Supporting Students with Disabilities

On Giving Tuesday, November 29th, the community got together to celebrate giving by donating to Granite State Independent Living’s student transition services. And to put it simply, the students were grateful!

Make A Path

Transitioning from high school into the “real world” can be an intimidating and overwhelming time for many students, especially for students at-risk of dropping out. The IMPACCT program helps students prepare themselves as they plan for their future. Ian is already feeling more confident!

Self-Advocacy

When Jessica started the program, she knew her needs didn’t always align with the traditional classroom environment, but she didn’t know why or what to do. During her time in the program, Jess has learned how to (continued on page 2)
Welcome

Inside this issue, you will find stories highlighting just how your dollars have impacted the community. We believe you should know just who you have helped and the difference your gifts have made.

Your generosity continues to change lives. And for that, we thank you.

With sincerest gratitude,

Clyde E. Terry
Chief Executive Officer

Supporting Students with Disabilities

(continued from page 1)

advocate for herself and her needs to make her experience in and out of school as successful as possible.

Find Employment

Jared had never held a job before. He didn’t know how to interview, he didn’t how to write a resume and he didn’t know what he didn’t know. We are proud to tell you that not only does Jared now excel at these workplace readiness skills, but was able to participate in a job placement through the program at TJ Maxx.

Thanks to you, these students are feeling prepared, confident and ready to take on everything their future holds in store!

‘17 End of Year Appeal

Remember reading Jennifer’s story earlier this winter? Thanks to generous friends like you, we raised over $8,350 from that letter - which nearly doubled last year’s amount!

“I and many others are so grateful for your donation!” says Jennifer. “More doors and opportunities will be opened thanks to your contribution!”

“IMPACCT has allowed me to do so much more than I thought I could do... it has given me opportunities I never would have had.”
A Star in So Many Ways

From winning a gold medal in the Paralympics to Dancing with the Stars, Victoria Arlen continues to prove that anything is possible.

In October, America watched as 23-year-old Victoria Arlen swept the nation on ABC’s “Dancing with the Stars”. Victoria suffered two rare diseases at the age of 11 that left her in a vegetative state for years, resulting in paralysis below the waist due to spinal damage. In 2016, her endless hard work, determination and perseverance paid off when she stood from her wheelchair and began walking on her own.

Victoria, keynote speaker at GSIL’s 35th anniversary in 2015, believes: “Heroes in real life don’t wear masks and capes. Sometimes they don’t stand out at all. But real heroes can save a life or many lives just by answering the call in their heart. In the darkest period of my life, when I couldn’t help myself, my heroes were there… Sometimes we just need someone to lean over and whisper, ‘You can do it!’”

Victoria is a public voice of the obstacles and trials faced each day by our consumers. Quietly, every day, GSIL is the hero to that person, saying yes, you can do it. And you, our loyal supporter. You may not wear a mask or cape. You may not stand out. But you are a hero saving lives, just by answering the call in your heart.

“Sometimes we just need someone to lean over and whisper, ‘You can do it!’”

Victoria and her dancing partner, Val Chmerkovskiy, made it to the show’s semifinals. But this isn’t her first time in front of an audience. After winning a gold medal and three silver medals in the 2012 Summer Paralympics, Victoria was brought on by ESPN as an on-air personality.

“Sometimes we just need someone to lean over and whisper, ‘You can do it!’”

Photo retrieved from WMUR.

Victoria Arlen and former GSIL board member Dave Qualey take a selfie in 2015.

Giving Matters 3
GSIL’s 7th Annual Wheelchair Basketball Fundraiser

Hoops on Wheels is an all day basketball tournament where players maneuver the court using wheelchairs - whether you have a disability or not!

**Saturday, March 3rd** - Grab 8+ of your friends, family and/or colleagues to compete in this year’s wheelchair basketball tournament. You choose your league - go for the gold in the competitive bracket or keep it recreational with round robin.

Games start at 8:00am with the championship game starting around 5:00pm. Games begin every 35 minutes at Rundlett Middle School in Concord, NH. Each team is responsible for fundraising $1000 (~$120/player). All are welcome!

This year’s event will include an exciting on-site demo of the Wheel Pad L3C to further raise disability awareness and promote accessibility. Event attendees will have the chance to step inside a 200-square foot prototype of an accessible bedroom and bathroom for people with new mobility issues. The temporary housing module will be stationed in the parking lot with tours available from 9:00am-1:00pm.

For more event details or to register a team/player, please visit [www.gsil.org/hoops](http://www.gsil.org/hoops).

**More Ways to Get Involved**

This year, we are excited to offer a new option to support GSIL and the programs you love. Visit [www.everydayhero.com](http://www.everydayhero.com) and search for “Granite State Independent Living”. This easy-to-use crowdfunding platform will walk you through every step of the way! All proceeds directly support life with independence.

More information is also available on [www.gsil.org/hoops](http://www.gsil.org/hoops) under “This Year’s Materials” or contact us at 603-410-6503 and we can help walk you through it.

Thank You to our 2018 Sponsors:

- CGI Employee Benefits Group
- NH Healthy Families
- Northeast Rehab
- CCA Global Partners
- Merrimack County Savings Bank
- New Hampshire Federal Credit Union
- Mobility Works
- PiF Technologies

Thank you for generously supporting GSIL and its mission!
Funding Highlights

Many thanks to our foundation and corporate friends for the 2017 support:

- **In a Pinch Café** for providing gift cards to our employee contribution campaign.
- **NH Charitable Foundation** $10,000 to support home and environmental modifications.
- **Employees of Associated Grocers of NE** $4,000 for operating support.
- **Junior Service League of Concord** $1,000 to help women and children with disabilities.
- **Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund** $2,000 to support mediation training and transportation workshop pilot for North Country IMPACCT students.
- **NH Housing** $250,000 over two years for an Accessibility Pilot Program.
- **Pearl Manor Fund of Mary John Elliot Charitable Foundation** $8,000 to transition two individuals out of nursing homes.
- **Harry Gregg Foundation** $19,180.49 in project support for 61 consumers.
- **Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation** $8,481 in year two of “Healthy Food for Every Age” initiative.
- **Northeast Delta Dental** $2,000 in support of GSIL events.
- **Granite State Poker Alliance** $14,690 from gaming at Manchester Vegas Poker Room.
- **Whole Foods** $1,000 to support IMPACCT students.

**Golf was a Hit!**

Our 5th Annual Chipping in FORE! Independence golf tournament was once again a great time for all. This year we had **60+ golfers** come out and hit the links, raising **$11,520** for GSIL.

Many thanks to our 2017 Golf Sponsors:

- CGI Benefits Group; Mobility Works; NH Healthy Families; Melanson Heath; NFP Dick Fellows; Well Sense; Betterforms; Devine Millimet; Merrimack County Savings Bank and Robat Holdings.

**The Inaugural Haunted Hunt**

In October, folks came out to enjoy the newly renovated downtown Concord while supporting GSIL at this wicked urban scavenger hunt. **With 29 attendees, we raised $3,500!**

Thank you to our 2018 Haunted Hunt Sponsors:

- Pif Technologies; Grappone Automotive Group; Andrew Ellis; Mobility Works; Hermanos Cocina Mexicana; Marketplace New England; Capitol Craftsman & Romance Jewelers; Constantly Pizza; Granite State Candy Shoppe; Subway; True Brew Barista; All About Kitchens of Concord; Fifty Home; Concord Food Co-Op; Viking House; Godwanna; Willows Plant Based Eatery; Double Midnight Comics.
The David B. Robar Independent Living Endowment

Passionate about life, David Robar was an elite ski jumper who tried out for the 1988 Olympic team when a motorcycle accident at age 26 left him paralyzed below the chest. As an advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities, his proudest accomplishment was working to pass a law that allows adults with disabilities to work full time while retaining their Medicaid benefits.

David was employed with Granite State Independent Living for 17 years before his passing in 2009 at the age of 44. To honor his memory, David’s parents Donald and Elaine Robar established the David B. Robar Independent Living Endowment Fund in 2015.

"He was tenacious when it came to the idea that people with disabilities should be considered equal citizens and have opportunities to achieve the American dream," says Clyde Terry, CEO of GSIL. "He wholeheartedly embraced his lot in life after his accident, and it didn’t get him down, but rather he drew strength from that to say, ‘I’m still a full human being and I can still make a difference.’"

Contributions can be made to the David B. Robar Independent Living Endowment online at www.gsil.org/donate or by returning the enclosed reply envelope and designating the gift to “Robar Endowment”.

Mark Your Calendar

Did you know we have an Events page on our website? Now you can scroll through our upcoming events, mark your calendar and make sure you don’t miss a thing! Check it out: www.gsil.org/events.

Get Involved Today

DONATE - Every gift makes a difference. EMAIL - Stay up-to-date with GSIL news.

VOLUNTEER - Giving back with time. CONNECT - Find us on social media.