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Hard To Place



At Vanderheyden, and at other organizations that serve traumatized youth, these three words *Hard To Place* are a likely indicator that a child has a painful history of adults failing to meet his or her needs. For example, a home environment absent of adult guidance that is abusive or neglectful; a system of foster and/or adoptive families that could not effectively support trauma-induced behavior; a criminal justice system that does not always recognize that bad behavior is a cry for help and attention. All of these examples are why adolescences are placed at Vanderheyden.

We all know that "there is no place like home." But by the time a youth enters Vanderheyden, it is often the case that he or she truly has no place in the entire world to call home. Most of us can not even fathom that!

At Vanderheyden, many youth with a dual diagnosis of both developmental delays and a mental health diagnosis are especially "*hard to place*." To address this challenge, these youth live in small home-like

SAVE THE DATES

Imagine More Fundraiser

Saturday, June 13

11am to 4pm

Raymour & Flanigan Stores:
Clifton Park, Latham and
Niskayuna

Charity of the Month

Tuesday, July 21

Burger 21

622 New Loudon Rd. Latham

Vanderheyden 2015
2nd Annual Oktoberfest

Thursday, October 29

6pm to 8pm

Brown's Brewing Company: Troy

You are one click away from helping us with our wish lists...
Check out Smile.Amazon Wishlists to see if you can help.

Group Homes

[WishList](#)

Sanctuary Garden

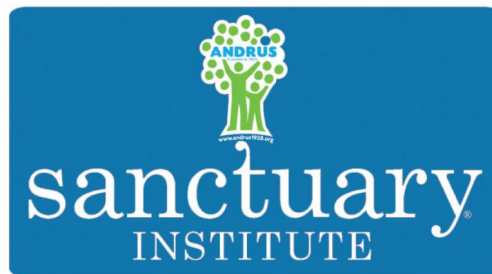
[WishList](#)

Library

[WishList](#)

cottages that serve as specialized treatment environments. While living there, youth are surrounded by adults dedicated to healing psychological wounds, addressing medical needs, and to responding to anti-social behavior with compassion and modeling of better ways to process trauma.

Jonathon, 15, lives in one of these cottages. He came to Vanderheyden after being removed from his home, then living in a series of foster placements. An adoption-in-process failed. No surprise, he arrived at Vanderheyden a very angry young man. After an extensive intake assessment initiated a medical and psychiatric treatment plan, Jonathon has been immersed in experiences designed to engage him and teach him social skills. He had the opportunity to participate in an equine therapy program and has ongoing opportunities to cuddle with therapy dogs. He has made friends. He is playing softball and running track and participating in Special Olympics.



The seven commitments of our
Sanctuary Community:

- Non-violence
- Emotional intelligence
- Social learning
- Open communication
- Growth and change
- Shared Governance
- Social responsibility

Jonathon was recently enrolled in anger management classes. He is kept connected to his siblings who live in another county, and Vanderheyden staff are working diligently with staff from that county to come up with a permanency plan for him. They are determined to find a permanent home for this young man, deprived too long of this basic foundation of safety and belonging.

Time To Clean Out Your Closet...

Drop your unwanted clothing and shoes in our new blue box on our school campus parking lot and help Vanderheyden raise money. Acceptable items include all mens, ladies & childrens clothing, handbags, belts, paired shoes & sneakers, household linens, material, stuffed animals, hats and scarves.



American Clothing has been working together with over 200 local organization for

over 15 years. The clothing drop box program is designed to raise funds on a year round basis. This method of fundraising has been successful with many non-profit organizations. The clothing is sent throughout the US and then to other countries to be reused.

So lets begin to recycle our unwanted clothing, shoes, and etc. and raise money for Vanderheyden! [PASS THE WORD ON!](#)



Special Olympics

On May 9th 180 athletes participated in a track meet at Hudson Valley Community College. Events included sprinting, walking, shot put, turbo jav, softball throw and many more. Vanderheyden had 8 individuals participate from both campus and group homes. All of the participants tried their hardest and felt very accomplished at the end of the day.

On May 16th, the team competed at Shenendehowa High School in the New York summer regionals with athletes from 7 regions, for a total of 450 athletes! Medals were handed out to the teams for their best participation. Bonnie, (*see photo - below right*) a Vanderheyden student receives a medal from Kate Horan, a volunteer with Special Olympics. Thanks again to [Fleet Feet Sport Albany and Adirondack](#) for the donation of sneakers. Everyone was so excited to compete in their brand new sneakers!

CONGRATULATIONS to our track team that participated in the regional Special Olympics at Shenendehowa High School. Everyone did a fantastic job showing team work, dedication, and self control.

Our next meet is in Brockport, New York for the state Special Olympics. Three youths from campus, and one adult from the group homes will be representing Vanderheyden for two nights and three days on June 5-7.



A Dedicated Leader For Decades

Deborah Demers came to Vanderheyden 24 years ago as a direct care worker in a cottage. For more than two decades she has remained a most dedicated champion for our youth. Deb is a supporter of the interdisciplinary team that makes possible success sotries like the one you read about Jonathon in this newsletter.

Today Deb is Director of Community Services, an increasingly important role as national trends encourage shorter residential stays and



faster re-integration into the community. Deb is a natural for spearheading that trend as she believes that every person - even someone with an IQ well-below average - can be trained for a job in the community. She makes sure that our non-campus supported programs run smoothly, while also coordinating the annual initiative to ensure that everyone in the Vanderheyden community has a winter holiday season full of festive meals, gifts, and fun events.

It's easy to see why Deb is such an effective leader as she deflects attention from her own considerable talents and is always ready to shine the light on other staff: "The people at Vanderheyden are very committed. Whatever our individuals need, our staff rallies to provide. There is just so much goodness here, so much giving."



Our Spring Appeal is still in full force. Please support us and the work we do to change lives to save lives. In order to meet our 2015 goal of raising \$200,000 in private funds, we know that if everyone can help us, that goal will be within our reach. We will, of course, express our gratitude for any sponsorships in our 2014-1015 annual report and on all our social media sites.

There are several ways you can help Vanderheyden meet its goals:

- Mail us a check to PO Box 219, Wynantskill, NY 12198, Attn: Development Department
- Click here to [Donate Now](#) - where you can make a one time donation or set up a monthly, quarterly or annual donation.

Areas of Need:

- Educational supplies
- Sports equipment and craft supplies
- Sponsoring of onsite programming: educational, fitness and recreational
- Furniture for bedrooms and common areas
- Trees, shrubs, and flowering bushes for beautification
- Repairs to aging infrastructure - call us if you have materials or services to donate!

Shop for a Cause

Did you know Target will donate 1% of your Credit or Debit REDcard purchases made at Target or Target.com to our school?

Go to [Target](#) and register your card with our school ID 19042. We can all make a difference - one at a time!

Learn more about us:

www.vanderheyden.org

Come visit us and take a tour

Contact Cathy Yudzevich

518-874-4901

PASS IT ON!



[Donate Here Today](#)

Know someone who would like to get involved? [Forward Email](#)

Not yet signed up to receive our emails? [Join Now](#)

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING ON OUR SOCIAL SITES



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