



VANDERHEYDEN

Giving new life to youth, adults and families

NEWSLETTER

MORE THAN
185
YEARS

OCTOBER 2022



Take a look at Vanderheyden!

*Moving forward with
possibilities....*

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ENJOYING SUMMER

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PROM

GRADUATION

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Enjoying Summer thanks to our donors!

With the help of our generous donors, our individuals in our Residential, Educational and Community Service Programs all get to have wonderful opportunities and experiences. Summer was filled with trips to SPAC, baseball games, enjoying the fine arts, and experiencing nature!



STUDENT CARNIVAL



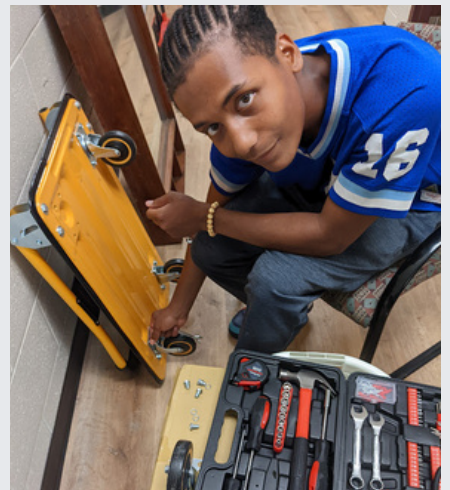
The annual student carnival is always the perfect kickoff to summer, and a great way to end another successful school year. This year, we had many outdoor games, a petting zoo, a delicious BBQ and treats, waterslides and a dunk tank; where the students got to dunk their favorite teachers and staff members.



SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYER PROJECT

For the past five years, Vanderheyden has been developing supportive vocational programming for students who have intense mental health and academic challenges. The goal has been to mirror vocational preparation programs like those found in our BOCES in New York State –and, to design them specifically for student who have significant social/emotional and behavioral challenges.

Along with the rehabilitation of our Career and Training Center (adjacent to our campus and donated by Rensselaer County). We have created curricula and work-based learning activities for our students.



THE VANDY THRIFT SHOPPE UPDATE

The Vandy Thrift Shoppe has been a phenomenal success since its soft opening April 1st. Several area dignitaries have guest cashiered and worked side by side with our Career Center Program individuals! 100% of the proceeds go directly to the benefit of the individuals we serve!



POLLY'S COTTAGE CELEBRATION



Thank you to The Junior League of Troy for partnering with The Community Foundation to honor the memory of Polly Freihofer Mason's dedication to the girls at Vanderheyden. The Junior League presented a \$15,000 check to benefit a girl's residential cottage on the Vanderheyden Campus. The young girls that live at Vanderheyden embodied the League's mission and a close relationship was established many years ago. So close, that one of the cottages was named for the past president and long-time member of the Junior League - Polly Mason. Every holiday the League would make sure the girls of Polly's Cottage had their wish lists fulfilled.



SANCTUARY CLEAN UP

Hats off to Vanderheyden's Residential Treatment Center (RTC) individuals, who practiced Social Responsibility, one of seven commitments to the Sanctuary model. They chose to revamp the Robinson Outdoor Center! At Vanderheyden, we understand that we all have a level of responsibility for our environment. The pavilion is well used and loved area by all. Thank you to Lily, Patrick and RTC team members for facilitating a successful campus clean up!



"Social Responsibility is committing to rebuilding social connection skills, establish healthy attachment relationships."- The Sanctuary Institute



VANDERHEYDEN SCHOOL PROM

The Richard A. Desrochers Educational Center prom was a success. The theme was City Nights. The students at Vanderheyden greatly enjoyed dancing, using the photo booth, and the delicious dinner.



Graduation 2022

Congratulations Vanderheyden's Richard A. Desrochers Educational Center Class of 2022! The sun was shining as we celebrated our high school graduates and our students moving up from 8th to 9th grade. A special thanks to our guest speaker Tamani Wooley of Spectrum News 1 Capital Region for joining us to celebrate and empower our graduates as they enter into a new chapter.



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Our President and CEO Karen Carpenter Palumbo braved the rain to welcome all of our Richard A. Desrochers Educational Center staff back from Summer Vacation! Staff were greeted with goodie bags filled with snacks, gift cards, and a personalized letter from the CEO.



MEET ZANE

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM



Where are you from? I am from Westchester/Somers New York

What grade are you in/how old are you? I am going into 12th grade, and going to be 18 in September?

Who is a staff member that helps you out? Tyreif, Darren, History, Cancer, Kareem, Aggie, and many more. If you try to have a staff help you then they will. I made so many connections with the staff, and that is how I made it through.

What advice would you give to someone who is coming to Vanderheyden? You may not like when you first get here, but if you really try you will get so much out of it.

What is something you are passionate about? I'm passionate about helping people. To make them believe that if you put your mind to it, it will happen - and never let that dream go.

What Career Center work-based learning program was your favorite and why? I worked at The Cookie Jar, Salvation Army and The Vandy Thrift Shoppe. Honestly, I like them all because they all taught me something I didn't know.



MEET JIM FARANDA

VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Tell us a little about your yourself.

I started working for CAP COM FCU in 1989 taking loan applications for Credit Union Member's. At the time, this was just a way to help me pay for college expenses. After graduating from Siena with a Finance Degree, they offered me a full-time job with the Investment Advisory Team. Now 33 years later, it's turned into a wonderful career.

What is your role at Vanderheyden?

I'm presently Vice Chair of Vanderheyden's Board of Directors. Additionally, I serve on both the Finance and Audit Committees.

What do you like about Vanderheyden and your role?

Being on Vanderheyden's Board is a great way for me to support our community. More importantly, the emotional gratification of seeing the students succeed at Vanderheyden is worth every minute volunteered.

Can you share an interesting story or memory from your time at Vanderheyden?

My favorite Vanderheyden event is the School Graduation each June. Since I joined the board 8 years ago, I've made all but one. Every year, tears of joy fill my heart as I see how proud the students are of their accomplishments.

Can you share a unique story or experience from your life?

I grew up in downtown Albany and it was easy to find trouble. I thank my family for giving me a good moral compass and the Albany Boys Club for giving me a safe place to explore and grow. Like the Boys Club, Vanderheyden is that safe place for individuals to explore and grow. I am thrilled to be able to help volunteer and give back to both the Community and Team Vandy!

What would you say to someone thinking about joining the Vanderheyden team?

As past Finance Chair of the Board, I can honestly say that Vanderheyden is poised for great growth opportunities! It's sound financially, has extremely caring & talented staff, and great leadership with Karen Carpenter at the helm. This is a very exciting time to be part of Vanderheyden's future growth in the Community!



MEET THAI

KITCHEN SUPERVISOR



Tell us a little about your background and what brought you to Vanderheyden.

I worked at another Human Services agency similar Vanderheyden before I was hired to run the school kitchen.

What is your role at Vanderheyden?

I am the Supervisor in the school cafeteria. I get to cook and make healthy meals for our day program and residential students for breakfast and lunch. I also pick up shifts in our Community Service programs at the group homes.

Can you share any unique stories from your life?

I was born during the Vietnam War and was placed in an orphanage when I was a baby. I came to the United States in October of 1971 where I was adopted into a Diverse American Family. I have been taking care of people ever since I was a child in the orphanage, where I took care of the other children that were younger than me. Since then, I have never stopped wanting to take care of people and helping others.

Do you have any specific stories from your time at Vanderheyden that were extra special that you would like to share?

Each Thanksgiving, I cook about 25 whole Turkeys for the Vanderheyden residents and their families. This is one of my favorite things to do at my job. Sharing Thanksgiving dinner brings all of us together as a Vanderheyden family, and it's a reminder to be thankful for all that you have.

Why should someone work at Vanderheyden?

I would encourage someone to work at Vanderheyden because as staff, you can make a positive impact on and see the outcome in the individuals lives.



Family Engagement

Participation 🌀 Communication 🌀 Partnership

Please contact us at family@vanderheyden.org



Vanderheyden is committed to moving the focus of care from our residential facilities into homes and the community. The Family Engagement Committee seeks to involve individuals and their families in shaping Vanderheyden's commitment to serve the entire family, not just individuals. Please contact us at family@vanderheyden.org to ask questions, share information, give feedback, and request resources from our Vanderheyden Team.

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE



Donate to the Blue Box!

Vanderheyden is paid 5 cents per pound for the clothing collected. Any amount raised goes directly back to Vanderheyden and benefitting our individuals.



Tools for Schools is a program at Price Chopper Market 32 that allows customers to shop with their AdvantEdge Card and earn for their local schools. Our school can use the earnings to choose from a catalogue of school equipment.



Donate with Amazon Smile!

- 1.) go to: smile.amazon.com
- 2.) Choose your Charity: Vanderheyden Inc.
- 3.) AmazonSmile will donate .05% of the price of eligible purchases

If you would like to learn more about our programs, have questions on those we serve or schedule a possible visit, you can contact Cathy Yudzevich, our Director of Development and Marketing. She can be reached at (518) 874- 4901 or by email at cyudzevich@vanderheyden.org

