

**“You cannot lead a child to a place
of healing if you do not know
the way yourself.”**

- Dr. Karyn Purvis



**DOVER
CHILDREN'S
HOME**

“It takes a community to raise a child.”

YEAR IN REVIEW | 2024



Friends of Dover Children's Home,

As we look back on the past year, I am filled with deep gratitude for our community's resilience and support. This year has been a time of rebuilding and transformation for Dover Children's Home as we navigated the challenges of a changing workforce and emerged stronger than ever. We have been working diligently to ensure that our trauma-informed care, services, and physical environment remain aligned with our mission to provide the highest quality support for our youth.

One significant milestone in our journey was the completion of Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) practitioner training by our Director of Treatment Services, Sarah Gordon. Sarah's dedication to bringing TBRI back to Dover Children's Home has allowed us to integrate these vital concepts into every aspect of our work. With her leadership, we have trained all our staff in TBRI and begun implementing physical space changes and overall connection with youth, that align with its principles. These adjustments are designed to create safe and nurturing environments where our youth can heal and grow.

Our organizational structure has also evolved to better support our mission. We have restructured to create distinct roles for program and organizational oversight, ensuring that we can meet the expanding needs of youth across New Hampshire. This transformation allows us to focus on enhancing and expanding our services while maintaining the high standards of care that our community expects and deserves.

We are incredibly fortunate to have received significant financial support that has made our progress possible. This year, we were honored to be the recipient of a large estate from the Calderwood family. Their generous contribution is helping us to meet the needs of the youth we serve and to maintain and improve the physical Home. Alongside this, we

continue to benefit from the unwavering generosity of our donors, businesses, community members, and the proceeds from our amazing fundraising events. These contributions ensure that Dover Children's Home remains a place where children can find stability, care, and hope.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our staff for their dedication to our culture work and their

steadfast commitment to the youth in our care. Your hard work and passion are the foundation of our organization's success, and your commitment to our youth and their treatment is evident in everything you do. The relationships our youth have cultivated through our mentorship program are particularly impactful, providing our youth with meaningful connections and a sense of belonging within the community.

Our youth have achieved remarkable successes this year. We celebrated two high school graduations, witnessed one young person move into their own apartment, and cheered as another completed 8th grade. One of our youth has enlisted in the Air Force, embarking on a new journey of service, while another made history by being the first to graduate from New Hampshire's HOPE program. These accomplishments reflect the resilience and determination of our youth, and we could not be more proud of them.

To our board members, community partners, donors, youth, their families, and volunteers: thank you. Your belief in our mission and your continuous support enables us to provide the care and opportunities that change lives. Together, we are not only rebuilding Dover Children's Home but transforming it into a place where hope is restored, and futures are reimagined.

As we look ahead, we are committed to expanding our services to meet the growing needs in New Hampshire. We know that the challenges we face are significant, but with your continued support, we will rise to meet them. Together, we are creating a brighter future for our youth and our community.

With deep appreciation,

Renée Touhey-Childress, LIC
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.

School's Out for Summer

by Daley Buckwell, Educational Coordinator at Dover Children's Home



School vacations brought fun, connection, and service at DCH. Over winter breaks, the youth skied and snowboarded their way down Gunstock Mountain, picked out their dream cars at the New England International Car Show, and toured Fenway Park while visiting Boston. During the 2024 summer, youth and staff explored New England, spending ample time in nature. Youth explored New Hampshire and Maine's state parks, including White Lake State Park, Odiorne Point,

Kingston State Park and Vaughn Woods State Park. They fished, swam, boated, hiked, and soaked up the sun in various ways all summer long. The fun continued as they went on the Scenic Cog Railway locomotive to the top of Mount Washington and took the Thomas Leighton Boat out to the Isles of Shoals. Youth also visited Funtown Splashtown, Canobie Lake Park, Water Country, and Chuckster's Family Fun Park.

The youth went on two vacations during the summer, vacationing in Acadia National Park and Cape Cod, Massachusetts. While there, they went to Water Whizz Park, went parasailing along the coast, and ate plenty of delicious ice cream.

Additionally, the youth volunteered their time and talents at the NH Food Bank to help prepare meals for NH agencies that the Food Bank serves and enjoyed opportunities to give back to the community that supports them.

As the summer slowed down, Dover Children's Home residents built stronger connections with Dover High School, creating support plans as they prepared for returning to school. With the help from community donations, the youth were set up in style and well prepared to hit the books! Languages, history, and algebra are areas where our youth shine academically. This year, the youth have focused on career education, such as personal finance, career technical programs, and career exploration writing classes. Between school, sports, homework, and participating in school spirit events, the youth have been busy!



Meet the STAFF

Executive Director - Renée Touhey-Childress
Director of Treatment Services - Sarah Gordon
Director of Programs - Tara Paladino
Director of Development - Lauren Petraitis
Director of Business & Finance - Mary Thurber
Executive Assistant - Joanne Riley
Facilities Manager - Gary Berchulski
Program Manager - Ali Szczechowicz
Program Assistant - Lily Harris
Youth Services Manager - Jaimie Belanger

Clinician - Savannah Fay
Family Support Worker - Daniel Wydola
House Coordinator - Rob Macneil
Transition Coordinator - Tiffany Call
Educational Coordinator - Daley Buckwell
PILOT House Coordinator - Max Harris
Residential Coordinator - Danielle White
Youth Support Specialists - MJ Hay, Taylor Ireland, Olivia Roach, Kate Sislane
Awake Overnight Counselors - Abigail Buttner, Amelia Divine, Gina Dube

RENEW Programming

by Savannah Fay, Clinician at Dover Children's Home

Since 2021, Dover Children's Home has provided **RENEW** services (building Resiliency, Empowerment and Natural Supports for Education and Work) with the intention of increasing confidence, building connections, and empowering choice to all youth served. Over the last year, **RENEW** has been embedded into the treatment provided at Dover Children's Home, ensuring youth voice and choice. With two trained coaches, and five trained facilitators within the program, each youth that has been offered the service within the level two program has engaged and demonstrated growth across all domains of treatment. As **RENEW** has grown within Dover Children's Home, the implementation team focused on developing a community-based network of facilitators to support in increasing the youth's connection to the area. As **RENEW** grows within Dover Children's Home, it aims to continue increasing connections to the community and opening the doors for youth voices to be heard and celebrated.



RENEW visual from a former youth

Joyous Movement

by Jaimie Belanger, Youth Services Manager at Dover Children's Home

With the support of our donors and community connections, Dover Children's Home residents were able to explore wellness resources that honored their individuality. Sleep and hygiene routines were enthusiastically supported through our Amazon Wish List, which reflected specific requests from residents to address this need. Residents explored "joyous movement", physical activity that focuses on individual enjoyment, to ice skate at Strawberry Banke, skateboard at the Dover Skatepark, swim at the YMCA, and try yoga at Bending Bodhi. Youth participated in programming aimed to fuel their bodies and try new foods. Additionally, the treatment focus was identifying individual barriers to consistently and sustainably source foods. In addition to this, residents were supported in programming that incorporated budgeting, grocery shopping, giving back to a local food pantry, and learning to cook foods they enjoy.

Dover Children's Home focused on relationships with medical providers and practices that provide trauma-informed, diverse, and inclusive care. An area to highlight was the expansion of services and connections to include gender-affirming care at Loring Health Center and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health Center. Youth were supported in progressing skills to demonstrate autonomy and patient advocacy in their medical health. Two of our youth participated in First Aid CPR training on site at DCH in February of 2024. At Dover Children's Home, we are proud to provide empowerment and autonomy to our youth around their own health and wellness.

Honoring Youth Body and Choice

by Savannah Fay, Clinician at Dover Children's Home

Upon entering DCH care, youth have shared that they often are unaware of what medications they are prescribed, why they are prescribed such medications, and often identify not having choice around taking the medications daily. Each youth that has entered the program over the last year have been met with support and collaboration around discovering what works best for their body and mind, aiming to better understand themselves and their needs. Dover Children's Home staff have emphasized youth voice and choice, while openly discussing the physical and mental health needs of each youth. In collaboration with their guardians, each youth works with the Dover Children's Home medication team (Clinician, Youth Services Manager, and Director of Treatment Services) to determine effectiveness of their current medications, to receive education around their medications, and explore other resources to enhance their skills in replacement of the medications. With this support, there had been a reduction or elimination of their medication and increased advocacy skills and ownership of their treatment. This shift has allowed youth opportunities to honor their bodies, build coping skills, utilize alternative therapeutic services, and become engaged in their treatment and growth.



Thank you to our donors for providing wellness equipment and resources for the youth in our care!

Transition Planning and Independent Living

by Tiffany Call, Transition Coordinator at Dover Children's Home



Officer Berdecia and Officer Jalbert

In August, we held a series of Community Service Career Days. Dover Children's Home hosted members from Dover Fire & EMS, Dover Police Department's School Resource Officers Berdecia and Jalbert, Portsmouth Police Department K9s Frankie, and Crash, along with their handlers, Officers Maloney and Werner, members of the Air National Guard, Army, Navy, and Coast Guard, and Portsmouth Police Department's Comfort Dog Mason and his handler, Detective Jones. The events were a success and led to one resident at Dover

Children's Home pursuing his dream of joining the

Air Force and another pursuing his career choice to be a firefighter. The relationship

with the community was strengthened, and youth had the opportunity to learn about community service careers in a fun and relaxed environment. Dover Children's Home was grateful for the opportunity to host such an incredible group of community members.

Over the past several months, five out of six residents eligible to drive either obtained their license, took Driver's Ed, or learned to drive with Dover Children's Home staff outside of formal classes. Dover Children's Home was excited to be a part of this huge step in fostering transportation independence and adding safe drivers to the roads.

On the employment front, residents worked with local businesses, including Landtech Landscaping and Middleton Building Supply. These businesses supported our youth and helped open the door to long-term employment opportunities and expanding relationships within the community.

Independent Living and Transitions

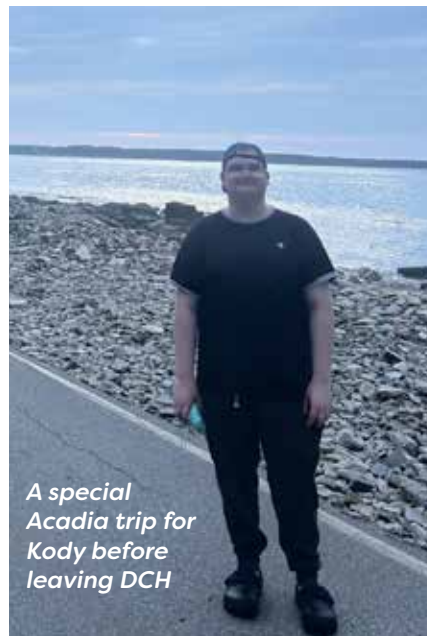
by Max Harris, PILOT House Coordinator at Dover Children's Home

2024 has been an incredibly productive year for our PILOT House residents! Our PILOT House team strives to strike a balance between support and independence, ensuring that we provide the highest level of care. Our young adults have reached impressive milestones, including graduating high school, navigating the fast-paced college application process, honing their driving skills, and maintaining their jobs. A central focus for many has been transportation—whether it's obtaining their driver's license or learning to navigate the local bus system. These efforts are essential as they work toward greater independence.

This year, we had the privilege of supporting Kody, one of our long-term residents, as he transitioned out of the PILOT House Program on his 21st birthday. It has been inspiring to witness Kody's journey toward independence over the years. During his time at Dover Children's Home, he achieved remarkable milestones like managing his own living space, maintaining steady employment, obtaining his driver's license, pursuing his passion for creating music, and earning multiple medals at the Special Olympics. Most importantly, Kody built strong connections with both staff and his peers, leaving a lasting impact on our community.



One of our youth in his element with Dover Fire



A special Acadia trip for Kody before leaving DCH

Aftercare Programming

by Sarah Gordon, Director of Treatment Services at Dover Children's Home

To create lasting support for youth, Dover Children's Home has increased efforts related to after-care services for youth transitioning out of the program. In this work, Dover Children's Home has offered aftercare support for every youth transitioning into the community and/or transitioning to their next program. As part of after-care services, Dover Children's Home staff have supported youth in following through on goals, offering one-on-one support, providing resources and documentation needed for their continued growth, and maintaining support and connection for them as they navigate their lives post-DCH. Within the after-care programming, Dover Children's Home staff have facilitated resource night, offering all youth leaving DCH care to re-connect and continue to learn about resources in the community. This opportunity has been supported by Waypoint, offering space, tangible resources, and providing services to continue to empower the individuals involved with DCH.



Kody, his mom Natalie, and Judge Carrol on his last day in the HOPE Program

Building Connection Within our Program

Building Together: Strengthening our Culture for Lasting Impact

At Dover Children's Home, we understand that a strong and supportive work culture is essential for meeting the needs of the youth we serve. Over the past year, we have been working intentionally to strengthen our organizational culture, ensuring that our values and mission are at the forefront of everything we do. This effort has been guided by Kellie Wardman from the DBD Group, who brought her expertise to help us align our practices with our core mission and values.

Together, we have focused on building a culture where every team member is committed to our mission, values, and the importance of trauma-informed care. Through multiple sessions with the Director's team and five sessions involving the entire staff, we have explored how to foster a workplace environment that attracts and retains dedicated professionals who share our commitment to providing the best care possible for our youth.

Our culture work goes beyond mere words; it is about embedding our values into daily practices and interactions. By investing in a culture that prioritizes mission alignment and a supportive work environment, we ensure that our staff are empowered to bring their best selves to the crucial work they do. A strong organizational culture enables us to meet the diverse needs of the youth in our care, providing the stability, healing, and opportunities they need to thrive.

We are grateful for Kellie's guidance throughout this process and for the dedication of our staff as they have embraced this important work. By continuing to focus on our culture, we are not only improving our organizational health but also enhancing our capacity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the young people we serve.



Trust-Based Relational Intervention Training

by Sarah Gordon, Director of Treatment Services at Dover Children's Home

In September, the entire Dover Children's Home staff attended a three-day caregiver training in the Trust-based Relational Intervention model, an evidence-based program offered by the Karen Purvis Institute of Child Development through Texas Christian University. The training was facilitated by Dover Children's Home Director of Treatment Services and TBRI Practitioner, Sarah Gordon, and focused on practicing strategies within the three pillars of the model: connection, empowerment, and correction. The staff learned new skills, practiced techniques, and had a lot of fun as they were reminded of the importance of connection and play, while supporting youth from hard places.



TBRI Training had a profound impact on our team!

Connecting Outside of our Program

Gaelin Elmore – Choose Belonging

Last fall, we were privileged and honored to have Gaelin Elmore as a guest speaker in Concord amongst residential staff and leaders, DCYF staff, CASA volunteers, foster parents, and others working in the field of child welfare. Gaelin shared his own lived experiences growing up in foster care with ongoing abuse and neglect, and the safety and connection that saved him during this time. In a moment of life-changing news, Gaelin was welcomed into the home of his high school football coach, and with their support and stability he was able to thrive with both sports and academics. He was able to rise to his potential rather than fall to his circumstances and went on to play in the NFL. By choice, he retired early in his NFL career to focus on his own healing and supporting folks who work with youth experiencing trauma.



Gaelin sharing his wisdom

Following his presentation, Gaelin came to DCH for dinner and football with the youth, and was able to spend some time with our staff as well.

We feel so privileged to have been able to meet Gaelin and hear his story – and we are grateful for an even deeper understanding of the needs of our youth at DCH.



The DCH kids truly connected to Gaelin



Association of Children’s Residential and Community Services Conference, Pheonix, Arizona

This year, the Director of Programs, Tara Paladino and the Director of Treatment Services, Sarah Gordon were joined by the Executive Director, Renée Touhey-Childress in attending and presenting at the National Association of Children’s Residential and Community Services Conference in Pheonix, Arizona. The presentation acknowledged the quality of life for staff as a critical component of delivering high-quality, trauma-informed care to the young people served. The presentation highlighted the importance of staff retention efforts to include higher quality and frequency of supervision, accessible and visible leadership, opportunities for professional development, and resetting the culture within residential care.



Tara, Sarah, and Renée sharing their knowledge beyond our community.

NASW (November 2023)

by Sarah Gordon, Director of Treatment Services at Dover Children’s Home

DCH’s Executive Director, Renée Touhey Childress and Director of Treatment Services, Sarah Gordon facilitated a workshop at Maine’s National Association of Social Workers conference. The workshop consisted of discussing the ever-growing challenges in the social work field/workplace, and how workplace culture can be shifted to support a more robust, supportive, and caring environment for all employees. Sarah and Renée looked at workplace culture from every angle, including communication to employees, livable



Sarah leading the workshop with passion and enthusiasm.

wages, benefits, clinical supervision, in-the-moment feedback, leveraging individual employees’ skills to benefit the organization and the employee, physical environments in the workplace, and self-care. The training was well-received and encouraged the cultural shift needed within social service agencies.

Volunteering & Mentorship

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

by Sarah Gordon, Director of Treatment Services at Dover Children's Home

Dover Children's Home created a skilled volunteer program in 2022. As the program has grown and developed, 38 volunteers have joined the Dover Children's Home team in an effort to drive the mission forward. In the past year, our Level 1 volunteers have donated over 250 meals, supported yardwork and seasonal clean ups of the facility, and participated in fundraising events, raising a significant amount of funds to keep the program thriving. Our Level 2 volunteers have provided weekly support for Dover Children's Home's programming, including activities to help youth learn cooking skills in our Winner Dinner Wednesdays and Fun Dinner Friday events,



Making flower arrangements and affirmations for the kids!

providing furry friends to allow for dog walking activities, and adding hand-written affirmation cards to home-made bouquet of flowers to cheer up youth every Monday. Additionally, Dover Children's Home has trained 11 level 3 volunteers to act as mentors and build supportive one-on-one connections for the youth. By donating their time, talents, and treasures, our volunteers have been a crucial part of ensuring the best quality of care is provided to our youth.



"Volunteering with Dover Children's Home and serving as a mentor to the youth has been a truly rewarding experience! It's inspiring to see the resilience and growth of the kids—and being able to support them through guidance and encouragement has been a meaningful way to give back. The opportunity to help shape young lives and make a positive impact is something I'm truly passionate about & my hope is that other young professionals in the community take part in this amazing organization!"

DCH Level 2 Volunteer of the Year – Courtney Stillings

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

by Danny Wydola, Family Support Worker at Dover Children's Home

Dover Children's Home's mentorship program can be an outstanding way to contribute not just to our community, but also to the life of a youth. Dover Children's Home's 2023- 2024 mentor of the year, Bill Foley, has been a mentor at DCH for over a year. In that time, Bill supported the youth in building holiday traditions, cheered his mentee on in school activities, and provided a lasting connection for our youth in care. In the words of our mentor of the year, "I'm happy to be here for the kids at the drop of a hat!" If you have the time to invest, why not invest it in the future for our youth and share yourself as many of our great mentors have done.



"I truly feel that my experience as a mentor at DCH has been one of the most satisfying and personally rewarding volunteer experiences that I've ever had. And, the fact that the entire staff is dedicated to providing a safe and caring environment for the kids, makes it a real team effort."

DCH Mentor of the Year - Bill Foley

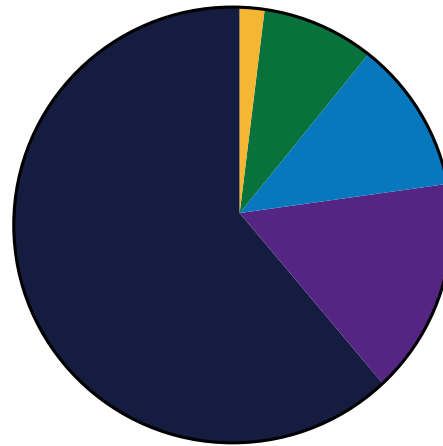


Our Serve with Liberty group helping with spring beautification!

Financial Year-in-Review

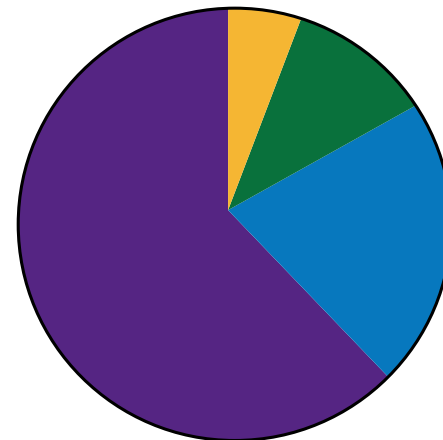
Operating Revenue – \$2,210,396

- 2% Endowment Disbursement \$55,051
- 9% Grants & Estates \$197,030
- 12% Fundraising \$256,318
- 16% Individual & Corporate Donations \$349,580
- 61% State/Medicaid Funding for Services \$1,352,417



Operating Expenses – \$2,261,125

- 6% Fundraising & Marketing \$136,998
- 11% Administrative Wages & Benefits \$255,145
- 21% Youth Services & Programmatic Expenses \$468,010
- 62% Direct Care & Support Wages & Benefits \$1,400,972



Follow us on social media to see what we're up to!



Dover_childrens_home



Dover Children's Home

Looking for ways to Help?

DONATE

Amazon Wish List – Donate needed items for the Home

- Specific items such as towel and sheet sets, hygiene supplies, alarm clocks, etc. that are put together as “intake packages” for any new youth that come into our care. These items are added with intention so that we can create a personalized, thoughtful space for them that makes them feel welcome.
- Basic needs for the Home itself such as paper products, snacks, cleaning supplies, etc. It’s amazing how quickly you go through all these items in a house full of teens!
- Therapeutic items such as fidgets, mindfulness journals, anxiety rings, and essential oil roll-ons.

Holiday Giving – Make the season special for the youth we serve!

- Sponsor a holiday wish list for one of our youth
- Purchase stocking stuffers
- Sponsor a “house gift” for all the kids to enjoy
- Sponsor a special holiday outing experience!

Reach out to Lauren with any questions or interest – lpetraitis@doverchildrenshome.org

VOLUNTEER

Level One – Help out “behind the scenes” in various ways

- Become a monthly meal donor
- Help out at one of our fundraising events
- Prepare holiday gifts and goodies for our youth
- Assist with any outdoor projects – landscaping, fall/spring cleanup, shoveling, etc.

Level Two – Participate in one or more of our weekly volunteer programs such as arranging bouquets to brighten spaces for our youth, walk your dog, cook/bake, or garden with the DCH kids!

Level Three – Become a mentor to one of our youth

Fill out a volunteer form to get connected:

<https://doverchildrenshome.org/how-to-help/>

Making a Difference Through Fundraising Events

by Lauren Petraitis, Director of Development at Dover Children's Home

16th Annual Bowl-A-Thon

The 16th Annual Bowl-a-thon brought together a vibrant community of participants and supporters, all united for a great cause! From strikes to spares, the atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm and excitement. Congratulations to all the winning teams for most money raised, best costume, and highest score during each session. Special thanks to Summit Land Development who underwrites this event each year, and Bart and his family at Bowl-o-Rama for hosting us for the second year now. Overall, our bowlers raised **\$25,425** in pledges! The American Legion Post 47 team raised over \$10,000 alone, and we were absolutely blown away by them! Thank you to everyone who came out for another great day of bowling.



Altrusa of the Seacoast Ladies always bringing their a-game



Bowling with My Gnomies!



The Blingin' Bowlers from Jewelry Creations!



Together, we have an impact!



Thank you to our rockstar pledgers, American Legion Post 47!

Apple Harvest Day

Apple Harvest Day is always an unforgettable city-wide event in Dover! Each year at this event, DCH runs the Kid Zone in Lower Henry Law where children can bounce on inflatables, play games, and enjoy other fun activities. With the help of 50+ volunteers from the community, Kennebunk Savings Bank, the UNH Alpha Phi Omega Theta Zeta service group, and DCH, we were able to raise **\$8,433** from ticket sales! Special thanks to Kennebunk Savings Bank for underwriting the event, as well as Blast Party Rentals for providing inflatable activities and bounce houses!

NH Gives

NH Gives is an annual 24-hour online fundraising event in New Hampshire that supports non-profits across the state. It encourages residents to donate to their favorite organizations, promoting local causes and fostering a spirit of giving. Dover Children's Home participated in this for its 4th year and had 12 peer-to-peer fundraisers including staff, board members, and volunteers. Our staff alone raised \$2,050 of the **\$9,614** total! This fundraiser was such an example of the amazing team we have, and the incredible work that they do.



Thank you!

16th Annual Golf Tournament

What a day on the green for a wildly successful 16th Annual Golf Tournament! We could not have asked for better weather or company, with 34 eager teams registered! Our volunteers ensured a smooth day all around from check-in, all the way to the luncheon and silent auction. A special thank you to Dave and Jeff at The Links for helping set up yet another great event. After expenses, we took in **\$36,080!** We would not have been able to do this without the generosity of our silent auction donors, raffle donors, volunteers, and of course – golfers! Thank you to everyone for helping to make the day a success!

Thank you to our 2024 Sponsors

- Anonymous Donor - \$9,500
- Harlan Electric - \$5,000
- Cara Irish Pub - \$4,000
- First Seacoast Bank - \$4,000
- Blue Dolphin - \$4,000
- Summit Land Development - \$3,200
- Wentworth-Douglass Hospital - \$3,000
- Leone, McDonnell, and Roberts - \$2,500
- Formax - \$1,750
- Shaheen & Gordon - \$1,750
- Back Bay Networks - \$1,500
- Dover Honda/Dover Chevrolet - \$1,250
- Relyco - \$1,000



Renee Touhey-Childress (left) and Lauren Petraitis (right) with Sarah Sullivan of Townsquare Media, our incredible media sponsor for events!



Some of our Harlan Electric golfers out on the green



The Binder Men out for a family fun day for a great cause



The Bavicchi/Widger foursome – good friends, good people!

SAVE THE 2025 DATES:

17th Annual Bowl-A-Thon
Sunday, April 6

NH Gives
June *Date TBA*

17th Annual Golf Tournament
Monday, July 28

Apple Harvest Day
Saturday, October 4



Our classic golfers who have been supporting since the beginning!



Members of the Moose Lodge bringing some holiday cheer!



Kody hosting Thanksgiving with his supports and DCH Family



The Dover Women's Club and Suzanne Touhey cooking for the DCH Thanksgiving



◀ Holiday treats for the Volunteer Mingle Jingle!

Heartfelt Holiday Giving

by Susan Graves, Devoted Donor of Dover Children's Home

Project Christmas Stocking was started approximately 7-8 years ago while I was away recuperating from surgery. It was early December and I remember thinking about a way to support those who may need a bit extra during the holiday season. A phone call to the Dover Children's Home (DCH) confirmed the need for Christmas stockings and that's how it all began. After receiving wish lists from the teens, we soon realized the importance of this project and wanted to ensure the recipients were both surprised and happy.

With the extremely generous assistance of my family and friends (some as far away as Texas and other parts of the country), gifts began to arrive at my home earmarked for the teens at DCH. With the help of social media, more friends and co-workers became aware of our Project and were happy to participate. My basement's family room then began to morph into Santa's Workshop. From clothing, to slippers, mittens, hats, cosmetics, records, craft items, sports equipment, favorite snacks and toiletries, to gift cards and books, the outpouring of thoughtful gifts arrived. Family kicked in with their time to gift wrap everything and pack it out by the individual; this has grown over the years and we now have friends and family who take on the wrapping almost entirely.

It is very heartwarming to receive feedback from Lauren and other staff members after the teens have received and opened their stockings.

Their joy is what this is all about.



It was a very Merry Christmas at Dover Children's Home

A warm thank you to all who donated gifts, decorations, festive activities, and help during the holiday season. These special occasions are not always easy for the youth in our care, but with your kindness and thoughtfulness, they are made cozy and memorable.



Thank you to Holy Rosary Credit Union for including DCH in your holiday giving!



◀ The Teddy Decker Christmas Fundraiser for DCH is going 9 years strong!

▶ Our Caring Beyond Friends bringing two carloads of needed items to our youth



Community Partnerships and Connections

As a community-based agency, Dover Children's Home focuses on increasing community connections and building partnerships with mission-aligned agencies that support youth within the therapeutic frameworks. Over the last year, the team has built several relationships with community-based agencies that serve the youth, their families, and the Dover community at large. We would like to honor and show appreciation for the following community agencies that we have established stronger relationships with over the past year.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Dover Children's Home has had a long-standing partnership with Community Partners. In the last year, Dover Children's Home's clinical team has increased collaboration with Community Partners, specifically Sandra Woodman, Director of Youth and Family Services, to improve connections to therapeutic and psychiatric services, enhancing collaboration for functional support and RENEW services, and identify additional treatment options for the population served.



REACH FOR THE TOP

This year, Dover Children's Home has developed a working relationship with Reach for the Top Services to increase therapeutic services to include occupational therapy and group therapy options. Amy Rich Crane, Executive Director at Reach for the Top, and her team also have supported Dover Children's Home in assessing the physical space for sensory output needs. This relationship has built a better understanding of supporting youth's physiological and ecological needs while in care.



SEACOAST YOUTH SERVICES

Dover Children's Home has reconnected with Seacoast Youth Services to enhance opportunities and connection for substance use support. Sarah Fetras, Director of Intensive Outpatient Program, and her team have provided consultation and education to our youth and staff. Additionally, Sarah has supported Dover Children's Home in improving and addressing protocols within the home to allow for thoughtful intervention when supporting youth facing these challenges.



WAYPOINT, NH

Waypoint has worked collaboratively with Dover Children's Home staff to increase training and knowledge of youth experiencing homelessness and ways to better support unstably housed youth. As this relationship has grown, Dover Children's Home youth have been offered extensive services related to transition planning. In addition, Waypoint has provided space, staffing, and resources for Dover Children's Home after-care resource nights, offering a safe space for youth who have left care a place to reconnect and feel empowered with knowledge of additional available services.



Dover Children's Home is grateful for the partnerships that have been built over the year and are excited to see how they progress and increase over the next year.



Thank you to our generous donors from Dover Honda for supporting this important project



Our shiny, new, wonderful dryers



Thank you to our year-round supportive volunteers from The Leddy Group, as well as Sophie Southworth and Eleanor Kane

Community Support and Dedication

by Lauren Petraitis, Director of Development at Dover Children's Home

Over the past year, we have been incredibly grateful to receive funding for crucial projects such as purchasing new dryers, reorganizing the laundry room space, and installing new flooring. We had two different donors assist with supporting these projects – Ted Keith, through the Janie Keith fund, as well as Dover Honda. In addition to this, we received two significant grants from The Madeleine von Weber Trust, as well as the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Community Grants program, to begin working on these larger transformative projects. Thank you to these incredible donors who help to us maintain quality, up-to-date, safe spaces for our youth!

In addition to this, we have had generous donors in our community hold fundraising events to benefit Dover Children's Home, such as The Skate Jam put on by Greg Vorbach of Harlan Electric, as well as the comedy show run by Mark Moccia. These events brought in diverse crowds from our community and also helped raise money for our program! Thank you so much to our community members who take time out of their busy day to host these special events for us!



Thank you to our wonderful team at Liberty Mutual for your long-standing service as champions of our mission!



◀ A huge thank you to Garrison City Florist and Morningstar's Midnight Bakery for the gorgeous centerpieces and favors for our Donor Appreciation Event



Melissa Bixby and Girl Scout Troop 60244 from Rochester



A heartfelt thank you to Mark Moccia for holding a comedy show to benefit DCH for the third year in a row



A heartfelt thank you to Portsmouth Regional Hospital for their quarterly giving

Thank You to our Donors

We held our 2nd Annual Donor Appreciation Event to express gratitude for our community friends who support our mission. Thanks to Tom O'Dowd at Cara Irish Pub for hosting this lovely evening and over 100 wonderful supporters for connecting with us and celebrating the impact your generosity has had on the youth in our care. A special congratulations to our award recipients for their commitment to our program: Mentor of the Year – Bill Foley, and Level 2 Volunteer of the Year – Courtney Stillings (both pictured on page 6), Donor of the Year – Sean Dempsey, Business of the Year – Harlan Electric, and Level 1 Volunteer Group of the Year – the GFWC Women's Club. Congratulations to everyone, and thank you for being the heart of our mission at DCH!



DCH Donor of the Year – Sean Dempsey



DCH Level 1 Volunteer Group of the Year - the GFWC Women's Club



DCH Business of the Year – Harlan Electric

A Heartfelt Thank You to the Dover Children's Home Board of Directors Dover



▲ From Left – Back Row. Samuel Wood, Austin Mikolaities, Michael D'Ascensao, Renee Touhey-Childress, Executive Director, Branden Ladebush (Trustee), Don Cichon (Trustee), Ann Lane, Board Chair, Thomas O'Dowd, Michael Murphy. Left to Right – Front Row: Annie Novak, Vice Chair, Jennifer Stauffis, Secretary, Sharon Zacharias, Christina Smalley. Not Pictured: Sean Dempsey, Board Member, Jim Horne, Treasurer, John Gill, Trustee Chair, Caitlyn Turgeon, Trustee, Charlie Griffiths, Trustee

A Note From Our Board Chair

by Ann Lane, Board Chair at Dover Children's Home



As we reflect on the past year at Dover Children's Home, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible progress we have made together. The fiscal year 2024 has been a pivotal year for our organization, marked by foundational building efforts, strategic board management changes, and a continued commitment to our mission of providing trauma-informed care to youth and young adults.

This year, we focused on enhancing our governance structure to ensure we are as effective and responsive as possible to the needs of the children and families we serve. By implementing a more streamlined board management system, we have fostered a culture of collaboration and engagement among our members. This restructuring has allowed us to leverage the unique strengths and expertise of our board members in strategic ways, leading to more informed decision-making and impactful initiatives.

With great pleasure I welcome recent and newly in-coming board members Sean Dempsey, Michael D'Ascensao, Sam Wood, Christina Smalley and Austin Mikolaites. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our outgoing board members: Doug Glennon, Don Cichon, Sean O'Connell, David Rich, Martha Munhall, and Denise LaFrance. Your dedication, insight, and passion for our mission have been invaluable. We are grateful for the time and energy you invested in our community, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

To our committed donors and volunteers, thank you for your time, generosity and unwavering support of DCH's crucial services. To DCH's exceptional Executive Director, Renee Touhey-Childress and her extraordinary directors and staff, thank you for your dedicated leadership, direction and devotion. It is through this generosity and hard work that DCH continues to provide vital services and create a nurturing environment for the children and families DCH serves.

As we look ahead, I ask for your continued financial support. The need for trauma-informed care has never been greater, and your donations are essential in helping us provide the critical services that our youth and young adults require to heal and thrive. Every dollar makes a difference, and together, we can build a brighter future for those we serve.

Thank you for being a vital part of Dover Children's Home family. I look forward to our continued journey together as we strive to create lasting change in the lives of our children and young adults.

STAY CALM
No Matter What

SEE THE NEED
Behind the Behavior

MEET THE NEED
Find a Way

DON'T QUIT
If not you, then who?

child.tcu.edu



**DOVER
CHILDREN'S
HOME**

"It takes a community to raise a child."

207 Locust Street
Dover, NH 03820
(603) 742-4289

doverchildrenshome.org

