You Turned Those Frowns Upside Down

Lester was an RN for over 25 years, but has an altogether too familiar story. A debilitating injury changed his life.

Because you support GSIL, Lester’s sad story has a happy ending. And so does Loriann’s.

Lester only fell off a curb but he incurred a brain injury that resulted in the loss of six year’s of memories. To add insult, his partner who had power of attorney used the moment to take everything of Lester’s. His apartment, his furniture but worst of all, his cat. Lester was devastated. Even when his housing service coordinator secured a new furnished apartment, Lester was still broken and bitter.

A Solution in Sight

Enter “Baby.” Coincidentally, another GSIL consumer, Loriann, had been in and out of a rehab facility, and she needed to find a new home for her cat, Baby. She also was broken-hearted. Though Lester was saving up to rescue a cat, it seemed a long way off. But our Housing Specialist, Christina, immediately saw the perfect solution. On a rainy Friday night, Christina rescued “Baby,” now “Suzie” – a one year old spayed female - and delivered her to Lester. Christina says it was one of the happiest moments she has experienced as a Housing Specialist. Lester has a new companion AND Loriann will be able to keep up to date on the cat’s status.

Thanks to you, and to Christina’s “over and above” commitment, the needs of two consumers have surpassed all expectation. What a fabulous outcome for all!
Board Corner

Patti Martin Brown, Second Vice Chair

Patti is a deaf individual whose primary language is American Sign Language. She brings to us 25+ years of work experience in various human services settings, much of which has been specifically in mental health and working with deaf individuals. She serves on our Board to help represent the interests and concerns of folks with disabilities, particularly those in the deaf and hard of hearing communities.

In addition to her service on the GSIL Board, she is currently on the Board of Directors of Northeast Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services and previously on the Board of Directors, New Hampshire Minority Coalition.

Patti has a Bachelor of Science in Mental Health Case Management from Granite State College, Concord, New Hampshire. She lives on the Seacoast with her wife, Karen and their daughter Camille.

Patti brings a wealth of experience to her second stint as a GSIL Board Member. Back in the early 2000’s, her tenure was cut short by a family illness which required her to relocate and take on the care of her loved one. But she is back now, serving with enthusiasm. Not only has she secured one new wheelchair basketball team, she is reaching out to the women of the NH Roller Derby. This just shows what kind of fun and energetic person Patti is.

Your Money in the Community
Since we last talked...

183 Accessible Van Rides

18 Successful Job Placements

37 Access Modification Projects completed, giving individuals access to their community.

4 Individuals transitioned from nursing facilities, saving the state over $124,000 per year.

12 Graduates and 14 Students currently enrolled in the Earn & Learn Opportunities Program.

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Brenda Bach (pictured above), a dedicated and trustworthy GSIL sign language interpreter & good friend of Patti.
Gary has had a rough four years in and out of health care facilities. Some stays were short, but others very lengthy due to his health issues. But those days are behind him now.

We were able to find a more appropriate, accessible apartment and provided assistance with furnishings and other items to help make this transition happen. GSIL assisted throughout the discharge planning meetings, supplying useful information to speed up the process and help things go smoothly.

Gary had the names of 2 attendant care workers two weeks before his discharge and he was able to interview them by phone and have help in place upon his return. He feels good about leaving the facility and returning to independent living because the team here made such an effort to make it happen. He feels strong, and he feels cared for.

These kinds of stories don’t “just happen.” They happen because good and caring people like you give generously and help create independence opportunities.

Gary thanks you, and so do we!

Do You Want To Feel Like Superman?

To meet the ever increasing need for services, GSIL is always looking for attendant care workers. People like you who, obviously, care about people with disabilities.

One of our best sources for finding qualified people is referrals. If you are interested in that “superman” feeling, or if you know someone who is, why not consider spending a portion of the day helping folks live the independent life they crave? Why else?

It’s the Flexibility

As a statewide nonprofit, we strive to find work situations as close to home as possible with the hours that mesh best with the worker’s schedule. Maybe your kids aren’t kids anymore, her grandchildren are in school or the 40 hour work week is behind him. At this point, it may just be the perfect time to give back to your community. Home Care Attendants know that every hour they spend providing care truly makes a difference in someone’s life.

It’s the People

GSIL walls are filled with people just like you – people who care, and work to make a difference. You can, too. Join our team, or suggest someone who might.

Contact us at (603) 228-9680 to learn more about Becoming a Caregiver.
Join the “Hoop”la!

Please Join Us

May 9

all day at Pembroke Academy &
Three Rivers School, Pembroke NH

On the court or in the stands!

There is still time to enter your team of eight in this year’s Hoops on Wheels Event. We have a few slots open, but a lot of interest so don’t wait – call Leslie Ari at 410-6532 today!

Can’t play? Then please pop by and see what all the “hoop”la is about! Lots of laughs, good food, and some darn good basketball.

Hope to see YOU there!

A Special Thank You...

Northeast Delta Dental

Special thanks to our good friends at Northeast Delta Dental, who have been very generous with us over the years.

In addition to their corporate membership, which is substantial, Mike Bourbeau, Vice President of Information Systems, shares his knowledge and talents on our Board. He is currently serving his second 3-year term as our Treasurer and on the Executive Committee.

Northeast Delta Dental is always here for our consumers, helping to create access and independence opportunities, and we are all very grateful.