

Chapel Haven Schleifer Center

Providing lifelong individualized services for adults with varying abilities, empowering them to live independent and self-determined lives.

Chapel Haven adults are...

18+ years old with developmental and social disabilities/autism spectrum disorders

High school graduates or still enrolled in high school on IEP

Emotionally and behaviorally stable

Motivated to begin learning independence

Many different ages and life situations



"I am very fortunate to be a part of an amazing community where I have friends! I live in a great city filled with lots of things to do and have an awesome job."

Kimber, REACH graduate



"What I like about ASAT is that they're not your typical school classes... You don't have homework, you don't have tests too often. You're really learning as you go. It's really stuff you can use for the rest of your life."

Jessica, ASAT graduate



CHSC Programs at a Glance

REACH

- Designed for adults with: intellectual & developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy
- 2-year program with flexibility based on the individual
- Apartment living with roommates
- Emphasis on: functional academics, life skills, social communication, safety, recreation
- Residential (\$75,000/yr) or day (\$45,000/yr) options*

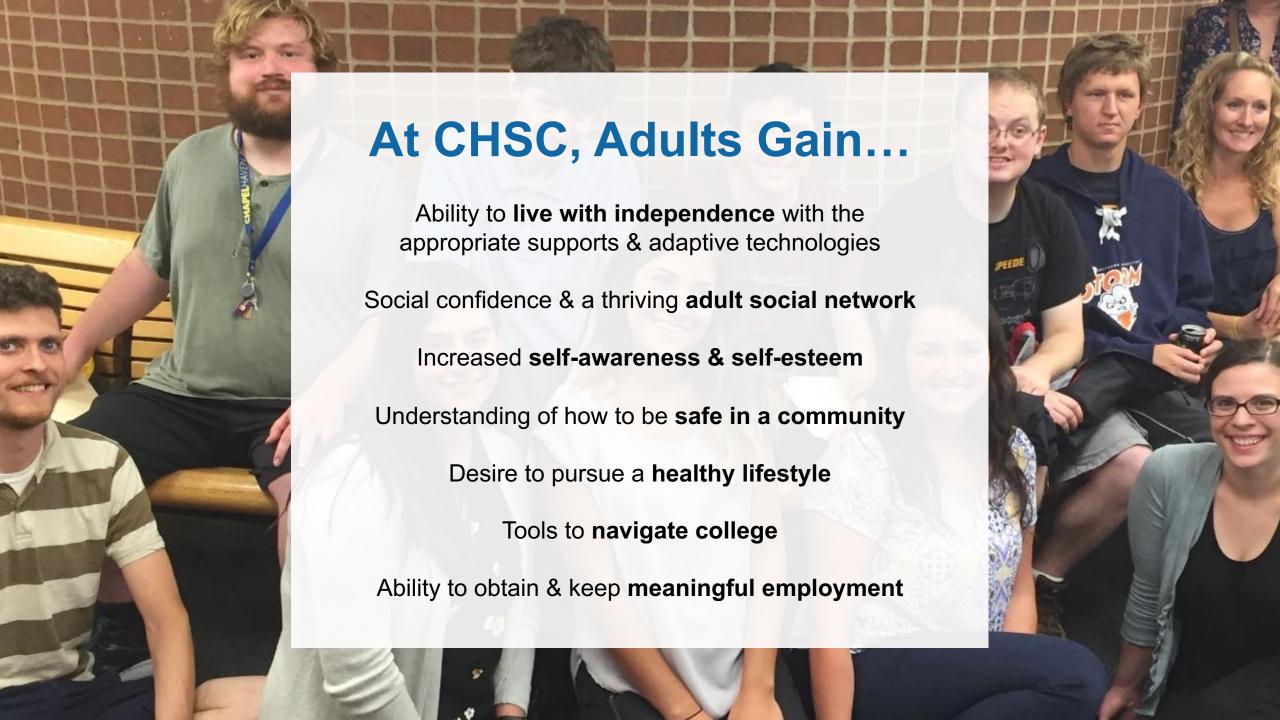
ASAT

- Designed for adults with: mild autism, Asperger syndrome, social communication disorders, executive functioning challenges, nonverbal learning disorders
- 6 week workshops = flexible programming & cost
- Apartment living with roommates
- Core curriculum domains: life skills, self-determination, vocation/college success, social communication
- Residential w/ overnight support (\$72,500/yr), residential w/out overnight support (\$62,500/yr), or day (\$47,500/yr) options*

Additional Programs

- Chapel Haven Online: learning & socializing from your own home
- Recreation Program: 30+ evening & weekend social activities per month
- CareerAbility: supports vocational training & employment
- SLP & ASAT COS: supports adults after graduation

*OPWDD funding does not apply to CHSC programs - CHSC offers need-based scholarships







Chapel Haven Schleifer Center

1040 Whalley Ave. New Haven, CT 06515 | (203) 397-1714 | admission@chapelhaven.org www.chapelhaven.org



https://www.wihd. org

Welcome!

Community Support Network Transition Institute 2022

Institute for Collegiate and Career Studies

@ Maplebrook School

Who We Are:



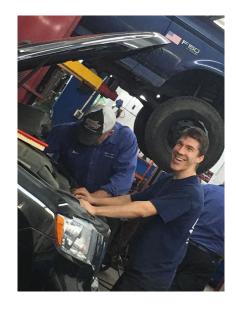
ICCS students are not defined by their learning disabilities, they use them as a tool to build character, resilience and succeed.

FAST FACTS:

- > IQ range: 70-95
- Diagnoses: ADHD, anxiety, social/emotional deficits, expressive and receptive language disorders, dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, executive functioning, auditory processing disorder and other attention-based learning differences
- Acceptance age: 11-21
- Demographics: domestic, international, coeducational

Academic & Vocational Information

- Because all students learn differently, an individualized program is created based on a student's vocational passion.
- Programming is based around a work internship and involves classes from the Life Centered Education curriculum.
- Once a student has determined an area of specialty, he/she will enroll in a credential or certification program accompanied by real-time field experience.
- Students learn all the skills necessary to live an independent and successful life.





Independent Living Information

Instruction is provided in areas such as:

- planning, cooking and shopping skills, as well as maintenance of personal living space
- budget income to be able to purchase what is needed
- maintain a healthy lifestyle and diet, maintain good personal hygiene, care for oneself when sick, ask for assistance when needed and practice safety measures in various situations both in and out of the home.
- practice effective time management, set realistic goals and improve ability to recognize strengths and weaknesses





Social/Emotional Supports

Students with strong social-emotional skills are better able to cope with everyday challenges and benefit academically, professionally, and socially.

In ICCS, we teach our students the skills necessary to build self-esteem, strengthen social skills, nurture positive relationships and enhance their executive functioning. As a boarding school, this education happens around the clock using a variety of methods including:

- Responsibility Increases Self-Esteem (RISE) program
- Counseling both on and off campus
- Mindfulness Exercises
- > Social Skills instruction
- Daily workshops in our Wellness Center addressing: stress management techniques, self-advocacy, coping mechanisms, problem solving, assertiveness, etc.

Each student works with a faculty/staff mentor who is trained in ego-supportive counseling techniques to help with goal setting, executive functioning, problem solving and day-to-day coping strategies







2022-23 Tuition & Fees

\$72,500 (cost includes tuition, technology fee, room & board, tutoring, vocational assessment and speech & language)

Affording an ICCS Education:

We are committed to attracting a diverse student body. The purpose of our financial aid policy is to make it possible for deserving students, whose families do not have the monetary resources to meet the cost of a Maplebrook education, to attend.

Maplebrook School strives to allocate available funds to best ensure a student body which will enrich the educational experience of the entire school community.



Contact Information

ICCS Admissions
admissions@maplebrookschool.org
(845) 373-8191





Welcome!

Community Support Network Transition Institute 2022

Ramapo For Children





Staff Assistant Experience

Who Are We?

- Transition to Independence Program
 - Age Range 18-26 for year round and 17 to 26 for summer
- Focus and programming targeted on building skills in three main goal areas:
 - o Social Emotional
 - Independent Living
 - Job Readiness
- Our unique and inclusive community of neurotypical and neurodiverse participants and staff enable staff assistants to feel a deep sense of belonging and safety which creates opportunities for learning and connecting.
- Participants live in dorm style housing with a roommate with staff also living in the building

Vocational Tracks On Campus

- Animal Husbandry
 - Ongoing care of Ramapo corral animals
 - Prep to become an assistant vet tech
- Dining Hall front of the house and back of the house
 - Set up and clean up creating a welcoming environment
 - o Food prep
 - Dish washing
 - Serving
 - Certification in Safe-Serve
- Adaptive Design Cardboard Carpentry
 - o Design and creation of adaptive equipment for people with special needs
 - Special attention to individualized needs and preferences
 - Delivery and gifting of adaptive equipment
- Child Care certification
 - Before and After School
 - o Day Care
 - o Residential Camp, Day Camp
- Housekeeping
- Maintenance
- Summer Cafe Retail experience
 - o Customer service
 - Inventory
 - o Payment transactions
 - \circ presentation
- Clerical skills in our main office

Participants work on campus while building skills and then volunteer off campus and eventually gainful employment within the community

Supports

- Licenced clinical social worker who is available for individual and group therapy
- Occupational Therapist
- Driver able to accommodate transportation for individualized schedules
- On campus Vocational Director who oversees programming
- Employment Specialist:
 - facilitates job skills workshops,
 - o resume writing,
 - help to find volunteer opportunities of interest and off campus paid employment with over 30 partners in the Hudson Valley.
 - Available for off campus coaching
- Direct line staff from 8am to 10pm who are on an on call evening rotation from 10pm to 8am

What skills do you look for in a potential candidate?

- Ability to independently navigate campus
- Be independent from 10pm to 8am with a staff member on-call for emergencies
- Maintain a basic standard of hygiene
- Someone who wants to engage in the program and is willing to try with supports

How can caregivers support their young adult to be prepared?

- Setting up structures and routines that can enforce healthy habits such as being able to maintain a basic standard of hygiene
- Talking with the individual about what they want to achieve and how certain supports can help them reach their goals

What skills will the individuals learn at your program?

Social and Emotional Skills

- How to independently identify and manage emotions
- How to start and continue conversations
- How to relate and communicate with others
- How to learn different communications skills such as verbal and nonverbal

• Independent living Skills

- How to advocate for one's needs
- How to complete independent tasks such as cooking, cleaning, doing laundry, waking up on time and follow a schedule.
- Money management. Participants earn a stipend and learn to budget with their own funds.

Job Readiness

- Time management
- How to work as a team
- How to follow directions
- Communication skills
- Problem solving skills
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Interpersonal skills (active listening, responsibility, motivation, patience etc.)

Typical outcomes

We have a few different outcomes from our program

- College
- Own apartment and a full time job
- Living in an apartment with a visiting community habilitation worker and working part time
- Volunteering or Working and living with a live in caregiver
- Living in a supported apartment program

Cost

- Private Pay
- 76,500 a year/\$6300 a month
- In the process of working to have families be able to receive reimbursement though OPWDD through transition funding and community classes
- Scholarships available upon need



Welcome!

Community Support Network Transition Institute 2022



Summit's programs are located in **Honesdale**, **PA**, about 3 hours from NYC. THE CENTER program is a 7 week intensive that occurs in the summer months of July and August.

The I.L.C., or Independent Living Center, is a long term program that occurs from September through May.



BOTH PROGRAMS FOCUS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF KEY SKILLS FOR THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD: SELF-CARE, PRE-VOCATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND INTRODUCTORY WORK PROGRAMS, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

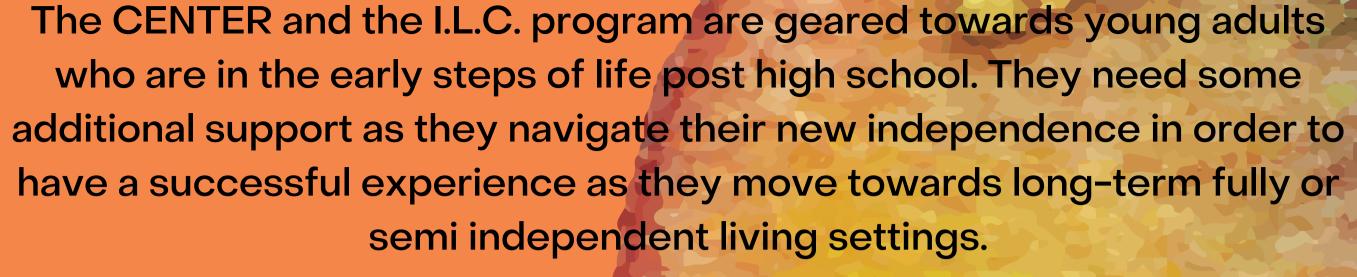


Participants live in shared housing units that have private rooms with shared kitchen, living, and bathroom areas. A significant component of the program is learning how to live in this cooperative environment and to complete necessary self care and housekeeping duties. Participants will learn to prepare meals, keep their own spaces, and engage in duties such as laundry and dishwashing.



The facilities

Shared Housing Units





Generally, our participants have the capability to do many aspects of self-care and can work in a number of vocational settings with appropriate supervision and direction. They may require ongoing support to ensure these skills are performed/maintained. They do not require others to perform self-care tasks for them directly.

The Participants

Young Adults 18-27



"Around the house"

- Doing one's own laundry
- Washing dishes after a meal
- Independently preparing basic hot meals such as pasta with sauce, eggs and toast, or grilled chicken
- Changing bedding and making beds daily
- Vacuuming and sweeping shared spaces
- Receiving self-care reminders only as needed
- Coaching to help with various tasks that are challenging or not being done sufficiently for self-care

Program Components

Examples of Regular Learning and Social Activities

"In the Community"

- Engage in shared activities with other participants,
 such as games or going to a movie together
- Regular attendance at the local YMCA fitness center
- Take small trips to a theme park, mall, or state park
- Keep a budget for discretionary spending and carry a wallet/identification with you

"At Work"

- With staff support, find and attend a regular worksite in the community
- Using assessments and working with staff on-site, identify skills and deficits in the worksite
- Participate in group activities to replicate worksite activities in the campus setting, such as a group activity in the dining hall
- Practice interviewing and resume development,
 practice job application processes

THE CENTER: 7 WEEKS FROM JUNE 26TH 2022 THROUGH AUGUST 13TH, 2022; CONTINUOUS-\$16500

THE ILC: 9 MONTHS FROM SEPTEMBER 2022
THROUGH MAY 2023; CONTINUOUS WITH
HOLIDAY BREAKS-\$65000

Summit participants are on-site during the programs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The ILC includes a holiday break for winter and spring.

<u>All</u> meals, activities, staffing, transportation within programs, housing, and services are included in tuition costs.

Summit will engage with any agency or participant representative to discuss funding options, but we cannot guarantee funding through any service provider as we are a private program.

Summit programs universally cost between \$12 and \$15 an hour.



Duration and Financial Overview

OUTCOMES?

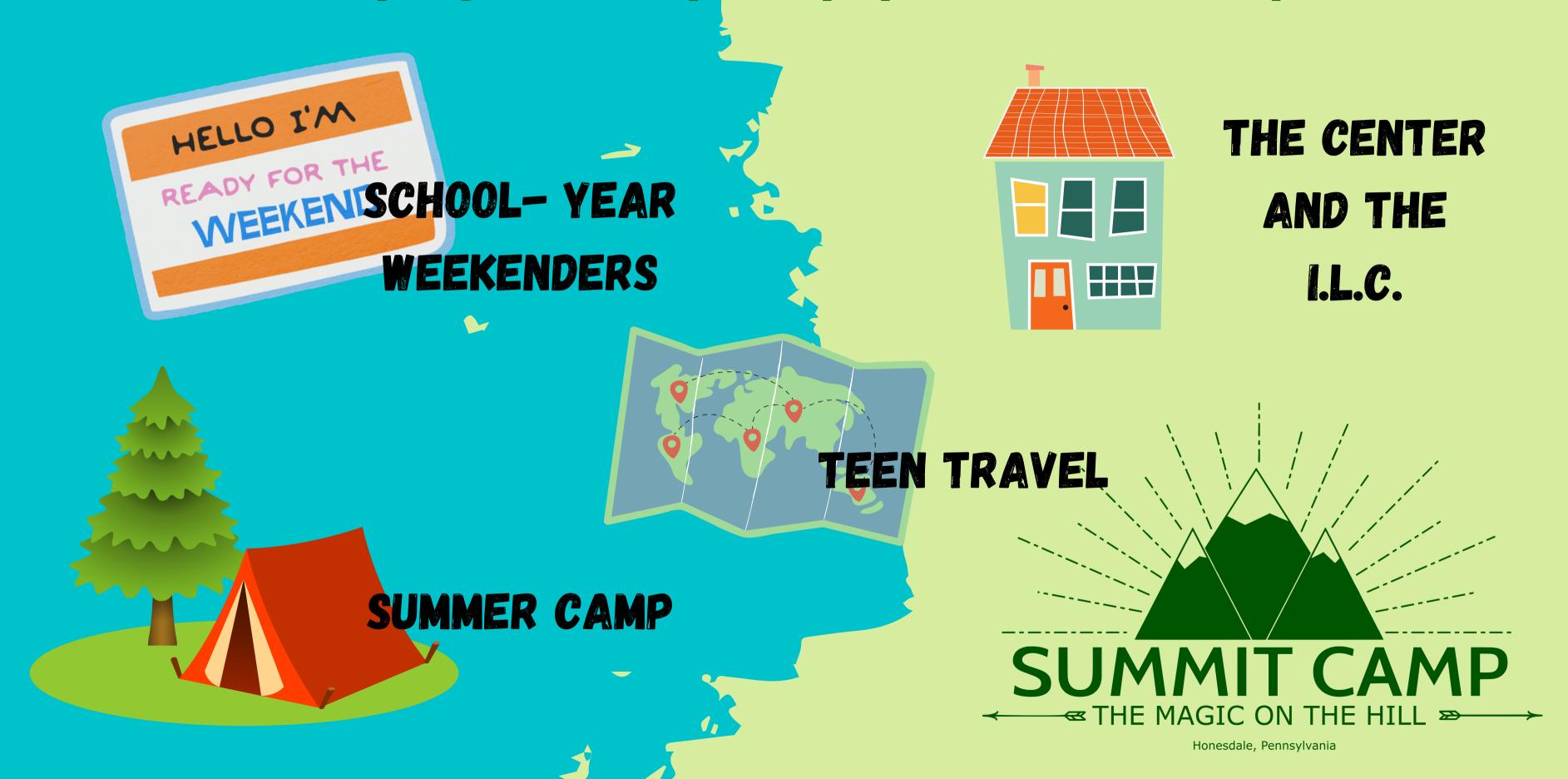
- All participants employed in community setting
- All participants completing their own daily living tasks with supervision
- Improving self-esteem and confidence
- Taking on new challenges and accepting limits

The MOTIVATION



THE I.L.C. PET
RABBIT

All of Summit's programs help our populations develop life skills!



THANKS FOR JOING USI



www.summitcamp.com 570-253-4381



supporting teens and young adults with autism and learning differences

Mayfield & Albany, NY

Why Transitions?























Internships



- Avanti ControlSystems
- ChartwellsSchools Dining
- Services

 Coldwell

 Banker Arlene
- M. Sitterly
 Greenscapes
- Landscaping

- Herba TreeFarm
- Chrissy'sGreenhouse
- Price ChopperBakery
- KingsboroCatering

- FMCC Library
- Bark n' Play
- TJ Maxx
- Fulton County
 Tax Dept.
- JohnstownSchool District

- Warsaw Dog Training
- Goderie's Tree Farm
- PTECH
 (Pathways in Technology)
- Paul Nigra
 Center for
 Creative Arts

- Smiling FacesDaycareTarget
- Lexington IT
 Department

- Construction
- Human
- Resources
- Public
 Relations
- Nursing
- Services
- Finance interns
- Entertainment
- Teaching assistants







Enrichment classes



Residential Life





Social Activities















Mayfield Location











Albany Location



Jennifer Feagles - Director: <u>feaglej@transitionsusa.orq</u>, 518-224-1180 (cell), 518-661-6617 (office)

www.transitionsusa.org/apply/



ANNIA PEPURIT



VISTA LIFE INNOVATIONS
2020-2021

MISSION STATEMENT

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO





Providing services and resources to assist individuals with disabilities achieve personal success



Pictured: Vista's Annual Report Cover 2019-2020

October 2021

Dear Friends,

A path forward is not always simple or easy...

We at Vista Life Innovations know firsthand about the bumps and twists of blazing a new path toward a better future.

It occurs when a new student enters Vista for the first time and must learn how to cope with the anxiety of being accountable for oneself.

It occurs for Vista's longtime members when real life occurrences like a supervisor changing at work, or the loss of a well-loved pet can feel daunting.

It occurs as we face the challenge of creating options for adults with disabilities where none exist or when we will not settle for "What-Is" when we know that "What-Will-Be" can be so much better.

No one quite knows where the path will lead or what will be met along the way—but we all know that the effort to move forward is worth it.

To speak the obvious, beginning in March of 2020, we all had a common challenge. I am proud of our collective students, members, families, staff, supporters, and constituents for having risen to the occasion and then some. We met the challenge head on and kept each other safe and as-well-as-could-be during this unknown period.

Now, as we slowly move through and out of the pandemic, we also need to move forward. Study the Annual Report cover photograph from last year (pictured below) and compare it with this year's. It is evident that we are moving forward.

While remaining vigilant to ensure the relative health and safety of our community, we have set out to refocus our efforts on all that is possible—and often wonderful—in our world, the Vista community and in the lives of our students and members.

We seek—and celebrate—that new job, that new relationship, that new home, that new experience and much more. We welcome new students and congratulate those who are graduating, getting their first or a new apartment or condominium or finding their way in our community. We are regaining our foothold and marching forward on the path to a better future.

One thing that is certain is that our path will not be a straight one. But we know that navigating the bumps, curves and rough patches that will come upon us will only serve to increase our resilience, our skills, and our determination. This is moving forward. It is the core of our service to our students and members and their families. It is the heart of our work.

We are committed to moving forward with a cautious optimism and attitude towards the possibilities and wonder that our world holds. Remember, there is power in Possibility and Opportunity. That power occurs when we join forces to move forward.

With good thoughts for our future as we move forward together,

Helen K. Bosch CEO Vista Life Innovations

VISTA'S CORE VALUES

Respect. All people have the right to equal opportunity and to be treated with dignity.

Diversity. Differences among us bring strength, value and perspective.

Integrity. We are honest, sincere and trustworthy with each other in our decisions and actions.

Personal Development. We have high expectations for ourselves and others, encourage curiosity, and support opportunities to grow and learn.

Community & Human Connection.

Relationships within our chosen communities are necessary to the human experience and create value, significance and belonging.

Leadership. We inspire, create solutions and impact others positively.

Accountability. We are responsible to each other and for the results of our actions.

Perseverance. We have the will to try and the courage to change.

Excellence. We strive to be the best we can be and take pride in achieving high standards.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

October 2021

Dear Friend and Families,

We must reflect on the past fiscal year for 2020-2021 and acknowledge the real challenges we have all faced during a time of uncertainty. I am reminded of the many lessons learned, experiences shared, and the perseverance seen by our students, members, families, staff, supporters, and constituents.

Together we continue to accomplish exponential success as educational providers offering multifaceted programming and services, as recognized by the National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services (NCASES) during this year's reaccreditation review.

Vista successfully achieved excellence in special education services through the accreditation process and continues to prove that Vista's strategic plan is innovative, integral, and impactful to the wellbeing of all who are a part of the Vista community.

I am confident that as I conclude my last term as Chair of the Board of Directors for Vista Life Innovations, I leave with the knowledge that our students and members will continue to thrive in their independence...and even more confident as a Vista family member that Vista's dedication to its mission will continue to be realized each and every day.

Together, our students, members, Board, families, and staff are stronger than ever.

Warm regards,

Andi Barouh Chairperson Vista Life Innovations Board of Directors



Our Core Values describe what is important to us, and they are essential to our mission. Vista students and members, staff, community partners, and leadership, including the Board of Directors, pledge to hold true to these Core Values.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020-2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020-2021

OFFICERS



Chairperson
Andi Barouh
BS, CLA
Retired President
of Ko-Rec-Type
Corporation



Secretary
Deborah Quinn,
CPA
Director of
Finance &
Administration
Valley Shore
YMCA, Inc.





Tom ConfortiRetired
Corporate
Executive



Watson McMillan Executive Director NY Metro Region Morgan Stanley



Steven Siegelaub, JD Member, Berkowitz, Trager & Trager, LLC





Vice Chairperson Christine Picklo, MBA Retired Project Manager Pfizer, Inc.



Deputy Treasurer Matthew J. Monteith, JD Business Associate Shipman & Goodwin LLP



Thomas GirardDirector of
Retail Operations
Zane's Cycles



Edward G. Riley, II CRC Premier Financial Advisor, Senior VP -Investments Wealth Brokerage Services Wells Fargo Advisors



Roger C. Stikeleather Retired Healthcare Executive



EX-OFFICIO

General Counsel Keith R. Ainsworth, Esq. Law Offices of Keith R. Ainsworth, Esq., LLC

5



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Anne Tedstone
MSCIS
Senior VP, Banking
Technology Officer
Guilford Savings
Bank



Deputy Secretary
Donald W.
Anderson,
Esq.
Attorney
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& Wallman, LLP



Sharon GroganRetired Program
Counselor



Peter ScrantonRetired Business
Owner



Susan Taylor
Insurance Agent
and
Small Business
Owner







Leslie Mallimson MS Licensed Professional Counselor Private Practice



Barbara Segen
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Retired, Senior
Director,
Interdivisional
Governance Pfizer,
Inc.



Joan Wexler MA, LCSW Retired Social Worker

Jacques Brunswick
Timothy Crowley
Ryan Duques
Tondra Lynford
Wayne Mountz
Robert Ostroff
Elena Patterson
Steven Souza
William Terribile

4

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

October 2021

Dear Friends and Families,

2021 has proven that the attributes of adaptability and resourcefulness are essential to a business maintaining its success. It is why Vista Life Innovations has continued to flourish both in its business and in its mission.

Vista Endowment Fund is a supporting organization of Vista Life Innovations. The Board of Directors see the Endowment Fund as necessary for Vista's long-term success. After facing the uncertainty of the past year, we now know that it is also important for those unexpected situations that may present themselves. The Vista Endowment Fund is valued more than ever and its financial stability is closely tied to the successful financial sustainability of Vista Life Innovations.

The individuals that began the fund in 2006 had the foresight to know that this type of fund was necessary to serve as a foundation for all that Vista does. In 2006, the Vista Endowment Fund achieved a milestone of \$1 million. In 2021, the Endowment Fund has achieved \$8.2 million and is "growing" strong.

The Endowment Fund continues to thrive due to the generosity of our donors that understand that legacy, commitment and partnership are essential to the future wellbeing of our Vista community. Several individual funds have been established in memory of loved ones and to support Vista's dedication to its mission by ensuring its long-term financial health.

The Vista Endowment Fund looks forward to moving forward, restarting our special events and seeking additional gifts that will bolster and strengthen the future for those individuals with disabilities who are deserving of our attention and support.

Warm regards,

Andy Baxter
President
Vista Endowment Fund Board of Directors

Created over 15 years ago as a supporting organization of Vista Life Innovations, the Vista Endowment Fund's purpose is to help ensure that Vista continues to thrive in its mission of assisting individuals with disabilities achieve personal success.

Net assets of the Vista Endowment Fund totaled \$8,242,362 as of June 30, 2021.

VISTA ENDOWMENT VALUES OVER TIME

Valued at \$1,596,280 as of June 30, 2011

Valued at \$4,408,062 as of June 30, 2016

Valued at \$8,242,362 as of June 30, 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS



President
Matthew (Andy)
Baxter, MBA
Retired



Vice President, Elena Patterson



Deputy Treasurer Robert RichardVice President/
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Stifel Nicolaus & Co.
Private Client Group



Treasurer
Catherine O'Dwyer
Self-Employed



Secretary
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CRPC, MBA
Retired



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William Terribile, MBA AML Compliance Officer - Essex Financial Services, Inc.



Allison M.
DePaola Drozd, Esq.
Attorney
Floman DePaola, LLC



General Counsel
John Pritchard, JD
Retired



Chief Executive Officer Helen K. Bosch, MS





At Vista, we love being able to share the talents of our students and members, believing strongly that each and every person possesses unique strengths and abilities. On that note, we are sharing a sample of poetry written by one of our current students—Wilson Graham.

Writing is an expressive form of art that allows the writer to express their feelings and thoughts while also impacting others...the creative process can take many shapes, for Wilson it is writing expressive poetry...we hope you enjoy his piece on Flexibility!

Flexibility

All the castles in the world,
Safe, majestic, sturdy or fine,
Stand on pillars of fragile sand,
From the standpoint of a bird's eye.

For those who dwell within those castles, Think, "Who could possibly harm us now?" But a raging storm may knock them down, And to cope with that, they wouldn't know how.

If we come to realize,
That nothing in this life will last,
Acceptance of impermanence
Will lead us forward from the past.

Frequently, a new beginning
Awakes us rudely as the dawn,
But if we accept the change, we'll know,
The wonders that its seeds may spawn.

The howling wind blows past the trees,
And while the weak ones snap and break,
The stronger ones adapt and bend,
Producing fruits that we then take.

For love is not a resting place,
But a moving, growing, working together,
Said once a sage who said to love,
No matter the conditions or weather.

And if these words I write get lost, And I don't know what I wrote then, I'll deal with all the consequences Then boldly say, "I'll write again."

And though my dreams were shattered and torn,
I was flexible on the way,
To that one place where I reside
And that I cherish to this day.

By Wilson Graham



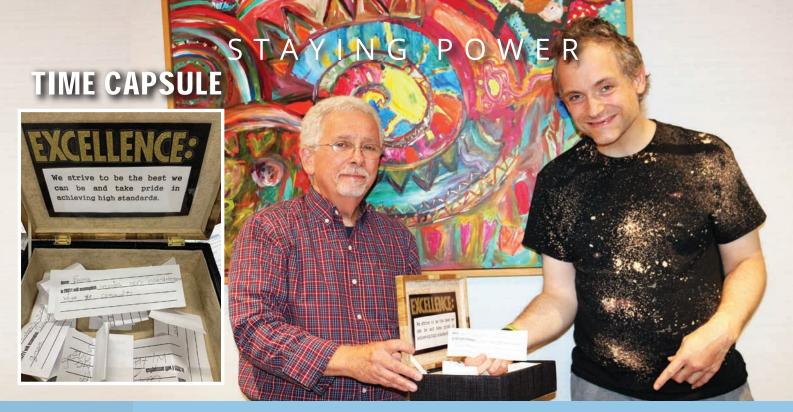
GRADUATION

Our annual graduation ceremony in the summer of 2020, as you may imagine, looked very different...

That being said, hundreds of streaming viewers (watching from nearly 15 different states!) shared in our celebration by joining this impactful event over Zoom, hearing the encouraging words of our leadership and most importantly—the powerful and inspiring speeches of each of our graduates! Regardless of circumstance, Vista was intent on providing our graduating students—and the Vista community—with an opportunity to revel in what each student achieved while also offering heartfelt congratulations to each of our graduates...something that we relish each year. Following this unique and virtual ceremony, we were heartened to receive a flood of messages expressing excitement for our graduates—and even a few images of attendees watching the ceremony!

Congratulations, Class of 2020!

9



This past year, students in Vista's Discover Program worked on Personal Development and Excellence (two of Vista's Core Values), creating a six-month "time capsule" filled with their goals and predictions for the future.

When the "time capsule" was opened six months later, we were excited to see that many students had accomplished their goals!

A few of these goals included:

- Eating healthier
- Gaining greater independence with medication management
- Becoming a "Blue Mentor," (a student who can teach and support other Vista students)

Additionally, several of the "predictions for the future" were indeed correct...congratulations to everyone involved!



In Y Be Fit, Vista's Discover Program partners with local YMCA's to teach students about health and wellness. The program provides access to regular exercise classes while also routinely following a curriculum about healthy eating and living. During the pandemic, Vista and the YMCA continued to work together to offer programming virtually and on Vista's Westbrook Campus.

Often, the students attended Y Be Fit over Zoom from the dormitory. As YMCA trainer Ellen explains, the students thrived with this (then) new way of programming: "The students shared their favorite sports with us, and virtually we performed these in class... we worked on our jumps, baseball throws, and even navigated some ski moguls." In addition, students spoke to their Y instructors about how to maintain healthy eating habits, particularly during times of change. Even in their "new" form, the students in Y Be Fit classes describe looking forward to seeing their trainers every week.



With the support of local Rotary clubs, Vista successfully launched its own Rotaract Club! Rotaract is a programming option for young adults in the community and is affiliated with Rotary International. Vista's Rotaract club allows individuals of all abilities to come together to support their local communities—and we believe it is the first of its kind in the US. Starting with 12 original Vista members, one goal of the club for the next year is to expand its membership to include more members from the community.

The founding of this club was born from an ongoing partnership between Vista and the local Rotary Clubs. Michael Perry, Assistant Governor of Area 8, Madison Rotary Foundation Chair and Past President, is proud to be the Rotaract Advisor to Vista's Rotaract Club: "Since discovering Vista, I have seen how their organization changes people's lives and our community...for the better. Our Rotary Clubs are really looking forward to the opportunity to work with Vista, and especially with the members of Vista Rotaract."

With the unexpected changes of the past 18 months, this has been a time of growth for many students and members in the Vista community. In the Discover Program, students continued to transition from our dormitory to Vista's transition condominiums, where there are fewer formal supports in place (versus the dormitory setting), allowing for a new level of independence and individual responsibility to take hold.

A part of Vista's 2021 Graduating Class, Daniel (pictured above) recently moved into Vista's transition condominiums where, among other things, he manages the completion of household chores, and cultivates his passion for cooking. In addition to moving into a new space, Daniel has also secured paid employment at Walmart during this time—further preparing him for graduation and moving into his own household along the Connecticut shoreline!

INSPIRED BY INDIVIDUALITY

INSPIRED BY INDIVIDUALITY





12

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

WESTBROOK CAMPUS RENOVATION

The 2020-2021 fiscal year included the completion of the renovation of Vista's legacy Westbrook Campus. The Westbrook Campus houses, among other things, our Discover Program, a college-like program for young adults transitioning to adulthood.

The campus features a Dormitory and Education and Training Center. Renovation highlights included the addition of additional programming space, a new kitchen and serving area, a new elevator and newly renovated bedrooms and bathrooms in the dormitory, and additions to the Education and Training Center including the completion of new instructional spaces like a café, and mock apartment. The

to the Education and Training Center including the completion of new instructional spaces like a café, and mock apartment. The entire campus also received a thorough update outside, including an overhaul of the grounds and parking areas and the installation of exterior lighting for enhanced safety.

The vast majority of this project, taking place in stages over the past five-year period, was underwritten with funds provided by a number of funding sources, setting up our legacy program (and campus) to impact the lives of students new to Vista for the next 20-30 years—we couldn't be more excited and proud!





Vista Life Innovations ACCREDITATION

This past year also brought another significant milestone/achievement to Vista—reaccreditation by the National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services (NCASES.org).

Every four years, Vista applies for "reaccreditation" by NCASES. The process requires Vista to meet a myriad of established standards that have been developed by NCASES, allowing the accrediting body to independently and objectively validate the approach, policies, procedures and outcomes of a particular organization—in this case, Vista!

This is the fourth time that we have undergone this process and we continue to find it to be a most helpful—and impactful—experience.



National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

STAYING POWER - PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PERSEVERE



One thing that this past year brought all of us was change. These changes were wide ranging and ever changing themselves...

Through it all, one thing that certainly changed—but never stopped—was the

commitment of our employees to our students, our members and all those who are a part of the Vista community. From the continuous provision of direct and in-person supports, to the pivot to virtual gatherings and instruction, Vista—our employees, our students, our members and all others—persevered, grew and learned a new level of flexibility and resilience.

have been smooth...but every day was filled with victories and opportunities for growth.







QUOTES HEARD OVER THE PAST YEAR



"I'm excited to hang out with my friends at Vista again!"

"It was hard staying home."

"To handle the quarantine, I filled out my self-reassurance sheets and did deep breathing exercises, and told myself, 'This will end, but we don't know when.'

"I stayed inside and took water breaks in virtual classes. And I danced all by myself!" "I'm looking forward to walking more and going to the local beach."



#VISTATHRIVES

#VISTATHRIVES













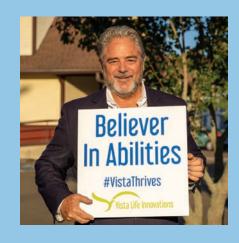
























The collage above depicts the Vista community—students, members, staff, Board members, and community partners—each holding a Vista sign with one of our five well-known phrases.

Together we are stronger!

OPEN HEART OPEN MIND BELIEVER IN ABILITIES IMAGINING THE POSSIBILITIES UNIQUENESS IS POWER INSPIRED BY INDIVIDUALITY,

SIX QUICK QUESTIONS Elizabeth DiPatri

How long have you been a student/member at Vista? I've been a part of Vista for three years.

What do you do for volunteering/community involvement?

I help at Ray of Light Farm animal shelter. I visit the residents at Solstice Senior Living; I also volunteer at Goodwill and the Bare Necessities diaper bank.

What was your biggest challenge during the pandemic?

Probably the mask restrictions and the COVID rules. Wearing masks 24/7 was tough and for meals, we were split into two groups, so I didn't get to eat with all my friends all of the time.

What are you looking forward to in the coming year?

I hope to move into the Transition Condominiums. Completing more achievements like getting a job and being trained to access the train by myself.

What do you do for fun?

I write cards to my family and friends. I like to color, go for walks, and listen to music. I like dogs – they're fun and I'm really enjoying going to rehearsals for our play All Shook Up.

What is your favorite thing about Vista?

The community, especially my fellow students in the Discover program. I like to help them if they need support or advice; I help them check their schedule or talk to a staff member. If they're looking for something to do, I give them a few options, like, we can watch a movie, color, or some fun activity.

How long have you been a student/member at Vista?

I've been a part of Connect and Connect Through Art for three and a half years.

What do you do for volunteering/community involvement?

I volunteer with Meals on Wheels. I also help inventory art supplies in Connect Through Art.

What was your biggest challenge during the pandemic?

Trying my best to do the right thing. I stayed at home with my family and wore my mask. I tried to stay positive and conscientious.

Matt Jacques

What are you looking forward to in the coming year?

Attending more Vista offerings. For example, I'm glad that my karate classes at Vista started again.

What do you do for fun?

I like to do art for relaxation. I like painting things like flowers.

What is your favorite thing about Vista?

I like hanging out with my friends, we have a lot in common.

SIX QUICK QUESTIONS

Sarah Brachman

How long have you been a student/member at Vista?

I've been a part of Vista for five years. I graduated to the Engage Program in 2019.

Where do you work?

I have several jobs. One is at the Big Y in Old Saybrook. I also work at Nutmeg Pharmacy in Centerbrook. I take the 9-Town Transit bus to both jobs.

What was your biggest challenge during the pandemic?

Wearing a mask, of course. I had to get tested, which is a big challenge for me; I don't get tested a lot. I couldn't do my Fitness Sampler class in person, but it continued as a virtual program. It was okay; I kind of like doing it both ways.

What are you looking forward to in the coming year?

I'm looking forward to being part of the backstage crew for our musical, All Shook Up. I've done that for several shows. I call cues to let the actors know it's time to be backstage and when to go onstage. I also want to see if I can become more independent in this coming year.



What do you do for fun?

I go on walks all the time. I'm into music. I love to sing! Sometimes I do sign language. I like to hang out with my friends; sometimes they'll come over to my apartment.

What is your favorite thing about Vista?

Getting to know the staff and how Vista works. I had never heard about anything like this before, so knowing it's a good place to be. I like seeing how different people react to different things.





During the pandemic, many individuals around the world experienced uncertainty regarding employment and Vista students and members were no different.

We are both pleased and proud to report that although some members temporarily paused, or had their employment schedules altered, overall employment rates for Vista members has continued to excel—with a placement rate of nearly 95% for those seeking/desiring paid employment as of June 2021.

Vista's successful vocational effort during this period of uncertainty was due to the resiliency of our members as well as the creative efforts of our Job Development team, collaborations with our local community partners and the work of Vista's social enterprises (Ventures Business Services and Creations).

Regular, routine work does many things for us all—from providing structure and purpose, to generating a source of income and engagement for our students and members. It has been a thrill to see all of the successes of the past year.

At Creations, Vista's retail store, the past 18 months plus has brought many unexpected shifts—(but also many unexpected gifts)... While the "shifts" were not always easy, they also presented us with opportunities to grow and evolve in new ways. In addition to our "brick and mortar" Creations store (which remains open, and is a vibrant part of the retail scene in downtown Madison), one of our proudest accomplishments during this time is the design and launch of Creations' new online store where most of our over 1,300 unique gifts can also be viewed and purchased.

While the growth of a true online presence was not a quick process—it has proven to be most helpful in allowing our loyal customers (and those "googling" for "unique gifts that do good!") to view and purchase our current offerings from anywhere—further enhancing the ability of Creations to advance the mission of Vista while also raising awareness for the abilities of individuals with disabilities.

We are also proud that in our continuing evolution over this past year (on top of employing some of our members), Creations began serving as a job assessment site for Vista students and members who are interested in developing their vocational skills in an active, vibrant retail setting. This development has allowed us to impact even more of our students and members, preparing individuals for their future employment experiences...

Now that's impact!







FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2020 - 2021

June 30, 2021			
ASSETS			
Cash & cash equivalents	\$	1,114,736	
Accounts receivable-net		421,228	
Pledges receivable-net		10,830	
Prepaid expenses		169,435	
Property & equipment-net		7,015,741	
Long term cash & investments		2,076,367	
Endowment long term cash & investments		8,242,362	
Other assets		93,915	
Total Assets	\$	19,144,614	
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161		Ma	
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		1	
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$	700,990	
Deferred income		423,410	
Security deposits		469,257	
Mortgages Payable / Line of Credit	1 to 1 to 1	1,367,330	
Total liabilities		2,960,987	
Total liabilities			
Net Assets:			
		7,519,828	
Net Assets:			
Net Assets: Without donor restrictions		7,519,828 7,607,654 403,859	
Net Assets: Without donor restrictions Without donor restrictions-Board designated endowment		7,607,654 403,859	
Net Assets: Without donor restrictions Without donor restrictions-Board designated endowment Without donor restrictions-Board designated		7,607,654	
Net Assets: Without donor restrictions Without donor restrictions-Board designated endowment Without donor restrictions-Board designated With donor restrictions - Purpose restrictions		7,607,654 403,859 17,578	

Consolidated Statement of Activities				
For The Year Ending June 30, 2021				
Public Support:				
Contributions				
Without donor restrictions	\$	557,511		
With donor restrictions		978,071		
Fundraising activities-net		27,527		
Investment gains (losses)		2,093,512		
Total public support		3,656,621		
Revenue:				
Program Revenue		8,091,421		
Interest & dividend income		153,490		
Other Revenue		1,018,995		
Total revenue		9,263,906		
Total public support & revenue		12,920,527		
Expenses:				
Program Services		7,356,645		
General & Administrative		1,936,852		
Development		415,635		
Total expenses		9,709,132		
Change in net assets		3,211,395		
Net assets, July 1, 2020		12,972,232		
Net assets, June 30, 2021	\$	16,183,627		

The information presented above reflects excerpts from the consolidated financial statements for Vista Life Innovations, Inc. and the Vista Endowment Fund, Inc. as of June 30, 2021. These highlights are not intended to present the consolidated financial position or the consolidated results of operations for Vista Life Innovations and the Vista Endowment Fund in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

IN MEMORIUM



This past year, Vista lost a vibrant member of the Vista community, Andrea Lipsky. Residing at Settlers Landing in Westbrook, CT, Andrea was a long-time member of the Vista community, joining us in 1994. Over nearly three decades, Andrea brought big smiles and warm thoughts to all those around her. Please join us in remembering her impact...she is missed by many...

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Vista warmly thanks all of our friends, supporters, and champions!
We thank all of the following individuals, corporations, and foundations who supported Vista in our 2020-21 Fiscal Year - THANK YOU!

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Dahlia Rafii

Please know, a team at Vista worked carefully to ensure the completeness and accuracy of this list. We apologize for any mistakes, misspellings, or omissions.

MISSION STATEMENT





Providing services and resources to assist individuals with disabilities achieve personal success



Vista Life Innovations 107 Bradley Road Madison, CT 06443

Vista would like to
thank each and every
one of our students
and members, donors,
employees, partners
and consultants
for supporting Vista
and our Mission.



Madison Campus, 107 Bradley Road, Madison, CT 06443 Westbrook Campus, 1356 Old Clinton Road, Westbrook, CT 06498 www.vistalifeinnovations.org





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Providing services and resources to assist individuals with disabilities achieve personal success



Table of Contents

Core Values	2
About Vista	3
Program Overview	4
Curriculum & Philosophy	6
Student IPP	7
Core Curriculum Areas	8
Points of Distinction	12
Graduation	14
After Discover	15
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Core Values

Respect. All people have the right to equal opportunity and to be treated with dignity.

<u>Diversity.</u> Differences among us bring strength, value and perspective.

Integrity. We are honest, sincere and trustworthy with each other in our decisions and actions.

<u>Personal Development.</u> We have high expectations for ourselves and others, encourage curiosity, and support opportunities to grow and learn.

Community & Human Connection.
Relationships within our chosen
communities are necessary to the human
experience and create value, significance
and belonging.

<u>Leadership.</u> We inspire, create solutions and impact others positively.

<u>Accountability.</u> We are responsible to each other and for the results of our actions.

<u>Perseverance.</u> We have the will to try and the courage to change.

Excellence. We strive to be the best we can be and take pride in achieving high standards.



Several years ago, Vista developed a set of Core Values (above) designed to embody what our organization represents and believes in. Our Core Values describe what is important to us, and they are essential to our mission. Vista students and members, staff, community partners, and leadership, including the Board of Directors, pledge to hold true to these core values.



About Vista Life Innovations

Vista Life Innovations provides services and resources to assist individuals with disabilities achieve personal success. The first phase of programming begins at a college-like residential campus located along the Connecticut shoreline in beautiful Westbrook, CT, roughly 30 minutes east of New Haven and within a two-hour drive of New York City. At Vista, both the community and the residential campus are the classroom with a significant amount of training and curriculum execution taking place in an authentic real-world environment—the community. Programming, systems, and strategies are individualized for our neurodiverse population, helping to ensure maximum personal growth across skills areas.

Vista's educational model combines experiential learning with a counseling-based service delivery plan that fades reinforcements over time. Utilizing a counseling-based service delivery model provides students with a trusted outlet to process through thoughts and feelings that are often overwhelming when transitioning into a more independent life.

Following graduation from our legacy residential transition program in Westbrook, young adults at Vista settle into new, chosen independent-living situations along the Connecticut shoreline, becoming members of the broader, long-term Vista community. Vista currently supports nearly 200 individuals living alone or with roommates and friends in roughly 100 households/apartments/condominiums located throughout our service area. Long-term programming options include Program Counseling, Life Skills Instruction, Recreational Services, Arts Programming (visual and performing), Employment Services, Day Services and Benefits and Advocacy Services

Program Overview







Discover Program Overview

Accredited by the National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services (NCASES.org), Vista's post-secondary residential and community-based program located in Westbrook, CT, has operated for over 30 years.

This legacy residential transition program—called the Discover Program and featuring a 30-person dormitory, training condominiums and multiple experiential training spaces—is a comprehensive, residential training program providing students a college-like learning environment with peers. Experiential teaching and training takes place both on campus and in the community in four core curriculum-driven areas: Life Skills, Cognitive and Social Development, Community Integration and Vocational Training.

Student Profile

Vista does not have one specific student profile. Rather, each applicant is assessed on an individualized basis within established baseline criteria, specifically around basic health and safety concepts to ensure that they will be safe within our community-based setting. Applicants must be 18 or over (average ages 18-25), are motivated to live away from home and do not require 24-hour supports. Every individual is treated with respect throughout our individualized admissions process to determine their eligibility.

This general profile for eligibility, however, does not mean that the students that come to Vista do not have skills that need to be learned.

All young adults interested in Vista's programming are assessed for skillsets and abilities during the admissions process. Using assessment tools designed by Vista, while on campus, our staff work with each prospective student in predetermined skill areas, assessing their baseline abilities in our core curriculum areas. Using both direct and observational assessment techniques, this individualized assessment process provides a snapshot of their functional skillset upon entering Vista's programming. We celebrate the diversity among our Discover students where a range of abilities, styles and personalities is represented.

Student Guidelines for Success

A set of guidelines, referred to as the "Student Guidelines for Success," are in place to establish expectations for the Discover Program students living on our Westbrook Campus. Developed collaboratively by Vista students and staff to reflect our Core Values, the "Student Guidelines for Success" help support and guide our students throughout their day to be responsible adults. These guidelines assist our students in their skill development and learning how to navigate a shared living space.



Curriculum & Philosophy



Discover Program Curriculum & Teaching Philosophy

The core curriculum utilized in Vista's Discover Program is focused on building skills and is individualized for each student, focusing on personal development in four core areas:

Life Skills

Cognitive and Social Development

Community Integration

Vocational Training

Skill development and training within each of these four core areas centers around two components:

- Thinking Skills: The ability to think about, think through, plan for handling tasks and situations
- Doing Skills: The ability to carry out a task or handle a situation

Our students partner with their programmatic team to create and implement strategies to meet their individualized goals. This is achieved through a student's full immersion in our experiential, hands-on learning model that operates 24-hours a day, 365 days a year and features nearly 60 hours per week of scheduled and structured programming.

The reinforcement of skill development across a variety of settings is what supports our student's overall growth and development.

When a student demonstrates the necessary skills to live independently, they transition from our dormitory setting to Vista-owned condominiums to practice and test their newfound skills with lessening supports. At their own pace, a personalized program is developed within this less-supported environment to prepare a student to ultimately move out into their own home.

Individual Program Plan (IPP)

A student's overall growth, skill development and goal progress is assessed and reviewed in a formalized report twice a year. Throughout each semester, students meet with their team both formally and informally to discuss progress and to adjust instructional methods as needed. This may include alternative training methods, accommodations, and additional training opportunities to support the mastery of a skill or concept.

At the end of each semester, a formal semester review meeting is held to assess the student's Individual Program Plan (IPP). Staff members who have worked with the student in each training area (Life Skills, Cognitive and Social Development, Community Integration and Vocational Training) are in attendance. Current progress and future goals are discussed collaboratively with the student to determine action steps necessary to continue growth and development in all functional skill areas.



Core Curriculum Area







Life Skills

Life Skill training occurs in a vast array of ways in the Discover Program. These areas are broken down into step-by-step trainings, giving the student the ability to master each step through hands-on learning and repetitiveness.

Examples of Life Skills training include:

Self-Care (hygiene grooming, clothing management)

Health & Safety (personal safety, health management, medication management, physical fitness)

Food Management (nutrition, meal planning, meal preparation, cooking/food storage, grocery shopping, mealtime tasks and etiquette)

Household Management (organizing and responding to incoming mail, organizing and maintaining a living space, household maintenance and repairs, laundry)

Money Management (understanding money concepts, managing bank accounts, managing state and private income, budgeting, bill paying, managing credit/debit card)

Time Management (understanding time concepts, scheduling/organizing time, navigating downtime)

Cognitive and Social Development

Away from the natural supports they are accustomed to, students begin their journey in our dormitory, strengthening their cognitive and social skills in a new environment through repetition, reinforcement, and in-the-moment counseling. Identifying goals is an individualized process that involves self-awareness, emotional regulation, goal setting, self-advocacy, relationship building, planning, problem-solving, adaptability, flexibility, and health and safety.

Examples of Cognitive and Social Development include:

Self-Awareness Skills (self-concept, recognizing one's values)

Social Communication Skills (basic social skills, conversational skills, active listening, relationship building)

Coping Skills (decision-making, goal setting, assertiveness, conflict resolution, self-advocacy, emotional regulation)



Core Curriculum Area





Community Integration and Transportation Training

Vista believes in fostering all students and members to be active members of their chosen community. This includes developing peer-to-peer relationships, gaining meaningful employment, volunteering at a chosen cause and a host of other pursuits that everyone can have in their lives.

A big part of accessing the community for these pursuits and others is the use of public transportation. Vista works with each member of the Vista community to successfully complete "travel training." This includes learning to independently access the local bus line (9 Town Transit) and train lines (Metro North, Shoreline East, and Amtrak).

Independently using public transportation opens up the world for someone who may not drive. It allows for a job to be independently traveled to, even if it is "three towns over," enables a special dinner with friends to take place at a particular restaurant and facilitates the ability to access the train for a weekend trip home to see family. Supplementing the use of public transportation, Vista operates a fleet of vehicles that supports the lives of all members of the Vista community.

Examples of Community Integration include:

Community Knowledge and Participation (awareness of community functions, community involvement)

Transportation (traveling by foot, traveling by public transportation (train, bus, taxi, Uber, Lyft) and traveling utilizing Vista's fleet)

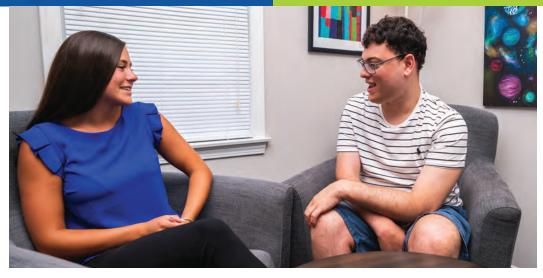
Vocational Training



Our vocational approach works to ensure that when a student is ready for paid employment, they have all the skills that are necessary to be successful in the workplace. With existing placements at nearly 70 community employers and a current "paid employment placement rate" over 95% for members ready and seeking paid community employment, Vista's methods have proven to be successful over time.



Points of Distinction



Program Counseling

Students and families are provided with a primary contact and point person called a Program Counselor throughout their journey in the Discover Program. This assigned Program Counselor becomes central to the lives of our students.

Using formal one-to-one weekly meetings, our Program Counselors provide oversight of a student's programming while also serving as the primary contact for a student's team of instructors, local medical providers, and family.



The Importance of Downtime

We all benefit from having a sound mind/body balance. A typical week in Vista's Discover Program entails approximately 60 hours of scheduled, structured programming. While programming—and its impact over time—is paramount to the success of the young adults, we also value and understand the import of having downtime and learning how to manage it.

While the development of skills in this area may be less formal—or even less understood as important—we see significant value in helping our students learn to make plans with friends, take time to explore, develop or further hone personal interests and hobbies or just spend some time relaxing.

Points of Distinction

Quality of Life

Vista thoroughly understands the impact of both recreational and arts-based programming for all our students. We offer a robust array of recreational and arts experiences.

Arts-based offerings, called our "Create" Program, includes classes and experiences in both visual and performing arts. Ranging from an annual community-integrated, Broadway-style production, to large scale collaborative art projects, to a "write your own biography" class or even private art lessons (and almost everything you could imagine in between), Vista's arts programming is second to none and is a true point of distinction.

Similarly to ensure that there is something for everyone, recreational offerings are designed to be wide ranging in nature. From a six-week bowling or movie club to a daytrip to a local amusement park—the possibilities are endless and we strive to explore and offer ever-expanding opportunities to our students.





Graduation



Successful Completion of the Discover Program

After demonstrating the necessary skills to transition to independent living, most students at Vista successfully complete our Discover Program within two to five years, culminating in an annual late-summer graduation ceremony.

This impactful ceremony—inclusive of student's speeches, caps and gowns and many smiles—is the product of years of hard work and is highly celebrated by all.



After Discover

Engage Program

Following graduation from our dormitory-based Discover Program, most Vista students settle along the shoreline in their chosen households where Vista offers a wide variety of long-term programs and services designed to meet the needs of an individual across their life. Called Vista's "Engage" Program, graduates choose to participate in Vista's individualized à la carte services, including Program Counseling, Life Skills, Vocational Services, Arts Programming, Day Services and more.

Regardless of an individual's age or circumstance, Vista works to continuously design and implement an individualized program for each person at every stage of their life.







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