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VANDERHEYDEN PARTNERS WITH CAPITAL ROOTS
Providing farm-to-table fruit and vegetables to 18 locations

Wynantskill, NY August 12, 2025— Vanderheyden and Capital Roots announced a new partnership to bring fresh, local produce to Vanderheyden’s campus and group homes through Capital Roots’ Institutional Markets Program, which connects businesses and organizations across the Capital Region with high-quality fruits and vegetables sourced directly from local farms.

Through this collaboration, a variety of seasonal produce including fruit, vegetables, and herbs will be delivered weekly to the Vanderheyden by Capital Roots. The fresh ingredients will be used in meals prepared at the Richard A. Desrochers Educational Center and at the homes on campus where youth live and attend the Residential Treatment Center (RTC). Vanderheyden’s group homes throughout the community will also receive the same produce, ensuring a consistent supply of healthy food across all programs.

On Thursday, August 14th, every Vanderheyden program and location will come together in spirit by sharing the same farm-to-table meal, made possible through this partnership. Each site will use the same fresh ingredients and recipes, creating a shared, nutritious experience that aligns with Vanderheyden’s sanctuary commitments of safety, communication, and care.

“This is exactly the kind of collaboration we envisioned with our Institutional Markets Program,” said Amy Klein, CEO of Capital Roots. “By making nutritious, local food more readily available to businesses and organizations, we are supporting our region’s farm economy while also helping create healthier, more vibrant work and care environments.”

Vanderheyden's President and CEO Karen M. Carpenter states, “This united effort will serve both our organizations well, and we are thrilled with this partnership. The Capital Roots produce will enable us to increase the fresh, healthy and nutritious fruits and vegetables we serve at Vanderheyden.” Food Service Manager John Piombino says the program is beneficial in many ways. “The Capital Roots website is user friendly, and provides great detail on each produce item, as well as the exact farm the produce is coming from.” He adds “the quality of the produce has been outstanding.”

Capital Roots is a 50-year-old nonprofit organization committed to nourishing healthy communities. With programs like Community Gardens, the Veggie Mobile®, Healthy Stores, The Produce Project, and Squash Hunger, Capital Roots reaches across four counties from its Urban Grow Center—an expanded regional food hub designed to increase food access and support the local food system.

About Vanderheyden: *Vanderheyden began as the Troy Orphan Asylum in 1833 and has been providing services for more than 190 years. Today our facilities offer a safe haven for youth, adults and families who have experienced family disruption, trauma, abuse, emotional difficulty, developmental disability and learning problems. The Richard A. Desrochers Educational Center at Vanderheyden is a Regents accredited 7-12 grade program. It provides education to individuals who are at risk of not succeeding at school, and those in need of a special education. Vanderheyden is a designated Children and Family Treatment and Support Services Provider (CFTSS). The agency is committed to a family focused, trauma informed and community-based system of care. Every day at Vanderheyden, we work to change lives to save lives. For more information visit www.vanderheyden.org and follow us on social media.*

