

GMSS REPORTER

Volume 9, Issue 8

March 2024



Happy
Birthday



For Jimmy's 81st birthday in February, his team surprised him with a horse drawn sleigh ride! Jimmy had been talking about taking a sleigh ride for months but the team struggled to find a company that accommodated a wheelchair. Just look at that smile! Happy birthday, Jimmy!

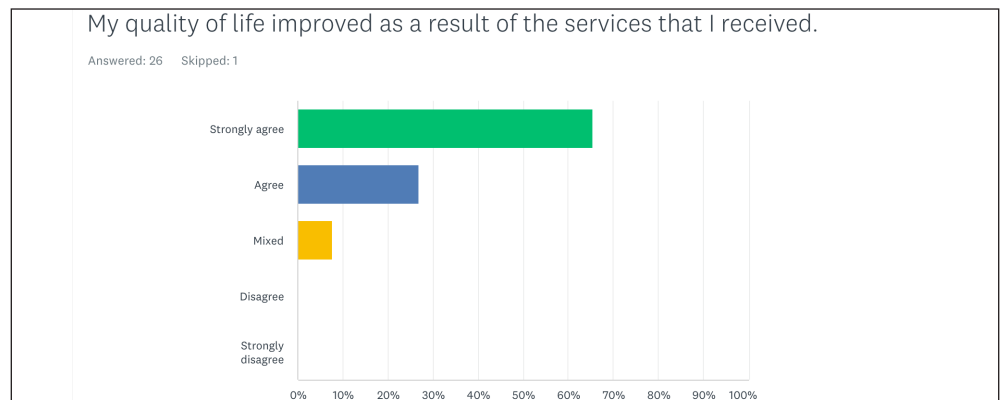
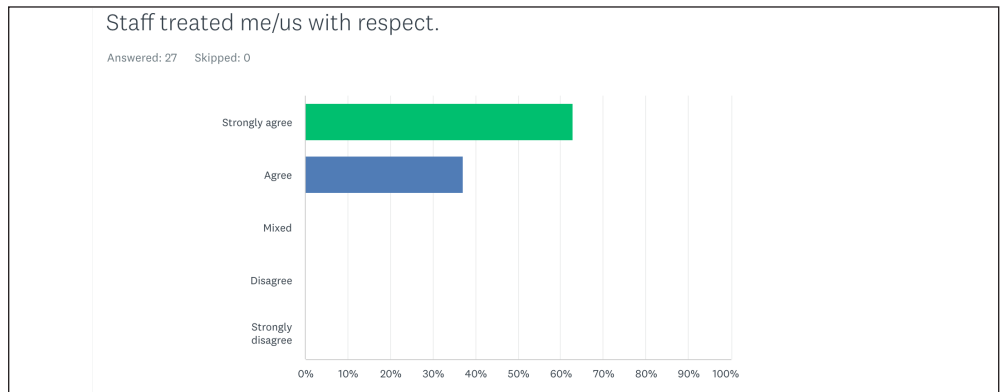
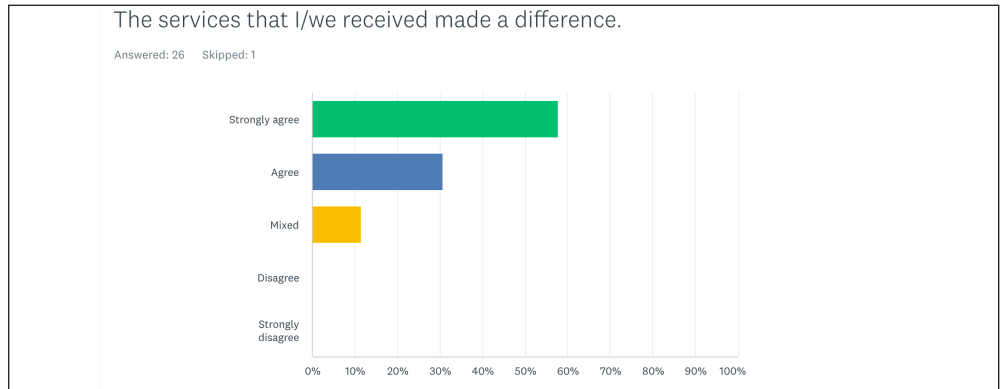
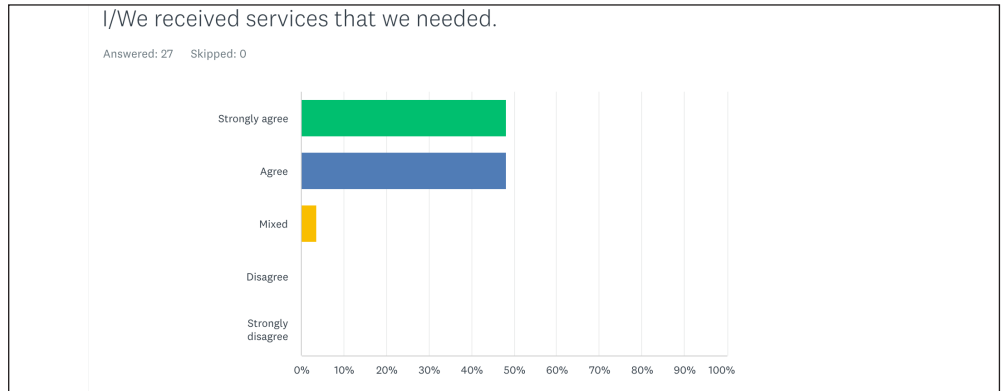
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Participant satisfaction survey results

Over the past year, I have each month shared agency news and performance data in this newsletter. This month, we are instead featuring our most recent participant satisfaction survey results. This is the most important performance feedback we receive each year and we use this feedback to identify how we can improve. We are heartened by what our participants had to say. This is what they told us: (see graphs.)



ELIZABETH WALTERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



UPCOMING GMSS BOARD MEETING

The next GMSS board meeting will be held Thursday, March 28th, 2024, from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. via Zoom. 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 or offer comments.

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NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

GMSS welcomes Ian Bowen to the team!

Professional background that brought you to your current position: I wanted to expand on my former respite care work and explore my career.

Passion(s): Art, music, meditation, and outdoor activities such as hiking and canoeing.

Physical location: I grew up in Long Island, N.Y., and I live in Morrisville, VT.

A random tidbit of fun: I can play many instruments including guitar, bass guitar, piano, and many percussion instruments. I can also sing.



Ian Bowen
DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL



Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living

Engagement Sessions

The Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) has partnered with Public Consulting Group (PCG) to offer virtual Engagement Sessions for **individuals receiving services, families, guardians, and advocates**. These sessions will be an opportunity to meet with PCG and DAIL directly to ask questions and share concerns about the **Supports Intensity Scale - Adult Version**.

Who is invited? Vermont Developmental Disabilities Services Home and Community-based Service Consumers, Families, Guardians, Self-advocates.

When will they be held? March 19th, 21st, and 27th

Where will they be held? Virtually, via Zoom.

Engagement Session Dates and Zoom Links

Tuesday, March 19th at 10am
Join here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84051118514>
Call in: (646) 931-3860; Meeting ID: 840 5111 8514

Thursday, March 21st at 2pm
Join here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83528493531>
Call in: (305) 224-1968; Meeting ID: 835 2849 3531

Wednesday, March 27th at 6pm
Join here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86228272238>
Call in: (309) 205-3325; Meeting ID: 862 2827 2238



If you have questions or require accommodations, contact jessica.bernard@vermont.gov. Please make accommodation requests at least one week in advance of the session.

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

GMSS welcomes Samantha Plemons, Direct Support Professional, to the team!

Professional background that brought you to your current position: Working with people with different age groups and helping with what they need. I saw what GMSS was doing and wanted to join a strong team.

Passion(s): I enjoy work with people, hiking, being outdoors, and relaxing.

Physical location: I grew up in Barre, VT.

Remembering Frank Buffo

Frank was a long serving shared living provider for more than 30 years. People were the center of Frank's life as he had a special way of connecting with those who needed a friend most. Frank was compassionate about all of the work that he had achieved over the years in various clinical settings, foster parent, stay at home dad and a passion for animals. For anyone ever having the opportunity to meet Frank, he left a lasting impression. Thinking of the family during this difficult time.



Frank Buffo

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Celebration of Life

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Loretta Marie Baer

April 21st, 2024
AT 5'O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

129 VFW Dr. Hyde Park, VT 05655

WE WILL BE GATHERING TO SHARE OUR FAVORITE MEMORIES. DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 5PM FOLLOWED BY MUSIC AND DANCING.

PARTICIPANT LOUNGE



DSP Jodi Stancliff, left, and Sara Buckley enjoy some time in the now open GMSS participant lounge recently. The room is open to the GMSS community. Come check it out!

March Employee Anniversaries

Makayla Carpenter – 2021 (3 years)

March Shared Living Provider Anniversaries

Shannon Begin – 3/16/2023 (1 year)

George Bothfeld – 3/13/2021 (3 years)

John DeRienzo – 3/1/2021 (3 years)

David Godfrey – 3/15/2018 (6 years)

Bonnie Clark – 3/1/2017 (7 years)

Maureen Aldrich – 3/1/2013 (11 years)

Peggy Draper – 3/1/2001 (23 years)

SLP SURVEY

All current SLPs are being asked to complete a GMSS survey. Paper copies will be sent out in the mail or click [here](#) to complete online. The link is also on the SLP Resources page. Thank you in advance for your responses!

Green Mountain Support Services
93 James Road
Morrisville, VT 05661

Phone: (802) 888-7602

Fax: (802) 888-1182



Ensuring Our Neighbors with Disabilities
are at Home in their Community.

gmssvt.org

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