



# VANDERHEYDEN

Giving new life to youth, adults and families

MORE THAN  
**190**  
YEARS



## Social Worker Month

### Compassion & Action!

In honor of Social Worker Month, Vanderheyden hosted a luncheon to celebrate and bring together our dedicated social workers from across our agency. Our clinical team works in various locations, providing services to those with a variety of challenges. Fostering a sense of community and teamwork for our social workers is essential.

NEWSLETTER

## Partnership with The Albany FireWolves

A very special thank you to the Albany FireWolves for choosing Vanderheyden as an honoree at 518Night. The FireWolves have donated tickets to multiple games in addition to funding, and we are very grateful.



## Congratulations President & CEO Karen M. Carpenter

With great pride, please join us in congratulating our very own Vanderheyden President & CEO Karen M. Carpenter in being selected as the Women's Fund of the Capital Region's Trailblazer of 2025. Karen was selected because of her exemplary leadership and philanthropy that challenges and inspires others to support efforts focused on women, along with her long-standing commitment and involvement in the community.



## 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



## Developmental Disability Awareness Month

March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month! Vanderheyden joins with the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities in emphasizing that community, accessibility and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities should be championed and recognized every day not just in March! We are very proud to highlight our Day Habilitation Program. Each week, Day Hab enjoys volunteering in the community at various businesses in the Capital Region. On Thursdays, you can find James, Will and Peter at Hope 7 Community Center's food pantry helping in any way they can - and you can count on them to give you top notch service and smiles!

## Richard A. Desrochers Educational School



Our educators are always looking for ways to keep our students engaged, learning and growing. From Super Bowl parties, Spirit week, to celebrating cultures through the language of food, the Vanderheyden School is full of fun and education each and every day.

"Day Habilitation With-out Walls is vital for both individuals and the community as it fosters inclusivity and empowerment. With-out Walls provides opportunities for individuals to engage with their surroundings, develop social skills, and participate in meaningful activities, the program not only enhances their quality of life but also strengthen community bonds. This promotes independence, encourages personal growth, and helps to break down barriers, ultimately creating a more connected and supportive society for everyone."

- Brianna DeBrocky,  
Day Program Manager



## Vanderheyden Partners with CEO

Vanderheyden's Children and Family Treatment Support Services (CFTSS) offices are now officially located at CEO in Troy. This partnership with CEO paves the way for providing local and accessible resources for Rensselaer County and beyond.



# Black History Month

February is Black History Month! We can always count on our Vanderheyden kitchen staff to be creative with every celebration. A special thanks to safety team member Rahlonte for doubling as Chef and joining our kitchen team to bring a delightful culinary experience. Chef Rahlonte and the team paid homage to the rich and diverse traditions of Black culture through classic dishes. We believe that everyone deserves to feel included and valued, and what better way to celebrate diversity and honor history than through the universal language of food?!



## Staff Spotlight - Felicia Lloyd

### Pre-Vocational Employment Specialist

Felicia has worked at Vanderheyden for 5 years, bringing 30 years of experience in the Human Services Sector. Felicia is known for her endless community resources, and when she got an opportunity for pre-vocational work, Felicia knew she was just the person for the job.

Felicia serves a select group of Vanderheyden's adult population who have various challenges and disabilities but also harnesses a strong desire for community and work. Felicia has established many relationships with local businesses, from a local rabbit rescue to grocery stores, and most recently, The Center for Law and Justice. The goal of the group is to develop soft skills and determine what career options they may have. Her program is a safe place for all - a place to fail, learn and grow.

Establishing connections was not easy - At times, the community was hesitant to invest in the group. Felicia's advice: "You cannot get anything done calling and sitting behind a desk! I found the most success in letting the individuals advocate for themselves in person. Watching their confidence grow by letting THEM speak means everything to me."

Felicia shows appreciation to Vanderheyden for supporting her along the way. "Vanderheyden has a team of administrators and supervisors who CARE. When you are grieving a loss, going through health complications, you can count on flowers from Vanderheyden. When I had ideas on how to promote the pre-vocational program, Vanderheyden listened and gave me the space to develop for success. They have always genuinely cared about me. That is rare in this world!"



## VANDERFEST 2025

Save the Date  
**10.16.2025**

Duo at The Dunes, 257 Washington Ave Extension  
Albany, NY 12205

