



# VANDERHEYDEN

Giving new life to youth, adults and families



## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



### Welcoming a new school year

We're thrilled to welcome back our dedicated school team for another out-of-this-world year. Our teachers always find creative ways to make the first day unforgettable for our youth—this year, one teacher even made an entrance straight from outer space! In keeping with tradition, President & CEO Karen Carpenter and board member John Hinkle greeted staff and shared a welcome goodie bag to start the year off right.



### \$275,000 grant from NYS Office of Mental Health

Vanderheyden is honored to receive a \$275,000 Youth and Family Peer Advocate Expansion Grant from the New York State Office of Mental Health. This funding will support the training and credentialing of Youth and Family Peer Advocates across six Capital Region counties.



### Teaming up with Capital Roots

Vanderheyden is excited to partner with Capital Roots to bring fresh, locally grown produce to all our programs and group homes. This partnership helps us provide nutritious, farm-to-table meals that support the health and wellbeing of everyone we serve.



## Welcome Senator Jake Ashby

We were pleased to welcome Senator Jake Ashby to tour the Richard A. Desrochers Educational Center, meet our students, and learn more about Vanderheyden's life-changing services!

## The Vandy Thrift Shoppe

The Vandy Thrift Shoppe continues to be a hidden gem for unique finds and budget-friendly treasures. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the support of our shoppers, every purchase helps fund programs that make a difference in the lives of the individuals we serve. New items arrive weekly, so stop by to see what's new - you never know what special piece you might discover!



## Foster Love Donation

A bike is more than just wheels—it's freedom, confidence, and a chance to just be a kid! Thank you to Foster Love for donating 10 bikes with helmets and 20 birthday boxes!

## Kona Ice Truck Visit

Our team members enjoyed a well-deserved cool down with Kona Ice and some new Vandy merch - A small token of our gratitude for the extraordinary dedication and commitment they demonstrate each day in support of those in our care.



# Meet our youth: Kells

## *Living and growing in our community*

Kells is a bright and resilient 19-year-old who has called Vanderheyden's Residential Treatment Center for Youth home for the past two years. Originally from Russia, she was adopted and brought her here to the United States as a child. Early on, Kells and her adoptive family noticed significant challenges with Kells, including behavioral struggles and difficulty at school and home.

When she first arrived at Vanderheyden, Kells was shy, nervous, and convinced she wouldn't be able to open up to anyone. But over time, with the consistent care, patience, and encouragement of her house staff, she began to thrive. Today, Kells has blossomed into a confident young woman who loves to share her thoughts and connect with others.

Her achievements are remarkable—she graduated from Vanderheyden's Special Education School with a Regents Diploma and earned multiple awards recognizing her kindness and character. She currently works at Bargain Grocery and is exploring more independent living options.

Kells' journey is a powerful reminder of the potential within every young person when they are supported, believed in, and given the chance to grow!



## *We need your support!*

*For only \$18.33 a month.  
You can make a difference!*

Mail your monetary donation to:  
Vanderheyden; Development Department  
PO Box 219, Wynantskill, NY 12198

**SCAN & SUSTAIN**



Help us create a world where  
all have an opportunity to thrive.

# VANDERFEST 2025 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER OCTOBER

THURSDAY 16 6PM - 9PM



Music entertainment  
provided by DJ Vinny Vin!



Reserve your tickets today:  
[www.vanderheyden.org](http://www.vanderheyden.org)

Join us for a night of inspiration,  
connection, and purpose.



Duo at The Dunes  
257 Washington Ave Extension  
Albany, NY 12205