

**“There is no power for change greater than
a community discovering what it cares about.”**

MARGARET J. WHEATLEY



**DOVER
CHILDREN'S
HOME**

“It takes a community to raise a child.”

YEAR IN REVIEW | 2025



Dear Friends and Supporters,
As I reflect on the past year at Dover Children's Home, one word comes to mind: resilience. Fiscal Year 2025 was a year of transition, change, and uncertainty. We navigated significant workforce shortages, ongoing staffing transitions, and the daily reality of meeting the needs of young people

in an increasingly unpredictable world. Like many nonprofits nationwide, we also experienced a decrease in monetary donations at a time when the need for our services has never been greater.

And yet, through all of this, we continue to move forward. Together, we maintained our CARF accreditation, invested in staff training and competency development, expanded community partnerships and resources, created lasting connections within our communities, and strengthened the daily practices that keep our youth safe, engaged, and hopeful for their futures. None of this would have been possible without the steadfast commitment of our staff, board, community partners, volunteers, donors, and friends.

Looking ahead, we know these challenges won't disappear overnight, but our focus remains clear: strengthening the foundation of our programs, building stability and connection, and preparing the way for growth that truly meets the needs of the youth entrusted to our care. We are committed to shaping an organization that not only endures but thrives in service to youth, young adults, and families across New Hampshire.

This work is only possible because of you, our community. Your support allows us to continue this mission of care, connection, and transformation. As you review the stories and accomplishments highlighted in this year's publication, I ask you to stand with us once again. Whether through a financial contribution, volunteering your time, or sharing our mission with others, your investment in Dover Children's Home changes lives.

With deep gratitude and hope,


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.

Dear Friends of Dover Children's Home,

What a year it has been—and how incredibly fortunate we have been to receive such generosity from our community. Whether you have volunteered your time, donated a bag of gently worn clothing for our in-house Empowerment Boutique, prepared a homemade meal for the youth in our care, sponsored one of our fundraising events, or contributed a financial gift to sustain our programming, your support means the world to us.

Each young person who comes to live at Dover Children's Home deserves safety, support, and comfort, with an environment grounded in trust and relationship-building. Your dedication makes that possible. Because of you, Dover

Children's Home remains a place where resilience grows, where hope is restored, and where healing truly happens.


That is the true power of community.

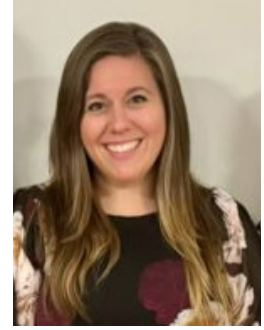
As someone who believes deeply in the importance of storytelling, I feel fortunate to witness the powerful stories that unfold at Dover Children's Home each day. Stories of resilience. Stories of hope. I see our youth finding their voices, rebuilding trust, and stepping into brighter futures. Alongside their stories, I also have the privilege of knowing many of yours — your "why." The reasons you give, volunteer, and care so deeply about this mission.

Together, your stories and theirs form the heart of **Dover Children's Home: a story of compassion, connection, and unwavering belief in what is possible when a community comes together in support of its young people.**

Thank you for being an essential part of this story, and for making it one of hope, healing, and Home.

With sincere gratitude,


Lauren Petraitis
Director of Development



Studies and Summer

This year was a great one for our youth in their educational success. We had two seniors graduate and we have had multiple residents make honor roll and receive awards for their citizenship, academics, and leadership at their respective schools. We work with several school districts in the area, and our youth have made great connections in their learning communities.



Higher Education is a goal for our youth, so this summer we toured Plymouth State University, UNH, and Rivier University. Our youth hit the ground running this year and are already college bound or working while they have acceptances in deferment.



This summer was a great time for our youth as well. They went horseback riding, rock wall climbing, swimming, tide pooling, played pickle ball, rode the Scenic Cog Railway up Mt. Washington, volunteered with the NHSCPA, and had many outdoor adventures. They spent over five days in Cape Cod deep sea fishing, golfing, swimming, going to the water park, and exploring Provincetown and Hyannis. At the end of the summer, they went on a two-night tent camping trip in Saco, ME and stayed right on the Saco River. They pitched their own tents, tubed on the river, cooked over the camp fire, and explored Old Orchard Beach. It was a solid year of academic success and summer fun for our youth!

Daley Buckwell, Education Coordinator

Gratitude and Goodbyes

This year, Dover Children's Home celebrates and extends our deepest gratitude to Gary Berchulski, who retired after an extraordinary 36 years of service as our Director of Facilities.

For more than three decades, Gary has been a steady and compassionate presence — the kind of person who quietly makes everything (and everyone) around him better. From fixing leaky pipes to building furniture, from snow removal on early winter mornings to ensuring every corner of our home felt safe and welcoming, Gary's work has always gone far beyond maintenance. He built more than walls and roofs — he helped build home.

As Gary embarks on his well-deserved retirement, we reflect with immense appreciation for his years of hard work, loyalty, and love for this place and the people in it. His impact will be felt for generations to come — in every room, every improvement, and every smile that fills our halls.

Thank you for 36 remarkable years of service and heart, Gary!

After more than 16 years of incredible dedication, we joyfully celebrate the retirement of our beloved Joanne Riley, Executive Assistant at Dover Children's Home.

While we're so excited for her next chapter which is filled with travel, family time, and well-deserved relaxation — it's hard to have our halls without her warmth, humor, and unmistakable "mom-like" presence.

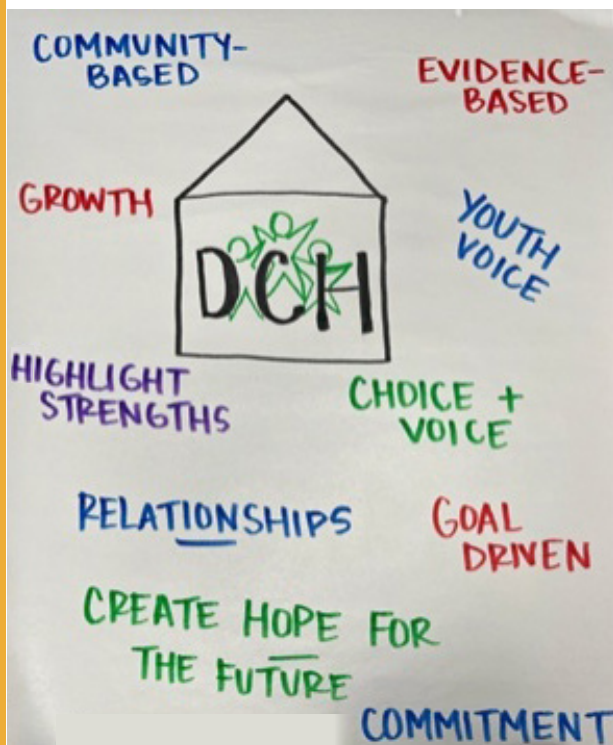
Joanne has been a steady, compassionate, and endlessly positive force at DCH. Always ready with a kind word, a helping hand, or a perfectly timed laugh, she has been the heart of our daily operations and the glue that has held so much together behind the scenes. Her care for our staff, youth, and mission has left an enduring mark built on love and empathy.

Joanne, thank you for everything. You will be missed more than words can say — but we couldn't be happier to see you step into this exciting new chapter.

Here's to you, Jo — and to your next adventure!



RENEW Programming



Dover Children's Home utilizes the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability's RENEW program, a structured school-to-career visual planning, mapping, and individualized wraparound process for youth who may be experiencing emotional and behavioral challenges, have a limited social support system, and

need to figure out where they are headed. This past year, we expanded our impact of this program, increasing engagement to ten youth with 100% participation in level 2.

Our staff presented statewide and nationally this progress. Eight facilitators, including two certified coaches, led efforts, boosting staff fidelity from 74% in 2023, to 95% in 2025. RENEW integrity scores rose across all domains for youth.



MISSION Impact Alignment

In an effort to continually align services with our mission, the Dover Children's Home leadership team has worked to evaluate our programs, incorporate staff and youth voice, and enhance services offered. In doing so, we celebrated significant educational achievements due to Educational Coordinator, Daley Buckwell's guidance and collaboration within the school setting. Each of our five eligible youth at DCH earned their high school diploma and were celebrated by staff, their peers and supports as they walked across the stage.

Our team also continued to utilize the framework of RENEW to support our youth set and achieve their goals, while building skills and relationships. The team supported all Level Two youth in engaging within the program and celebrating successes like obtaining a job, earning their license, and starting a new course in the technical center. Our facilitators worked diligently to support our youth and utilize their own skills to bring the structure to residential care earning an increase of 16% in fidelity according to the University of New Hampshire's review.

Dover Children's Home remains committed to continually assessing and improving our services to ensure every young person served receives the necessary support to achieve their goals. With the PILOT program operating at 75% capacity, and the Level Two program working to increase the census, staff are working to build relationships, expand resources, and prepare our youth for adulthood.



Trust-Based Relational Intervention Training for our Team and Community

At Dover Children's Home, we believe that healing and growth begin with connection. That's why we proudly offer quarterly Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) training sessions not only to our staff but also to community members and local organizations. TBRI® is an evidence-based, trauma-informed model designed to support young people from hard places by building trust, promoting emotional regulation, and creating safe, nurturing relationships. By extending this training to the wider community, we aim to strengthen the network of support around vulnerable youth and equip caregivers, educators, and service providers with tools that promote long-term healing and resilience.

The impact of these trainings is best expressed in the words of those who have participated:

- "Love the authenticity and vulnerability in this training."
- "Incredible, phenomenal, authentic, loved it."
- "I have never been to continuing education where folks were immediately sharing. It was so comfortable and made me feel connected."
- "Challenging, informative, great tools for self-improvement and for self-care when working with humans who have experienced any form of trauma."
- "Best training I've ever been to.... The greatest strength of the 3 days was not feeling like it was a training but rather a space to be vulnerable and find connection and learn."
- "This training feels so valuable- it made so many things click."
- "This training was interactive, interesting, and relatable. Presenter was knowledgeable and intentional."
- "Powerfully engaging activities and conversations. Wonderful food and snacks. Excellent feedback and teaching."
- "Comfortable environment was provided- felt safe, seen, and heard."
- "This training unlocked a new professional goal!"

**Interested in the training?
Scan here to sign up for
any of our sessions!**



Part of our set up for TBRI training days by Sarah Gordon.

PILOT Program: Removing Barriers for Transitional Living

This year, Dover Children's Home's PILOT House program continued to expand opportunities for young adults ages 18–21 who are working toward independence. The team refined referral and intake processes to remove barriers, opening doors more quickly for those needing housing and support. With an emphasis on flexibility, relationship building, and harm reduction, the program meets youth where they are, helping them build confidence, practice life skills, and plan for their futures with purpose.

Under the leadership of PILOT Program Manager, Max Harris, the program celebrated several successes: welcoming a new PILOT Program Coordinator, Tabetha Leach, transitioning multiple young adults into independent apartments, into supported housing, and to the adult service systems. Using the RENEW model to guide goal-setting and future planning, youth are leading their own paths forward. The year was marked by steady growth, stronger alignment between values and practice, and a shared belief that every young adult deserves the chance to thrive on their own terms.

Throughout the year, the need for post-care housing resources has significantly increased. In meeting that need, DCH supported two youth in obtaining Fostering Youth Initiative vouchers supporting housing goals.

Are you a landlord looking to support transitional-aged youth?
Learn more about the FYI vouchers here: <https://www.hud.gov/hud-partners/public-indian-housing-fyi>



One of the personalized PILOT living spaces we set up for all new youth.



PILOT Program Manager Max Harris bowling with one of our PILOT youth and her supports at our Bowl-a-thon!

PILOT Domains of Focus

- Daily Living Skills
- Employment
- Transportation
- Personal Documentation
- Education
- Finance/Budgeting
- Relationships/Community
- Mental Health
- Physical Health



Dover Children's Home has worked to increase collaboration and consultation with **Waypoint** to ensure youth served are supported and individuals leaving the program have opportunities for continuity of care. Waypoint had supported not only youth within the program through community-based activities, but also through providing access to resources, education around housing options, and relational support after leaving Dover Children's Home. With continued collaborative efforts through aftercare and Resource Night, young people leaving the program have been reconnected with previous peers, received education from places like Waypoint, and have had a safe place to spend their time.

Community Collaborations and Connections

Dover Children's Home's partnership and collaboration with Community Partners continues to be everlasting and impactful as attention continues to be focused on removing barriers and getting residents connected to services to improve their mental health. Over the last year, collaboration had been directed towards identifying alternative options and flexibility for youth to receive community-based services like functional support, substance use services, specialty therapeutic services and RENEW. Collaboration with Community Partners staff, especially Sandra Woodman, has continued to benefit our youth in receiving the necessary services to help achieve their goals.

Through the connection of Community Partners, Suzanne Weete had been a strong support for Dover Children's Home this last year. Not only did Suzanne support the program in receiving education and training support for Mental Health First Aid and Adverse Childhood Experiences, Suzanne also supported the declaration of Dover Children's Home as a Mental Health Friendly Workplace. This effort and partnership will continue to support Dover Children's Home in providing education and connection to normalize and destigmatize mental health.



Over the last year, collaboration efforts with **Reach for the Top Therapy Services** have been pivotal in supporting the growth of mental health services at Dover Children's Home. They have provided educational opportunities to further support sensory needs, fueling bodies, and continuing to develop a physically supported and trauma-informed environment. Support from their staff, especially Amy Rich Crane and Katie Gomes, has supported the youth in building confidence and comfortability while redefining what therapy can look like, but also supported staff in understanding interventions and supportive language.



Our incredible Reach for the Top Therapy Services friends at their TBRI training.

New Hampshire Diversion Network

This year, Dover Children's Home's very own Education Coordinator, Daley Buckwell, Clinical Manager, Savannah Fay, and Director of Treatment Services, Sarah Gordon, attended the 2025 NH Juvenile Court Diversion Network Summit. The three presented ***"Following Their Lead: Empowering youth voice to implement youth-centric treatment goals with a strength-based perspective"*** and highlighted the use of University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disability's model of RENEW, focusing on how to incorporate the model into the youth-centric treatment being provided at Dover Children's Home.

Our team was grateful for the opportunity to connect and learn from an array of agencies and teams, including Diversion programs throughout the state, The Office of Child Advocate, other residential programs, and our local partners at the Dover Police Department!

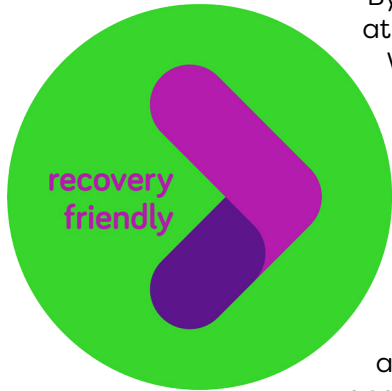


Savannah Fay, Daley Buckwell, and Sarah Gordon after presenting at the NH Juvenile Court Diversion Network Summit.

Empowering Staff and Strengthening Community

Recovery Friendly Workplace Taskforce

Throughout 2025, Dover Children's Home's Recovery Friendly Workplace Taskforce has worked tirelessly to strengthen our commitment to wellness, recovery, and connection—both within our staff community and for the youth we serve. Beginning early in the year, the team focused on revising substance use protocols, improving on-call practices, building recovery-supportive policies across programs, and aligning all DCH events with our RFW commitment.



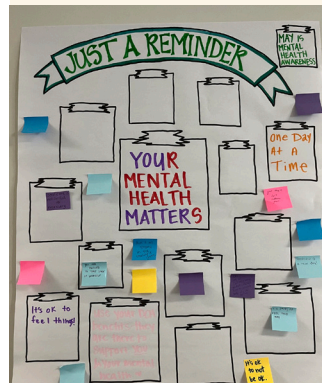
By spring, the Taskforce was presenting at the Mental Health, Recovery, and Well-Being in the Workplace Summit, sharing DCH's model as a leader in trauma-informed, recovery-friendly care. Over the summer, the group launched a resource hub, updated staff onboarding to include recovery-friendly practices, and strengthened community partnerships with organizations such as the Triangle Club, Granite Pathways, and Leddy Group. In September, DCH proudly became an officially designated

Mental Health Friendly Workplace, adding to our culture of wellness and belonging, reflecting years of culture work and collaboration.

From improving internal systems to expanding access to recovery resources, this dedicated team has modeled what it means to lead with compassion, transparency, and shared responsibility. Their efforts continue to ensure that both staff and youth experience DCH as a place where healing and recovery are understood, supported, and celebrated.

Becoming a Mental Health Friendly Workplace

To continue building mental health supports for the youth served at Dover Children's Home, and to increase opportunities for staff and the community, Savannah Fay, DCH's Clinical Manager, began attending the Dover Mental Health Alliance. It was there that she connected with Suzanne Weete and learned about other opportunities and educational resources to bring to the Home.



Savannah collaborated with Sarah Gordon, the Director of Treatment Services, to initiate the process of the Mental Health Friendly Workplace with the intention of adding to the preexisting opportunities and resources as a Recovery Friendly Workplace. It was following this that Dover Children's Home was trained in Mental Health First Aid and Adverse Childhood Experience/Positive Childhood Experiences (ACEs and PCEs). Through these opportunities, staff collaborated to ensure that not only our youth but our youths' families, networks and staff were wrapped around with mental health

resources. Redefining mental health and mental health services has also been a passion of Savannah's, and by supporting Dover Children's Home in this way, staff can redefine what it means to be human in the workplace while honoring the complexities that mental health challenges bring.

On September 12th, Dover Children's Home was designated as a Mental Health Friendly Workplace by the Dover Mental Health Alliance, led by Suzanne Weete and Dr. Gregg Dowty. It is the hope that the MHFWP and the RFWP can continue to collaborate to provide attention and care to the youth and families served, the staff connected to the agency, and the community around.



Savannah Fay proudly displaying our designation!



Back row left to right: Melissa Lesniak, Renee Touhey Childress, Jaimie Belanger, and Dr. Gregg Dowty. Front row left to right: Suzanne Weete, Savannah Fay, Lauren Petraitis, and Sarah Gordon.



Volunteers **Who Make a Difference**



Easter Bunnies hard at work.



Winner Dinner Wednesday in full swing.



Our amazing friends from Flote who provide chair massages quarterly to our staff!



Our incredible friends at Liberty Mutual doing a big spring clean-up for Serve with Liberty day!



Our Blooms and Affirmations volunteers brighten up DCH.



Planting perennials around the garden.

Become a Volunteer!

Tier 1 – Help out “behind the scenes”

- Become a monthly meal donor
- Support at fundraising events
- Assist with holiday prep (Easter baskets, wrap gifts, etc.)
- Help with outdoor projects (seasonal clean up, landscaping)

Tier 2 – Participate in our weekly volunteer programming

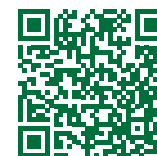
- Blooms and Affirmations
- Winner Dinner Wednesday
- Gardening or Baking Club

Tier 3 – Youth Mentorship

- One-on-one Youth Support
- Holiday Hosting

Fill out a volunteer application on our website:

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



This year, volunteers at Dover Children’s Home contributed over 450 hours of their time, energy, and heart, and the impact has been extraordinary. From preparing meals and supporting events to spending meaningful one-on-one time with youth, our volunteers helped create moments of stability, joy, and connection that truly matter. We are deeply grateful for every individual who showed up for our kids and our program this year. Thank you for making a difference – your care is felt every single day.



Xenia Dworjany, our “Community Birthday Baker” this past year, made such fun, special, delicious goodies for our youth for all occasions!

Makers in the Community – Crafting Love and Care



Mishal, a high school student in the community, created a Kindness Tree with special notes for staff and youth.



Bryan Reed and his family always share their summer garden bounty with us!



Memorial Dedication – Leigh Noble

Leigh started donating a few years ago, in 2022. She made the holidays at Dover Children's Home feel magical. We could always count on her to arrive with beautifully handmade gifts—from Christmas stockings to Halloween candy bags, to Easter totes, each one thoughtfully crafted with care. And of course, she always brought LOTS OF candy, making sure every one of the kids at DCH received their favorite kind.

But Leigh's generosity went even deeper. Each season, she would insist on giving every youth a

Target or Walmart gift card "to pick out something special." She wanted every child to feel seen, celebrated, and loved. One summer, after hearing how much the kids enjoyed plants, she surprised them with Wentworth Greenhouse gift cards—a small gesture that meant the world.

This past spring, we lost a beautiful person when Leigh passed away shortly after a terminal diagnosis. Though we no longer see her smiling face at our door, her spirit continues to shine through the people who loved her—many of whom have reached out to continue her traditions during the holidays. Through them, Leigh's kindness lives on.

Leigh was a lover of animals, she ran a dog-walking business, and she had a passion for quilting and creating. She often downplayed her work, but her creations were truly *beautiful*. One of our donors from the Cocheco Quilters Guild, Barbara Caswell, created this quilt for Leigh's brother—designed with two of Leigh's favorite things in life: gardening and dogs. This quilt represents not only Leigh's warmth and creativity, but also the deep connections within our community, and the shared belief in our mission that binds us all together.

Leigh, thank you for filling our hearts and our home with love. Your spirit will always be part of Dover Children's Home.



Thank you to all our talented and generous community members who share all your beautiful gifts with our youth and staff!

The wonderful women from Cocheco Quilters Guild always create beautiful quilts for our youth.

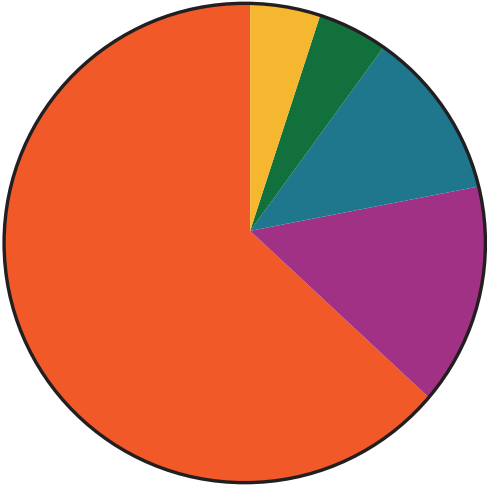


Xenia Dworjanyan making her delicious goodies, even for Gary's retirement party... his favorite—apple pie!

Financial Year-in-Review

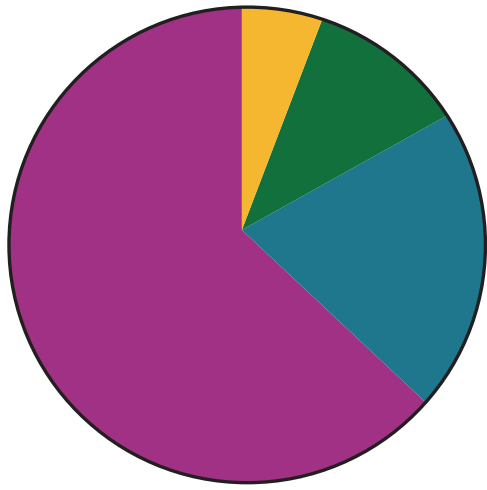
Operating Revenue – \$2,054,778

- 5% Endowment Disbursement \$108,331
- 5% Grants & Estates \$101,170
- 12% Fundraising \$249,277
- 15% Individual & Corporate Donations \$300,000
- 63% State/Medicaid Funding for Services \$1,296,000



Operating Expenses— \$2,333,385

- 6% Fundraising & Marketing \$136,998
- 11% Administrative Wages & Benefits \$255,145
- 20% Youth Service & Programming \$468,010
- 63% Youth-Facing & Program Support Staff Wages & Benefits \$1,400,972



Looking for Ways to Help?

In-Kind Donations

In-kind gifts—such as clothing, toiletries, household items, meals, and seasonal needs—help ensure that our kids have comfort, stability, and the everyday essentials that make our house feel like a home.

- Meal and snack donations
- Amazon Wish List items
- Holiday donations
- Gift Cards to support programming

For more information visit our website:
<https://doverchildrenshome.org/in-kind/>

Monetary Donations

Monetary gifts allow us to go even further by funding program expansion, therapeutic services, enrichment opportunities, educational support, and urgent needs as they arise.

- One-time donation
- Monthly recurring donations
- Planned Giving

To make a donation,
scan here:



Together, these contributions directly strengthen our programs and create brighter, more secure futures for the young people we serve. Thank you for making a meaningful difference in their lives.

To learn more about becoming a donor, save the date for our

Donor Information Nights in 2026:

- January 28, 2026 from 5:00-6:30pm
- April 29, 2026 from 5:00-6:30pm
- July 29, 2026 from 5:00-6:30pm
- November 18, 2026 from 5:00-6:30pm

Contact Lauren at lpetratis@doverchildrenshome.org to reserve your spot!

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



Dover_childrens_home



Dover Children's Home



Dover Children's Home

Strengthening our Mission Through Fundraising Events

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

17th Annual Bowl-A-Thon

This year's event was a perfect mix of fun, community spirit, and generosity! Thanks to the support of our incredible sponsors, Summit Land Development, Shaheen & Gordon, and Cara Irish Pub, along with the wonderful team at Bowl-O-Rama, this event was one for the books.

A huge thank-you goes out to all the teams who laced up and bowled their hearts out in support of our mission.

Because of everyone's teamwork and enthusiasm, this year's Bowl-a-Thon raised an amazing \$39,237 after expenses—all to support the youth and programs at Dover Children's Home.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, sponsored, cheered, and made this event another fantastic success!



Thank you to our Loud Canvas Media team for helping us reach our goal!

Congratulations to team "We Still Don't Need No Stinkin' Name" who took highest score for the afternoon session!



Team HRCU really cooked up some fun!



First Seacoast Bank took us right back to the 80s in style!



Apple Harvest Day

Last year's Apple Harvest Day Kid Zone was a huge hit that was full of fun, laughter, and community spirit! Thanks to Blast Party Rentals, along with our amazing sponsors, Cara Irish Pub, and Kennebunk Savings, families enjoyed a full day of activities and inflatable fun. We're also so grateful to Hannaford for donating snacks to keep our volunteers energized throughout the day.

Speaking of volunteers—we had an incredible 40+ helpers, including members of Alpha Phi Omega from UNH, our dedicated DCH volunteers, and friends from Kennebunk Savings Bank. Your teamwork made the day shine!

Together, we raised an incredible \$10,197 after expenses—all to support the youth and mission of Dover Children's Home. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Kid Zone such a joyful success!



We couldn't do this without our incredible Alpha Phi Omega volunteer group from UNH!



The UNH Women's Lacrosse team helped hold down the fort this year too – and had a great time doing it.

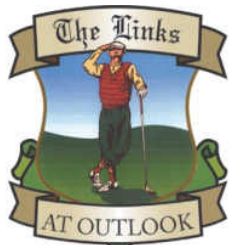
17th Annual Golf Tournament

What a day on the green! **Our 17th Annual Golf Tournament at The Links at Outlook was a hole-in-one success—raising an incredible \$31,009 after expenses to support the youth at Dover Children's Home!**

From friendly competition in our golf contests to a delicious luncheon and an exciting silent auction, the day was packed with fun, laughter, and community spirit. None of it would have been possible without the amazing people who came together to make it happen—our generous sponsors, raffle prize and silent auction donors, golfers, and especially our tournament underwriter, Cara Irish Pub, whose support helped make the event shine.

It was truly an amazing day for a great cause—full of sunshine, good swings, and even better hearts.

We can always
count on
Team Carr!



Team Polychronis Financial started and ended their day with smiles.



What a swing!

Thank you to our 2025 Sponsors



SAVE THE 2026 DATES:

17th Annual Bowl-A-Thon
Sunday, April 12

NH Gives
24 Hour Online Fundraiser
June 9 at 5 PM – June 10 at 5 PM

18th Annual Golf Tournament
Monday, September 21

Looking to sponsor one of our events?
Download our 2026
Events Prospectus Here



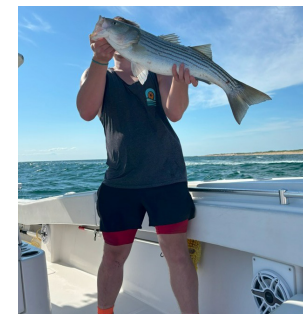
NH Gives

This year, Dover Children's Home once again participated in NH Gives, and our community showed up in the most incredible way! **Thanks to 48 generous donors, we raised \$4,171 to help make summer truly special for the youth in our care.**

Because of your support, our kids enjoyed unforgettable adventures from exploring Squam Lake Science Center and taking on challenges at The Browne Center, to camping, horseback riding, deep sea fishing, and fun-filled outings to places like Fun Spot and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

For many of our youth, these were first-time experiences—opportunities to explore, learn, and simply be kids in the best way. Your kindness turned ordinary summer days into moments of joy, discovery, and connection.

Thank you to everyone who made this summer of adventure and laughter possible. You helped create memories that will last a lifetime!



Thank you to NH Gives donors for making it such an unforgettable summer of fun, risk-taking, and joy for our youth at DCH!

Community Support and Appreciation

This year, we were honored to recognize some truly outstanding members of our Dover Children's Home family—people and partners whose generosity, heart, and dedication have lifted our youth and strengthened our community.

Volunteer of the Year – Tier 1: Xenia Dworjanyn

Volunteer of the Year – Tier 2: Kristina Cerniauskas

Volunteer of the Year – Tier 3: Pat Brown

Giving Heart Award: Cathy Torrey

Together We Thrive Award: Liberty Mutual

Strength in Service Award: The Dover Elks Lodge

Community Collaborator Award: Reach for the Top Therapy Services

Each of these remarkable individuals and community partners has shown up in meaningful ways—through time, support, advocacy, and compassion. Their impact has been felt in every corner of our home, and we are deeply grateful. Thank you for helping our youth thrive and for being the heart of our mission.



A Note From Our Board Chair

by Annie Novak



It is an honor to step into the role of Board Chair at Dover Children's Home. I first became involved because I was drawn to the mission and the heart of this organization. From the

start, I could see the incredible impact DCH has on young people who need safety, care, and consistency; things every child deserves. Being part of this community has been profoundly meaningful to me. I've seen firsthand the compassion, skill, and commitment that Renee and her team bring to the work every day.

As I move into this role, my hope is to build on the strong foundation already in place and to support the remarkable people who make Dover Children's Home so special. I want to help create more opportunities for our youth to thrive and to ensure that our staff and volunteers feel as supported and valued as they make others feel. Above all, I hope to carry forward the compassion and community spirit that define DCH.

To our donors, volunteers, and community partners, thank you. Your generosity and belief in our mission make everything we do possible. You are helping to change the lives of young people in real and lasting ways. I'm deeply grateful to be part of this community and excited for all that lies ahead in the year to come.

With gratitude,

Annie Novak
Incoming Board Chair,
Dover Children's Home

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



▲ From Left – Left to right: Don Cichon, Austin Mikolaities, Annie Novak, Jennifer Stauffis, Renée Touhey-Childress, Christina Smalley, Sam Wood, Chuck Tewell, Sharon Zacharias, Jenelle Colbath, Ryan Ladebush, Tom O'Dowd

A huge thank you to Ann Lane, Mike Murphy and Jim Horne for their combined 30 years of service to Dover Children's Home. Your voices and leadership have supported our organization in countless ways. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being part of the DCH family!



Mike Murphy



Jim Horne

A Reflection from Ann Lane



As we close Fiscal Year 2025, I want to offer a brief personal reflection as I conclude my service as Board Chair for Dover Children's Home. This past year has reminded me—yet again—of the extraordinary resilience of DCH's mission and the people who make it possible. Despite challenges across the sector and uncertainties that required adaptability from every part of the organization, DCH continued to move forward with intention, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to the youth we serve.

What stands out most to me from this year is the progress DCH has continued to make even amidst complexity. The organization deepened its trauma-informed, youth-centered practice; made meaningful investments in staff development and program quality; and continued laying the groundwork for long-term sustainability through strategic planning, facilities analysis, and strengthened internal systems. These efforts reflect not just operational progress, but the heart of DCH: a belief that healing, hope, and possibility are always worth fighting for.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Board Chair over the past decade. I have had the opportunity to witness the strength of this organization from every angle—through moments of celebration, moments of challenge, and the everyday work that often goes unseen but always matters. I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me, and for the partnership of an incredibly dedicated Board of Directors whose commitment to DCH's mission runs deep.

To the DCH team, our community partners, and all who believe in this work: thank you. Your support ensures that Dover Children's Home remains a place where young people can heal, grow, and build a future filled with hope. I look forward to continuing to support DCH in the years to come and watching this remarkable organization continue to thrive.

With sincere appreciation,

Ann L. Lane

Outgoing Board Chair,
Dover Children's Home



“For a community to be whole and healthy,
it must be based on people’s love
and concern for each other.”

MILLARD FULLER



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