



The *healing journey*,  
for our youth, starts with us here  
and our community to help  
*build relationships*  
and develop skills to live successful lives.

**“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not!” - Dr. Seuss**



When it came time to write this year’s annual review letter, it gave me great pause. I read last year’s letter, and the years’ before, and I stared at a blank page for what felt like a lifetime because I was not sure how to even begin to describe the moments that have made up the last twelve months. To say that Dover Children’s Home is experiencing change is like saying COVID-19 has been a minor hiccup in our worlds. In writing this letter, I hope to highlight the extraordinary things that have been accomplished here at DCH and bring light to what is in store for our bright future; and I would be remiss to not cover the areas of challenge we have experienced along the way.

Unpredictability, change, hesitation, and fear, it would seem, have been the only constants for the last 19 months, and when I really stop to re-read that sentence, I am struck by how true those constants are in the everyday experiences of our youth and their families. Our program has had to adapt to the world’s current circumstances, while taking on significant change that is necessary for the expansion and growth of services. **This organization is where it is today because we have not shied away from the need to change, or from the unpredictability of the world. We are here now because we chose not to hesitate, even when it felt like we should, and we faced fears and criticism on this journey that made us stronger in our convictions.** How did we do this? Honestly, by learning from the resilience of our youth, being humbled by the outpouring of love and support from our community, and by standing in the mission, ALWAYS!

In the following pages, you will see and read the many stories that make up our year, and I hope that you, just like me, are blown away by the resilience and strength of our youth, the tireless dedication of our staff, and the incredible generosity of every person reading this publication (that means you!). This year, Dover Children’s Home was awarded a 3-year Accreditation from CARF as a residential group home, receiving zero recommendations, an accomplishment that is only awarded to 3% of all CARF Accredited facilities. The report of our accreditation highlighted the program for its innovative programming, strength in leadership,

and the mission-driven focus in all aspects of the organization. This was an accomplishment we could not have achieved if it were not for all our supporters who have donated time, talents and treasures which allows us to focus on our mission! DCH worked together to create a proposal in response to the State of NH’s RFP for residential treatment services. This contract with the state was approved in July, effectively allowing Dover Children’s Home to implement two programs: a Level 2, intermediate level residential treatment program for up to 12 youth ages 10-21, and a Level 1, independent living program at the PILOT House for up to 4 youth ages 18 plus. The contract is also allowing for expansion in our physical spaces, with an addition to house the increased clinical staff, and a renovation of space at the PILOT House for a studio apartment. There is so much more I could say about it, but instead, I’ll let you experience the changes through the words of the staff who are making these changes possible.

As the world has begun to accept some of the ‘new normal’, our program has done the same. The youth went back to school in-person in the spring, three of our residents graduated high school (two even graduated early). Our youth are becoming employed at a high rate, and with great success, and they are engaging in the community in positive ways. DCH was able to host all our major fundraising events in person again this year, however modified, which we so successful that we raised more than 40% over our budget!

As we look forward to 2022, we are reminded of the challenging years behind us, and the hard work and dedication that has gone into making this program everything we want it to be for our youth! Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the amazing staff, with whom I have the pleasure to work with and learn from, the selfless volunteers who give of their time, our donors who help keep the kids fed, clothed, and wrapped in love and support, to our community as a whole who is welcoming and accepting, and most importantly to our youth and their families. **We continue to weather the storm because the promise of rainbows is so bright!**

With warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renée Touhey-Childress".

Renée Touhey-Childress, LICSW  
Executive Director

**MISSION STATEMENT** We provide tools and support for youth to heal from emotional trauma through community-based treatment programs that foster relationships and enable youth to create hope for the future.

# Dover Children's Home welcomes **NEW STAFF**

## **Sarah Gordon, Clinical Director**

Sarah completed her undergraduate degree in 2011 with a double Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology, with a concentration in Social Work. After graduation, Sarah invested almost a decade of working at domestic violence agencies in Maine, focusing on prevention education and victim services for youth experiencing relationship and sexual violence. Prior to coming to Dover Children's Home, Sarah worked within higher education institutions developing coordinated community responses to gender-based violence on and off-campus. Sarah earned her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Southern Maine in 2021 and accepted the Clinical Director position at Dover Children's Home quickly after. She is eager to join the team in implementing agency-wide change by developing stronger clinical services at Dover Children's Home. This proud Mainer loves group workouts, home DIY projects, and a good old friendly competition!



*Sarah Gordon*

## **Savannah Fay, In-House Clinician**

Savannah completed her undergraduate degree in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in human development and family studies. During her senior year, she interned with Dover Children's Home. Following graduation, she worked as a relief staff, awake overnight counselor, case worker, and then supervisor. Savannah took a break from DCH to obtain her Master's degree in social work from the University of New Hampshire. When she graduated in May of 2021, she began a position in family therapy and case management to support youth and families involved with the Division for Children, Youth, and Families and the Division of Juvenile Justice Services. Savannah has returned to Dover Children's Home as of November, and is incredibly excited to take on the role of in-house clinician.



*Savannah Fay*

## **Mary Thurber, Office Manager**

Mary comes to DCH as the new Office Manager and has worked in a variety of settings including manufacturing, a law office, and television broadcasting. She has worn many hats over the years and has experience in bookkeeping, Human Resources, records management, and has also spliced fiber optic cable and terminated cable at professional sports stadiums. As the new Office Manager, she is excited to be a part of the DCH family and looks forward to being more involved in the community. She hopes that her past experiences will bring some positive changes and new ideas to the team. In her spare time, Mary looks forward to camping, snowmobiling, four wheeling, and spending time with family.



*Mary Thurber*

## **Sonjia Tainter, Family Support Worker**

Sonjia Tainter, known by the kids at DCH as "Sunni", worked at Rochester Child Care Center for eight years before coming to Dover Children's Home. She started off as a group leader in the after-school program and, before leaving, was the program coordinator. In addition to this, she worked two years at the Rochester Middle School as a paraprofessional and the in-school suspension teacher. She has always loved working with children and wanted to do something more meaningful, so she started her Master's program in Clinical Mental Health two years ago. Before her internship began, which was also the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, she began working as a relief staff. During her internship, she reached out to DCH in hopes of being placed there. She has only grown since being here, having had roles as an intern, relief worker, supervisor, and just recently accepted the role as DCH's new Family Support Worker. This has been a dream of hers and she is ecstatic to be taking on this role.



*Sonjia Tainter*

# CELEBRATING Summer

This summer was a celebration for the kids in our care, as they were finally able to get out into the community and enjoy! The kids and staff of Dover Children's Home were presented with an amazing opportunity to stay at the Cape Cod House that is run by a non-profit in Massachusetts. They were able to go down and spend five days on the Cape, swimming, shopping, eating delicious local foods, and exploring. The kids very rarely get times where they can feel "normal" and the yearly vacation is one of those times where they can enjoy some R&R. One day the kids and staff went parasailing which was quite the adventure, and another day they went to an inflatable water park. All the kids had a great time and would love to go back next year.

For the second year in a row, DCH traveled to The Forks of Maine to go White Water Rafting and have a camp out at Moxie Outdoor Adventures. The staff and the kiddos hiked Moxie Falls, went swimming, enjoyed a barbecue, went kayaking, and had a fire at night. One of the residents made their very first s'more! The following day, we woke up early and headed out to raft the Kennebec! **The kids had an amazing time, and all conquered whatever fears they may have had while paddling through the rapids.**

We ended the summer the right way with a "back to school" carnival put together by staff that included a bounce house, cotton candy, dough boys, and a dunk tank. The best part of their day? Dunking one of the supervisors and the Executive Director! It was a magical moment to see everyone enjoying themselves, bonding with staff, and having fun. We are already trying to plan out how to make next year even better! A special thank you to Taylor Rental in Rollinsford for their generous donation to make this day special!

The beginning of fall was an exciting time as all the kids in our care finally went back to school in-person full time! They were thrilled to be back with their peers and to have structured time outside of DCH. Another way that kids seek out this structure is to find a job they are interested in. Currently there are four residents at DCH who have jobs. Another resident was just hired, and two more are currently in the process of looking for jobs. One of our goals is for the kids in our care to find jobs in the community where they can build connections that they will be able to maintain after they discharge from care. In addition to jobs, staff try to encourage the residents to find activities outside of the Home, so they have something that is "just theirs" and they do not share with their peers. Two of the residents have extracurricular activities that they participate in — Chorus and Ukulele Club.

Though we are proceeding with safety and caution knowing that this pandemic is not yet over, **we are celebrating all the victories of these kids gaining some semblance of normalcy back into their lives!**

Olivia White, Supervisor



Dunk a Supervisor!



A peaceful afternoon of horseback riding



Playing at the Museum of Science



Up, Up, and Away!



Entranced at the Boston Aquarium



Finding all creatures, big and small

## Pilot House...Independent **LIVING...** helping with **FREEDOM** one day at a time.

K was accepted into Great Bay Community College last spring! He worked hard all summer on the long list of pre-college tasks, and was awarded a Tuition Waiver for Foster Children, the GBCC “Unique” Scholarship, and a full Pell Grant. His classes, fees, textbooks, and laptop were all 100% FREE! Employed at McDonald’s, he’s on track to possibly be able to become a manager. Though still practicing his time management skills, we have seen a ton of growth from him. He’s been living in our independent living suite in the main house to **feel more freedom and independence.**

During the past year, L moved into our PILOT program! They have been doing incredibly well following the program and practicing their independence. After working consistently and saving a ton of money—they already have enough money saved to buy a nice (used) car! They had already been accepted into GBCC when they moved to DCH, and they worked hard all summer on pre-college tasks—they were awarded a Tuition Waiver for Foster Children, the GBCC “Unique” Scholarship, and a full Pell Grant. They’re hoping to stay at the PILOT and enter the HOPE program, extended care from the ages 18-21, when they turn 18 in January.

T has only been with us for a bit over three months, but he has already accomplished so much. He has been working at a landscaping company and it has been going great! Once he turns 18 in October, he will have many opportunities for advancement at work. After working diligently to finish up high school, he earned his diploma this fall. He is currently living in our independent living suite in the main house, and he is moving into our PILOT House apartment in October! Though, he is working on exploring his options, he currently plans to stay at DCH under the HOPE program for the time being.



*Celebrating K graduating from high school AND getting into Great Bay Community College!*

***Despite everything going on in the world, the PILOT House program had a great year! The extension of foster care to age 21 through the HOPE program has been a game changer for us and I had the absolute pleasure of working with three HOPE residents in PILOT over the past year. I have held the Independent Living Coordinator position here at DCH for 5 years, and being able to help 18-21 year old's has always been a dream for us. Our residents have accomplished a lot during this year – one started at cosmetology school, many maintained full-time employment, and two even moved into their own apartments. I also had the opportunity to assist two of our residents through the college application and financial aid application processes. These residents were successfully accepted into programs at Great Bay Community College for Fall 2021 – with their classes, fees, books, and laptops completely covered by grants and scholarships. In the upcoming year, we are ecstatic to expand the PILOT House program to four beds – allowing us to support more residents and to additionally serve all genders simultaneously! I am so grateful to have the opportunity to assist these young adults with reaching their goals. It inspires me to see them thrive, and I am excited to be able to help more residents in the future!***

*Caitlin Steward, PILOT House Coordinator*

This year I am beyond honored and proud to be writing about Dover Children's Home's work as it pertains to 'CARF' (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accreditation status. Since October 2019, the agency has been working diligently and re-adapting and adjusting through the pandemic, ways to conform to every CARF standard to accomplish this goal of accreditation that is required by October 2021. This year, our hard work and concerted efforts came to fruition in June of 2021. In my role at DCH, I was able to help facilitate and guide the agency in the process of going through our first CARF survey, that took place remotely due to COVID-19. This survey took place over several weeks but finalized itself in two formal days where every piece of documentation and work that was produced over those twenty months was surveyed for conformance to more than two thousand standards in leadership, organizational management, financial stability, overall programming, and adolescent group home programming. The outcome of this process yielded DCH a three-year accreditation status (the highest mark) along with receiving no recommendations, or corrective actions to take. This outcome has only been accomplished by roughly three percent of organizations who have become CARF accredited nationally and internationally. The work, commitment, and passion that every single person who works at DCH put forth had shown through and I am so grateful for the youth, staff, and community who supported us in this journey. It was a long process with many obstacles to overcome with the COVID-19 pandemic, and my sincere gratitude goes out to all of those who helped in this endeavor to get our agency to this success.

With the closure of the CARF survey, it was only a few short weeks and DCH jumped right into its next big project, which is the formal beginning of contracting for services with the state of New Hampshire. The Executive Director spent months reviewing an 'RFP' (Request for Proposal) of the state in order to draft and set forth a proposal to identify DCH as a qualified residential treatment program, along with a separated and more structured independent living program. The implementation of this has just begun and will be another big process where "all hands-on deck" will be needed to embrace growing our services, talented team of professionals, and ability to serve more youth in need of care and or independent living support. I am fortunate to have been working alongside this administration throughout this process and am eager to see where this will take Dover Children's Home as its next step of care and supporting youth. It is my hopes that in our next accreditation cycle, we will have several more programs to get accredited and I look forward to being a part of this process.

*Melissa LaRocque, Quality Improvement Specialist*



*After all the effort, planning, and work that went into these changes, we were absolutely honored to have received the Caregiver of the Year award from the Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). This award recognizes our program for having shown exemplary leadership, initiative, and caring to improve the lives of current and/or former DCYF youth in care. With new events and honorable recognition, we are more motivated than ever to continue pursuing excellence within our program and community as a whole, and to truly make a difference in the lives of these children.*



**“Only those who will risk going too far  
can possibly find out how far one can go.”** - T.S. Eliot

## **We're Growing Through The Changes**

We are in awe looking back on all the changes we have experienced over the last 12 months. It almost does not seem possible, the major accomplishments we've achieved; however, looking forward over the next 12 months, we realize we have only made part way on our journey. The ultimate dream? Providing two types of residential treatment: clinical treatment services, and supportive independent living. Expanding clinical services to meet the wide array of youth and family needs. Identifying and supporting community reintegration and permanency for youth. Creating an inclusive, understanding, and home-like environment that utilizes trauma-informed treatment and focuses on building relationships, secure attachments, and encourages individuality. For six years, Dover Children's Home has held this vision, and that dream is finally being realized. With the support of our community, our donors, volunteers, youth, families, and staff, we are expanding the services we provide to create, what we believe, programming that will be instrumental in redefining residential treatment for youth in New Hampshire.

In July 2021, Dover Children's Home was awarded a contract through the NH Department of Health and Human Services to provide residential treatment services. Our proposal sought to separate our programming into two, high-quality levels of programming. Dover Children's Home (the main building) will become a level 2 residential treatment program providing enhanced clinical treatment services and serving youth in a specialty capacity with a focus on gender-identity and youth identifying as LGBTQ+.

**This program will provide in-house therapy with a full-time clinician, meeting individually with youth and connecting individual treatment with milieu treatment; a family support specialist who will support families/caregivers, etc. with engagement in a youths' treatment through support groups, family therapy, and family events at DCH; a permanency worker who will provide family-funding activities and help youth identify natural supports in an effort to push permanency; increased direct-care ratios for supervision, one-on-one support, and increased connection with youth; after-care services to remain a member of a youths' treatment team after discharge, ensuring continuity of care; daily enrichment groups to help with skill-building, relationship-building, boundary setting, and so much more. We will have TBRI (Trust-Based Relational Interventions) practitioners on staff to train, monitor, and sustain an environment focused on trauma-informed treatment. Lastly specialty programming, and intensive training will be implemented for staff to deliver clinical services to youth who are on a journey with gender identity/ expression, and those youth identifying as LGBTQ+.**

As we have always done, DCH will maintain its community-based model, as well as offering programs around independent living skills.

Separately, Dover Children's Home proposed a



second program, and the contract was awarded for a Level 1 facility. For DCH, that means that our PILOT House will become the PILOT House Independent Living Program, serving youth over age 18 who are engaged in independent living activities, and who have shown that a supportive independent living environment is the right setting for placement. We are fortunate that the Independent Living Coordinator, Caitlin Steward, will be taking on the new role of PILOT House Coordinator, and will be overseeing this expansion in services.

**Stay in the loop with all our exciting changes through our social media and newsletter updates!**

## And Improving Each Step of the Way

What does this all mean for growth? Well, I'm sure most of you have seen our large house, and beautiful property, and even in that large space, there are not enough spaces to house the ever-growing support staff we are hiring to meet the needs of our youth. It also means that we can provide services to even more youth and families! Our program, as one, was able to take in up to 12 youth. We are increasing that to 16 youth, 12 in the level 2 program, and 4 youth in the independent living program. To accommodate the growth, we will be embarking on a large renovation and addition project on the property. Our PILOT House building will be expanding with a two-story addition that will house family meeting spaces, as well as office space for our expanding positions. Also in the PILOT House building, the current first-floor meeting space will be renovated into a studio apartment. If you have ever lived through construction, I'm sure you know that we are cautiously optimistic, and questioning our motives all at the same time!

*Renée Touhey-Childress*  
Executive Director



*Whimsical winter hiking!*



*A quiet moment with a gentle soul*



*Marveling at Nubble Lighthouse*

## Enrichment Programming Opportunities

Here at DCH, we offer enrichment programming groups that run Monday-Friday dedicated to helping our youth experience an array of topics including but not limited to family relationships, team building and leadership, healthy minds, healthy bodies, planning for a job, etc. In the past year during enrichment, kids have made natural products with essential oils, learned how to play guitar, used photography as an expressive and therapeutic method, cooked numerous creations in the "test kitchen" program, and learned countless other coping skills and trades!

Along with this past year's programming, we had some community outreach days where people like Elanor and Theodore from Brasen Hill Farm hosted the kids in our care and taught them about the animals. They had an absolute blast hanging out on the farm and even got to cut down their own mini tree during the holidays for our front porch! In the spring, they learned how to build rabbit hutches at the farm. They loved working with their hands in the fresh air, knowing they were helping create shelter for the animals. Thank you so much to our friends at Brasen Hill Farm for this opportunity. We look forward to continuing this relationship this year and in years to come!



*Feeling strong building rabbit hutches*



*Picking out and cutting their very own tree from the farm!*

*Every day these youth wake up and face the world, against more odds than we can count, with the pressures of young adulthood, in an atypical living environment. It is our responsibility to wake up every morning with the drive to always change, and always innovate, to enable youth to create hope for their future!*

## Looking for Ways to **HELP?**

- **Amazon Wish List** – Donate needed items for the Home through our website
- **Amazon Smile** – Donate to Dover Children's Home with any Amazon purchases! Go to smile.amazon.com and select DCH as the charity
- **Barnes & Noble Wish List** – Help to put books in the hands of the kids at DCH!
- **Volunteering** – Help out at the Home in a variety of ways
- **Join us** – as a career speaker or activity guide for our enrichment program
- Participate in a service project for the Home
- Become a monthly meal donor
- Donate holiday gifts to a child at DCH
- Sponsor one of our fundraising events



*Christmas at Dover Children's Home*

Go to our website to access the wish lists or fill out a volunteer form! <https://doverchildrenshome.org/how-to-help/>



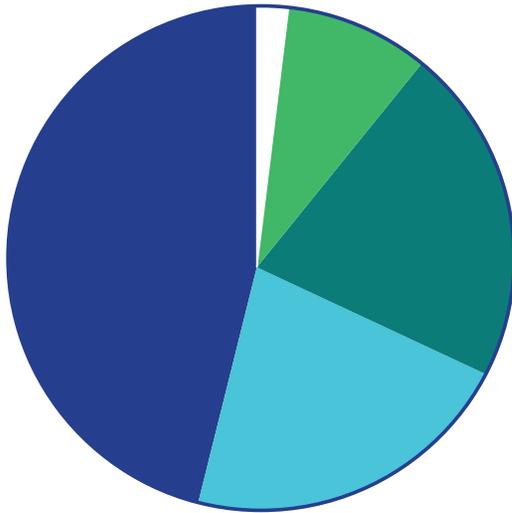
*Chris Valley, one of our loyal meal donors, always brings yummy Domino's donations.*

***“Several members of St. John's United Methodist Church in Dover helped prepare dishes for the special Thanksgiving dinner at Dover Children's Home. We enjoyed sharing our favorite home recipes of maple syrup butternut squash, stuffing, and honey glazed carrots. COVID-19 has limited how we can support the children, so preparing some of this special meal was a welcomed opportunity. We have a long tradition helping them at Christmas, Father's Day, and summertime activities. Some of the children and staff have even partnered with us in New Orleans, helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina recover. We look forward to helping out with their holiday meal again this year!”***

*Patrick Murphy, St. John's UMC*

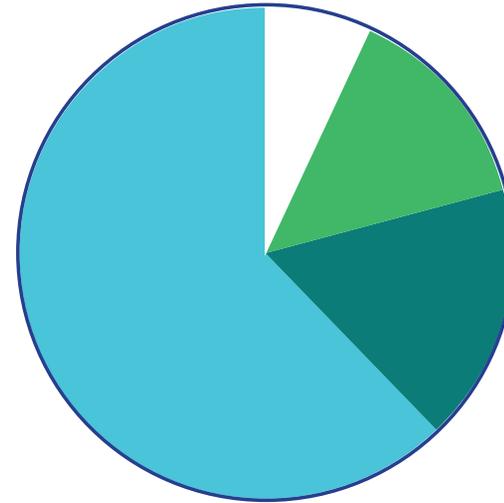
# Financial Year-in-Review

## Operating Revenue — \$1,419,565



- 2% Federal Funding \$32,550
- 9% Fundraising \$127,084
- 21% Individual and Corporate Donors \$301,077
- 22% Grants, Planned Giving \$307,434
- 46% State/Medicaid Funding \$651,420

## Operating Expenses — \$1,430,552



- 7% Fundraising & Marketing \$100,097
- 14% Administrative Wages & Benefits \$206,325
- 17% Additional Program and Treatment Services \$235,229
- 62% Direct Care & Support Salary, Wages, Benefits \$888,901

During the 2021-2022 year, we look forward to utilizing social media in a more intentional way to share about our programming and the population we serve. One of our goals is to help provide education to the community about emotional trauma that the kids in our care have faced. What is trauma? How does it impact both children and adults? How is trauma passed down through generations? How can we help a child heal from the scars that emotional trauma leaves? In the educational series we will be working on this year, we hope folks can gain a better understanding of the populations we serve and the complex issues that arise from the challenges these children have experienced.

**Stay tuned for more updates on our Instagram and Facebook!**



Dover\_childrens\_home



Dover Children's Home

# Reconnecting Through **Community** Fundraising Events



*The festive Dover Library group at the Bowl-a-Thon*

## 13th Annual Bowl-A-Thon

Folks slid into their lanes donning masks AND costumes for the competition. We raised **\$26,938** thanks to all the participating teams! We are proud to report that the “Odd Fellows” team raised the most pledges as a single team, bringing in **\$1,240!** A HUGE thank you to all the bowlers, pledgers, supporters, and our underwriter, Summit Land Development, for making this event possible. We can’t wait to have everyone join us again next year!

## 13th Annual Golf Tournament

This year, we sold out a month early for one of our favorite annual events at The Links at Outlook! We had 140 enthusiastic golfers join us for this special day – a record for us! After some incredible raffle sales, silent auction items, and giveaways, the day was a huge success and brought in a total of **\$42,697!** Thank you to Kennebunk Savings Bank, our event underwriter, and all our incredible sponsors for helping to make this event happen! We could not have done it without you!



*All smiles on a beautiful fall day for golf*



*Our awesome media sponsors, Townsquare Media and WOKQ The Shark*



*“Spare Me The Details” family team ready to ROLL!*



*The Marcam Associates team supporting DCH in just one of many ways!*

## Reconnecting Through **Community** Fundraising Events

### 13th Annual Tasting Tour

As part of our COVID protocol, and to try something entirely new, we altered this event to a classy sit-down dining and drinking experience at Blue Latitudes that attendees loved! A special thank you to our event underwriters, Formax, Relyco, and Leone, McDonnell, and Roberts! After ticket sales for the event, as well as raffle prizes, we raised **\$10,892!** Thank you to everyone involved, especially our friends at Blue Latitudes, in making this event such a success.



*Delicious wine and appetizers at the DCH Tasting Tour!*

### Quarterly Subscription Boxes

As part of our fundraising plan for 2021, we implemented quarterly themed subscription “bags” that donors could purchase throughout the year as a little pick-me-up or gift for a loved one. These included a family fun night, date night, at-home wine tasting, and at-home golf kit. Thanks to local businesses like Tendercrop Farm, Lindt Chocolate, Kendall Pond Pizza, and Flag Hill Winery and Distillery, we were able to make these personalized, local, and special for our community members during a difficult year.

All in all, we raised **\$7,871!** A heartfelt thank you to **Shaheen & Gordon** for sponsoring this special part of our year and fundraising experience!



### SAVE THE DATES:

**Annual Bowl-A-Thon | Sunday, March 20, 2022**

**Annual Tasting Tour | Thursday, May 12, 2022**

**NH Gives | June 2022**

**Moose Lodge Charity Car Show | TBA 2022**

**Annual Golf Tournament | Tuesday, September 20, 2021**

### Moose Lodge Charity Car Show

We were lucky enough to have our generous friends from The Moose Lodge throw a charity car show to benefit Dover Children's Home this fall! On September 18, local musicians were playing, engines were revving, and delicious food was cooking during this special event. After general donations and sales of raffle and 50/50 tickets, we raised **\$7,325!** We were absolutely thrilled to have this surprise event pop up for us to end the year on a perfect note and we hope to make next year's event even better! A HUGE thank you to the Dover Moose Lodge for making this happen!



*From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to our Moose Lodge friends!*

## Thank you to our 2021 Sponsors

Shaheen & Gordon - \$4,000  
Kennebunk Savings Bank - \$3,000  
Summit Land Development - \$2,500  
Leone, McDonnell, and Roberts - \$2,500  
Marcam Associates - \$2,500  
Formax - \$2,500  
CJ Architects - \$1,500  
Back Bay Networks - \$1,500  
Cara Irish Pub - \$1,500  
Dover Chevrolet and Dover Honda - \$1,500  
Bangor Savings Bank - \$1,200  
Relyco - \$1,000  
People's United Advisors - \$500

**Without You, Our Fundraising Events Would Not Be Possible!**

Part of our mission at First Seacoast Bank is to make a positive and lasting impact. Since 1890, we have served the people, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that make the Seacoast strong and today, we remain committed to these core values. We believe that a community is at its best when working together and now more than ever we are here to help. First Seacoast Bank was awarded a grant through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston (FHLB) Jobs for New England COVID Recovery Program which offered us the ability to donate the grant to local nonprofit organizations to help provide relief from the economic impact of the pandemic, sustain operations, retain jobs, and supplement lost revenue due to COVID-19. Supporting our customers and communities remains our top priority and we hope this donation will help advance your mission. Thank you for all you do to make a difference in our communities.



Thank you to our friends at First Seacoast Bank

Tiffany Melanson, First Seacoast Bank

## What **Drives** Us – What **Inspires** Us

*This year, Altrusa of the Seacoast was fortunate to receive a \$2,000 literacy grant for DCH from The Altrusa International Foundation. It allowed us to purchase a varied selection of reading materials and Kindles for the residents. The goal was to clean out the outdated reading materials and fill the existing shelves with a wide selection that would meet the children's individual reading needs and interests. It was a successful project that was accomplished despite the many restrictions COVID required us to observe.*

*We value the wonderful experience and bond that we have developed with DCH. As this project is coming to an end, our hope is to stay connected and continue to be involved with DCH in the future.*

Carole Intoccia, Altrusa of the Seacoast



The Altrusa of the Seacoast Group providing DCH with books AND hand-made blankets!

**Kennebunk Savings was pleased to support Dover Children's Home (DCH) with a "Jobs for New England Recovery Grant" offered by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston (FHLB) in an effort to recognize the incredible work DCH has done during the COVID-19 pandemic in providing care and services for youth and families in our community.**

**On behalf of all of us at Dover Children's Home, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support and dedication to our important mission.**



## What **DRIVES** Us - What **INSPIRES** Us



***“Over the last 12 years, Liberty Mutual’s unwavering support has had an incredible impact on the Dover Children’s Home (DCH). With over \$1M in grants given since 2009, as well as continued employee giving, annual holiday giving and ongoing volunteer support, DCH has been able to meet the unprecedented needs of the community, especially amid the pandemic. Our funding supports nonprofit partners like Dover Children’s Home who are working to support and create hope for youth in our community as they work to heal from emotional trauma. Through our partnership, we are honored to support their holistic model of care for youth and families who are struggling to thrive amid challenging situations.”***

*Liberty Mutual*

In 2016, my partner Christine Telles and I took a once in a lifetime opportunity and purchased the company where we worked for over 12 years. A lot of soul searching went into this as we were always asking, “Why are we doing this?”. Our number one reason was always that we wanted to make a difference in peoples lives. The team we had assembled over the past twelve years was incredible, but they deserved better. Our community deserved more from us. We changed all of that on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.

Eight months later, we decided we needed to increase our visibility in the tri-city communities. We got involved with food banks, Christmas drives, Toys for Tots and other various charities. To this day we are still involved in these, but Christine and I always felt we were missing something.

In the summer of 2019, a good friend of mine and former Dover Children’s Home board member, Matthew Silvia talked to me about Dover Children’s Home. We were sitting in my office, and he was looking at pictures of past events we took part in. He told me all about this awesome home for children in Dover. He explained what they do and how perhaps we could help. I sat back in my chair and just stared at him. He asked, “What’s wrong?” My exact reply was, “Do you have a few minutes?” Matt being the person he is, said “Of course”. I told him my story. I love telling it so hopefully others can take something from it. I don’t use it for pity or an excuse. It’s what makes me who I am today, and I am proud of it.

At the age of 11, the California Youth Authority (CYA) physically removed me from my birth mother’s custody. She was a pretty bad human being – a physically and mentally violent human being. That was the best of day of my life up to that point. I was put into the custody of

the CYA and placed in a home very similar to Dover Children’s Home. They protected me, educated me, mentored me, and got me to the point where I was able to graduate high school. At that point, I joined the United States Marine Corps which help mold me into the human I am today.

After telling Matt about my past, a meet and greet with Lauren and Renee from DCH was arranged. That was such a great day because they asked perfectly, “Why us, why Dover Children’s Home?” After explaining my childhood and how much a place like this meant to me, I feel I left that day with them knowing we are the real deal. Christine and I decided we were going to make Dover Children’s Home our primary charity. Our staff absolutely fell in love with this idea. We spoke with Lauren, and she helped us decide what would be best to help the children. With that, we went all in and made it happen. Marcam Associates has since sponsored, and participated in, fundraising events, provided holiday gifts for the children at the Home, and offered mentorship for the youth. But it doesn’t end there...

After the holiday, I received one of the coolest phone calls ever from Renee. She asked if I had any interest in sitting on their board of directors. Think about this for a second: I went from living in one of these facilities as a child, to now having the extraordinary opportunity to come full circle and give back; to help guide, mentor and make a difference. I don’t know if I answered in my normal voice or yelled at the top of my lungs, “YES!”

Thanks for the opportunity to help, give back, and be part of such an amazing organization. Renee and Lauren, you and your staff are amazing human beings! Semper Fi!

*Timothy Moore  
Co-Owner of Marcam Associates  
and Board Member*

## A Note from Our Board Chair



On the Board's behalf, I make three simple points.

One, there are young people in our greater community who have experienced serious emotional trauma and need tools and support to heal and become healthy members of society. DCH provides those tools and support through its services to these young people.

Two, the services DCH provides to these young people are of the highest quality. The staff are highly competent, dedicated, and hard-working in providing those services. This was acknowledged, and indeed underlined, by this past year's national CARF accreditation, described elsewhere in this review, and by the recently received Caregiver of the Year award from the NH Department of Children, Youth, and Families. The CARF accreditation rated DCH in the top 3% of all service agencies reviewed across the country! A very big congratulations to all staff, for they all contributed to that excellence.

Three, the state funding, our main source, is not sufficient to provide all those excellent services. Thus, we raise funds, obtain grants, and accept the generous donations of local corporations and many, many individual community members. If you are among the community members reading this, we appreciate every dollar and item donated and every event you've participated in. And we – not just the Board, but the staff and the young residents also – will appreciate your continuation of that support.

Additionally, I personally – and I hope I speak for the staff as well on this point – appreciate the considerable efforts of the Board members, Trustees, and other committee volunteers during this past year. Their work, all contributions of their own time, has helped significantly in making DCH an outstanding organization. They are knowledgeable, professional, dedicated, and passionate about their roles in helping our young people. Among the several initiatives they've crafted this past year have been improving staff compensation and benefits to more competitive levels, guiding significant upgrades and renovations to the buildings, making the Home's governance and finance systems more effective, helping improve staff performance systems, raising more funds than in previous years, and responsibly shepherding the investments in the Home's endowment trust funds.

Thanks to the entire community involved with DCH on a good year and I encourage us all to continue such efforts and successes.

Best to all for the coming year.  
**Don Cichon**, Board Chair

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**DOVER  
CHILDREN'S  
HOME**

*"It takes a community to raise a child."*

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Dover, NH 03820  
**(603) 742-4289**

**THE GREATNESS OF A  
COMMUNITY IS MOST  
ACCURATELY MEASURED  
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