

Mission Possible



Autumn 2024

News & Stories

Easterseals VT Commemorates the Year's Achievements



Easterseals VT staff at the annual Staff Celebration Day at the Vermont Granite Museum in Barre.

On Friday, September 27, Easterseals VT hosted its annual Staff Celebration Day at the Vermont Granite Museum in Barre.

We dedicated the day to recognizing staff achievements and presenting employee awards while reflecting on our collective impact.

We reviewed data from our consumer satisfaction surveys to better understand how our clients feel supported by us and the benefits they've experienced from our services, as well as identify areas for improvement. Data showed 96% of parents who participated in Care Coordination offered through our Child and Family Support program found the information shared by their Family Engagement Specialist to be helpful to them and their family.

Staff certifications were presented for successfully completing the necessary training for interventions in Child & Family Support Programs and the National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative. Over the past year, Easterseals VT staff collectively completed 2,048 training hours. The event marks the only occasion each year when the entire Easterseals VT staff from our eleven locations across the state gather together. Although the event focused on assessing the year's work and achievements, it also offered a chance to step back from daily tasks and enjoy our coworkers' company

Over The Edge: The Power of Neighbors Supporting Neighbors

On July 20, a crowd gathered around the North Barre Manor, one of the tallest buildings in the state, to watch 31 brave participants rappel for Vermont neighbors. Thanks to the contributions of sponsors, supporters, and participants, the event raised \$22,000, benefiting Easterseals VT's programs and services.

Among those who participated was Jakobie, a youth who utilizes Easterseals VT's Post Permanency Services; which serves families formed by adoption or guardianship in an effort to help meet the child's needs, increase family stability, and locate community resources. Jakobie's family has utilized Easterseals VT services for eight years, following his adoption by his great-grandmother, Brenda.

Brenda, who has been raising her great-grandchildren single-handedly, appreciates the assistance provided by Easterseals VT and Post Permanency Coordinator Ann Wheeler, "Anything our family has ever needed, she's always been there. Her knowledge and the resources she's connected us to have been a tremendous help."

Jakobie's rappel was nothing short of exciting, sparking his interest in trying activities like zip-lining and bungee jumping. "I loved going over the



Jakobie as he began his descent down the North Barre Manor

SAVE THE DATE Over the Edge for Easterseals VT will be back at the North Barre Manor on **Saturday, July 26, 2025!**

edge, and I look forward to doing it again next year,” shared Jakobie.

Staff Recruitment at Easterseals VT

At Easterseals VT, our staff have meaningful careers. Tanya, Senior Director of Operations, recently celebrated her employee milestone of 31 years. Tanya’s “why” stems from believing in the work and its value to families and children. She explains, “We try to meet people where they are at and give them resources and opportunities to meet the needs of their children, we make connections and try to engage people.” Tanya’s dedication to her work is evident in the way she approaches each day with a commitment to making a difference.

Through the years with Easterseals VT, Tanya has demonstrated that with passion, resilience, and a genuine desire to help others, it is possible to create meaningful change and contribute to a brighter future for those in need.

Working for Easterseals VT is more than a job—it’s a meaningful opportunity to change lives, including your own. Positions are available! Visit <https://eastersealsvt.org/job-opportunities/> today.



Learn more about working for Easterseals VT by hearing our staff's whys.

[View Here](https://eastersealsvt.org/job-opportunities/)

Learn how you can give to Easterseals VT!

There are many ways you can help us make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve. While cash is the most common, you may not be aware of the advantages of donating other assets.

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) or Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs): A qualified charitable distribution allows individuals who are 70 ½ years or older to move up to \$105,000 per year from their individual retirement accounts directly to their favorite charity without it affecting their taxable income.

Gifts of stock: The option to donate securities is good for people who purchased stock over a year ago and, therefore, may be subject to long-term capital gains.

Donor-advised funds (DAFs): A donor-advised fund, which is like a charitable savings account, allows you to recommend how much and how often a donation is made.

We would be happy to talk to you further about the other ways to support Easterseals VT. Please call or email Pamela Hawkes, Chief Development Officer at phawkes@eastersealsnh.org or 603-793-3858.

Learn more about ways to give at: <https://eastersealsvt.org/ways-to-give/>

Give Today

Easterseals NH Community-Based Services Home Undergoes Complete Renovation

We're excited to share the news that Spruce Keys, one of our more than 20 Community-Based Services homes across New Hampshire, has undergone a complete makeover!



Spruce Keys, a newly renovated Community-Based Services home located in Manchester, NH.

The three-month project has created a modern, comfortable living space for nine women whom we serve in our Community-Based Services program, which helps adults with intellectual disabilities and acquired brain injuries achieve stability, well-being, and fulfillment through a variety of services. "These individuals receive the extra help they need, like transportation to work, from our dedicated staff of 27 on a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week basis," says Renee Fisher, our Senior Vice President of Long Term Supports and Services. "With this new home, Easterseals NH no longer requires a rental property, which costs \$54,000 annually to rent."

The Manchester, New Hampshire, residence features three, 3-bedroom units complete with modern kitchens and laundry rooms. Renee gives a quick tour of this newly refurbished property in a short video, which you can view by visiting this link or clicking the button below <https://youtu.be/4nJ1vJIUs08?si=u9Dfjkw-p0snFHzy>.

View Video Here

Upcoming Events

Our 2024 events season may be winding down, but there are still a couple of upcoming opportunities for you to get involved with us in making a difference for people of all ages and abilities!

Easterseals NH & VT Annual Celebration

Thursday, November 7

Join us as we gather with our many donors, volunteers, and partners to thank you for your support of our agency's successes over the past year! In addition to breakfast and peer-to-peer networking opportunities, we'll also provide exciting updates on our strategic plan and share information on the many ways you can support Easterseals NH & VT!



Who We Are & What We Do



Look for Vermont in the logo!

Easterseals Vermont provides services throughout Vermont, often partnering with the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to find family-centered solutions and create safety and well-being for children and parents. We support at-risk youth, foster youth, and families formed by adoption or guardianship. We serve the needs of approximately 2,000 individuals each year.

We help Vermont children and families live their best lives. 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 dnelson@eastersealsvt.org. Like what you read in our newsletter and want to support our efforts? Visit <https://eastersealsvt.org/donate-now/>.

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