

# GSIL Connections

A quarterly newsletter for GSIL's Consumers & Employees



## Medicare Open Enrollment

*Submitted by: Donna Potter, Statewide Director of PCSP Services*



Wow, time does fly.....it is that time of year again for beautiful foliage, pumpkin spice, cooler weather and Medicare Open Enrollment!

The Medicare Open Enrollment period occurs each year from October 15<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup> and is a great opportunity for you to review and make changes to your current Medicare coverage.

ServiceLink is a program of NH DHHS consisting of a network of Aging and Disability Resource Centers across the state. ServiceLink staff can help you review and find the best Medicare coverage for your situation.

Please do not delay in contacting ServiceLink as they are, like many companies, short staffed and you need to make an appointment in advance.

**To access the contact information for your local ServiceLink Office please call their toll-free number at:**

**1-866-634-9412**

**or click on the link below:**

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/serviceLink/contact-serviceLink>

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/medicare-open-enrollment-fact-sheet-2023.pdf>

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# Community Services

*Submitted by: Michelle Cutting, Director of Community Services*

## Independent Living Skills

Happy Holidays! Let me introduce myself – My name is Michelle Cutting, and I am the new Director of Community Services here at GSIL. I started with GSIL mid-September and am slowly learning the full scope of my role.

We have two new coordinators in our Independent Living Department! April Paye, serving the North Country and Nicole Garcia, serving the greater Concord region. If you live in these areas and receive IL services with GSIL, please be on the lookout for an introduction call or email from them! They are working hard to get in touch with the consumers they will be helping and making sure everything is up to date with their goals and needs. Help us welcome them to the GSIL family!

IL Services also welcomed Irene Hassard to the team in October, she has taken on the role of Manger of IL Services and will be overseeing the Monadnock area. Irene jumped in with both feet and is a welcome addition to the team! If you live in the Monadnock area you may have already heard from Irene.

IL services has continued working to assist consumers with large and small projects to help them stay in their home through the typical AMP process as well as with the DHHS Home Modification and Repair Grant. One of many success stories to share:

One of our most frequent funding sources to help with access modifications is the Harry Gregg foundation, who has provided tens of thousands of dollars to support a wide variety of projects. I would ask you to go to their Facebook page and like and follow to help them continue to do their work.

<https://www.facebook.com/harrygreggfoundationNH>

## Transportation

Our transportation department has taken back oversight for consumers who are only receiving transportation services. This means that the transportation team will be responsible

for oversight of the transportation goal, as well as follow up. If you were identified as being in this group, you may have already received a letter from your previously assigned Coordinator and will also be hearing from Norm or Derek soon.

## Ticket to Work

We welcome a new Employment Coordinator – Sage Mackenzie who started with us in September. We have worked to divide the caseload to better support those receiving services. You may have already heard from Sage, as she gets settled in her role. We are excited to have a full team again and hope this will enable us to provide these services to more people in NH.

To request services please call the Ticket to Work Hotline at 1-866-968-7842 / 1-866-833-2967 (TTY)

## Benefits Counseling

The Public Health Emergency has ended and DHHS has sent out notices to those who no longer qualify for Medicaid services. If you have any questions regarding any mail you received, please reach out to [GSIL](#) and a benefits specialist can help you understand the letter.

The benefits counseling team continues to do incredible work in NH and NY. Stephanie Choi Elzey, Jessica Andino are our CWICs, Skot Jervis is just shy of his official certification. The team is excited about a new system from Social Security that will be rolling out in the new year and promises some streamlining.

WIPA services can also provide information and support to help you make a successful transition to work and financial independence. If you would like to pursue these services please reach out to the Ticket to work hotline by Calling 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. ET

## Peer Support

The Peer support team just had their WHIM holiday party on Friday 12/1 which was well attended and everyone enjoyed time visiting with friends and the raffle of event tickets! Peer supports group continues to meet on Fridays via zoom from

supports group continues to meet on Fridays via zoom from 3-4pm. This is a multi-disability peer support group; all are welcome to attend.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99001535337?pwd=SGdZOWZnVi9lK2JZbVA3T1pvaHRPQT09>

Meeting ID: 990 0153 5337  
Passcode: 341480

For more information, please reach out to:

Jennifer Crowell | [jcrowell@gsil.org](mailto:jcrowell@gsil.org)

- OR -

Alexandria Teixeira | [ateixeira@gsil.org](mailto:ateixeira@gsil.org)

## United Spinal Work Groups

Submitted by: Alexandria Teixeira, Peer Support Coordinator, Chapter Leader for NH United Spinal Association



a program of  
Granite State  
Independent Living

(December 2023) - Outdoor Access Working Group: Access to Winter Activities/Recreation Resource - Our next focus is accessible winter activities/recreation for the disability community. Please send us your feedback on the questions below - with quotes, experiences, suggestions, favorite sport, favorite locations for winter sports (and why), resources, and photos about accessible winter sports. Please put your name next to the information you share, just in case we have questions. A resource will be created from the information gathered. To submit your thoughts or if you have any questions, please contact me at [ateixeira@gsil.org](mailto:ateixeira@gsil.org).

Please share your thoughts with us!

- What is your personal experience with accessible winter activities and recreation?
- What winter accessible activities are your favorite?

- What are some of your favorite locations that offer winter sports/recreation?
- What information do you have for renting winter activity equipment?

## WHIM & United Spinal NH Holiday Party

Submitted by: Jennifer Crowell, Peer Support Coordinator & Mentor

On December 1<sup>st</sup> Wheelchair Health in Motion and the United Spinal Cord Association NH Chapter had our annual Holiday Party at the City Wide Community Center in Concord. Over 40 festive, smiling faces came to celebrate the holiday season, friendships, peer interactions and meet new people. People that are committed to WHIM, USA-NH, GSIL, family, friends, caretakers all were invited. Lots of food, sweets, Yankee swap gifts, music and wonderful raffle items.

A huge thank you to Granite State Independent Living, Sunset Hill Educational Institution, Christopher and Dana Reeves Foundation, AGNE for donating snacks and drinks for folks to have there and plenty to take home, GSIL transportation and the volunteers!! It takes a village to do these events and we have one BEAUTIFUL, STRONG village!

Everyone left with smiles, full belly's and fun gifts. Looking forward to 2024!





# LTS Skills Training

## ANKOTA EVV Updates

*Submitted by: Donna Potter, Statewide Director of PCSP Services*

In order for Granite State Independent Living (GSIL) to be compliant with the State of New Hampshire/Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Electronic Visit Verification System (EVV) GSIL has implemented some changes to our process.

ACEs must use Ankota, GSIL's timekeeping system for reporting all time and tasks in real time (at the actual start and end times of each and every shift) by calling one of the three Ankota phone numbers. All worked shifts must both begin and end at the consumer's home, utilizing the consumer's phone to report the time via Ankota's telephony system. It is the responsibility of the consumer to make their phone available to the ACE at the actual time of clock in or out.

There are now 3 phone numbers the ACE can utilize:

- 1-855-552-8463
- 1-855-930-1772
- 603-922-7455

There is also a number to call if Spanish language is needed 1-855-939-1972.

It is the responsibility of the ACE to review their time punches weekly and for the consumer to review the timesheet approval forms weekly to assess for accuracy and completeness. Any corrections needed, must be initiated by the consumer within 2 business days and by Monday at 3:00 p.m. of a pay week at the latest.

If an ACE notices a correction, they are to notify their consumer, who will then contact their coordinator. The coordinator will confirm the correct time in and out with the consumer and submit an electronic MPF to the ACE. The ACE will review for accuracy, add tasks, have the consumer review and sign, the ACE will then sign and submit the completed MPF electronically.

**Failure to follow EVV compliance will result in disciplinary or plan of correction.** Do not hesitate to contact your coordinator if you have any questions.

## GSIL wants to keep you safe for all slips and falls!

If you need ice cleats for the upcoming winter weather, please reach out to your coordinator to request a pair.

When new employees attend ACE training they will be asked if they want/need a pair of ice cleats and will be provided with a pair if requested.

Whenever Ice cleats are given to an ACE, the ACE is required to sign off that they received the ice cleats, and the signed and dated receipt is returned to HR.

## Information & Referral

*Submitted by: Val Kidder, Director of Community Partnerships*

As FY2023 closed out, I&R saw incremental growth compared to FY2022. Our requests for information and services continued to rise as we experienced a significant increase in I&R contacts compared to last year, thanks to everyone's unwavering commitment to excellence!

Metrics across the board saw increases. There was a 24% increase in the total number of contacts for the same time period, (Contacts= Calls, Webserver Requests, Emails, Walk-ins), a 29% increase in information requests (Information Requests are actionable items resulting from I&R calls. One call or email can equate to multiple requests for information or referrals to other agencies) and a 29% increase in Request for Services (Referrals). Looking ahead, we aspire to build on our current momentum.

**In FY23 GSIL's I&R staff processed  
2,443 Calls!**



# Community Outreach

*Submitted by: Val Kidder, Director of Community Partnerships*

Now that in-person requests are emerging, and we're getting back out in the community, presentations have been made to Concord Hospital, Cornerstone VNA, Community Action Program (CAP), YMCA Young Scholars, HEARTS PSA, and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, to name a few!

In October we presented to the Nashua Community College evening Psychology and Addiction Recovery Students. Of specific interest was our IMPACCT program. Debbie Cortes, Manager of Education Services, and I joined forces giving an overview of our services. We had a 30-minute timeslot, the presentation went so well, our stay was extended for another 30 minutes.

There was a student who was very familiar with GSIL as her mother was a personal care attendant. She praised our services and our mission.

The class was very diverse, 90% of the students moved to NH from other countries, so we spoke about the learning and different cultural barriers. Many of the students could resonate with Debbie's presentation and only wished this program was available when they were in high school. They shared several personal hardship stories with us.

The following day I received a phone call from Professor Barnes, who was elated with the presentation given to her students. She couldn't believe how engaged they were, especially with Debbie. We are welcomed back at any time, and she's hoping to get an invitation to the Nashua IMPACCT Graduation!



We've had vendor tables at the NH Assistive Technology Expo, the Community Bridges Transition Fair, and Community Partners (along with Dover High School) hosted their first

in-person Transition Fair since 2019. It was wonderful reconnecting with other agencies: Parent Information Center, Family Voices, Institute on Disability-UNH, COAST, Community Partners, ServiceLink (to name a few).

In October, GSIL hosted a table at the DOTs Employee Wellness Fair. We spoke with many State employees about the services and programs we offer. Of particular interest was REM and its correlation with GSIL. An employee had shared that their spouse was recently discharged from Encompass Rehab. They required more durable medical equipment than their insurance would cover. After our discussion, this person took a flyer, and during their lunch break, went to REM and purchased the equipment they needed. Before going back to their office, they stopped by our table, thanked us, and sent several of their co-workers our way.



In November, the Coalition of Caring held their 17th Annual New Hampshire Caregiver's Conference at the Courtyard Marriott Grappone Conference Center. It was the first in person conference since the start of the pandemic. This conference was for caregivers of all caregiving populations, including family members, friends and individuals that provide direct support. GSIL was an Altruistic Sponsor, and we had a vendor table as well. The event was very well attended.



**GSIL's  
Transportation  
provided  
831 Rides  
in FY2023!**

“BELIEVE IN YOURSELF  
PUSH YOUR LIMITS  
EXPERIENCE LIFE  
CONQUER YOUR GOALS  
AND  
BE HAPPY.”

## Folklore for the Season

December changeable and mild, the whole winter will remain a child.

Thunder in December presages fine weather.

Frost on the shortest day is said to indicate a severe winter.

December cold, with snow, brings rye everywhere.

Did you know  
that December  
26th is National  
Candy Cane  
Day?



## Linkables

*Submitted by: JoAnn Miller,  
Administrative Assistant*

[Farmers Almanac: Winter Solstice](#)

[Why Interabled Relationships are the New Normal](#)  
(ameridisability.com)

[Spanish Speaking Caregivers Can Access New Training Tools](#)  
(ameridisability.com)

[NH Care Providers Celebrate Big Medicaid Rate Increases](#)  
(NH Bulletin)

[Among people with disabilities, racial disparities take a toll](#)  
(Ideastream Public Media)

[New affordable housing specifically designed for deaf community](#)  
(abjournal.com)



[2023 NH Holiday Events for Families](#)

[The Griswalds have nothing on them! National Christmas Lights Day: Family took competition so seriously rival moved out of state](#)  
(WMUR)

[Lawsuit Protecting the Rights of CFI Waiver Participants to Live Independently Will Proceed as Class Action](#)  
(DRCNH)

[Together, New England College and hospitals aim to tackle nursing vacancies](#)

[State wants feedback on its home and community-based care and services](#)  
(NH Bulletin)

[How to sign up for Medicare States Insurance Asst. Program \(SHIP\)](#)  
(DHHS)

[Get Started with Medicare starting at age 65](#)  
(Medicare)



## Holidays Observed

GSIL's corporate office will be closed on the following dates:

**December 25, 2023** in observance of Christmas Day

**January 1, 2024** in observance of New Years Day

**January 15, 2024** in observance of Martin Luther King Day

**February 19, 2024** in observance of President's Day



## Congratulations on ACE Anniversaries!

We appreciate the commitment and dedication of long service attendant care employees at GSIL. Thank you for all that you do in service to consumers. You are valuable members of the team. Congratulations on your service milestones!

Name	Years of Service
Lisa Gallant	24
Lisa Doolittle	21
Chastity Greene	15
Melissa Bourque	5
Nancy Garcia	5
Jacqueline Hines	5
Christine Letarte	5
Saphaedra Miller	5
Charlene Phillips	5
Nohad Ajouz	1
Heidi Austin	1
Jeffrey Beattie	1
Chad Brooks	1
Melissa Brown	1
Michael Carlow	1
Corrine Cormiea	1
Nina DeCilla	1
Joseph Dowgiert	1
Charles Emmons	1

Name	Years of Service
Justin Ferland	1
David Folsom	1
Melissa Hasty	1
Donna Leghton	1
Stephanie Lovering	1
Juan Marquez	1
Carrie Mazzola	1
Michael Mazzola	1
Timothy Paige	1
Abigail Preece	1
Sarah Revels	1
Petra Schneider	1
Sarah Sendi	1
Devin Smith	1
Herbert Sprague	1
Deana Taylor	1
Jami-Leigh Webber	1
Mohamad Yaman	1
Judith Zecchino	1



**The PCA, PCSP & PEDI Programs provide over 11,050 hours of service per week!**

**If you are an ACE looking for more hours, please contact your Long Term Services Coordinator!**

## Contact Us

### GSIL's Main Office

21 Chenell Drive, Concord, NH 03301  
**(603) 228-9680** | [info@gsil.org](mailto:info@gsil.org)

### Programs

Cheryl Pinheiro, *RN, CCM*  
*Senior Director of Long Term Supports* x1158 or [cpinheiro@gsil.org](mailto:cpinheiro@gsil.org)

Donna Potter, *Statewide Director of PCSP Services*  
 x1609 or [dpotter@gsil.org](mailto:dpotter@gsil.org)

Michelle Cutting, *Director of Community Services*  
 x1502 or [mcutting@gsil.org](mailto:mcutting@gsil.org)

Brianna Smith, *Director of Education Services*  
 (603) 931-0456 or [bsmith@gsil.org](mailto:bsmith@gsil.org)

Valerie Kidder, *Director of Community Partners*  
 x1111 or [vkidder@gsil.org](mailto:vkidder@gsil.org)

Terri Voth, *Editor*  
 x1103 or [development@gsil.org](mailto:development@gsil.org)

### Human Resources

#### Work Related Injuries & Verification of Employment

Ann Malburne, *HR Director*  
 x1151 or [amalburne@gsil.org](mailto:amalburne@gsil.org)

#### ACE New Hires and Onboarding

Melyssa Willis, *HR Generalist*  
[mwillis@gsil.org](mailto:mwillis@gsil.org)

Justina Johnson, *HR Coordinator*  
[jjohnson@gsil.org](mailto:jjohnson@gsil.org)

#### Recruitment and Retention

[Recruitment@gsil.org](mailto:Recruitment@gsil.org)

Kelsea Moyle, *Recruitment Manager*  
 (603)268-2596 or [kmoyle@gsil.org](mailto:kmoyle@gsil.org)

### Payroll

Julie Smith, *Payroll Associate*  
 x1144 or [payroll@gsil.org](mailto:payroll@gsil.org)

# Advocacy Awareness

## Accessible Voting in NH

*Submitted by: Ryan Donnelly, GSIL Advocacy Coordinator*

The 2024 elections will be here before we know it! Here are some things to keep in mind before we all hit the polls next year.

If you live in New Hampshire but are not currently registered to vote, you may do so at any time up until roughly two weeks before an election is held. You can register to vote at your local city or town hall. Make sure to bring documentation that proves your identity and status as a U.S. citizen along with you. If you miss this deadline though, don't worry! You can also register to vote on the day of an election right there at the polling place.

If you are not registered to vote and intend to vote via absentee ballot, you can instead request an Accessible Absentee Voter Registration Affidavit and an Accessible Standard Voter Registration form directly from your city or town clerk. Any person with a disability who is not able to get to the polls may vote by absentee ballot.

You also have the right to cast your ballot in person. All polling places in New Hampshire chosen for our elections are in physically accessible locations. If you are not able to independently mark a paper ballot, you can choose to have a trusted individual or a poll worker assigned by the Moderator mark your ballot for you at your instruction. You can also make use of the "one4all" accessible voting system. Every polling place is equipped with an accessible voting booth and a one4all system featuring a tablet, keyboard, headset, and printer to allow people of all abilities to mark and cast their ballot.

**Should you run into trouble at the polls, don't panic! To resolve issues at the polling place you can reach out to: the Moderator at your polling place, the N.H. Attorney General's Office at 1-866-868-3703, or the Secretary of State's Office at 603-271-3242.**

## Additional Voting Resources:

[Secretary of State's Office Elections Homepage:](https://www.sos.nh.gov/elections)

<https://www.sos.nh.gov/elections>

[Disability Rights Center NH Voting Homepage:](https://drcnh.org/issue-areas/voting/)

<https://drcnh.org/issue-areas/voting/>

## Dates to Remember:

[NH Presidential Primary Election Day – To Be Announced](#)

[State Primary Election Day – September 10th, 2024](#)

[General Election Day – November 5th, 2024](#)

<https://gsil.org/services/advocacy/>



**In FY23, GSIL served**

**1,353 consumers statewide!**



# Bringing Independence to Life!

Submitted by: Terri Voth, Editor

Alexandria Teixeira is the Peer Mentor Coordinator and New Hampshire Chapter leader for United Spinal Association.

In December 2014 Alexandria was the passenger in a car with her boyfriend and 11-month-old daughter. One left turn made wrong resulted in a crash that left her with a C4 – C5 spinal cord injury. She was med-flighted to Tufts Medical Center, where a mistake was made that caused a double pneumothorax. After waiting three and a half weeks for spinal surgery, Alexandria was finally sent to Spaulding rehab.

“I will never forget asking my family to turn my head so I could look right or left.

sit up in my chair with no headrest for 10+ hours a day, I am able to sit up on the edge of the table, as well as put my left arm on my arm rest with some new bicep I’ve gained over the past couple years!”

**“I will never forget asking my family to turn my head so I could look right or left.”**



The scariest moments were when I laid there unable to move or speak. My first goal was to regain my speech/lungs, which I completed! I am now eight years postinjury! I am not yet able to lift my arms up, but I am proud of what I have accomplished. I can



## REFURBISHED EQUIPMENT MARKETPLACE

### USED EQUIPMENT, LOVINGLY RESTORED

We have a wide selection of durable medical equipment including but not limited to: canes, walkers, wheelchairs, power wheelchairs, commodes, shower chairs, bed canes, rollators, cryo cuffs, lifts and many more. Our inventory changes daily so some items not listed may be available and some items may be out of stock. Check the website for an up-to-date list of our inventory.

[Shoprem.com](http://Shoprem.com)

Refurbished Equipment Marketplace | 57 Regional Dr | Concord NH 03301 | (603) 226-2903



**\*REM relies on donations  
to serve our clients\***

**Open M-TH 9-2**

# GSIL's Education Programs & Services

The Earn & Learn Opportunities Program is a partnership between the Manchester School District, Vocational Rehabilitation New Hampshire and Granite State Independent Living. The IMPACCT Program is a partnership between New Hampshire Vocational Rehabilitation and Granite State Independent Living in response to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). IMPACCT was created to help augment and support the transitional services that schools are already providing their students with disabilities.



## Students Participate in Manufacturing Month

*Submitted by: Brianna Smith, Director of Education Services*

Our Earn & Learn and IMPACCT fall programs are in full swing! Currently we have 85 students represented from 31 schools. Our outstanding education staff has been busy working with our students and creating new opportunities for our students every day! As we have had gaps with hiring staff, we have been incredibly lucky to have the support from the following staff in ensuring our programs are covered. Many thanks to Sage McKenzie, Krystyl Jenkins, Marcia Bagley, Val Kidder and Cheryl Pinheiro! We can't thank you enough for going above and beyond to support our teams and students.

October was manufacturing month, which our students throughout the state have participated in. Below is a highlight of places students visited:

Manchester IMPACCT's class visited Quantic TRM Manufacturer in Bedford. The students got a full tour of the entire facility, including the manufacturing room, laser room, assembly areas, and prototyping areas. The students were able to ask questions, see, and hold products and got demonstrations of how different machines and parts work! They also learned a lot about how TRM is in association with the U.S. military and got to see how parts were made for numerous military missiles and machines. The staff loved having IMPACCT students and even provided the students with donuts and goodie bags. Many thanks for hosting our students!

Seacoast IMPACCT attended a field trip to The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Students explored different trade shops including the welders, pipefitters, and HVAC team. The welding shop showed students how it trains new welders at the Shipyard. Tour guides Robby and Rachel explained that they hire students right out of high school, and students complete all their training and educational studies directly

at the shipyard. New hires complete a 4-year apprenticeship program where they take classes, practice on mock-up pieces, and utilize virtual reality programming to perfect the art of welding. IMPACCT students tested out the virtual reality welding simulator! At the end of their apprenticeship, welding students participate in a final test that includes welding at the bottom of a 30-foot-deep pipe, in between your feet, and welding in a simulated tight corner. IMPACCT students got to move around in these spaces and see how difficult this weld would be. Students also saw a demonstration from the HVAC team that showcased the function of refrigeration and AC units. Using a marshmallow, they were able to see what happens when you decreased the pressure in an enclosed space. Finally, students learned from the engineers how they use CAD to design pipes for the submarine environment. After visiting the shops, students toured the shipyard by bus and learned about how the yard is a self-sustaining entity with its own hospital, grocery store, educational facility, and housing for enlisted Navy personnel. Rachael, another tour guide, explained that if a threat were to happen the shipyard will close itself off and function as its own city. Students learned about many different jobs that make up the 6000 jobs on the yard. Rachel then gave each student a folder full of knowledge about the shipyards apprenticeship program and available job opportunities. The folder also included how to apply, a list of available career paths, and the benefits offered when you are employed with the shipyard. Rachel



further explained the job fair opportunities and how individuals can be hired on the spot. She encourages applicants to bring a few copies of their resume and some proper interview skills. Overall, the tour was informative and valuable. Once student exclaimed that this was “one of the best field trips he’s ever been on”.

The Nashua IMPACCT took part of Manufacturing month by touring two great companies located in our backyard in Manchester owned by Dean Kamen the inventor of the Segway. The students first toured AMRI a biofabusa which is a bio engineer company that takes human cells and manufactures new ligaments or even organs for a person so that it is not rejected by their body.

Then we went to Merrimack Manufacturing next door and were given a tour of their plant. The students were able to see firsthand the incredible things they do there. The students got to see the iBot wheelchair that can go upstairs and allow



the individual in the wheelchair to be able eye level with their peers. The students were able to also see how clean

manufacturing works. One of the highlights for the students was getting gummy organs to eat at the end.

[Legendary inventor Dean Kamen jumpstarts human organ manufacturing in the US](#)  
([cnbc.com](http://cnbc.com))

*Editors Note: GSIL was part of the original team testing the iBot with Dean Kamen!*

## IMPACCT Students Volunteer

*Submitted by: Amanda Chase, Lead Transition Specialist, IMPACCT Academy*

For many years the GSIL IMPACCT Students have volunteered to help prepare turkey dinners in partnership with Holiday Inn and Windmill restaurant in Concord. All food is donated by various businesses and Chef John Dukette of Holiday Inn donates many hours of time to cook most of the meals to be distributed on Thanksgiving Day at the Windmill Restaurant. They prepared 140 turkeys, 500 lbs. of mashed potatoes, 400 lbs. of summer squash – they will feed 1,800 people free of charge. This is Concord IMPACCT’s 4th year helping out with the Thanksgiving meals for the needy of Concord. Students pitched in at various stations: peeling potatoes; cutting squash; preparing turkeys; packaging dinners and making pizzas to enjoy for lunch.



[Read the article featured in the Concord Monitor!](#)

## IMPACCT & Earn and Learn Graduation Schedule

Program/Region	Date	Time	Location
IMPACCT / Berlin	Thursday, January 4, 2024	11:00 am	Lancaster Motel
IMPACCT / Nashua	Wednesday, January 10, 2024	6:00 pm	Nashua Community College Room 150
IMPACCT /Concord	Thursday, January 11, 2024	6:00 pm	NHTI Beverly Grappone Auditorium
Earn and Learn / Manchester	Wednesday, January 17, 2024	6:00 pm	Manchester Community College Multi-purpose Room
IMPACCT /Manchester	Thursday, January 18, 2024	11:00 am	Manchester Community College Multi-purpose Room
IMPACCT / Seacoast	Thursday, January 18, 2024	4:00 pm	Great Bay Community College



## ABLE Savings Account

Submitted by: Ryan Donnelly, GSIL Advocacy Coordinator

**New ABLER Savings Account Program Launches in NH**  
- New Hampshire's new partnership with the National ABLER Alliance begins with the launch of The NH ABLER Plan. This signifies a new beginning and beneficial change for the ABLER Savings Program in our state.

The National ABLER Alliance is a partnership of states dedicated to providing those living with disabilities with an ABLER investment product that offers multiple financial options at low cost. Joining the Alliance family of states, New Hampshire has discontinued Ohio's STABLE program which came at the end of a 5-year contract, effective October 26, 2023.

State Treasurer, Monica Mezzapelle, and GCD Executive Director, Chuck Saia, were appointed co-administrators of New Hampshire's ABLER program in December 2017. The continuity of co-administrators remains and their availability to account holders also remains a priority.

According to Mezzapelle, *"While the former partnership has provided a tax-advantage savings plan for eligible individuals in our state, we believe the partnership with the National ABLER Alliance will be a better fit for our state and will better serve the disability community in New Hampshire, now and in years to come."*

*"This transition means that Ohio's STABLE account holders now have the option to transfer their assets to The NH ABLER Plan, or choose to remain with Ohio,"* said Saia.

New account holders, as well as current account holders, may review the benefits of an ABLER account for anyone with a qualified disability, review FAQ's, compare programs-- or easily transfer their account—by visiting [nh.savewithable.com](http://nh.savewithable.com).

## Your Voice Matters!

Submitted by: Donna Potter, Statewide Director of PCSP Services

GSIL's Consumer Advisory Committee has a new email address: [CAC@gsil.org](mailto:CAC@gsil.org)

**We want to hear from you! Your voice matters!**

The CAC is a GSIL sponsored committee that serves to make recommendations and/or provide key information to GSIL to improve consumer directed services and consumer benefits. If you have ideas or suggestions on how we can improve our services to better serve the needs of our consumers, please email your suggestions to [CAC@gsil.org](mailto:CAC@gsil.org).

We are also looking for consumers of any GSIL program who are passionate about helping others and affecting positive change to our programs to join the CAC.

**Contact us today to become a member!**

GSIL Consumer and Committee Chair,  
Kevin Ennis at [kmu2783@gmail.com](mailto:kmu2783@gmail.com)  
or GSIL Staff Representative and  
Co-Chair, Donna Potter at [dpotter@gsil.org](mailto:dpotter@gsil.org)  
or 603.228.9680



**91%** of consumers say GSIL is helpful with Care Planning

# GSIL's Annual Dinner & Awards Night

*Submitted by: Michael Goodwin, VP of Strategy & Business Development*

As many of you are aware we recently held our Annual Awards Dinner where we acknowledged and thanked businesses and individuals that have supported GSIL and its consumers over the years. That evening we heard some great stories from consumers and staff about the impact and importance of the work that GSIL does and how it has played a role in their lives. It was very inspirational! Our honorees were incredibly thankful to receive the recognition and we were incredibly honored to recognize them. Events such as this are a way we can celebrate the great work that you all do while providing us an opportunity to say "Thank you" to those that mean so much to us. We spend the entire year seeking donations and support from the business community and individuals and this one special night allows US to give back. It is such an important piece of the overall development process. Thanking and stewarding those relationships is a key ingredient to the success of our efforts. The goal of the event is to showcase GSIL, attract potential supporters and friends and to celebrate our achievements. In speaking with attendees, I think we accomplished our goal for the event this year and I look forward to next year's dinner as we look to make it bigger and better. Thank you to Scott Spradling, our emcee who did a great job. Also, thank you to all our sponsors; CGI Business Solutions, WellSense, The Spradling Group and TCB Marketing. Their support helped to make it a wonderful evening!



## Health Awareness - December

*Submitted by: Diana Bailey, RN Coordinator*

**International Day of Persons with Disabilities** - December 3 (Global): This international event is aimed at promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities and raising awareness about the challenges they face in their daily lives. ([Official Website](#))

**Universal Human Rights Month (Global)** - Universal Human Rights Month is observed throughout December to raise awareness about the fundamental rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and promote respect for these rights worldwide.

**Safe Toys and Gifts Month (Global)** - Safe Toys and Gifts Month promotes the importance of choosing age-appropriate, safe, and non-toxic toys and gifts for children during the holiday season, preventing accidents and injuries.

# GSIL's 9th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Submitted by: Terri Voth, Donor Relations Specialist & Event Planner

## What an amazing day we had for our 9th Annual tournament - it was our best yet!

GSIL's Chipping In FORE! Independence charity golf tournament, presented by CGI Employee Benefits Group on September 21<sup>st</sup> was a huge success. We almost sold out this year with 130 golfers signed up, the max is 144. This was far more than last year at 90 golfers, which was by far our best year to date then!

We added a lot more contests this year, with the promise of some amazing prizes. Thanks to USI New England for sponsoring the insurance to cover those prizes. Had someone gotten a Hole in One, they would have received a cash prize of \$25,000! Had someone got the Long Drive Pro Hole in Two, they would have won a trip to Pebble Beach for two. We had one golfer get within inches of that! Sean Skabo, from Bangor Savings Bank, was the winner of the Putting Contests 50/50, receiving \$320. He graciously donated it all back (\$50 of it went to the purchase of more raffle squares). He was then given the chance to win \$2,500 – if he sunk a 60' putt on hole 9. He didn't make the shot, but we all had fun watching in anticipation. First Place went to the AmeriHealth Caritas NH foursome, Second to Marcum LLP and 3rd to Joe Langlais' foursome.

Thanks to Tiffany Gladu, Diane Burke and Jenny Crowell, they are definitely a hard trio to say no to! They sold twice as many Putting Contest tickets and smashed the Square Board Raffle sales. Associated Grocers of New England (AGNE) sent over the same 8 Volunteers that have helped for several



years now, as they love to do this event. They covered spotting the other contest holes. AGNE also donated snacks for the SWAG bags, and 4 Turkeys (frozen of

course), which were used as the “Best Effort” prize awarded to the Ritcey family. The Ritcey Rebels have donated the turkeys back to us, and we in turn are donating them to 4 lucky consumers.

Final numbers are gross revenue is \$42,721- In comparison, our first year we grossed \$14,880. We are so grateful for all the support of our sponsors, many who support our mission through these events year after year. This year we had 14 new foursomes, 15 new sponsors and 10 new in-kind sponsors who donated raffle items. Growing these events allows us to be more financially diverse. We have received so many kind words and everyone says they will be back next year. Thank you to everyone who participated!

## Hoops on Wheels Wheelchair Basketball Tournament



GSIL'S 13<sup>th</sup> Annual HOOPS ON WHEELS



**SAVE THE DATE! 03/23/24 - Games All Day! Hoops on Wheels** to be held at NHTI's Gym. This is our signature event, where players maneuver the court using wheelchairs - whether they have a disability or not! Interested in putting a team together or playing? Reach out to us at [development@gsil.org](mailto:development@gsil.org) and get the ball bouncing! Don't want to play? Come on down and watch - attendance is free! It is so much fun, you don't want to miss it!

<https://gsil.org/hoops/>