



Meet Our New President & CEO, Christine Chagnon

New England Village, Inc. (NEV) recently announced the appointment of Christine Chagnon as its new President and Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. In her role, Christine will guide NEV's strategic vision, strengthen community partnerships, and further expand NEV's impact in empowering adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Christine most recently she served as NEV's Chief Operating Officer, where she strengthened operational systems, improved program outcomes and deepened mission impact.

Tell us a bit about your background. How long have you worked in Human Services and what attracted you to this industry?

My career in human services spans over 28 years, but the foundation was laid even earlier. I began working in healthcare during my high school years as a Certified Nursing Assistant in a long-term care facility. That experience introduced me to the importance of dignity in care and the power of human connection. I later trained and certified as an EMT, which strengthened my ability to think critically under pressure, triage priorities with a calm presence, and advocate for others with empathy and adaptability - skills that have remained central throughout my career.

My first role in the human services field, supporting adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, was as a Direct Support Professional in a residential home with four incredible men. That experience was transformative. I learned more from those men than I could have imagined, about self-determination, developing authentic connections, resilience, independence, and the everyday joys that make life meaningful. It was then that I knew this work was where I wanted to focus my career through mission-driven service and continued advocacy.

Since then, I've held roles across direct support, middle management, director-level roles, clinical services, and executive leadership, allowing me to collaborate with interdisciplinary

teams, develop responsive care models, and champion person-centered practices that honor individual strengths and needs. Each chapter of my journey has reinforced my belief in inclusive systems and the importance of elevating the voices of those closest to the work. This is not just a profession, it's a lifelong commitment to building communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

What drew you to New England Village, in particular?

When I applied to New England Village, I was excited by the opportunity to bring together the skills I've developed over the years, integrating Day and Residential Services, Clinical and Enrichment programming, and leveraging my strengths in systems thinking, policy development, and advocacy. I was looking to join a community where

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the mission is the driving force behind every decision, and where values are lived, not just stated.

But what truly drew me in was my very first interaction. From the moment I arrived on site, I felt an unmistakable energy, a sense of purpose and connection that's hard to describe but easy to feel. It was clear that people are known here, relationships are built with intention, and the mission is reflected in everyday actions.

Since joining NEV in 2021, I've been continually inspired by the authenticity of this community, the dedication of our staff, the resilience and spirit of the individuals we support, and the trust families place in us. That alignment between my experience and NEV's vision is what brought me here, and continues to inspire me every day.

What do you believe to be NEV's greatest strength right now?

NEV's greatest strength is its people. The individuals we support, their families, our dedicated staff, and our

committed Board of Directors form a community rooted in compassion, resilience, and purpose. The dedication I witness every day, from every corner of the organization, is what makes NEV truly exceptional.

Whether it's a long-tenured staff member mentoring a new hire, a family sharing how NEV has impacted their loved one's life, or an individual celebrating a personal milestone, these moments reflect the heart of our mission and the strength of our culture. It's this collective spirit that continues to move our mission forward and make NEV a place where people thrive.

What do you see as NEV's most serious challenge at this time, and how do you plan to address it?

As we know, the human services industry has faced significant challenges in workforce recruitment for some time now - a shift many providers began to experience during the early stages of the pandemic, as we were simultaneously adjusting to its wide-reaching impacts and the

changes it brought to our work and communities.

Although we're seeing encouraging improvements, our ongoing challenge remains workforce development, recruiting, and retaining compassionate, skilled staff across key roles who are aligned with our mission. We continue to address this through strategic hiring practices, enhanced training and onboarding, pipelines for professional growth, and advocacy for sustainable funding that supports competitive wages and long-term stability to ensure our staff feel supported, valued, and empowered to grow.

These efforts are central to our upcoming strategic plan, which will guide us in adapting to evolving needs while preserving the values that define NEV. In addition, we're closely monitoring the federal landscape and staying informed about potential shifts that could impact our sector and workforce. We're prepared to navigate these changes with thoughtful planning and continued advocacy.

In your opinion, what are the most important values we hold as an organization?

Dignity, respect, and choice are at the heart of everything we do at NEV. These principal values uphold our commitment to person-centered supports and are woven into our programs, staffing models, and daily routines.

We work closely with each individual, their team, and their family to understand personal goals, preferences, and communication styles, to create a person-centered plan tailored to meet their needs, supports, and aspirations. This approach is reflected in how we structure our Day

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**Scoops is published
twice a year.**

Written by Ann Luongo,
edited by Jonathan
Grabowski.

and Residential Services, how we train and coach staff, and how we engage families as true partners in care. It's also evident in the flexibility of our enrichment offerings and the way we adapt plans as people grow and change.

At NEV, person-centered care means empowering individual choice and self-determination. It's how we embrace inclusion, diversity, and equity. This value is one we hold close and work diligently to deliver with consistency, integrity, and heart.

Tell us a little about your leadership style?

My leadership style is grounded in humility, active listening, and shared accountability. I lead alongside others, creating inclusive spaces where every voice is valued and where challenges are viewed as opportunities for growth. I prioritize emotional steadiness, transparency, and strategic clarity, especially in moments of transition or pressure.

I'm recognized for a collaborative and mission-driven approach, with a strong focus on communication, cross-functional teamwork, and strategic partnerships. I connect the dots across service lines, anticipate challenges, and create space for reflection and innovation. I lead with presence, integrity, and compassion, listening deeply, acting decisively, and always staying rooted in our shared purpose.

At NEV, leadership is not about hierarchy - it's about partnership, clarity, and building systems that honor both operational excellence and the human experience. I believe in leading with intention, celebrating the impact we make every day, and fostering a culture where inclusion, quality, and person-centered supports

are at the heart of everything we do.

I bring systems fluency, strategic vision, and emotional intelligence. But more than that, I bring a long-term commitment to NEV's future. Everything I do ties back to the individuals we support. I lead with humility, presence, clarity, and compassion. Leadership isn't about having all the answers, it's about creating the conditions for others to thrive and holding steady when things get hard.

How important is effective communication with staff/employees to you?

Effective communication is essential in everything we do. It's how we build trust and foster collaboration among teams, families, and funding sources, ensuring that everyone remains informed, feels valued, and stays connected to our mission.

It's also critical to the continuity of care. Clear, intentional communication ensures that information flows seamlessly across services and departments, supporting cross-collaboration and aligning teams around a shared purpose.

Communication isn't just about sharing updates, it's about listening deeply, creating space for reflection, and making sure voices are heard, especially those closest to the work. When we communicate well, we strengthen our systems, celebrate our collective impact, and stay grounded in our values.

Above all, communication is a tool for connection. It reflects our commitment to inclusion, quality, and person-centered supports, and it's central to how we lead, grow, and support one another.

On a personal note, how do you enjoy spending your time when you are not working?

My work is truly a part of who I am, both inside and outside of the office. But I also believe that finding balance, renewing energy, and exploring the world around us are essential to staying grounded and effective in what we do.

When I'm not working, I love spending time with my family, especially my grandchildren, and our two Labradors. You'll often find me gardening, curled up with a good book, or enjoying a Hallmark movie. I especially cherish time spent up north, taking in the serene beauty of nature, hiking a trail, or exploring local shops.

These moments remind me of the importance of reflection, resilience, and connection. They help me recharge and stay aligned with the values that guide my leadership: humility, presence, and purpose.

Who inspires you?

People! I'm inspired every single day by the individuals we support. Their resilience, joy, talent, and determination are extraordinary. I'm equally moved by our staff and families, whose commitment, compassion, and creativity shape our community in powerful ways.

Across NEV, we're surrounded by incredible people. Whether it's someone expressing themselves in a new way, stepping outside their comfort zone, advocating for themselves or others, trying something unfamiliar, or overcoming adversity, these moments inspire me deeply. They reflect the courage, growth, and connection that bring our mission to

(cont. on back page)

Gardening in Plymouth

By Keith Escandel

This summer marked our second season of maintaining both the gardens at the Plymouth South High School and the Plymouth Public Library. This season, 26 out of our 28 individuals that attend the CCEC program, along with members from the TLC program, participated in this volunteer opportunity that partnered us up again with Tera Cura Inc., the library and the high school.

Our members took on the tasks of watering, weeding, and harvesting vegetables and flowers at both of these locations, two days per week per site, throughout the months

of June, July, and August. We are continuing to work with the library and their garden until the gardening season comes to an end. On top of all this work, during the height of the harvesting season, we were able to take the harvested veggies and donate them to the Plymouth Coalition for the Homeless.

At the end of August, once our time at the high school had come to an end, a cupcake thank-you gathering was held for our individuals at the Plymouth Library. Another great season of continuing community partnerships was had by all.

The Sound of Music at TLC

By Lan Baker

Music offers elderly individuals with disabilities significant benefits such as reducing stress and anxiety, enhanced communication (both verbal and non-verbal), improving mood and memory, social connections with others, enhancing quality of life, and improving physical skills like fine motor coordination and range of motion through activities like playing instruments or moving to music.

TLC participants have enjoyed a variety of CBDS community and on-site music classes and music events that benefit their emotional and mental health well-being.

Dancing with Henry at Hanson Council on Aging: In this weekly activity, participants enjoy dancing, listening to music and building great relationship with community members.

Drumming Circle at Hanover Council on Aging: In this weekly class, TLC participants play the bongos following the beats of music and at times performed in a drumming concert for family and friends.

South Shore Conservatory in Duxbury: A weekly Memory Café, where participants engage in sing-a-long, dancing, play music trivia, and meditation while listening to gentle music.



Community Based Day Services



Music therapy at South Shore Conservatory: Nathaniel R. and instructor, Sam Shiner played the piano to Nathaniel's favorite songs including "A New Day Has Come."

SINGO at Hanover COA: TLC participants, Lisa H., Peter, and Beth enjoyed playing SINGO. SINGO is a new musical spin on the traditional game of Bingo. Instead of listening for a number, players are listening to their favorite music. Beth and Peter both won 1 game each!

SINGO at Marshfield COA: Lisa H. and Lisa P. played SINGO bingo with their new community friend's Lucille. No one at the table won but they had a wonderful time.

Karaoke at Pembroke COA: Peter performed karaoke with Diana and COA staff in front of a large group of members.

Lastly, *TLC on-site music class* with our famous Sean Carr. Participants sang along to their favorite oldies music while Sean played the guitar.

Annual Appeal

The annual appeal mails in November.

Your contribution truly makes a difference in the lives of the individuals we support. Please give as generously as you can this season.

Thank you!

Make a secure online donation today at newenglandvillage.org



PROGRAM HAPPENINGS

Day Habilitation

Collaborative Art Exhibit

By Melanie Rose-Zagwyn

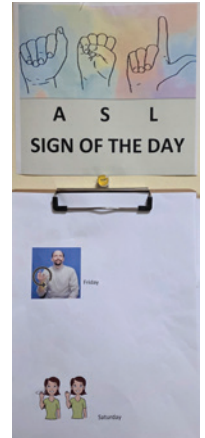
The Ray Assembly Hall of NEV underwent a slight renovation this summer to include a professional art exhibition hanging system!

The first exhibit to be displayed on this new track system was a collaborative art exhibit. The collaborative exhibit represented artwork from a wide variety of individuals who participate in residential, day, and evening art programming. The current exhibit includes a CDBS collaborative reproduction of Van Gogh's "Starry Night," created in dry media, portraits by two solo artists who attend the ECE Day Hab program, several individual pieces created by NEV residents, and a photograph by a community member who frequently attends NEV enrichment art programs.

The exhibit, which opened mid-summer, hung through September.



Alicia took advantage of using the foot bike and looking at a book at the same time. She was focused and happy!



ECE has an ASL "sign of the day" board. Each day, during the morning meeting, we are practicing a sign language sign. Recently, we learned signs for and sang "Happy Days." There is also a new "Kudos" board. This is an opportunity for ECE coworkers to shout out and thank their peers for doing things that help ECE be such an awesome place to work.

More ECE Happenings!

Dan enjoys going around to the front offices at 2 p.m. each day and picking someone to accompany him for a karaoke session. His favorites are Michael Bolton's "How am I Supposed to Live Without You?" and Michael Jackson's "You Are Not Alone."

Michael absolutely adores Paraprofessional Kari Stairs and has no problem showing it.

Molly was so excited to find out that Christine Chagnon was named NEV's new President & CEO. When Christine visited ECE later in the day, Molly congratulated her and asked to take a photo with her.



*Top to bottom:
Dan sings karaoke
Michael with Kari
Molly with Christine.*

Day Habilitation

Even More ECE Happenings!

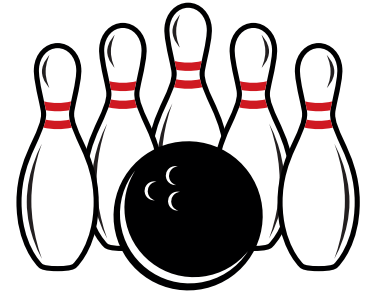
Participants of the Day Program at ECE love to spend time outdoors whenever the weather allows. The back patio/garden area and wooden swing were popular spots this summer.

Jess and Matt wore the same T-shirt on the same day. Jess's homeroom was celebrating "Stitch" day (as in Lilo & Stitch). Even though Matt is in a different homeroom, he happened to be wearing the same T-shirt and fit the theme.

Relief Paraprofessional Colin Powers was a good sport during our annual Hoyer Lift training. We encourage staff to take a "ride" during the training so that the operators can get practical experience in the case that they don't typically assist a member in this way. It's also an opportunity for the staff to experience what it feels like to be mechanically lifted and to rely on staff for their safety.



Pictured: Jeff & Cindy; Lucia & Amy; Lucia & Tricia; Michael enjoys the grass; Michael & Amanda; Brett & Molly; Genive rock stacking; Matt & Jess - Twins!



All summer long, ECE members went on weekly outings to the Alley Kat Lanes until every member who wanted to participate got to bowl. Everyone loves bowling and enjoyed the outings. The best part was that members from different groups got to mingle as they don't always get the opportunity during the day to do so!



PROGRAM HAPPENINGS

Enrichment &
Community Services

From Guys' Game Nights to the Brockton Rox

By Ginger Comeau

Guys' Games Night is a highly anticipated event that happens every other month at the Sollar Wellness Center. It originated when Red Cape resident, Peter B., mentioned to me that he was looking for ways to spend more time with his friends. The conversation continued with ideas on what types of activities he thought others would enjoy and the concept for the game night was hatched. Game nights are typically centered around card and dice games and a whole lot of friendly competition. This group enjoys ribbing each other when someone is knocked out of a game (inserting game show "wrong answer" noises for extra effect) and congratulating the big winner of the night, who leaves with bragging rights until the next time they meet.

The SWC was the place to be this summer to cool off and to take part in some of the themed pool and outdoor parties that were planned. One of our pool events was the Lucky Duck pool party. More than 400 small rubber ducks were tossed into the pool and party attendees were challenged with finding specific ducks in order to win a prize. We had ducks that looked like astronauts, Elvis, and more! It was a very fun way to spend a summer day. We also enjoyed celebrating the 50th anniversary of the movie "Jaws." What better way to rid our psyche of the image that kept us out of the ocean for years than by putting our heads in the shark's mouth willingly?

It isn't summer without campfire sing-alongs at NEV! May through June, a large crowd joined music instructor Sean Carr around the fire and sang along to traditional campfire songs. From "Sweet Caroline" to "Brown Eyed Girl," these summer nights are the best. And who doesn't love making s'mores?

Thirty-nine bowlers celebrated another successful season at the annual bowling banquet. Bowlers from our spring and fall seasons gathered for dinner at a local restaurant where each bowler

received a retro-inspired bowling shirt to wear next season. We can't wait to see everyone in their new shirts when we return to Alley Kat Lanes this fall.

Through the generosity of the Stephen Quintin Memorial Enrichment Fund, 25 residents and staff attended a Brockton Rox baseball game at Campanelli Stadium in June. It was a great outing, with the Rox staging a come-from-behind win in dramatic fashion. And as much as we were there to cheer on the home team, we were just as excited to meet their mascot KO.



Residential Services

House 2

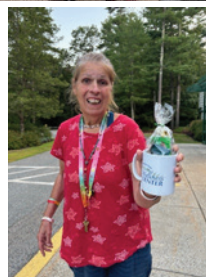
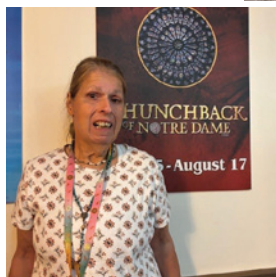
Something is always happening at House 2! In August, Kristen went on a whale watch. It was a beautiful day and she had a great time. Larry, John and Tyler went to the Pembroke Arts festival, and Larry and Phil went to the production of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at Company Theatre in Norwell.



Stan was presented with a gift card to 71 Degrees in Plymouth. He intends to plan a night out along with a show to celebrate his 50 years with New England Village! Congratulations, Stan!

Goings On at LaChance

The ladies of LaChance have been busy this summer! Marisa, her dad, and her step mom enjoyed a whale watch, celebrating Marisa's birthday in July. Mary and DSP Rita Pellerin went to see a production of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at The Company Theater in Norwell. Mary also found one of the hidden Sollar Wellness Center anniversary rocks, and took home a cool prize!



Thanks to the generosity of a donor, Tanya and a few friends were treated to tickets to the Outlaw Music Festival in September at the Xfinity Center, featuring one of Tanya's favorite country performers, Willie Nelson!



Robert Poth

Robert “Bob” Poth passed away on July 11. A beloved member of the New England Village community for 23 years, Bob left a lasting mark on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. He was the kindest soul—a true gentleman who never missed a chance to thank the staff or hold the door for someone else. His gentle nature and warm heart brought comfort and joy to those

around him. Bob faced challenges with steadfast determination, inspiring all who witnessed his strength and optimism.

Bob loved television—whether it was a baseball game, “This Old House”, “Judge Judy”, or the evening news. He’d often remark, “I’m glad that didn’t happen in my town,” with a mix of humor and sincerity. One of his favorites was “I Love Lucy”, and he proudly owned the full DVD set. He also had a deep love for construction and power tools, attending workshops at Home Depot and building birdhouses. Watching campus construction projects—especially the building of the Smith House—brought him great excitement as he described the diggers and loaders with enthusiasm. He enjoyed shopping for small appliances, always choosing ones in his favorite color: blue.

Bob’s love for music shone through his admiration for Bruce Springsteen—“The Boss”—and he even attended a concert in Connecticut. He had a flair for performance, often singing “God Bless America” at Village events and helping create the beloved “Dunkin’ Donuts” song. His infectious laugh—a hearty belly laugh with a snort—could light up any room. On rainy days, he’d cheerfully say, “It’s a good day for ducks,” a phrase fondly remembered by all.

Bob was a dedicated member of the Aktion Club and active participant in the Efron Center for Enrichment, where he formed lasting friendships and made a meaningful impact on his peers. He especially loved outings in the community, savoring a coffee or Mountain Dew while quietly taking in the world around him.

Those who knew Bob will remember him as a gentle, kind-hearted soul who brought warmth and light to every room. He touched countless lives, and his housemates and the staff who supported him will miss him dearly. His memory will live on in the laughter, stories, and love he shared with everyone who knew him.



Robyn Dobson

Robyn Dobson passed away on September 7, 2024, peacefully at her home. Robyn was a cherished day program member of the New England Village community for 30 years. Her presence left an indelible mark on everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

Robyn was a woman of undeniable charm. She had a remarkable ability to form close and meaningful connections with CBDS staff and peers. Her easygoing and warm demeanor made these relationships truly special.

Beyond her warm personality, Robyn had a passion for coloring beautiful art pieces at program. She liked hanging out with her peers and watched “Little House on the Prairie” (TV series). She enjoyed taking rides to local animal farms. Her favorite animals on the farms were chickens, sheep, cows, and the donkey at Colchester Farm.

We miss Robyn deeply. Her charm and warm personality will forever be in our hearts.

Development

pARTy at the Village

On July 23rd, NEV held our “pARTy at the Village” event in the Ray Assembly Hall. The event featured art produced by NEV-supported artists while introducing prospective donors to NEV’s mission. Thank you to everyone who attended and to NEV Art Director Melanie Rose-Zagwyn for curating the art for the event.



Happy Anniversary!

In the 50-plus years that New England Village has been serving individuals, we’ve continued to recognize the milestone anniversaries with some celebration. We appreciate each individual and employee here at NEV, and we value them more than we can ever express. For that reason, we congratulate them all on their special anniversaries.

INDIVIDUALS SERVED

RESIDENTIAL

50 Years

Seth Berkovich
Stanley Kaitz

40 Years

Jeanne Reynolds
Marc Mueller

35 Years

David Sollar

30 Years

Larry Glaser

DAY HAB

30 Years

Jennifer Porter

20 Years

Karen Ryan
Robert Worden

STAFF

35 Years

Mary Veiga
Jim Scott

20 Years

Randy Lucero

10 Years

Kathleen Connolly
Jenn Beaulieu
Amanda Mullen
Akari Hayashi

5 Years

Tatiana Gomes
Clervil Suka
Flavia Gomes
Myranda Harbinson
Julia Frazier
Jen Cadogan
Hannah Laudermilk
Jovani Curet
Lindsey Ferreira
Peter Finnegan
Domingo Mello
Aly Riddell



Cotti for a Cause

We were delighted to welcome Vincent Boccalini of Cotti-Johnson to NEV in May. Cotti-Johnson is an HVAC company based in Taunton, and each month makes a donation to a local nonprofit through their Cotti For A Cause campaign. We were the lucky recipient of their May donation. Vincent presented Stephanie Costa (past President & CEO) and Jonathan Grabowski (Vice President of Communications & Development) with a donation at the Sollar Wellness Center.

Excellence Awards

And the winners are...

Champion of Change
Adam Goldstein

**Going Above & Beyond
Allan S. Feldman Family Award**
Russell Muise

David Salamone Service with Care
Sean Sullivan
Tatiana Fernandes

Leadership
Melissa Mendes
Aurelie Flambert

Collaboration
Alessandra Riddell
Jennifer Beaulieu

WOW Award
Amy Prendergast
Erin Golden
Joy Kulbok

Self Determination
Sean Leary
Mark Milton
Leo Hughes



The Excellence Awards are an opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of direct support professionals, administration, supervisory personnel, and individuals served who reflect the core values of New England Village and demonstrate a commitment to fulfilling our mission. The nominations for these awards come from fellow employees, individuals served, and families or guardians. With so many great nominations, some awards had multiple winners.

Champion of Change Award

This award is to recognize an individual who drives change and/or embraces innovation. This employee has taken an innovative and proactive approach to developing or introducing new services, programs, or systems. They have advocated for novel, creative, and collaborative solutions to challenges and strategies for improvement. This year's winner is Day Hab Specialist Adam Goldstein.

Collaboration Award

This award is to recognize an individual who exemplifies collaboration and cooperation. They have developed and encouraged collaborative efforts, served as a role model to others in their positive and productive

professional relationships, and continuously looks for occasions to share knowledge, learning and opportunities. This year's winners are HR Generalist Alessandra Riddell and TLC Community Connector Jennifer Beaulieu.

Dave Salamone Service with Care Award

This award is to recognize an individual who has demonstrated significant commitment to fulfill and surpass the needs and dreams of the individuals they support. Using a person-centered approach, they have continuously sought ways to improve opportunities and break down barriers to inclusion and independence. They have anticipated needs and potential challenges before they occur and has shown exemplary care in the services provided resulting in positive outcomes and member satisfaction. This year's winners are Direct Support Professional Sean Sullivan and Assistant Program Manager Tatiana Fernandes.

Leadership Award

This award is to recognize an individual who exemplifies leadership in their current role. They have shown initiative, resourcefulness, and responsibility. This individual cultivates and motivates the team that surrounds them, inspiring commitment to the mission and vision of NEV. This individual demonstrates a high level of leadership skills, and uses those abilities to coach, mentor or develop the skills of those around them. This year's winners are ECE Paraprofessional Melissa Mendes and Assistant Program Manager Aurelie Flambert.

Going Above and Beyond Award

The Allan S. Feldman Family Award
This award is presented to a truly exceptional employee – someone whose dedication, compassion, and positive spirit shine through in all they do. This individual consistently exceeds expectations in their role, bringing an unwavering commitment to the care and support of those we serve. With humor, empathy, and a “can-do” attitude, they rise to every challenge and approach each day with purpose and professionalism, always striving to make a meaningful impact. Their service is marked by creativity, intention, and a genuine drive to uplift those around them – both co-workers and the individuals they support. Whether navigating daily routines or facing unexpected challenges, this employee leads with heart, listens deeply, and brings a lightness and joy that helps others “shake it off” and stay focused on

what matters most. They stand out in every crowd as someone who truly wants to make a difference – and they do, each and every day. This award honors their outstanding dedication, quality of service, and ability to inspire trust and positivity while always putting the individuals we support first. This year's winner is IHS Assistant Manager Russell Muise.

WOW Award

This award is to recognize an employee who has made an immediate impact within their first year of employment. Their positive attitude and fresh perspective have made a significant difference in the lives of individuals supported. They have jumped right in and made key contributions that reflect their dedication and commitment to fulfilling the mission and vision of New England Village. This year's winners are ECE Paraprofessional Amy Prendergast, Assistant Program Manager Erin Golden, and Residential Program Manager Joy Kulbok.

Self-Determination Award

This award is to recognize an individual with intellectual/developmental disabilities supported by New England Village who has demonstrated self-advocacy to pursue and achieve personal goals in one or more of the following areas: 1. Community Inclusion, 2. Personal Growth and Accomplishment, 3. Meaningful Employment, or 4. Other. This year's winners are Sean Leary, Mark Milton, and Leo Hughes.



It was another fabulous weather weekend in early August for our annual Antique and Classic Community Car Show. Many thanks to everyone who attended!



Business After Hours

We had a great night hosting the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce for a Business After Hours at Sollar Wellness Center back in May! The event provided an opportunity for Pembroke Chamber members to network while learning more about NEV's mission and its role in the Pembroke community.



Celebrating DSP Week

During Direct Support Professional Week, we showed our amazing DSPs how much we appreciate them. Throughout the week, we enjoyed delivering dinners to them, treating the overnight DSP staff to a drive-thru breakfast as they were heading home, and creating a video to show them how much they're appreciated. We wrapped up the week with a luncheon for all staff at each of our three locations. In addition to a video and meals, all NEV staff received branded quarter-zip pullovers!



Evan's Run

Team NEV was proud to participate once again in Evan's Run. Each year, our team participates in this race after a "Couch to 5K" training program. It's a great way to get some exercise and support the Evan Henry Foundation for Autism (evanhenry.org), a nonprofit organization established in memory of Evan Henry. The foundation seeks to promote awareness and education about autism and fund programs and projects benefiting individuals with autism.

Another Fun Family & Friends Day!

This year's Family & Friends Day event was definitely one for the books with over 350 people in attendance. We had fabulous weather, games, raffles, music, and our annual Excellence Awards were presented. We also got to congratulate individuals who were celebrating milestone anniversaries. It was a truly fantastic day!





Sixth Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

The weather did not disappoint again this year at The Cape Club of Sharon, as we celebrated the New England Village Family Association's 6th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Foursomes sold out in record time and sponsorships ranged from local businesses to family foundations and friends. Golfers enjoyed lunch, dinner, and an auction, along with some great camaraderie with members of the Family Association and NEV staff. Thank you to Joe Olivere, Lee Scott, and all of the incredible volunteers who always make this fundraising event extra special. It was a wonderful day!



Summer Kickoff Party

The Summer Kickoff Party is always a highlight of the season, and we thank our amazing Family Association (with the help of the fabulous Ginger Comeau) for once again throwing this fun party for the individuals we support. Also, thanks again to all the staff at Indian Pond Country Club for having us!



thank you

The New England Village Family Association presented a very special thank-you gift for our hardworking staff. Employees each received a gas card in appreciation for going the extra mile each and every day. Their commitment to the individuals they support is what makes New England Village so special. (Pictured are Direct Support Professional Nadjena Lamour and NEV Family Association Treasurer Lee Scott.)



Sollar Wellness Center Celebrates 20 Years

By SWC Staff

The Sollar Wellness Center is celebrating its 20-year anniversary! It seems like just yesterday when we opened our doors to this beautiful facility. While we have seen many changes in programs over the years, one thing has remained the same - this building has always been a space where people come for enjoyment and personal growth in mind, body, and spirit.

People often comment on the calming and peaceful feeling they immediately experience once they walk through the front door. It may be the serene color scheme of the carpet and walls but, more than likely, it's the welcoming atmosphere that makes everyone feel at home. Our dedicated staff sets the tone for the building. All visitors are greeted with a smile and a "hello." We want guests to know that we're excited to see them and appreciate that they're here.

"The Sollar Wellness Center is a place where adults with and without disabilities can explore wellness opportunities in a supportive environment," said Ginger Comeau, Director of Enrichment



and Community Services. "We are so fortunate to have access to this beautiful facility and to be able to share it with others in the community. We fill a need that not many other places can. Our instructors are dedicated to providing quality programs for all ability levels, and we have had the opportunity to witness so many powerful success stories over the years. The icing on the cake is the fostering of acceptance and building of relationships that happens organically through these programs."

The vision for the Sollar Wellness Center came from Arnold and the late Siema Sollar, who believed strongly in the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. After visiting Canyon Ranch in Arizona and sponsoring a health and wellness seminar at New England Village, it became very clear that a chasm existed between what was believed to be true about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle for individuals with disabilities, and what was actually available to them.

To close that gap, funds were raised to build the Sollar Wellness Center, the first facility of its kind, uniquely designed to accommodate the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It opened in 2005 and has since grown to become a vibrant community center. Although the building was initially

designed to offer the individuals that New England Village supports the opportunity to maintain a healthy lifestyle, it soon became clear that this beautiful facility should be shared with people from the local community, as well.

"The Sollar Wellness Center is a fantastic facility with so much to offer," said Suzanne Mallon, Chair Yoga Instructor and Yoga for All Abilities Instructor. "When the opportunity arose for me to teach yoga classes, I was thrilled to become a part of the NEV community. Happy 20th anniversary and cheers to many more years of fun, enjoyment and enrichment for all!"

Today the Sollar Wellness Center offers a myriad of programs for all abilities and interests. From paint nights, to water fitness classes, to yoga, cooking classes, and everything in between, the Sollar Wellness Center has truly become a vibrant community resource. All of our instructors are certified in their area of specialty and our classes offer the public an opportunity to take a class or learn a new skill at an affordable price in a welcoming space. With more than 60 years of combined experience, our staff has the ability to tailor sessions to best meet the needs of everyone looking to participate in our programs.





We extend a warm welcome to the following employees who have joined New England Village since the last edition of Scoops was published.

Assistant Program Managers

- Coeurchy Chery
- Erin Golden
- Kara L. Lippe

Assistant Residential Director

- Jennifer Barlow

Direct Support Professional – Relief

- Maherly Adam
- Francia Apollon
- Janney Ceylan
- Center Desamour
- Mariflore Dorce
- Edwine Millien
- Amelia Prescott
- Ashley Treannie
- Kenice Whyte

Direct Support Professionals

- Geciline Antunes
- Jill Arsenault
- Midlyne Bertrand
- Roseline Charlot
- Wilkens Darius
- Leona Forrester
- Marcia Gomes
- Cecile Hanaphy
- Yvanne Jn Louis Philistin
- Surdine Joseph
- Wendy Medina Labossiere
- Nadjena Lamour
- Kens Montilus
- Claudia Nordelus

Community Connector

- Parker Johnson

Office Manager

- Karin Parodi

Paraprofessional

- Madison Davenport
- Allison Pacheco

Residential Program Director

- Sheri McKinney

Mom on the Go!

NEV staff were treated to an employee luncheon in May, with food provided by Mom On the Go Food Truck, serving up a variety of gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches. It was definitely a crowd pleaser!



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life in ways both big and small. Their stories fuel my purpose and remind me why this work matters. They are a daily reminder of the strength within our community and the values that guide us.

What excites you about NEV's future?

I'm excited about the future we're building together - a future rooted in our values and shaped by the voices of our community. This next chapter is about deepening our commitment, growing sustainably, and continuing to lead with purpose.

As we renew our strategic plan, we have a powerful opportunity to innovate with compassion, grow with intention, and expand our impact in ways that honor our legacy while meeting the evolving needs of those we support.

Over the next two to three years, we'll bring this plan to life with integrity and accountability. It will guide our daily decisions, strengthen our programs, and foster a sense of belonging and readiness across the organization. Together, we're laying the foundation for a future that is responsive, inclusive, and mission-driven.



Stay up to date on Village happenings by subscribing to Village Connections our monthly electronic newsletter.

Just send your email address to jcadogan@newenglandvillage.org and we'll add you to our broadcast list.

Gift Giving Policy

As the holiday season approaches, and with it the season for gift-giving and showing appreciation to staff who care for loved ones, we wanted to remind families and friends of NEV's gift-giving policy to staff.

In an effort to adhere to best practices, employees are strictly prohibited from accepting any gifts from individuals served. Gifts from family members, guardians, visitors, and others to employees are limited to \$25 or less; monetary gifts of any value are prohibited, as are gift cards.

Any family members, friends, or guardians who wish to give a holiday gift valued at more than \$25 or a monetary gift may instead make a contribution to the Employee Engagement and Recognition Committee. This Committee plans staff events and perks throughout the year. Checks can be sent to Jonathan Grabowski, Vice President of Communications & Development.

We believe this updated policy helps ensure staff equity and precludes potential conflicts of interest.



New England Village

Connecting People, Purpose & Passion

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