

2025

# IMPACT REPORT



**For decades, Green Chimneys has been a steadfast and trusted presence in this community, a place where children, youth, and families know they will be met with compassion, expertise, and unwavering support. We are proud of our nearly 80 years of meaningful impact, and equally proud of the community that has stood beside us with enduring partnership and generosity.**

As the mental and behavioral health needs of children and youth grow in complexity and urgency, meeting these needs requires not only clinical excellence but a broad spectrum of services that form a true continuum of care. Our programs support young people and their families at every stage, from our therapeutic day school and residential treatment programs to community-based counseling, case management, and skill-building and support groups.

At the heart of this continuum is our therapeutic school, where special education services are carefully constructed to meet the diverse academic, emotional, and behavioral needs of each student. Our teachers work closely with clinicians, related service providers, and families to create individualized, strength-based learning plans that honor each student's unique profile.

Nature-based learning further enriches our programs. Farm-based activities and hands-on environmental lessons help students build focus, self regulation, and problem-solving skills. Whether caring for animals or tending to seedlings in our gardens, students develop empathy, patience, responsibility, and emotional awareness—skills that strengthen both academic growth and long term resilience. Beyond the classroom, through partnerships with local businesses and work-based learning opportunities on-campus, students gain real-world experience, confidence, and a sense of purpose. Families remain essential partners in this process, collaborating with staff to ensure that progress is supported across home, school, and community environments.

Our vision is simple yet powerful: to ensure bright futures for youth by surrounding them with the support, resources, and care they need to grow into healthy, confident, and resilient adults. This vision is made possible through the commitment of our supporters, whose time, talent, and generosity continue to transform lives.

Sincerely,

**William Fasano**  
*President, Board of Directors*

**Kristin Dionne**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



# Delivering on Our Mission

Green Chimneys is guided by key principles that provide a framework for delivering services to our children, their families, and a diverse community of program partners and supporters. These tenets inform our educational approach, clinical practices, and organizational policies to foster in our children, families and staff, an inherent confidence in themselves and the development of positive expectations for their future.

## Individualized and Strength-Based

*Educational and therapeutic plans target specific areas of need and leverage each student's unique abilities.*

We set up our students for success by establishing goals that utilize their strengths and capabilities. A teaching model based in Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI) provides differentiation for varied learning styles, transitioning students from teacher-directed instruction to gradual release to independent tasks. Specialized programs and enrichment activities offer countless opportunities for students to discover hidden talents and new passions. Staff bring genuine enthusiasm and creativity to this work, sparking curiosity and a joy in students. These activities are invaluable to keeping kids connected to school, helping to carry them through the more challenging parts of their academics and ultimately, their therapeutic goals.

## Nature-Based Interaction

*Distinct expertise and innovation in nature-based practices that foster skills, self-discovery and healing.*

Across programs, Green Chimneys staff note how students often share more, or show more, when an animal is involved. Whether in a social work session, performing caretaking tasks or during casual interaction, students tend to be more motivated and engaged, and more willing to express themselves, in the company of animals. Learning to care for an animal promotes awareness and empathy for another being and their needs, and builds a sense of responsibility and commitment. Students who gravitate toward plants experience similar development of attentiveness and social-emotional skills. From everyday tasks in the garden to constructed activities, such as observing animal behavior, students learn to apply insights into their own human interactions or situations.

## Quality Improvement

*Data-driven decision making informs programming as students attain new skills, or demonstrate need for more intensive support.*

A Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) integrates data and targeted skill building to maximize student achievement. From the moment of enrollment, a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) determines level of intervention while ongoing monitoring ensures program effectiveness, either by maintaining current supports or by increasing the level and types of intervention. Oversight from New York State agencies and internal reporting provides metrics to evaluate service delivery, ensure best practices, and make adjustments to benefit clients and optimize program and agency operations.

## Family-Centered

*Family connections are essential to treatment and growth, and in strengthening relationships to support student success.*

We see parents and caregivers as the experts on their children—knowing the child's challenges and strengths, what works for them, and what they hope for their future. Families are a key element in education and treatment planning, providing valuable insight into what their children need to be successful. From family skill building and parent support to resources for life beyond Green Chimneys, parents are our partners every step of the way.



Our social worker wants our input. She asked 'What do you think we need to work on the most? What do you think of what I have already?' We were able to have a collaborative conversation about what the goals and objectives should be. His social worker will explain what they did and why, and how it's helping him and we're able to do the same kind of things at home. It's nice to actually be with people that get your child, and care about him and are okay with who he is as a person without wanting to change everything about him. They want to help him grow and be who he is."

– Parent Laura



Green Chimneys prides itself on being very parent-focused and involving the family, and that's such an integral part of any treatment. It can't be done in silos. They really involve the parents in everything from reviews to family therapy sessions, all the services that they offer, all the feedback that we get on a regular basis. I feel that we're in such an incredible partnership and that everybody's goal, their entire focus, is to see the success of my daughter. The progress that she's made in a year has helped not only her, it's helped US."

– Parent Jacqui

# Student Stories

A core strength of Green Chimneys is its therapeutic milieu, which enables a highly individualized approach to intervention aimed at fostering a student's growth. We focus on each individual student's goals and celebrate gains to create a sense of accomplishment, of mastery, and self-confidence. And we guide them in learning to identify, and communicate, what

they need in order to attain these goals. In a rich program that draws upon nature-based experiences, from animal observation and care to horticulture to exciting adventure activities, and traditional clinical treatments, Green Chimneys students access diverse opportunities and supports to enhance their skills, connect with others, and find their success.

## Jessie: Challenge By Choice

One way Green Chimneys staff individualize services for students is through specialized therapy groups for structured group activities and skills development spanning several weeks. Our nature-based approach permeates all aspects of a student's experience at Green Chimneys, including recreation and utilization of the outdoors, which are particularly effective settings for inspiring cooperation and collaboration among youth. For Jessie, Adventure Therapy provided a progressive path to building trust and emotional safety, enabling her to press on, even when something feels hard.

Read more at [greenchimneys.org/Jessie](https://greenchimneys.org/Jessie)



**“Having people who supported me was what made me overcome my fear. I feel more prepared to take on other ‘adventures’ in my life.”**

**“Communicating easily with my words was hard for me. Communicating when I need a break from feeling overwhelmed has gotten easier.”**



## Luis: From Struggle to Success

Respite Therapy enhances the support outlined in a student's individual education and treatment plan through targeted activities to address more specific needs. For most middle school students, managing peer interactions and navigating relationships can range from positive to extremely challenging. Recognizing his struggle with healthy communication, Luis expressed interest in respite, demonstrating his commitment to his own development and advocating for what he needs. A program of structured opportunities for relationship-building and emotional regulation helped Luis improve his interactions with peers and family.

Read more at [greenchimneys.org/Luis](https://greenchimneys.org/Luis)



# Program Impact

The strengths of Green Chimneys' supportive environment and the effectiveness of our interventions contribute to students' ability to cope with challenges, regulate emotions, self-advocate, and ultimately, step down to a lower level of care.

- The average length of stay for a Green Chimneys student is 25 months for those in the residential program, and 31 months for those in the day program. From July 2024 to June 2025, a total of 90 students were discharged. Of these students, 83% of discharged residents and 75% of discharged day students transitioned to a lower level of care.
- Implementation of a new literacy program in the 2024-25 school year saw swift adoption within the classrooms and high receptivity from students. Academic assessments conducted at the beginning and end of the school year indicated progress in 88% of students in grades 2-8 and 75% of students in grades 9-12. Challenges in literacy can become a student's greatest hindrance, both academically and in developing competence in a range of life skills. Our curriculum serves to identify impediments and support learning differences to help students meet grade-level standards.
- Ongoing tracking of nature-based activities with students through a robust research partnership with University of Denver indicates that animal-assisted interventions have a positive effect on emotional and behavioral regulation and time on task. Video data from student classrooms revealed significantly improved self-regulation, both in anticipation of and directly following farm activities, with a 15% increase in on-task behaviors after engaging in human-animal interaction.
- Parent satisfaction surveys continued to indicate high approval rates from the families of our students: 89% of responders said they were happy with their child's social-emotional progress; 91% were satisfied with the education program; and 95% would recommend Green Chimneys to a friend.
- The transition from traditional riding to ground-based equine activities has brought remarkable benefits for both students and horses. A newly structured program is helping students develop deep social-emotional skills through unmounted interactions like grooming, leading, liberty training, and equine care. This approach makes equine work accessible to students of all abilities, significantly reduces stress for the animals, and has brought about a 40% increase in weekly student participation at the horse barn.
- A highly successful fundraising effort resulted in the construction of an enclosed habitat to protect Green Chimneys' resident waterfowl from future outbreaks of Avian Influenza. Over \$100K was received from more than 245 supporters, including lead gifts provided by longtime partners The Leir Foundation and Bruce G. Geary Foundation.

- Students filled over 100 jobs as part of their Work-Based Learning curriculum and submitted timesheets totaling over 400 hours. The program includes on-campus 'Learn & Earn' opportunities, career development and occupational studies (CDOS) courses required for grades 9-12, and partnerships with over a dozen local businesses for on-site job training. Students were introduced to disciplines in agriculture; business and marketing; family and consumer sciences; health occupations; technology; and trade/industrial education.



Both my children have made huge improvements in their social/emotional well-being since starting at Green Chimneys. Anyone who has a child struggling with these areas will be very satisfied with the school's approach towards targeting these areas in particular."

# 205

**RESCUED ANIMALS** were cared for by our Wildlife Center, with rehabilitation services provided to 47 distinct bird species. Of these rescues, 81 animals were successfully released back to their natural habitat.



# 6,222

**HAY BALES** served as the dietary staple, and bedding, for our horse and cow herds and smaller farm animals, such as sheep, goats, and guinea pigs. Each bale weighs approximately 60 pounds!



# 500

**YOUTH** from across Putnam County and bordering areas benefited from intervention and crisis services, youth development programs, and family resources through our Community-Based Services.



# 10,244

**HOURS OF WORK** from 50 individual farm and wildlife volunteers encompassed animal care and support of student activities, representing \$356,388 in donated time.



# 1,000

**CHILDREN AND TEENS** from Putnam, Dutchess, Westchester and Fairfield Counties took part in fun, enriching, and friend-filled days at our Hillside and Clearpool summer camp programs.



# 34

**DAYS OF SERVICE** from 26 companies provided \$58,030 in labor and supplies to support maintenance projects at our animal barns and wildlife center; and weeding, planting, and harvesting in our gardens.



# Statement of Financials

The following overview presents the financial position and activities of **Green Chimneys Children's Services** for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) applicable to nonprofit organizations and reflect our ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of resources.

Throughout the year, Green Chimneys Children's Services continued to advance its mission of helping children, youth, and families through innovative educational, clinical, and therapeutic programs, including our nature-based and animal-assisted approaches. Our financial resources—derived from contributions, grants, program service revenue, and public support—have been carefully managed to sustain and expand these vital services.

Expenses during the year reflect a strong emphasis on direct program services that support the well-being, education, and development of the children and families we serve, alongside necessary investments in administrative infrastructure and fundraising efforts to ensure organizational strength and sustainability.

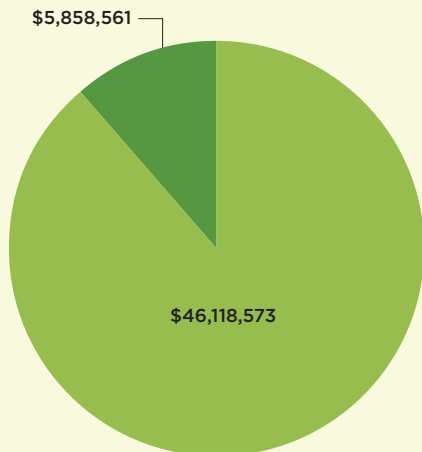
We maintain rigorous internal controls and financial oversight practices designed to safeguard assets and ensure accurate and reliable reporting. Financial results are regularly reviewed by management and the Board of Directors to guide strategic decision-making and uphold our fiduciary responsibilities.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, partners, and community members whose generosity and trust make our work possible and reinforce our commitment to financial integrity and impact.

## Total Expenses

\$51,977,134

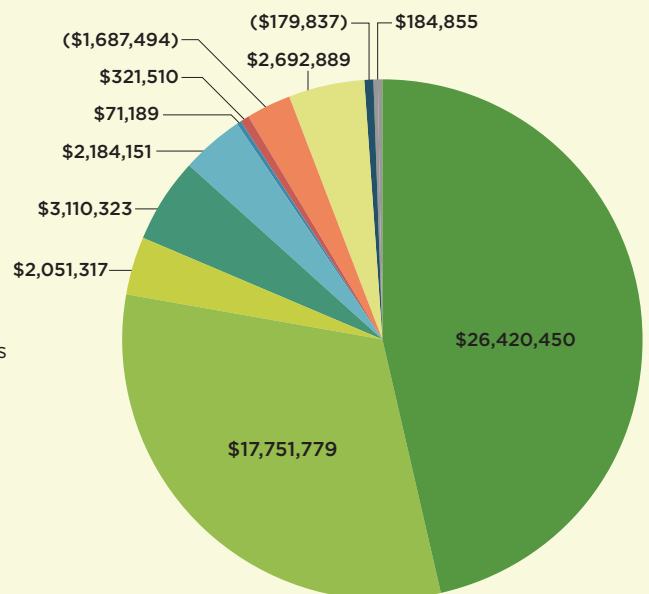
- Programs & Services - 88.7%
- Management & General - 11.3%



## Total Revenue and Public Support

\$52,921,132

- Maintenance & Medicaid
- Tuition Fees
- Government Contracts
- Public Support Revenue
- Contributions & Grants
- In-kind Contributions
- Interest and Dividends
- Unrealized loss on investments
- Realized gain on investments
- Unrealized loss on interest rate swap
- Other Income



# Green Chimneys Leadership

## Board of Directors

### President

#### **William Fasano**

President and CEO, National Retail Services (Retired)

### Chairman

#### **Bob Vetere**

President & CEO, American Pet Products Association (Retired)

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Executive Vice President & East Coast Client Leader, Novantas

#### **Mark Lescault**

Technical Training Consultant, Swiss Re (Retired)

### Secretary

#### **Donald Ross**

Vice President of Catering Conventions & Events, Caesars Entertainment Corporation (Retired)

### Members

#### **Michele Greenburg, LCSW**

Child Forensic Social Worker and Consultant

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Putnam County Department of Health

#### **James Keller**

Senior Communications Expert and Professor

#### **Paul Kupchok, Jr.**

Chief Executive Officer, KWM Financial

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Vice President and Board Member, Tighe & Bond

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CSE Chair, Mamaroneck School District (Retired)

#### **Barry Meiselman**

President, Barwest LLC

#### **Michael Otten, PhD**

Adjunct Professor & Social Entrepreneur-in-Residence, EFREI & INSEAD, France

#### **Christopher Platt**

Owner, Westside-Eastside Entertainment, LLC

#### **Richard Priore, Jr.**

Executive Director, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

#### **Edgar Rodriguez**

New York City Police Department (Retired)

#### **Grace Sciré**

Residency Program Manager, Connecticut Institute For Communities

#### **Gregory M. Smith**

Head of Global Compensation & US Total Rewards, Coupang, Inc.

#### **Sylvie Otten Sollod**

Senior Director, SAP HANA Cloud Platform Partner Marketing, SAP

#### **Barbara Barr Volz**

Chief Executive Officer, Volz Auto Group

*Membership as of May 2026*

## The Friends of Green Chimneys Board

### President

#### **Lisa Ross**

### Vice President

#### **Joseph Whalen**

### Secretary

#### **Rick MacRae**

### Members

#### **Jane Barr**

#### **Walter Leinhardt**

#### **Angelo Matra**

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## Executive Leadership

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#### **Rhonda Richardson**

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#### **Denise Luft**

Chief Program Officer

#### **Kristin Licardi**

Chief Clinical Officer

#### **Lauren Bennett**

Chief Strategy Officer