



AUSTIN17HOUSE

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

MIRACLES DO HAPPEN

**Prepared By:
Lindsey Messina, Executive Director**



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



December 2024 | Executive Director

In the past year, our center has become a vital resource not only for the youth and families we serve but also for the broader community. Through our dedicated programs and outreach, we have positioned ourselves as a gap filler, offering crucial support to local mental health centers, professionals, law enforcement officers, and public school institutions. This approach has allowed us to bridge gaps in services, ensuring that families receive the assistance they need when the existing systems are overwhelmed.



We are committed to enhancing the well-being of families in our area and fostering a stronger community that meets the needs of young people holistically. As we grow, our center will continue to fill gaps and provide solutions to the challenges our community faces.

Lindsey Messina, Executive Director



"I just want to say thank you—the amount of confidence J* and K* gained yesterday from participating in the craft show can't be measured. Not to mention the life skills you are helping to teach them. Ty for all you and the A17 house do." – Youth Parent

ANNA'S STORY

MEET OUR FRIEND ANNA

ANNA HAS BEEN A YOUTH AT OUR CENTER FOR A FEW YEARS NOW

AND IS THE DEFINITION OF RESILIENCE BOUNCING BACK FROM ADVERSITY AFTER ADVERSITY.

There's this feeling every time you step through that door. There's no words to describe it. You always know you won't be judged, you can feel safe, you can always talk to someone, and speaking for myself I found many amazing people to talk to. All of my friends are there. All people are respected there. At dinner you will never have to sit alone. Mark is a real seeing of Jesus. He loves every kid that walks in there. He will always give you a hug and he can sense when you are having a rough day. He'll talk to you the whole time if you want.

So 2023 through 2024 I was sent to Hampstead Hospital for many suicide attempts. Mark, Lindsey, Justin, Jessie, Ethan all stayed by my side and encouraged me to keep going and the thought of killing myself and losing the opportunity to go to Austin House helped change that thought "oh yeah people do care about me, I should keep going. At times I felt selfish "oh I should just do it", but I realized how many people I would hurt. A couple of my friends at Austin House said, "If you do it I will sleep by your grave for the rest of my life". Thinking about all the things I would miss, turning 16, learning how to drive, becoming a firefighter, an EMT, and maybe a K9 officer serving our country. I couldn't bear to lose these opportunities.

Austin House has been a great distraction. I've been going for 3 years now. It's been a life changer. If I didn't go there and talk to people I trust I probably wouldn't be here right now, and I am glad I am. I stopped going to church for a while. But the main reason is I was very mad at God for all that has happened, but if it wasn't for him I would probably be dead. - Anna S, 15



"If I didn't go there and talk to people I trust I probably wouldn't be here right now, and I am glad I am".



FINANCIALS & IMPACT

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW | 2024

Donations \$ 64,000.00

Fundraising \$ 85,000.00

Grants \$ 61,000.00

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Accumulated over 8,500
volunteer hours = **\$285, 000.00**

Our center has continued to provide a safe place to go after school, serving over 75 youth and their families on a weekly basis.

We've expanded our reach by adding a new pantry filled with personal care items, clothing for all ages, bedding, school supplies, and hygiene products.

FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

One of our most impactful initiatives has been the establishment of our Family Scholarship Fund. This fund is designed to address the social determinants of health associated with addiction, mental illness, or lack of support and resources. Through this fund, we have provided essential services such as transportation, gas and grocery cards, utility assistance for families in need during the winter months, group exercise classes, and other various expenses that come up in life. **In 2023, our Family Scholarship Fund supported over 40 youth and families and has continued to grow this year to over 50 families.**



Thank you, Lions Club of Sandown, for your donation!

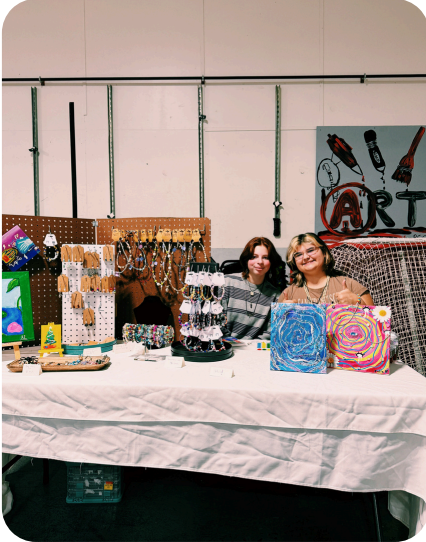


Thank you to Zach, Andy, Eric, Julien, and Jason for donating your winnings from the 2024 Charity Classic to our center!

A OUR MISSION

TO REACH YOUTH AND FAMILIES, TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS CAN'T.

"Before finding Austin 17, I had been to therapy, to outpatient programs, to inpatient programs—you name it. Nothing connected for me or made a difference, but Austin 17 and Jessie have been the difference for me and for other kids." Amelia has recently celebrated over 20 months free from drugs and alcohol through A17H programming.



Pictured: Youth participating in our annual Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair



Pictured: Youth selling food at one of our A17H events



Pictured: Youth & Shop Mentor during Shop Class

3,600
YOUTH VISITS

77
NEW YOUTH

+10,000
MEALS SERVED



Staff at A17H Quarterly Family Staff Meeting



Staff helping at 2024 Annual Golf Gala



55 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS



8,500 VOLUNTEER HOURS



20 YOUTH TO MENTOR CONNECTIONS





NEWLY DEVELOPING

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

This past year, we recognized that many of our youth were struggling academically, mentally, and emotionally within their learning environments. In response, we opened our doors to the public, providing an alternative learning space where youth and families can access a safe and supportive environment for their educational needs.

THE ENVIRONMENT PROVIDES

- A safe and quiet space for students to get their work done.
- **"Supervised Study"** with Staff to assist in keeping youth on track.
- **Free** meals and snacks.
- After-school tutoring & support.
- Life Skills Opportunities: to help be prepared for the world ahead.



**2 PART-TIME
STUDENTS**



**60
VISITS**



**INCREASE IN
PASSING GRADES
FOR STUDENTS**

AUSTIN17HOUSE TRAINING ACADEMY



The A17H Training Academy is designed to benefit our communities by providing youth with the skills and education needed to become active contributors to society and the economy at large. Our formal training program educates youth and young adults on the basic employment and life skills needed to be prepared to join the workforce. This program can also be used as a resource for local businesses, where employees can enroll to learn basic, soft and personal life skills.

**METALWORKING
WOODWORKING
AGRICULTURE
SCIENCE & TECH
SEWING & COSMETOLOGY
PUBLIC SPEAKING
PLUMBING/HVAC
COOKING & CULINARY**

**BUSINESS BASICS
SOFT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
RELIABILITY
CONFLICT RESOLUTION
HYGIENE & APPEARANCE
FINANCES
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

SHARE THE LOVE & FOOD FOR FAMILIES



SHARE THE LOVE EVENT

Exeter Subaru is dedicated to giving back to the seacoast community all year long. Their annual Subaru Share The Love Event supports hometown charities that are close to their hearts. **This year the Exeter Subaru team selected the Austin17House as this year's recipient of Subaru's Share The Love!**

**EXETER
SUBARU**

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

We are so grateful to our friends at **Exeter Subaru** for their generous donation of snacks, meals and \$200 in grocery gift cards for our families.

FED OVER 3,000 YOUTH & FAMILIES

Did you know that some of the youth and families in your community go 68 hours without a meal?

That is why providing a hot meal and snacks is one of the most important pieces of what we do so thank you again to our friends and partners at Subaru of Exeter!





OUR PARTNERS

THANK YOU, DONORS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS, FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT THIS YEAR!

AFTERMATH ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER - AL GOLDSTEIN - ALLIED CLEARWATER LLC - ALTERNATIVE SALES - AMERICAN LEGION POST 51 - ANGELS OF ADDICTION - ATKINSON LIONS CLUB - BANGOR SAVINGS - BAYSTATE FINANCIAL - BRENDA SMITH - BRENTWOOD FENCE - CENTERPOINT CHIMNEY - CHERYL & FRANK STIFTER - CHUCKY'S FIGHT - CROSSING LIFE CHURCH - DANVILLE LIONS CLUB - DENISE OLIVER - DOHERTY FAMILY - DOUG & PAM GRIFFIN - DOVER YOUTH TO YOUTH - DOWNINGS OF ATKINSON - DREAMERS RANCH - DUCKS UNLIMITED - EILEEN & DAN BIRON - EPPES-JEFFERSON FOUNDATION - ERIC WERNER - EXETER AREA NEW CAR DEALERS - EXETER HOSPITAL - EXETER LIONS CLUB - EXETER SUBARU - FARMSTEDS OF NE - FLORAL KEEPSAKES - GRANDMAISON RECOVERY - GRANITE STATE MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY - GRANITE UNITED WAY - HUBB INTERNATIONAL - HURBURT FAMILY - JEAN MAGINNIS - JEWETT CONSTRUCTION - KAREN A RYDEEN FAMILY TRUST - KENNEBUNK SAVINGS BANK - KEYSTONE PRESS - KINGSTON INSURANCE AGENCY - KINGSTON LIONS CLUB - KOWALSKI CARPENTRY - LEONG FAMILY - MARGIE AND KEITH BOUDREAU - MARY ANN BLAIE - MBI POLYEXE - MELISSA LITCHFIELD - NH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION - ODA AUTO PRECISION - PALMER CLEAN OUTS - PLAISTOW LIONS - RENEE & SCOTT WEST - REVISION ENERGY - ROBERT BURNS - ROCKINGHAM ROOFING - ROYAL "T" CAR WASH - SEACOAST MAZDA - SOUTHERN NH UKULELE GROUP - THE BUYING NETWORK - THE COMMUNITY OVEN EPPING - THE FULLER FOUNDATION - TOM DOWNING - TOWN CABIN DELI & PUB - TOWN OF BRENTWOOD - TWIN PINES DRIVING RANGE - UNIFIRST - VETS4VETSNH -





AUSTIN17HOUSE

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