

GMSS REPORTER

GREEN MOUNTAIN SUPPORT SERVICES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

January 2025 (1st Quarter newsletter)



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Beginning 2025 celebrating our GMSS team



**ELIZABETH
WALTERS**
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Dear GMSS
Community –

We were so
pleased to
celebrate GMSS
employees at
our Employee
Appreciation
Event on

January 22. We recognized employees who had achieved milestone anniversaries, of whom there were many. Fun facts – Our 60 employees have an average tenure with the agency of nearly five years and, collectively have 278 years of service with the Agency! We painted, enjoyed a meal, and were entertained by Tom, the founder of Magicians Without Borders, who travels to war-torn countries and refugee camps bringing compassion and smiles to those most in need. It was a joy to spend the day in fellowship with coworkers.

In December, we celebrated the grand re-opening of the White Tail Drive property in Wolcott. With the addition of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) to the existing apartments, we have converted one-bedroom apartments into accessible two-bedroom units that will help us to address critical needs for those we serve.

Nominations for the Kevin O'Riordan award are open until February 20th. Anyone in our community may nominate an Employee or a Shared Living Provider for this award that celebrates a team member who exemplifies caring, professional commitment, and effective advocacy for the people we support, and who strives to ensure individuals with disabilities are meaningfully included and valued within the community.

To recommend someone for this year's award, please send your nominating letter (up to 300 words) to me by February 20th.

The Board will review all letters and then choose this year's winner at their February meeting.

The (Conflict of Interest) COI implementation dates are fast approaching but there is no new information to share currently. There are many questions yet to be answered and we look forward to receiving updates from DAIL soon. Over the coming months, we'll host some information sessions to share what we know so that you can be informed about what to expect. Please be on the lookout for those and attend if you can as COI is going to bring significant changes for those we support.

This year's Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Day is on Tuesday, March 25th. This is a wonderful opportunity to advocate for the people we serve. GMSS was well represented last year, and we'd like to have even more people attend this year. It's a powerful day of advocacy, connection, and action. Please don't miss this chance to make a difference and ensure that the needs of the I/DD community are front and center in the legislative agenda. No registration is required. Just show up at the Statehouse and look for Team GMSS! Our power is in our presence.

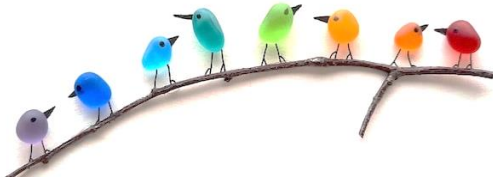
The Board of Directors is seeking additional members, particularly individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, and professionals with financial or legal expertise. If you know someone who might be interested in learning more, please encourage them to write to board@gmssvt.org.

Finally, we are also looking to add some new members to our Training Committee. We particularly seek representation of people receiving services, family members, and shared living providers. Please let me know if you are interested in learning more.

Yours truly,

Elizabeth

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Colorful sea glass art

Join us for this fun art project... just in time for Spring!



March 18th
2:00 – 3:00 pm
All materials supplied

Upcoming SLP Trainings

To sign up for any training, visit our website's SLP resource page:

gmssvt.org/slp-resource

Therapeutic Options

(In-person, initial certification)
February 10, 2025, 12:00 - 4:00pm

Therapeutic Options

(In-person, full course)
March 14, 2025, 8:30am - 3:30pm

First Aid/CPR Certification

February 18, 8:30am – 12:30pm

March 18, 8:30am – 12:30pm



Help us share how wonderful GMSS is!

Word of mouth is powerful

- Did you know we offer all SLPs and staff a referral bonus up to \$500 for referring new employees to us? Please contact Jennifer in Human Resources to learn more!
- We would like to participate as a team in more community events such as parades, fairs, etc! If you would like to help by volunteering, please let Beth know beth.hammond@gmssvt.org



2025 BINGO DATES

Any changes will be posted on our Facebook page and at GMSS



Wednesday Mornings

February 12th 9:30-10:45

February 26th 9:30-10:45

March 12th 9:30-10:45

March 26th 9:30-10:45

April 9th 9:30-10:45

April 23rd 9:30-10:45

New GMSS New Employee Spotlight / Welcome!

Brittany Benway
Temp Admin Assistant



Chelsea Choate
Service Coordinator



Joseph Dizazzo
Specialized Carre Team DSP



Katerine Henderson
Service Coordinator



Stacey Merriam
Service Coordinator



Derrick Patenaude
Specialized Care Team DSP



Casey Sherburne
Service Coordinator



GMSS Anniversaries

(January – March)

GMSS Employees

Dee Dee Clark 1/3/18 **7yrs**
Amy Gillilan 1/3/23 **2yrs**
Sheila Coolum 1/20/21 **4yrs**
Stephanie Lindgren 2/17/15 **10yrs**
Christina Bell 2/21/17 **8yrs**
Ian Bowen 3/4/24 **1yrs**
Samantha Plemons 3/4/24 **1yrs**
Makayla Carpenter 3/5/21 **4yrs**

Shared Living Providers

Mary Eckhardt 1/1/2020 **5yrs**
Lisa Maskell 1/1/2016 **9yrs**
Matthew Hawkins 1/31/2024 **1yr**
Loralie Demar 1/1/2004 **21yrs**
Trisha Judd 1/26/2022 **3yrs**
Selina Crowe 1/29/2024 **1yr**
Courtney Millett 2/1/2021 **4yrs**
Maureen Rimlinger 2/1/2015 **10yrs**
Jerri-Lyn Reynolds 2/9/2024 **1yr**
Dan Hale 2/14/2022 **3yrs**
Maureen Aldrich 3/1/2013 **12yrs**
Bonnie Clark 3/1/2017 **8yrs**
John DeRienzo 3/1/2021 **4yrs**
Peggy Draper 3/1/2001 **24yrs!!**
Shannon Begin 3/12/2024 **1yr**
George Bothfeld 3/13/2021 **4yrs**
David Godfrey 3/15/2018 **7yrs**
Shannon Begin 3/16/2023 **2yrs**

Board Meetings

Our GMSS Board meets on the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-7pm. A meeting link can be found on our website: gmssvt.org

All members of the GMSS community are welcome to attend board meetings. The board will designate a public comment period at each meeting during which community members may ask questions.