



NASHUA CHILDREN'S HOME



Enriching the Lives of Children and Families Since 1903

Director's Corner By David Villiotti, Executive Director

It's been quite the year at Nashua Children's Home (NCH) since last Fall's annual message, many of the highlights referenced by the pictorial journey within this newsletter. There have been a number of challenges that we've confronted and continue to rise to meet.

Last year began with a return to in-person learning for the children, after a full year of virtual school attendance. School's opening provided many challenges to school personnel, and by extension to the staff of Nashua Children's Home. Public school settings obviously provide less continual supervision than does NCH, and our on-grounds school, and the difference in levels of supervision resulted in detentions, suspensions, etc. which we had gone without during the previous year.

COVID continued to rear its difficult, and disruptive, head over the past year. Even though nearly all staff and children are not only fully immunized against COVID, but "up to date," breakthrough cases continue to plague us, and given the realities of group care, those with "close contact" to positive individuals have had to live with some curtailment of activities. The children are nothing if not resilient, however, and have responded positively.

Nashua Children's Home is not immune from the workforce challenges that have affected nearly all industries. Our ability to both attract, and sustain, qualified and competent residential counseling staff particularly remains the most profound challenge that we experience. Whereas staffing shortages have caused your local Dunkin' Donuts to close early, staffing shortages at NCH, for the first time in my 37 years, have impeded our ability to admit and care for children in need. We've simply not had enough staff to program for the numbers of children that one would expect. Lately, however, we've been able to hire some



very skilled and energetic recent college graduates, so we remain hopeful on that end.

Lastly, we are proud to announce that Nashua Children's Home has been awarded a three-year accreditation by CARF International. The CARF accreditation process is rigorous, requiring applicants to demonstrate conformance with over 1300 standards, culminating in a three-day on-site visit by a CARF Surveyor. The CARF report is best summarized by this statement:

"The organization's leadership is supported by a cadre of energetic, creative staff members who work with a team spirit and are appropriately involved in accountability for the organization's operation and strategic planning. Staff members are invested in their work, as evidenced by their positive, respectful, proactive, and enthusiastic attitudes and their thoughtfulness and creativity. They are dedicated to the highest level of care."

Additionally, the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) conducted their own three-day audit this past spring, finding that NCH is "in substantial compliance with the contract requirements for a Level 2 Residential Treatment Facility" and "saw examples of NCH'S commitment to the System of Care values" citing that NCH programming is "Family & Youth Driven, Community-Based, Trauma-Informed and Culturally and Linguistically Competent." Both reports highlight the addition of a "Sensory Room" at NCH, responding positively to children becoming dysregulated.

Please enjoy the photos within this newsletter, a veritable chronology of the past year at Nashua Children's Home, and as always, thank you for your ongoing support, advocacy, and encouragement.



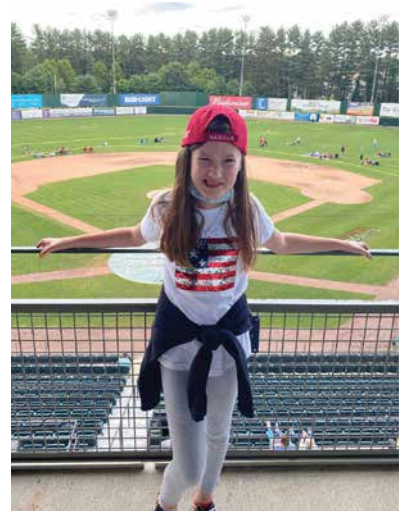
Please consider donating to help our cause.

- go to nashuachildrenshome.org and donate via credit/debit card or PayPal
- mail a check using the enclosed envelope
- trusts or gifts of stock (please call Executive Director David Villiotti at 603-883-3851)



THANK YOU







Nashua Children's Home
125 Amherst Street
Nashua, NH 03064-2043

Tel: 603-883-3851
Fax: 603-883-5925

info@nashuachildrenshome.org
www.nashuachildrenshome.org

Nashua Children's Home Newsletter - Fall 2022



N
C
H