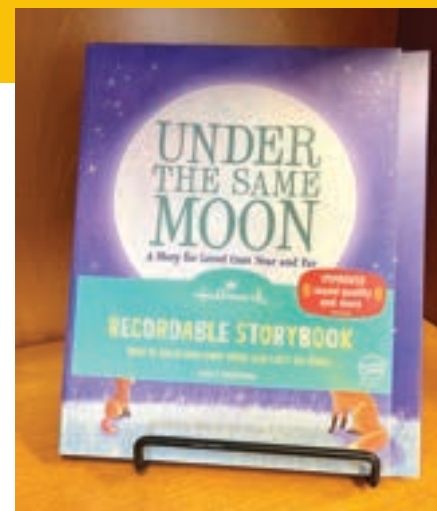
First separated from their mother and older siblings, the child was living away from them in foster care. The toddler reunited with their family for **Family Time Coaching** sessions on a weekly basis, but saying goodbye led to meltdowns that lasted the rest of the day and evening. The young child needed to be held constantly, ate little, and slept fitfully. These hard nights led to difficult days at daycare.

The team at Easterseals VT came up with an ingenious solution: recording the little one's mother reading a story. The **Family Engagement Specialist** shared the recording of the mom's voice with the toddler as they transitioned from Family Time to daycare and states, "The first time, I played the recording through my car radio 11 times for her, the next time six, then less and less." **The recording was the key they'd been looking for.**

With the help of grant funds, Easterseals VT purchased a recordable storybook so the child could take their mother's voice everywhere. When the child first realized it was their mother's voice reading the story, they placed their face close to the book pages and whispered, "Hi Mommy." The toddler now has access to the book during transportation and at the foster home. Listening to the mother's voice helps the toddler regulate complicated emotions during transitions and times of stress.

It's not always possible to eliminate a child's stress, but Easterseals VT finds innovative ways to make safe and nurturing family time a reality for every family.

To learn more about all of our programs visit our **NEW** website: eastersealsvt.org



The recordable storybook used to help soothe the child.

Accolades for Easterseals NH & VT



This spring, Maureen Beauregard, Easterseals NH & VT President & CEO, received the **New Hampshire Impact Award** from the **New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits**. The award recognizes Maureen's outstanding contributions to our agency, the nonprofit sector, and local people.

In addition, Easterseals NH was selected as the **Nonprofit Business of the Year** by *Business New Hampshire Magazine*. The award is given to one nonprofit that exemplifies leadership in serving the people of New Hampshire and that holds a track record of effectively responding to changing community needs.

"These awards demonstrate that Easterseals NH & VT is gaining recognition as the provider of first choice for people of all abilities who seek integrated care services," said Maureen. "I am grateful to our staff who give their all, every day, to provide compassion and exceptional care to help people live their best lives."



Maureen Beauregard, Easterseals NH & VT President & CEO, receives the 2024 *New Hampshire Impact Award* from Kathleen Reardon, NH Center for Nonprofits CEO.

BE SURE TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL EASTERSEALS

Have you seen our recent ad campaign? Many people tell us that they didn't realize there were local chapters of Easterseals. You may have received mail or seen TV ads from Easterseals National, located in Chicago, but we are proud to be Easterseals VT. We serve approximately 2,000 Vermont children and families each year.

So please, when thinking of supporting Easterseals, look for the VT in the Easterseals logo to be sure that your financial support stays in your community, enabling us to foster inclusion, respect, and dignity for all. If you have any questions, reach out to info@eastersealsvt.org.

Look for Vermont!



Like what you read in our newsletter and want to support our efforts? Visit eastersealsvt.org/donate.

Reaching New Heights for VT Children & Families



We are gearing up for our 3rd Annual **Over the Edge** event, taking place on **Saturday, July 20**, at the **North Barre Manor**. Over the Edge puts the fun in fundraising, so don't miss this opportunity to gear up to go over the edge this year. We encourage you to challenge a family member, friend, or colleague to join you in rappelling down this 11-story, high-rise building. If you raised the minimum of \$1,000 last year, you're all set to rappel this year, but if you'd like to continue to raise more, please do! If you didn't raise

the minimum, you have plenty of time to meet the goal. Participate, volunteer, donate, or just come out to cheer on the edgers. We hope to see you there!

Learn more at eastersealsvt.org/over-the-edge