

# GMSS REPORTER

GREEN MOUNTAIN SUPPORT SERVICES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

February 2026 (1st Quarter Newsletter)



We proudly share that GMSS has been named a 2026 Best Place to Work in Vermont!

Companies from across the state participated in a two-part evaluation process. Contributing factors in the selection process were employer input, including mission, vision, policies, and benefits and individual employee surveys. To learn more about the award, you can view VermontBiz' announcement through a link on our website [gmssvt.org](http://gmssvt.org).

Thank you to our incredible team, this recognition is a direct reflection of your dedication, passion, **and commitment to our mission. We couldn't** do this work without you!

We were grateful to wrap up 2025 with so much laughter! We are looking forward to more meaningful times together in 2026!



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**ELIZABETH  
WALTERS**

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

Warm Winter Greetings –

It is an exciting time to be at GMSS and in this newsletter, I am pleased to share some highlights:

- We are hiring, but except for just a few part-time DSP positions, we are hiring for growth – this means we are adding positions so that we can expand, not scrambling to fill vacant positions. This marks the first time **we've** been able to say that in many years!
  - Our Shared Living Providers continue to bring heart and soul to the very special and important work they do. We appreciate that so many of our SLPs have already reached out to ask about training opportunities for this year. More on that will be coming soon!
  - Late last year, we made important building security updates and launched a robust Workplace Violence Prevention Plan. Thanks to Beth Hammond and our Safety Committee for their thoughtful work on this!
  - GMSS launched its first "Staffed Living" program just about one year ago and today our Specialized Care Team is fully staffed with thirteen exceptional DSPs who work round the clock to provide high-quality care to two equally exceptional individuals.
  - Our management team completed a training exercise last fall called "Cultivating Highly Engaged Teams" and as a result of that work we have launched an exciting new staff engagement plan.
- We recently welcomed Elz Townsend as our new HR Generalist and she is off to a flying start. Elz is a credentialed HR professional with many years of experience and staff recognized from Day One her positivity, thoughtfulness, and can-do attitude.
  - We hosted several community events last year including our Older Americans Music Jam, Tropical Barbecue, Prom, Halloween Party, Holiday Party, and Painting with our very own Andrea. You can see the fabulous photos from these events at [gmssvt.org](http://gmssvt.org). More events to come in 2026 and we hope you'll join us.
  - We just learned our employees voted GMSS a "Best Places to Work" in 2026 which is an incredible accomplishment. Those of you who have been part of GMSS for a while now know that **we've** come a long, long way in the last few years! It was not quite three years ago that DAIL moved to de-designate and close down GMSS. Since then, together, we have built an entirely new GMSS, and **it's** one we can all be very proud of.

Please reach out if you have something to share. Your questions, comments, and feedback are important.

*Elizabeth*



## Board Meetings

Our GMSS Board meets most months on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:30pm. The next meeting date and link can be found on our website:

[gmssvt.org](http://gmssvt.org)

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## Upcoming Trainings

To sign up for any training, visit our website's SLP resource page:  
[gmssvt.org/slp-resources](http://gmssvt.org/slp-resources)

### Therapeutic Options Full Course

- January 21 (8:30a-3:30p, in-person)
- April 8 (8:30a-3:30p, in-person)
- July 10 (8:30a-3:30p, in-person)
- October 7 (8:30a-3:30p, in-person)

### Therapeutic Options Re-Certifications

- March 11 (9:00a-1:00p, in-person)
- May 11 (9:00a-1:00p, in-person)
- August 19 (9:00a-1:00p, in-person)
- Sept 9 (9:00a-1:00p, in-person)

### First Aid/CPR/AED

- February 24 (9:30a-1:30p, in-person)
- March 24 (9:30a-1:30p, in-person)

## Painting with Andrea



Tuesday  
February 17<sup>th</sup>  
9– 11am



Wednesday  
March 18<sup>th</sup>  
9– 11am

*Come join our participant painting class and paint a landscape! All supplies provided.*



GMSS is remembering  
Julie Kirkpatrick  
11/17/58 - 12/30/25

## Bingo at GMSS 2026!

*Come join in the fun!*

**February 11th**  
**March 11th**  
**April 8th**  
**April 22nd**  
**May 6th**  
**May 20th**  
**June 3rd**  
**June 17th**  
**July 1st**  
**July 15th**  
**July 29th**  
**August 12th**  
**August 26th**  
**September 28th**

*9:00 – 10:45am*



Julie lived her life with joy and compassion. You could always count on her to tell you what was on her mind, but she would do it with a smile and a twinkle in her eye. She enjoyed socializing with others, joking around, interacting with children and animals. She was known for being proud, fiery, and lived a very active lifestyle. Julie was the sweetest human being, everyone who came in contact with Julie fell in love with her instantly. She will be missed by all who's lives she touched in many different ways.

Her guardian will be planning a celebration of life in the spring.

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## Celebrating our GMSS Team

Jordan E Blanchard  
Specialized Care Team DSP



Brandon Elliott  
Specialized Care Team DS



Megan Evans  
Service Coordinator



Jazmine King  
DSP Float



Debra Pelletier-Fenichel  
Specialized Care Team DSP

Sarah Stearns  
Direct Support Professional



Elz Townsend  
Human Resources Generalist



### GMSS Anniversaries

(January – March 2026)

#### GMSS Employees

##### January

Dee Dee Clark	1/3/18	8yrs
Sheila Colum	1/20/21	5yrs
Amy Gillilan	1/3/23	3yrs
Joseph DiZazzo	1/6/25	1yr
Derrick Patenaude	1/13/25	1yr
CeCe Choate	1/20/25	1yr
Casey Sherburne	1/21/25	1yr

##### February

Stephanie Lindgren	2/17/15	11yrs
Christina Bell	2/21/17	9yrs

##### March

Makayla Carpenter	3/25/21	4yrs
Onika Bedell	3/3/25	1yr
Cassee Mercia	3/17/25	1yr
Meagan Audet	3/26/25	1yr

### Shared Living Providers

##### January

Loralie Demar	1/1/2004	22yrs
Lisa Maskell	1/1/2016	10yrs
Trisha Judd	1/26/2022	4yrs
Selina Crowe	1/29/2024	2yrs

##### February

Maureen Rimlinger	2/1/2015	11yrs
Courtney Millett	2/1/2021	5yrs
Dan Hale	2/14/2022	4yrs
Jerri-Lyn Reynolds	2/9/2024	2yrs

##### March

Peggy Draper	3/1/2001	25yrs
Maureen Aldrich	3/1/2013	13yrs
Bonnie Clark	3/1/2017	9yrs
David Godfrey	3/15/2018	8yrs
George Bothfeld	3/13/2021	5yrs
Shannon Begin	3/16/2023	3yrs



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