

SUMMER / FALL  
2025

QUARTERLY

# NWSLTR

NASHUA CENTER HAPPENINGS FROM JUNE TO NOVEMBER!



*WITH THE RIGHT SUPPORT, WINGS TAKE SHAPE —  
AND INDIVIDUALS ARE EMPOWERED TO REACH HIGHER.*

## Looking Back, Moving Forward

Annual Meeting Highlights

05

## Strengthening Our Work:

Through Community Support

09

## Our Remarkable Kids:

Meet El and Lo

11

**Nashua**  
**CENTER**  
Where Independence Grows...



# FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

As we head into the final days of the year, I find myself reflecting on what has shaped this past year at Nashua Center.

So much of our work is built in the everyday moments—consistent routines, trusted relationships, and opportunities that allow individuals with disabilities to grow, connect, and participate fully in their communities. Together, those moments create possibility.

I'm grateful for the families, staff, partners, and supporters who make this work possible. Your presence and trust help ensure Nashua Center remains a place of dignity, independence, and choice.

Wishing you a peaceful holiday season and a happy New Year.

Warmly,



Emily K. Manire  
Executive Director



## MISSION

**Nashua Center is committed to providing the highest quality of specialized care and support to each individual served while promoting growth in independence.**



**Golden Service Award:** 04  
Meet Lisa

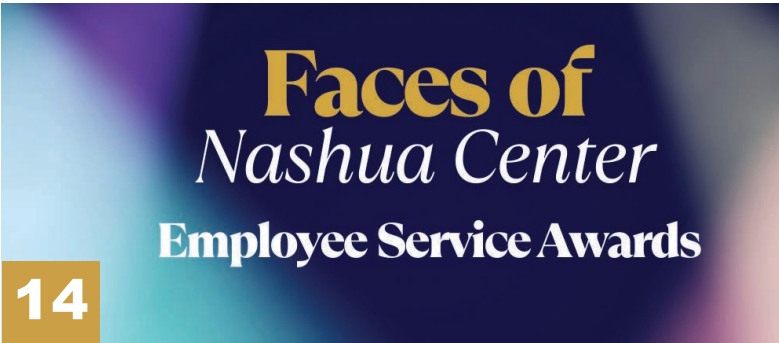
**Looking Back, Moving Forward:** 05  
Annual Meeting Highlights

**#Summer/Fall Highlights:** 06  
Lots of Fresh Air, Community Outings, and Outdoor Fun

**Celebrating Our Community:** 08  
A Little Appreciation, a Lot of Gratitude, and Plenty of Good Moments

**Strengthening Our Work:** 09  
Thorough Community Support

**Cooking With Chef Nicole:** 10  
A Delicious Visit from Great NH Restaurants



**Meet Our Remarkable Kids:** 11

**Save the Date** 12

**This is Possibility** 13

**Faces of Nashua Center:** 14  
Monthly Service Awards



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## EMPOWER CHANGE, TRANSFORM LIVES

We invite you to be part of our work in building a more inclusive and supportive community. Your generosity helps sustain the programs and services that empower individuals to grow, thrive, and live with greater independence.

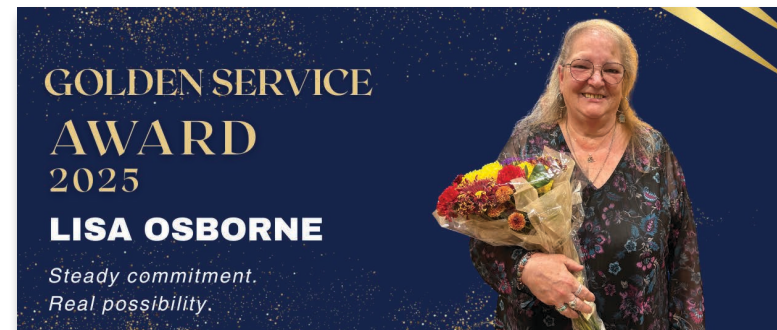
Make a gift today—and take a meaningful step toward lasting impact, brighter futures, and real change.

Visit [NASHUACENTER.ORG](https://NASHUACENTER.ORG) to make a lasting gift.



SCAN TO DONATE

## Golden Service Award: Meet Lisa



Each year, Nashua Center presents the Golden Service Award to a team member who represents the very best of who we are. It is our highest honor, given to someone whose dedication, compassion, and steady commitment make an extraordinary difference in the life of someone we serve.

This year, we are proud to recognize Lisa Osborne, one of our exceptional providers whose impact extends far beyond her daily responsibilities.

For 17 years, Lisa has brought her commitment and consistency to Nashua Center. Her connection with our client began when he lived in one of our group homes and she was a member of the staff team. Even then, she stood out as someone who took the time to understand him—his personality, his communication style, and the supports he needed to feel secure and valued. That early connection laid the foundation for a relationship built on trust, respect, and genuine commitment.

As their lives moved forward, Lisa continued to be a consistent and reliable presence. Today, she is with him 24/7 in her role as his provider, supporting every aspect of his daily life. She knows his routines, his preferences, and his body language with a level of understanding that comes only from years of attentive care.

Lisa advocates for him without hesitation. She is the first to notice even the smallest shifts in his symptoms or demeanor and works closely with his medical team to ensure he receives timely and appropriate care. Her insight, communication, and strong relationships with healthcare providers mean she is always included in discussions about his well-being—because her perspective is essential and trusted.

Lisa also makes sure his environment reflects who he is. She fills their home with seasonal decorations, plays his favorite rock and roll music, and encourages moments that help him feel grounded and connected. She welcomes him into her family gatherings, treating him not just as someone she supports, but as part of her extended community.

And even in her spare time, she finds ways to support Nashua Center. The afghans she crochets have become a crowd favorite at our *Taste of the Towns Silent Auction*.

Lisa represents the heart of Nashua Center. Her consistency, insight, and unwavering advocacy show what it truly means to serve with purpose. She elevates the standard of care and demonstrates the profound difference one person can make.

**It is our privilege to present Lisa with this year's Golden Service Award.**

## Looking Back, Moving Forward: Annual Meeting Highlights

### WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



ELISE K. ST LAWRENCE, ESQ.



ASH SAMUELS

**This year's Annual Meeting was held at Millyard Bank, and we are grateful to them for welcoming us into their space. Their partnership and ongoing support reflect a genuine commitment to strengthening the local community, and their hospitality made the evening feel warm and easy for everyone attending.**

As part of the meeting, we shared program updates, highlighted accomplishments from the past year, and reflected on the continued support that moves our mission forward. It was a meaningful opportunity to gather with board members, staff, and community partners who play an essential role in sustaining our work.

We also took time to recognize and thank our outgoing board members—Ron Hoy, Taylor Loiselle, Tyler McAfee, Jeff Moynihan, and Duy Nguyen—for their dedicated service. Their leadership, guidance, and steady involvement have helped position Nashua Center for continued growth, and we are deeply grateful for all they contributed during their tenure.

This year marks another term of leadership from Wes O'Bryan, Lorri Hayes and Allie Lafond, who will continue serving as President, Vice President, and Secretary, respectively. We are also pleased to share that Erik Liguori has taken on the role of Treasurer. Together, this executive team brings experience, stability, and a shared commitment to Nashua Center's mission.

We were also pleased to welcome two new members to the Board. Elise St. Lawrence, an attorney specializing in estate planning and mediation at Morneau Law, brings a thoughtful, client-centered approach grounded in empathy, clarity, and a strong interest in expanding access to resources for individuals of all abilities. Her legal insight and community-minded perspective will serve the board well.

Ash Samuels, the founder of Cross Net, Inc. brings more than two decades of experience helping organizations implement practical, secure, and reliable technology solutions. With a background that includes both corporate experience and building an IT firm that

supports small businesses, he offers valuable expertise in systems planning and technology strategy that will benefit Nashua Center as we prepare for future needs.

As we look ahead, we value the strength of our partnerships, the dedication of our Board of Directors, and the involvement of individuals and organizations who believe in the work we do. Millyard Bank's support—and the contributions of both outgoing and incoming board members—underscore the importance of community engagement in fulfilling our mission.



## #Summer/Fall Highlights: Lots of Fresh Air, Community Outings, and Outdoor Fun

Summer and fall brought a full season of activity and engagement for the individuals we support. From farm visits and baseball games to gardening, yoga, art, and celebrations, these months offered meaningful experiences both in the community and here at Nashua Center.

### Summer Kick-off Party

Summer didn't exactly greet us with sunny skies this year, so our Summer Kickoff Party took place indoors. Even with the rain outside, it turned into a fun, easy afternoon that felt like the true start of the season. We served a variety of finger sandwiches and all the fixings, along with a table of sweet treats, cookies, cupcakes, and plenty of snacks.

The cornhole tournament—always the star of the day—was as competitive as ever. Teams jumped right in, and the cheering, friendly rivalry, and a few surprise wins kept everyone entertained. It was a simple, relaxed way to welcome the season, proving that a good time doesn't depend on the forecast.

### Visit to MacQuesten Farm

We began the summer with a visit to MacQuesten Farm, where clients enjoyed fresh air, time outdoors, and the chance to see the animals. It was a simple, relaxed way to welcome the season.

### Evening at the Silver Knights Game

Thanks to Sullivan Tire, clients and staff enjoyed an evening watching the Silver Knights from a private suite. With plenty to eat and a comfortable setting, it was an easy and enjoyable summer outing.

### Gardening in Our New Raised Beds

Our new raised garden beds—made possible through Taste of the Towns donations—quickly became a highlight of the summer. Clients planted, watered, and tended to the gardens, watching their progress week by week.

### Weekly Yoga Sessions

Weekly yoga offered a calming routine focused on stretching, breathing, and grounding. These sessions supported both physical comfort and overall well-being.

### Apple Picking Adventures

Autumn brought the chance to enjoy a classic New Hampshire outing—apple picking. Clients visited the orchard, selected apples, and enjoyed a bright fall day.

### Accessible Nature Walks

We also visited several paved, accessible nature paths, giving all clients—including those who use wheelchairs—the ability to spend time outdoors safely and comfortably.

### Watercolor Classes

Watercolor classes gave our clients a creative space to experiment with color and technique. Each session encouraged focus, expression, and the satisfaction of creating something personal.

### Spa Day with Beauty Body Skin Care

A special spa day brought relaxation and a little extra sparkle to the week, thanks to Beauty Body Skin Care in Nashua. Ms. Rachel visited Nashua Center and treated clients to a full glam experience, including nails and hair styling. The day offered a chance to relax, feel pampered, and enjoy one-on-one attention in a warm, welcoming

setting. Smiles, laughter, and a boost of confidence made this visit a favorite for many.

### Halloween Fun

Halloween brought plenty of costumes and festive energy. Clients and staff dressed up and took part in themed activities that added a bit of fun to the season.

### Music Therapy Returns

Music therapy resumed this season for our adult programs, and it remains one of the most loved activities among participants. Sessions encouraged expression, focus, and enjoyment through rhythm, instruments, and familiar songs. This long-time favorite continues to bring positive energy each week.

From outdoor outings to creative arts, from wellness activities to seasonal celebrations, summer and fall offered many opportunities for individuals to participate in routines and experiences that support learning and enjoyment. With the return of music therapy, the season also strengthened the variety of enriching activities available across our programs. We look forward to building on this momentum as we move into the next season.





## Celebrating Our Community: A Little Appreciation, a Lot of Gratitude, and Plenty of Good Moments

Each fall, Nashua Center takes time to recognize the people who make our programs steady, welcoming, and supportive—not only for the individuals we serve, but for each other. Two meaningful traditions, DSP Appreciation Week and our Thanksgiving Feast, reminded us again how much our staff contribute to the heart of the organization.

### Recognizing Our Direct Support Professionals

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) play a vital part in Day Services and LIFE-OP. They help adults with disabilities build skills, stay engaged, reach personal goals, and navigate daily life with dignity. Their work is steady, hands-on, and essential.

During DSP Appreciation Week, staff enjoyed themed days, special lunches, and small surprises throughout the week. These gestures were simple ways to show how much we value the dedication DSPs bring to their roles. While we set aside a week to highlight their work, our appreciation for them extends far beyond that. Their consistency and care are felt every day across our programs.

### A Thanksgiving Feast That Felt Like Family

In November, staff and clients gathered for our annual Thanksgiving Feast—a tradition that brings everyone together in a warm, familiar way. What makes the meal especially meaningful is that staff prepare their own holiday specialties, sharing dishes and recipes that feel like home. The tables filled quickly with homemade favorites, and the atmosphere felt relaxed and genuine.

People sat together, talked, laughed, and enjoyed the moment. It was a chance to slow down, take in the season, and simply be together. The feast also served as a reminder of how much our programs feel like a community. Clients and staff came together much like a family would—sharing food, stories, and gratitude.

for their dedication and look forward to continuing to celebrate and appreciate them throughout the year.



It was also an opportunity to thank our staff for everything they do. Across all departments and programs, their reliability and commitment shape daily life at Nashua Center and support the routines that matter so much to the individuals we serve.

Both DSP Appreciation Week and the Thanksgiving Feast highlight just how much our staff mean to our programs. Their work, day in and day out, brings stability, care, and purpose to the people we support. We are grateful

## Strengthening Our Work: Through Community Support

This summer and fall, Nashua Center received several meaningful grant awards that help us enhance services, invest in essential infrastructure, and support the children, adults, and families who rely on our programs. We are grateful for the generosity of our funders and the confidence they place in our mission.

### Upgrading Essential Communication Systems

Nashua Center received a \$5,250 grant from the Henry Lord Scholarship Trust/Citizens Bank, N.A., Trustee to replace our more-than-10-year-old phone system. With this support, we purchased 35 new phones equipped with modern app capabilities—tools that significantly improve internal communication and coordination across multiple locations. Though largely behind the scenes, this upgrade is an important step in strengthening our day-to-day operations. We are grateful for this investment in our essential infrastructure.

### Investing in Early Childhood Development

The City of Nashua Citizens Advisory Commission awarded \$5,000 to support The Children's Pyramid, our early intervention program serving children from birth to age three. This grant helps ensure that young children receive individualized developmental supports during a critical period of growth. It also equips families with tools, strategies, and guidance that strengthen daily routines and foster skill-building at home. We appreciate the City's investment in early childhood development and family support.

### Deepening Impact Through The Children's Pyramid

The Digital Federal Credit Union Foundation awarded \$2,500 to support The Children's Pyramid and its work with infants, toddlers, and caregivers. TCP focuses on family-centered coaching, developmental strategies, and play-based learning that helps children build essential early skills. This funding strengthens our ability to provide consistent, meaningful support during the earliest years of development. We are grateful for the Foundation's commitment to enhancing the program's impact.

### Continuing Music Therapy for Adult Programs

The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust awarded \$2,250 to renew our semester-long music therapy program for LIFE-OP and Day Services clients. Music therapy encourages engagement, communication, and self-expression, and has become a valued part of our programming. This renewed support ensures that participants continue to benefit from meaningful, therapeutic experiences. We appreciate the Trust's ongoing commitment to enriching opportunities for those we serve.

### Building Organizational Capacity and Leadership

Nashua Center was selected for the Bank of America Neighborhood Builders award, providing \$50,000 over two years along with leadership development resources. This respected grant program strengthens nonprofits by investing in long-term stability and organizational growth. The support enhances our internal capacity and helps strengthen leadership pathways across the organization. We are honored to be chosen for this highly competitive opportunity.

### Supporting Long-Term Organizational Stability

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation awarded \$40,000 over two years in operational support. NHCF has long championed organizations that strengthen communities across the state, and this flexible funding allows us to plan thoughtfully and maintain a strong operational foundation. This support helps us continue meeting the evolving needs of the individuals and families we serve. We deeply value NHCF's trust and partnership.

These grant awards represent more than financial support—they reflect a shared commitment to strengthening our mission and enhancing the services we provide every day. Each investment helps us improve our systems, support high-quality programs, and ensure stability for the people who rely on us. We are grateful for this partnership and for the continued belief in advancing dignity, independence, and choice throughout Nashua Center.



## Cooking with Chef Nicole: A Delicious Visit from Great NH Restaurants



Thanks to a grant earlier this year from FEEDNH—the philanthropic side of Great NH Restaurants—we had the chance to welcome Chef Nicole for a fun, hands-on cooking demo with our Day Services and LIFE-OP clients.

She walked everyone through one of her favorite recipes: a Black Bean, Corn & Avocado Salsa with Turkey Burritos. Clients jumped right into the chopping and dicing, and the kitchen buzzed with conversation and laughter as ingredients came together. It was one of those activities where everyone finds a role—mixing, stirring, taste-testing—and the process becomes just as enjoyable as the final meal.

And the final meal didn't disappoint. Once everything was assembled, everyone sat down to enjoy the burritos and fresh salsa they helped prepare.

We always enjoy welcoming community partners like Great NH Restaurants. Experiences like this give our clients something new to try, something fun to learn, and a great memory to take with them.



## Our Remarkable Kids: Meet El and Lo:



At Nashua Center, we are surrounded by remarkable people—from the dedicated staff recognized through our Monthly Service Awards to the families and individuals we are fortunate to support. And within our community of remarkable people, we also celebrate our remarkable kids, whose early growth and steady progress show the impact of strong developmental support.

This month, we're proud to highlight El and Lo, 2½-year-old twins who have been part of The Children's Pyramid (TCP) since they were about three months old.

TCP is Nashua Center's early intervention program for infants and toddlers, providing families with specialized guidance during the most important years of development. El and Lo are a wonderful example of what this early support can mean for a family.

The girls love to explore through creativity—coloring, painting, and drawing with chalk are some of their favorite ways to learn and play. They are developing a thoughtful mix of spoken words and sign language to connect with each other and with the people around them. They enjoy books, music, and dancing, and bring a bright spark to every visit.

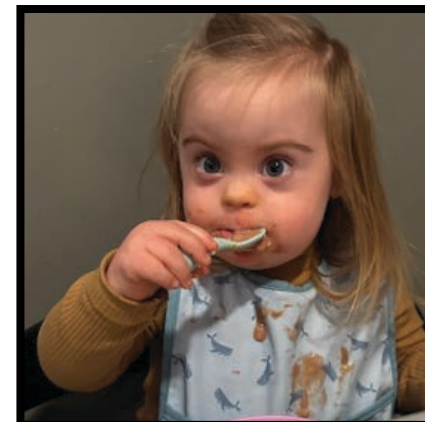
Recently, they began Hippotherapy at Serendipity Farm. At first, they took time to feel comfortable around the horses and enjoyed the large sand arena. Now they're confidently riding—an exciting milestone that reflects their growing confidence and readiness to try new things.

El and Lo are also strengthening their self-feeding and drinking skills, practicing with spoons, forks, and their fingers with increasing independence. Each small step supports the larger goal of building everyday skills that will serve them as they grow.

Their parents are key partners in their progress. They incorporate strategies from TCP into daily routines, creating a home environment that supports learning in natural, meaningful ways. Their mom shared this heartfelt reflection:

**“AT A TIME WHEN I COULDN'T CONNECT WITH OTHER MOMS AND DIDN'T HAVE THE ENERGY TO ASK FOR SUPPORT, YOU ALL SWOOLED IN AND DID JUST THAT—GIVING ME SUPPORT AS A MOTHER WHILE GIVING ME TOOLS TO BE THE ABSOLUTE BEST MOM I COULD BE FOR MY GIRLS. WHAT YOU HAVE DONE THROUGH THIS PROGRAM IS PRICELESS. I WOULD'VE NEVER KNOWN WHAT I WAS MISSING IN THESE BEGINNING STAGES OF RAISING MY GIRLS IF I DIDN'T HAVE YOU. KNOWING I HAVE A GROUP OF WOMEN WHO SPECIALIZE IN EARLY DEVELOPMENT WHO GENUINELY CARE ABOUT ME AND MY GIRLS HAS BEEN SUCH A GIFT.”**

Stories like El and Lo's reflect the true value of Nashua Center's work—helping children build foundational skills, supporting families when they need it most, and ensuring every child is surrounded by people who believe in their potential. We're honored to be part of their early years and grateful to walk alongside their family as the girls continue to grow.





# Save the Date

## TASTE of the TOWNS

Mark your calendar for one of Nashua Center's most anticipated evenings of the year—an event filled with great food, lively energy, and community connection, all in support of our mission.

**May 7, 2026**

**Early Bird Tickets: \$75 (available in January)**

Standard ticket price: \$85

We're also beginning to form the *Taste of the Towns 2026 Planning Committee*. If you enjoy event planning, community engagement, or helping bring people together for a great cause, we'd love to have you involved.

Interested in joining the committee?  
Contact us at [events@nashuacenter.org](mailto:events@nashuacenter.org) to learn more.

**More details coming soon—we can't wait to celebrate with you!**



As the year comes to a close, we are grateful for the community that makes Nashua Center's work possible every day. The moments and stories shared throughout this newsletter—from meaningful activities and community outings to the dedication of our staff—reflect the steady support that allows individuals with disabilities and their families to thrive.

Across our programs, we see the impact of that support in countless ways. Children and families receive early guidance and services that help set a strong foundation. Adults engage in community-based programs that promote skill building, connection, and independence. Individuals living in our residential homes experience consistency, stability, and care that allows them to feel truly at home. These experiences are not one-time moments—they are part of daily life at Nashua Center.

Community support allows us to focus on what matters most: creating meaningful days, honoring individual choices, and responding to needs as they arise. It helps ensure that programs remain flexible, that staff are equipped to provide thoughtful care, and that individuals are supported in ways that respect their goals and independence.

As we reflect on the year behind us and look ahead to the year to come, we invite you to consider a year-end gift to Nashua Center. Your generosity helps sustain the programs and services that nearly 300 individuals and families rely on each year. Whether your support comes through a one-time contribution or ongoing monthly giving, every gift plays a role in strengthening the work shared throughout these pages.

We are deeply thankful for the families, partners, donors, and community members who walk alongside Nashua Center. Your support ensures that the work highlighted in this newsletter continues—not just during special moments, but every day of the year.

Thank you for being part of our community and for helping Nashua Center continue to support dignity, independence, and choice for the individuals we serve.

To learn more about the Circle of Impact Monthly Giving option or to make a one-time donation, visit: [nashuacenter.org/donate](https://nashuacenter.org/donate)



## Faces of Nashua Center:



KEVIN CROWLEY



MONICA DRAUDT

Each month, Nashua Center recognizes team members whose dedication, care, and professionalism strengthen our programs and enrich the lives of the individuals and families we support. From Day Services to Early Intervention, Residential, and LIFE-OP, these Service Award recipients reflect the heart of our mission in meaningful and lasting ways.

In June, we recognized Kevin Crowley for his outstanding commitment in Day Services. A member of the Nashua Center team since 2012, Kevin has built a strong, trusted relationship with the individual he supports and their family. He goes above and beyond to maintain important routines and connections, offers help whenever it's needed, and brings creativity and joy to our community through his artistic and musical talents.

July's recipient, Monica Draudt, was honored for her leadership and dedication as an Early Intervention Service Coordinator with The Children's Pyramid. Since joining the team in 2020, Monica has become a key support for families, often serving as their first point of contact and guiding them through services with care and clarity. In addition to training new staff and coordinating referrals, she now serves as an Educational Surrogate Parent, advocating for children in foster care across New Hampshire.



CELESTE GILBERT



DANIELLE POWERS

In August, we celebrated Celeste Gilbert for her more than 14 years of service within Residential Programs. Recently promoted to DSP2, Celeste is recognized for her experience, leadership, and steady support of both individuals and colleagues. Her willingness to step in, share knowledge, and provide consistent care makes her an essential part of the Bricketts team.

October's Service Award was presented to Danielle Powers of the LIFE-OP program. Danielle is known for her strong advocacy for clients, thoughtful development of life-skills workstations, and commitment to helping individuals reach their personal goals. She continually seeks new strategies to enhance the program and generously shares her insights with the team.

We are grateful to each of our team members for the care, dedication, and professionalism they bring to Nashua Center every day. Their work makes a lasting difference for the individuals, families, and communities we serve.

“THESE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS REPRESENT THE VERY BEST OF NASHUA CENTER.”



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**Board of Directors**  
Join Nashua Center's Board!  
Bring your expertise and passion to help us thrive and grow, ensuring our future success through strategic leadership and community support.

**LEARN MORE**  
<https://bit.ly/4efwVLI>

Contact us to learn more:  
[NashuaCenter.org/join-our-board](http://NashuaCenter.org/join-our-board).



**THANK YOU!**

With heartfelt thanks to our incredible Partners for Impact

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