



VANDERHEYDEN

Giving new life to youth, adults and families

MORE THAN
190
YEARS

Happy HOLIDAYS



Maria College Partnership

We were thrilled to announce that Maria College is partnering with Vanderheyden and 20+ local human service organizations to create new pathways into healthcare careers—offering scholarships, mentorship, and support to help students succeed.



December Newsletter

As we step into December, we're reflecting on a busy and meaningful few months at Vanderheyden. From program milestones to community events, our individuals and staff embraced opportunities for growth, connection, and celebration across our agency. We're grateful for the continued support of our families, partners, and donors, whose generosity helps us create safe, supportive, and enriching experiences year-round.

We need your support!

For only \$18.33 a month.
You can make a difference!

SCAN & SUSTAIN



Help us create a world where
all have an opportunity to thrive.

Mail your monetary donation to:
Vanderheyden; Development Department
PO Box 219, Wynantskill, NY 12198

Meet Erik, Carl, Arianna, and Jazmine

You don't know their story, or the struggles they face every day. But, if there's ever a time a kid should be able to forget where they are and just feel like a "normal kid," it's the holidays.

At Vanderheyden, state funding covers food, water, and shelter—but there's so much more to life than that. This season, you can help bring that joy to hundreds of kids and teens who need it most.



HOPE

For The Holidays



Holiday Greetings,

As Vanderheyden enters its 193rd year of changing lives to save lives, we continue to serve more than 700 youth, individuals, and families each day.

With rising costs, the holidays can feel especially daunting for many of the individuals and families we serve. We believe that every person in our care deserves a memorable Holiday experience—one filled with joy, happiness, and a sense of belonging.

This Holiday Season, we invite you to join us in making that vision a reality. With the support of our community, we can provide moments of hope, connection, and celebration for those who need it most.

Ways to participate this Holiday Season include:

- **Monetary donations**
- **In-kind donations - We are gratefully accepting:**
 - **Gingerbread Houses & Holiday Cookie Kits**
 - **Games, Crafts & Fidget Toys**
- **Target, Walmart, Amazon, & Grocery Store Gift Cards**

Want to send a gift directly?

Visit www.vanderheyden.org to purchase items from our Amazon Wish List!

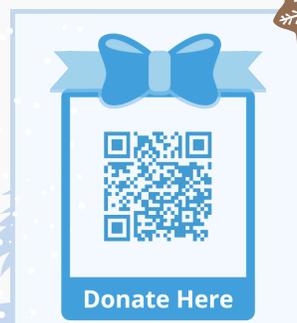
For further information, please contact

Dominique Madore at dmadore@vanderheyden.org

Donations can be made online under HOLIDAY GIVING 2025 via the QR code provided.

We believe that every person in our care deserves a memorable Holiday experience—one filled with joy, happiness, and a sense of belonging!

On behalf of everyone at Vanderheyden, thank you for considering joining us in creating a Holiday Season that is meaningful, joyful, and memorable for all those in our care.





Fall Festivities



Our 44th Annual Turkey Trot was a success! A big thank-you our local police force for keeping the road safe and secure. A special thank you to Ferra's Automotive Services Inc. for being our loyal T-shirt sponsor year after year.



The agency gathered for our 42nd Annual Thanksgiving Agency Dinner, where team members, families, and community partners came together to share a meal, connect, and reflect on what we are thankful for.



Vanderheyden celebrated Halloween with a spooktacular Chili Cook-Off and Trunk or Treat! From creative costumes and delicious chili to themed trunks, games, and sweet treats, it was an afternoon full of fun!



VanderFEST Annual Fundraiser

VanderFEST 2025 was an incredible night full of celebration! We are so grateful for the support of Vanderheyden's programs that empower young adults aging out of foster care to secure stable housing and meaningful employment.



Longevity Luncheon



Vanderheyden proudly celebrated our employees' years of service at Longevity Luncheon and award ceremony. From 10 years of dedication to an incredible 40 years, each milestone reflects unwavering commitment to our mission of changing lives to save lives!

Outback Dinner



Despite being spread across several locations, we can come together to recognize our team and appreciate all they do 24/7, 365 days a year to support the individuals we serve. A special thanks to Nate and his team at Outback Steakhouse for preparing nearly 500 meals for our staff and their families!



Vanderheyden proudly joined Albany's annual **Breast Cancer Walk!** We walked to honor those affected, raise awareness, and show our support for the fight against breast cancer.



Vanderheyden honored **November**, Men's Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Month by wearing mustaches for Mustache Wednesday.



Our team wore orange for **Unity Day**. We stood together to say bullying has no place at Vanderheyden!



Congratulations, Karen!

We're proud to share that our President & CEO, Karen M. Carpenter, has been recognized by the Capital Region Chamber with this year's Nonprofit Executive Leadership Award.



Meet Cole

Cole is from Brooklyn and has been at Vanderheyden for about a year and a half. Before coming here, school wasn't going well for him — he wasn't showing up consistently, didn't feel motivated, and things at home were getting tense. His parents decided Vanderheyden might give him a fresh start and the support he needed.

One of the people who has helped him the most since arriving is Ron. Cole says they're a lot alike and can talk about real, meaningful things. Having someone he trusts has made a big difference in how he sees things and how he handles challenges.

When he thinks about advice for new residents, Cole keeps it simple: focus on yourself and stay out of drama. He admits that when he first got here, he hung out with people who didn't always make the best choices. Now he knows that staying in your lane makes it easier to grow and work toward your goals.

Cole currently has a job at Hoffman's Car Wash through Vanderheyden's Career Center Program. He applied online, put together a résumé with help from staff, and went through an interview that he says was pretty scary — but he clearly did something right, because he's been working there for a few months now! The job has boosted his confidence and taught him responsibility.

He's also thinking a lot about his future. Cole wants to study electrical engineering in college and has already been accepted to two schools. He's on track to graduate in June with his Regents diploma and is excited for what comes next!

Community Support



Regeneron

A huge thank-you to our incredible volunteers from Regeneron for spending the day with us during their Day for Doing Good! The team went above and beyond cleaning our sanctuary trail.



Broadview FCU

Our youth in Vanderheyden's residential treatment program got into the fall spirit by painting pumpkins, decorating spooky cookies, and enjoying donuts and apple cider with our volunteers from Broadview FCU.