

Together we make great things happen!



The Oak Hill

2023

Yearbook

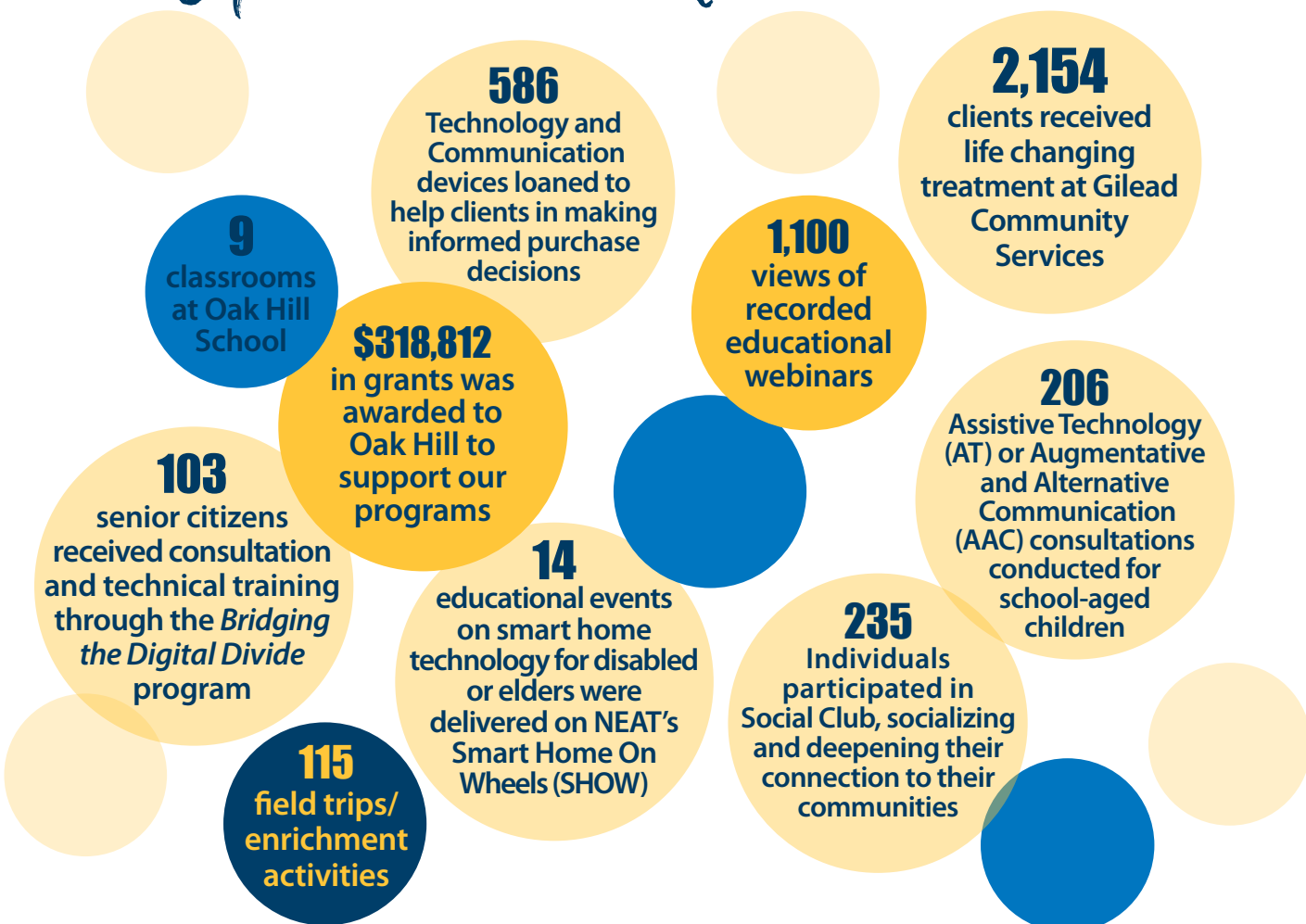




OUR MISSION: OAK HILL SETS THE STANDARD, PARTNERING WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND DIGNITY

Oak Hill School students from across the state gathered together for a field day!

2023 Growth & Renewal



BARRY AND SPENCER'S MESSAGE



To the Oak Hill Community,

It is hard to believe that another incredible year of service has elapsed! For the past 130 years, Oak Hill has transformed lives, ever evolving to meet the changing needs of individuals with disabilities. Like the mighty oak tree that anchors our historic Hartford campus, our organization never wavered, even through the most uncertain storms.

Today, Oak Hill serves the most diverse group of individuals in our long history. From elder adults, to children, to veterans, and beyond, Oak Hill takes a holistic approach to empowering those with disabilities. No matter the need, Oak Hill is ready and equipped to provide services that change lives for the better.

Fiscal Year 2023 was one of growth and renewal for Oak Hill and our proud affiliates, Easterseals of Oak Hill and Gilead Community Services. Social Club, a long-time staple of Community Program's enrichment philosophy, made a triumphant return with over 235 individuals participating in excursions like Winter Camp and waterskiing! NEAT (New England Assistive Technology) gathered over 200 community participants together for the Assistive Technology Summit to support learning and empowerment in our community. The Adaptive Equipment Reuse Program rehabilitated 652 pieces of adaptive equipment, increasing independence and confidence for scores of families, elders, and veterans. These are just a few of the ways that Oak Hill supported joy, learning, and growth over the past year.

We can't do it without you. Much like the oak tree that drops its acorns to spread new life, your support and advocacy are regenerative. Oak Hill continues to innovate, putting forth new, responsive programming because of you. Your generosity and steadfastness are the pillars on which our programs stand. Oak Hill could not make its mark, changing thousands of lives for the better, without you.

On behalf of the entire Oak Hill Community, **thank you.**

With Deep Appreciation,

Barry Simon
President and CEO

Spencer Cain
Chairman of the Oak Hill
Board of Directors



28

Number of students completing vocational placements in 2023

UNLOCKED
PERSONALITY,
COMPASSION
AND
ABILITIES

Vocational Training Program

"I feed them, hold them, clean them, and love them. I have an animal at home, and I love animals."

-Timmy



TIMMY AND THE GOATS

The magic of the vocational training program at Oak Hill School

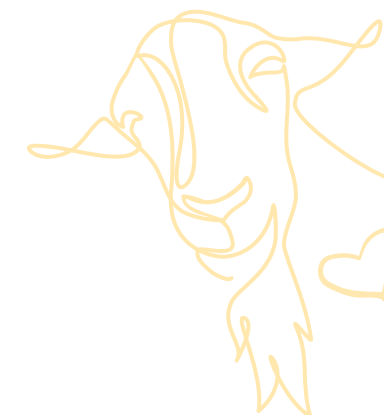
Anyone who knows Timmy will tell you there is no greater lover of animals anywhere. Goats, chickens...Timmy is a friend to all creatures, big and small.

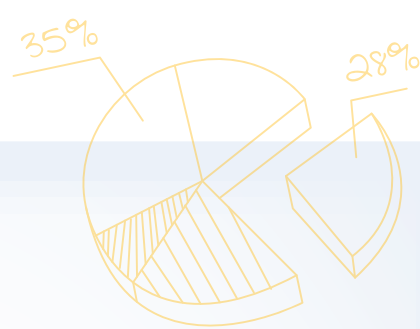
Each week, Timmy, a student in the Plainville classroom, attends his vocational placement at Guided by Goats, a therapeutic farm. On the farm, Timmy is tasked with collecting eggs from the chickens, cleaning the pens, and ensuring the goats are happy (which usually entails giving them a good snuggle!). To ensure our students have the practical skills needed to thrive after graduation, our curriculum focuses on meaningful and functional activities that mirror tasks of daily living. At this vocational experience, he practices empathy, time management, and teamwork with his peers. These are all skills he will need when he transitions from Oak Hill School into the adult world. Our vocational training program also helps students refine their passions and translate those interests into professional goals.

"I feed them, hold them, clean them, and love them," said Timmy. "I have an animal at home, and I love animals."

You know what they say... If you love your work, you don't work a day of your life! This is our hope for all our students as they pursue life's next steps.

To learn more about our transformative vocational training program, please contact Michael Champlin, Senior Director of Support Services, at michael.champlin@oakhillct.org.





FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

The financial results presented below have been excerpted from Oak Hill's consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2023. Contributions from generous donors and prudent investing of donations continue to subsidize the services we provide. Without the generous support of current and prior donors, the individuals Oak Hill provides services to would be unable to benefit from the innovative programs that are the hallmark of Oak Hill. Audited financial statements are available to interested parties through the business office at Oak Hill.

Revenues

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Group Home Services | \$59,336,799 |
| Adult Day Programs | \$ 4,698,727 |
| Oak Hill School | \$17,792,679 |
| Behavioral Health Services | \$15,666,117 |
| Easterseals Camps | \$ 254,493 |
| Oak Hill Centers | \$1,297,062 |
| General Program and Other | \$ 801,398 |

Total Revenues **\$99,847,275**

Expenses

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Group Home Services | \$60,214,046 |
| Adult Day Programs | \$3,303,818 |
| Oak Hill School | \$13,464,019 |
| Behavioral Health Services | \$13,526,499 |
| Easterseals Camps | \$1,295,958 |
| Oak Hill Centers | \$1,529,574 |
| General Program and Other | \$14,963,863 |

Total Expenses **\$108,297,777**

Operating Deficit **(\$8,450,502)**

Contribution & Investment Income

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Investment Income, Net | \$4,097,411 |
| Net realized and unrealized gains on investments | \$9,984,770 |
| Income from Beneficiary External Trusts | \$2,324,791 |
| Gifts, Grants, Bequests and Fundraising | \$1,851,775 |
| Gain on disposal of property and equipment | \$ 496,034 |
| Increase in value of beneficial interest in perpetual trusts | \$1,651,203 |

Total Contribution & Investment Income **\$20,405,984**

Surplus after Contribution & Investment Income **\$11,955,482**

Report of the Oak Hill Foundation Board – Paul Joss, Vice Chairman

U.S. equity markets posted strong returns in 2023 with the S&P 500 total return index up 21.6% for the twelve-month period ending 9/30/2023. Though fixed income returns over this period were more muted, institutional investors enter 2024 increasingly optimistic that inflation concerns are receding and that the Federal Reserve will soon begin easing monetary policy. For the twelve-month period ending 9/30/2023, the Oak Hill Foundation portfolio returned an attractive 11.8% net of fees, which was comparable to the returns of the Foundation's custom benchmark. The Oak Hill Foundation Board continued adding new investment talent to the Board in 2023 and remains confident that our partnership with Bank of America positions the Foundation for continued investment success.

During Fiscal Year 2023, the Foundation provided \$5,513,077 to Oak Hill in support of our mission with the portfolio ending the 2023 fiscal year at \$141,404,802 in total assets. Over time, the Foundation has stewarded the capital donors have entrusted to it, returning 6.6% per year after fees for the last 10 years (through 9/30/2023), almost doubling assets before distributions.



652

pieces of adaptive equipment repaired or refurbished, resulting in **\$256,599** savings to individuals with disabilities

27%

increase in enrollment at Oak Hill School over previous fiscal year

14

educational events demonstrating smart home technology were hosted on the Smart Home On Wheels (SHOW)

95%

of program participants, parents, and guardians were satisfied with Oak Hill's services

206

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) evaluations/ consultations conducted for school-aged children

86

public awareness events reaching **25,137** participants were held on a wide range of topics and services





UNLOCKED
CONFIDENCE,
SELF-BELIEF
AND NEW
ABILITIES



Social Club Outings

"I would encourage anyone to do this...even if they're afraid!"

-Danny



5
Social Club
events for new
experiences our
community has
to offer

WATERSKIING WITH LEAPS OF FAITH: Danny's summer Social Club adventure

Enrichment and new experiences in the community (and on the water!)

Many of us don't have the courage to try new things. Danny, a group home resident and water enthusiast, doesn't have that problem. At Social Club, Danny is the first person to volunteer for the activity, whether it's bowling, gardening, or waterskiing! Danny is visually impaired, but that doesn't stop him from expanding his horizons! In his 40 years with Oak Hill, Danny has served as a role model to his peers and an inspiration to all who know him.

An avid swimmer and Special Olympian, Danny leapt at the opportunity to ski across Lake Zoar. It's safe to say that most people wouldn't try a sport like waterskiing, especially if they couldn't see the equipment, the water, or instructor. Danny has an unwavering belief in himself- with the right preparation,

he could do anything. After practicing the technique with his instructors, Danny took a leap of faith, stepped out onto the lake, and soared!

The first individual out on the lake, Danny encouraged his peers to step out of their comfort zones as well: "I would encourage anyone to do this...even if they're afraid!" Sure enough, ten of Danny's peers followed in his footsteps, stepping out onto the lake for the first time.

To learn more about the life-changing experiences we cultivate at Social Club, contact Eric Scharf, Chief Administrator of Community Programs, at eric.scharf@oakhillct.org.



EMPLOYEES (AND SUPERSTARS!) OF THE MONTH



July 2022

Cinzia Nelson, Accounts Receivable Manager

"There is no question Cinzia has extraordinary commitment and a positive attitude towards those we serve. I would even go so far as to call her an advocate for them. I have witnessed on many occasions Cinzia explaining information to a co-worker or other external staff, where she explains, in a positive, caring manner, the big picture/the real purpose... "we are here for them."



August 2022

Sadi-Ann Duckett, Behavior Specialist

"She has an upbeat attitude, is enthusiastic, and her smile is contagious."



November 2022

Leigh-Ann Hammond, Operations Support Specialist

"A passionate historian, Leigh-Ann is Oak Hill's memory. Keeper of all our history, Leigh-Ann gives tours of the campus, sharing old pictures, artifacts, and fun facts about Emily Wells Foster and our legacy. She is as enthusiastic about Oak Hill's future as our past and is always looking for new ways to make the staff feel more appreciated and the individuals feel more valued."

September 2022

Kristi Larson, Database Administrator

"Kristi's abilities and knowledge of fundraising and philanthropy are unmatched. With her incredible research skillset (and memory) she has provided us with leads to new and existing relationships as if she is leading us to the buried treasure! She is truly the ringleader of our mighty little circus!"



December 2022

Ronnette McDonald, Residential Program Worker

"Ronnette is respectful to everyone and a pleasure to work with. Ronnette will always be there for the Norwich and Bozrah individuals! They all appreciate and look forward to her working, and doing activities, and going on outings!"



January 2023

Denise Gorneault, Manager, Transportation

"Denise understands the value and impact the Transportation team brings to Oak Hill's mission. She understands that providing access to reliable vehicles and maintaining the fleet of vehicles is critical for the programs to successfully support Oak Hill's participants. There is not a task that Denise will not do."



April 2023

Caterina Perugini, Total Rewards Partner

"Caterina spearheads Oak Hill's Staff Appreciation initiatives with passion and commitment. She goes out of her way to ensure every one of Oak Hill's staff feels valued and seen for their contributions to our community. She lives our mission every day."



February 2023

Jacquelyn Lorange, Director of Curriculum and Administration, Oak Hill School

"Through her willingness and desire to 'do the right thing', sense of social justice, and fairness, she promotes inclusion and belonging amongst every member of her team, her students, and advocates for DEIB philosophies and strategies to be implemented even outside of Oak Hill."



March 2023

Thomas Dieli, Lead Repair Technician, Adaptive Equipment Reuse Program

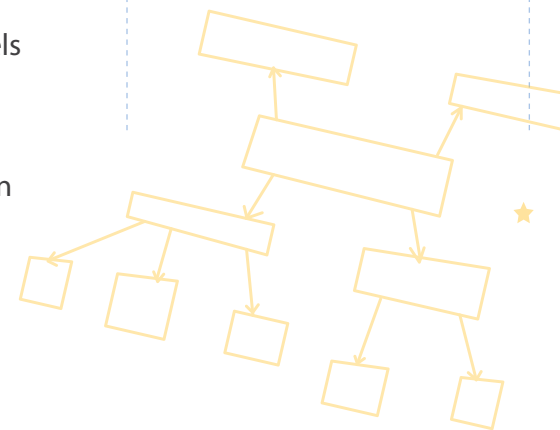
"His customer service and overall generosity are unmatched. Customers feel comfortable sharing their critical, personal needs without feeling judged or misunderstood. That level of respect and genuine thoughtfulness is not easy to come by."



June 2023

Vincent Beckford, Residential Program Worker

"Vinny makes sure the gentlemen he works with have every opportunity life has to offer. With Vinny, the individuals we serve have traveled far and wide, gaining new experiences and memories along the way. With Vinny, Oak Hill's promise of full community integration for the individuals we serve is fulfilled and then some."





Assistive Technology

"I am intelligent, but because of my muscle spasms, the message doesn't get to my brain the way it should. My body doesn't cooperate like I want. For lack of communication, I feel invisible."
 -Debbie



200 attendees welcomed by NEAT AT Summit

THE LIFE-CHANGING POWER OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Tales from the AT Summit

Debbie's Oak Hill journey begins at NEAT (New England Assistive Technology). Debbie uses a motorized wheelchair and is savvy with technology, but her physical disability impacted the way she could manipulate the devices.

Before Oak Hill, Debbie struggled to be seen or heard by her friends, family, and community. To empower Debbie and build her confidence, the appropriate assistive technology was an absolute must. Our NEAT Assistive Technology Specialists were on the case.

NEAT Specialists spent several hours and visits with Debbie in her home to equip her with unique peripherals and an ergonomic workstation to ensure that she could easily access her technology. Supporting her ability to socialize and stay connected to family and friends was vitally important. Our Assistive Technology Specialists also assessed Debbie for a communication device that would help her voice be heard.

At the Assistive Technology Summit held in June, Debbie inspired 200 individuals from various backgrounds with her "AT in Action" presentation, describing every word using her AAC device. There wasn't a dry eye in the house!

"I am intelligent, but because of my muscle spasms, the message doesn't get to my brain the way it should. Therefore, my body doesn't cooperate like I want. But people don't know that I have a brain! For lack of communication, I feel invisible."

At Oak Hill, we believe everyone should feel seen, heard, and valued for exactly who they are. Assistive Technology devices like Debbie's ensure she can communicate on equal footing with her peers and loved ones.

To learn more about the amazing impact made at NEAT every day, contact Elena Fader Hurlburt, Director of Assistive Technology Services, at elena.hurlburt@oakhillct.org.





2023 SUPERLATIVES



Super Parents and Advocates
Beth Chudnow and Karen Neag
Loudest Voices for Individuals with Disabilities



Super Talented Pianist!
Brian McAllister



Best Friend
Fran from Community Programs
An alumni of Oak Hill School, Fran has friends all over the Oak Hill Community!



Most Likely to Be President
Christian, Student at Oak Hill School

Walking the halls of the Bristol classroom, you'll find Christian handing out fist-bumps and handshakes. He is a friend to all and a true social butterfly!

Super Supporters
Jim and Marie McAllister (Brian's Parents)

"This year marks the 52nd anniversary of Brian's arrival at Oak Hill School. Brian moved into the Vernon group home at the age of 18 and still calls it home. There have been many ups and downs along the way, but we are so grateful to Oak Hill for being there for us and for Brian. He is happy and loves his music and piano. The happier Brian is the happier we are – thank you, Oak Hill!"



You are all super special to us.

Most Likely to Succeed
Each and Every One of the Individuals We Serve



148
Students enrolled at Oak Hill School

307
individuals were empowered and supported by our group homes

99%
of program participants, parents, and guardians were satisfied with Oak Hill Centers' services

OAK HILL DONORS



Leaving a legacy means leaving an impact on future generations. The Emily Wells Foster Society was created to recognize those who have included Oak Hill in their estate plan, named here as Legacy Members. We are pleased to recognize the following individuals who have generously committed to sustaining the future of Oak Hill:

LEGACY MEMBERS

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nora Alcid | Ruth Hayes | David & Lesa Parsons |
| Mildred and Edgar Bishop* | Suzanne Heise | John Passalacqua |
| David & Karen Bushong | Catherine Hitchcock | Armelle Penta |
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| Agatha Dobbins* | Robert Ludwig | Donald & Margaret Romanik |
| Helen Lillian Fine* | Elsie Mannweiler* | Andrew Schwartz |
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| Robert Harriau* | Bonnie & Erich Ohlendork | Henry Zachs |
| Marye-Gail Harrison | Phillip T. Olslager* | |
| Jerald & Vivian Hassett | | |

*deceased



LEADERSHIP GIFT MEMBERS

We are pleased to recognize the following individuals who have generously committed to sustaining the future of Oak Hill. Thank you for your incredible support!

Founder's Circle (\$10,000+)

Salvatore and Alessandra Carrabba
Beatrice D. Clapp Trust
The Carrington/Crown Family
W. David Dobbins Trust
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Karen and Michael Neag
Trust U/W of Carrie Newell
Elaine D. Reynolds
Moses and Ann Rosenauer Trust
Henry M. Zachs

President's Circle (\$5,000 – \$9,999)

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Jerald and Vivian Hassett
Gregory Hyland
Christine Repasy
Matthew and Janet Zewinski

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Thank you for your incredible support!

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Jeff and Michele Morganstern
Jean C. Morrison

Edward and Mary Mullarkey
TJ and Lorraine Murphy
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Andrew Nashid
Irwin and Phyllis Nathan
Cinzia and Gary Nelson
Horace M. Newbury
Barry Newton
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Walter and Kathleen Nicksa
Cecil and Sandra Nix
Clare Noel
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Rose Nolan
Joan M. O'Brien
Liz O'Brien
Mary Odson
James and Patricia Okrongly
Teresa Opalacz
Mark and Dianne Orenstein
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Dan and Kyle Osborne
Rebecca Osder
Susan Ostroski
Javier Padilla, JD
Dennis Palmer
Frederick Palmer
Harold and Lorraine Panciera
Christine A. Panek
Donald A. Paolucci
William and Shelia Parent
Angela Parker
Donald and Joann Parker
James Parkman
Saul and Joanne Pasternack
Leonard and Joan Pauze
Laura G. Pels
Dale and Sara Petersen
Edwin Phelps, Jr.
Theresa Phillips
Marni Pinkow
Todd Piro and Amanda Raus
Linda S. Plank
J. Lucien Plante
Mary M. Plikunas
Michael Poggioli
Elliott L. Polinsky
Amy Pomponio

David H. Pond
Bradley Portenoy
Steven and Susan Potashner
John Quagliano
Robert and Jacqueline Randich
Nancy Raymond
Carrie Rebich
Erica Rechtweg
Allan and Joan Reiskin
John and Barbara Resino
Ruthie Holmes-Reynolds
Nina and Steven Rice
Bevon A. Riley
Phyllis Rockmael
Curtis Roessler
Jayne A. Roosa
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Rosen-Collins
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Fred and Beverly Sanders
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Laurie Schiro
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Peter Silkowski
David Silver
Ruth P. Simpson
Joseph and Angela Sinicrope
Thomas and Mary Sitaro

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Matthew and Susan Skoronski
Joanne Slaker
Dr. Valerie Wiseman and
Thomas Smith
Marie Smith
Mei-Ling Smith
Naomi Smith
Stanley and Blyse Soby
Laura R. Soll-Broxterman
Kim Soule
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Ed Spinella
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Kerri Sternberg
Bonnie L. Stevenson
Charles and Sherry Stohler
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Eric Szczygiel
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Marilyn Terzano
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Jean H. Thomas
Peter Thomsen
Matthew Tilem
Demetras Tolis
Nilsa Torres
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Terry and Rene Tritz
Samuel and Florence Tucker

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Jan and Martha Van Nierop
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Woodward
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Barbara L. Yeziarski
Carol Young
Wendy and Peter Zande
Shirley R. Zelman
Steven M. Zhitnik



BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

Business and Organizations (\$10,000+)

B.T. Lindsay & Co., Inc.
Bank of America, U.S. Trust
Connecticut Pharmacy/
East Rock Pharmacy, LLC
Monaco Ford

Business and Organizations (\$5,000+)

Advanced Power Services LLC
AleraGroup
Barnes Group Foundation
Barnes Group, Inc.
Ceridian
CIGNA Healthcare of CT
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Manchester Honda
Murtha Cullina LLP
Reynold's Strategy Group
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Turnpike Motors Inc.
USA Hauling & Recycling
Webster Capital Finance

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B & L Enterprises
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Wellness LLC
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District 23A
Crum & Forster
Delta-T Group
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Enterprise Holdings
Camrac, LLC
Fedcap Rehabilitation Services Inc
Fiducient Advisors
Firehouse Fuels
Frontier Communications
Lions Club of Berlin
Lions Club of South Windsor
Lions Club of Stafford
M & G Masonry LLC
MLevin Realty LLC
Morgan Stanley
Network for Good
Oak Ridge Waste & Recycling
PASI, LLC
Relias
Ryan Business Systems, Inc.
Suburban Pharmacy LTC INC
Suburban Sanitation Service, Inc.
TIAA
Trim Out LLC
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Vohra Wound Physicians

Businesses/ Organizations (\$1+)

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Trinity Lutheran Church
Envirotech Laboratory
Fax Weather Service LLC
Hartford Stage
Highland Window Company LLC
Law Offices of Bruce Bergman
Lions Club Childrens Health
Foundation Inc.
Meriden Lions Welfare Project, Inc.
Microsoft Rewards/Give with Bing
PayPal Charitable Giving Fund

FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS

Foundations (\$10,000+)

The Brian & Marilyn Lindsay Foundation, Inc.

Foundations (\$5,000+)

Manafort Family Foundation
Sorenson-Pearson Family Foundation
Zachs Family Foundation

Foundations (\$250+)

Endow Hartford 21
Zachs Family Fund for Oak Hill

Grants (\$50,000+)

Capital Workforce Partners
Harold and Rebecca H. Gross Foundation

Grants (\$20,000+)

Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc
Easterseals
The MENTOR Network Charitable Foundation Inc

Grants (\$10,000+)

Clinton S. Roberts Foundation
Easterseals
Ensworth Charitable Foundation

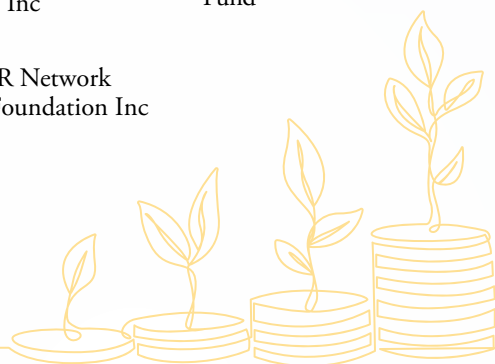
Eugene G. and Margaret M. Blackford Memorial Fund

Grants (\$5,000+)

Charles Nelson Robinson Fund
Ellen Jeanne Goldfarb Memorial Charitable Trust
William and Alice Mortensen Foundation

Grants (\$500+)

Ahearn Family Foundation
M&T Charitable Foundation



9
students
graduated
in 2023

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Sybil Waite
Senior Director of Human Resource Operations

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Vice President Public Policy

Joe Mascolo
Senior Director of Information Technology

**Leadership as of March 16, 2024





6 family connection events were held at our group homes



Signatures

Your generosity changes
the lives of every individual
receiving Oak Hill services.
Thank you!
Lucy Mullan
Chief Development Officer

THANK YOU
FOR ALL OF YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!
WITH APPRECIATION!
- Britt Harowitz



Thanks for your amazing
support! Have a great
summer!
- Susan Oued
Grants Administrator

We are SO grateful
for your support!
Kate Mcomber
Director of Innovation & Grants

Thank you for your
advocacy!
- Jillian Hancock
Manager of Engagement
and External Communications

Michael Hoffer

Thank you
for your kindness
and generosity!
~ Steph Knightly

