

SPRING
2026

QUARTERLY

NWSLTR

NASHUA CENTER HAPPENINGS FROM MARCH TO JUNE!



Some of the most meaningful moments don't need words. In a single glance, trust, encouragement, and a genuine connection remind us that relationships are at the heart of everything we do.

Investing in Our Mission

Supporting Safe Spaces and Quality Care.

04

#SpringHighlights:

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CENTER
Where Independence Grows...

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

As we look back on the past few months, I'm reminded that some of the most meaningful moments are often the simplest ones. Whether it's a client mastering a new skill, reconnecting with friends over lunch, volunteering in the community, or celebrating a shared accomplishment, these everyday experiences are what make Nashua Center such a special place.

This spring has been filled with opportunities to learn, grow, and connect. Our clients have enjoyed new adventures, strengthened friendships, and continued working toward their personal goals both at our Center and throughout the community. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, families, and supporters who believe in our mission every day.

We've also had much to celebrate as an organization. From another successful Taste of the Towns to grant funding that strengthens our programs and facilities, your generosity and partnership continue to create new possibilities for the individuals we serve.

As summer gets underway, we're excited for all that's ahead. Thank you for being part of the Nashua Center family and for helping us create opportunities where every individual can learn, grow, and thrive.

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.



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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 to make a gift today.



SCAN TO DONATE
OR
TEXT [NCGIVE](https://ncgive.com) TO 50155

Investing in Our Mission:
Supporting Safe Spaces and
Quality Care.

The generosity of our funding partners continues to make a lasting difference for the children and adults we serve. This spring, Nashua Center was grateful to receive several grants that strengthen our programs, enhance services, and invest in the long-term care of our facilities.

The City of Nashua approved a \$92,295 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to replace the roof at our Simon Street facility. This critical improvement will help protect our building for years to come, ensuring we can continue providing a safe, welcoming, and accessible space for the individuals and families who rely on our services every day.

We also received a \$3,082.74 grant from the Parker-Nelson Foundation through Citizens Bank to purchase physical therapy equipment. This funding will enhance therapeutic services by providing additional tools that support mobility, strength, independence, and overall well-being.

In addition, Eversource awarded Nashua Center a \$1,500 Impact Partner Grant in support of our mission. This investment helps us continue providing meaningful opportunities that empower children and adults with disabilities to learn, grow, and thrive.

We are deeply grateful to the City of Nashua, Citizens Bank, the Parker-Nelson Foundation, and Eversource for their partnership and commitment to our mission. Together, these investments strengthen our organization and help ensure we can continue creating opportunities and improving lives throughout our community.

Be Part of What's Next:
Join Our Board of Directors



while supporting work that creates greater independence, dignity, and choice for those we serve.

If you've been thinking about getting more involved—or know someone who would be a great fit—we'd love to connect.

[Learn more](#) on our website or reach out to start the conversation.

Nashua Center is looking ahead—and we're inviting new voices to help shape what's ahead.

We're currently seeking individuals to join our Board of Directors and play a meaningful role in guiding the future of our organization. It's an opportunity to stay connected to the community

A Day at Nashua Center:
Every Day Has a Purpose.

The day begins with familiar greetings and the excitement of seeing friends. Individuals arrive throughout the morning—some on one of our accessible vans, others with family members or support providers. Some walk in carrying breakfast, while others grab a quick bite after they arrive or make one of the day's favorite stops—a run to Dunkin' for coffee and a donut. A few enjoy a quieter start, taking a moment to relax or meditate before the day gets underway. Like the people we serve, no two mornings are exactly alike.

As everyone settles in, the day quickly takes shape. Some head out to volunteer throughout the community, while LIFE-OP participants travel to Nashua Community College for post-secondary learning, job training, and skill development. Others head out to enjoy whatever adventure the day has planned, whether it's a community outing, recreational activity, or exploring a new place. Those remaining at the Center gather in the activity room, where conversations, laughter, and hands-on activities fill the morning. Although everyone may be in a different place, each individual is working toward personal goals, building skills, and making the most of every opportunity.

By lunchtime, many of the morning groups have returned, and the Center fills with conversation. The hallways come alive as friends catch up—sharing where they've been, what they did that morning, and where they're headed next. Lunch is more than just a meal; it's a chance to reconnect, celebrate accomplishments, and enjoy time together before the afternoon begins.

The afternoon brings another round of opportunities. Some individuals head to work in the community, building confidence and gaining valuable employment experience. Others remain at the Center, where no two afternoons are exactly alike. You might find one person working out on the treadmill or participating in a fitness class, another enjoying a game of bingo or creating an arts and crafts project, while others catch up on social media, listen to music, participate in virtual learning, or fine-tune their culinary skills. Some simply find a quiet corner to relax with a favorite book. After all, we all need a little downtime sometimes. Every afternoon offers the freedom to explore personal interests while continuing to build confidence, independence, and meaningful connections.

As the day winds down, everyone heads home with stories to tell, new experiences to reflect on, and friendships that continue to grow. While tomorrow's schedule may look different, one thing never changes: every day at Nashua Center is filled with opportunities to learn, connect, contribute, and belong. And the next morning, it all begins again with familiar faces, new adventures, and another day of possibilities.



#Spring Highlights: Making Memories Across Our Community

Some of the most meaningful moments aren't the biggest ones—they're the everyday experiences that build confidence, strengthen friendships, and create lasting memories. From community outings and creative projects to celebrating milestones together, the past few months have been filled with moments worth sharing.

Hello, Summer!

We welcomed summer with our annual Summer Kickoff BBQ, bringing everyone together for an afternoon of great food, music, games, and laughter. It was the perfect way to celebrate the friendships we've built, enjoy time outdoors, and kick off another fun-filled season.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Thanks to the generosity of Sullivan Tire, everyone enjoyed an exciting evening at a Nashua Silver Knights game. Although Mother Nature had other plans with plenty of rain, spirits stayed high. Between cheering on the home team, enjoying ballpark treats, and spending time with friends, it was a memorable night for all.

Fresh Air & Friendship

Spring weather made it easy to enjoy lunches in our local parks. These outings offered time to share a meal, enjoy the fresh air, explore the community, and connect with friends. Sometimes the simplest moments create the best memories.

Finding Our Rhythm

Music therapy continues to be one of our favorite weekly activities. Through singing, rhythm, movement, and instruments, individuals build communication skills, express themselves creatively, and strengthen social connections. Every session is filled with energy, encouragement, and plenty of smiles.

Creativity in Bloom

Art was in full bloom over the past few months! From watercolor painting to seasonal crafts, individuals explored new techniques while expressing their creativity. These projects encourage imagination, build confidence, and provide opportunities to create something they're proud to share.

Hoops, High Fives & Friendship

Whether practicing free throws or enjoying a friendly game, basketball remains a favorite way to stay active. Time on the court encourages teamwork, coordination, and confidence while giving everyone the chance to cheer each other on and celebrate every basket.

Stretch, Breathe, Repeat

Our weekly trips to the Nashua Public Library include reserving space for yoga sessions that promote movement, mindfulness, and relaxation. These visits combine healthy habits with opportunities to enjoy one of our community's wonderful public resources.

Hip Hip Hooray!

Birthdays are always celebrated in a big way at Nashua Center. Over the past few months, we celebrated several birthdays with treats, laughter, and time spent with friends. Every celebration is a reminder that each person in our community is valued and appreciated.

What's Cooking?

From baking cookies to making tacos, cooking class continues to be a favorite. Individuals practice measuring ingredients, following recipes, working safely in the kitchen, and cleaning up as a team. Along the way, they're building important life skills—and enjoying some delicious creations.

Growing Together

Each spring, individuals help plant colorful flowers in Georgie's Corner, a memorial garden dedicated to former Nashua Center community member Georgie. The garden and picnic table provide a peaceful place to gather, enjoy the outdoors, and spend time with friends while honoring someone who will always be part of the Nashua Center family.

Making a Splash

Pool days at the YMCA offered a fun way to stay active while building confidence in the water. Whether swimming, participating in water activities, or simply enjoying time with friends, these outings encouraged wellness, recreation, and plenty of laughter.

A Place to Play

Thanks to the generosity of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashua, one of our Children's Pyramid families received a beautiful playhouse to enjoy at home. It has quickly become a favorite gathering place where siblings, neighborhood children, and friends come together to play, imagine, and make memories.

Lights, Laughter & High Scores

One of the season's favorite outings was a trip to the arcade, where friendly competition and lots of laughter filled the day. Everyone enjoyed trying new games, cheering each other on, and celebrating every win—big or small. It was another great reminder that fun is always better when it's shared.

As we look ahead to the rest of summer, we're reminded that it's these shared experiences—big and small—that help build confidence, foster independence, strengthen friendships, and create a true sense of belonging. We can't wait to see what adventures the next season brings.



A Record-Breaking Evening of Possibility: Celebrating Community. Creating Opportunity. Inspiring Possibility.

On May 7, our community came together for the 23rd Annual Taste of the Towns, and what an incredible evening it was.

With close to 350 guests filling the Sheraton Nashua ballroom, local restaurants, generous sponsors, volunteers, and supporters united around one shared purpose: creating opportunities for children and adults with disabilities or traumatic brain injuries. Thanks to your generosity, the event raised a record \$191,000—the most ever raised in the history of Taste of the Towns.

The evening celebrated more than fundraising. It celebrated community.

Guests enjoyed exceptional food and beverages from local restaurants, exciting silent and live auctions, music, and inspiring stories that highlighted the impact of Nashua Center's programs. We were also honored to recognize this year's award recipients, whose dedication continues to strengthen our mission:

Mission Champion Award: The Nash Family
Corporate Ally Award: Millyard Bank
Trailblazer Award: Josh Vandal
Tiny Trailblazer Award: Jaxon Corbin

This year's success would not have been possible without our sponsors, restaurant partners, auction donors, volunteers, committee members, and every guest who attended, bid, donated, or shared our story. Your support helps provide early intervention services for children, meaningful day programs and employment opportunities for adults, residential support, and programs that promote greater independence and inclusion throughout our community.

Every dollar raised represents more than financial support—it represents confidence in the individuals we serve and belief in what is possible.

From all of us at Nashua Center, thank you for making this year's Taste of the Towns our most successful yet. We look forward to building on this momentum as we continue creating new possibilities together.



TASTE of the TOWNS



For additional photos, visit our [website](#).
 Photo Credit: [Doug Rathburn Photography](#)

Seeing Double!

Sometimes great teamwork even extends to fashion! Our Director of Operations and Director of Development unknowingly showed up dressed in matching shades of blue—right down to their phone cases. It was too good not to capture with a quick photo and a laugh!



Faces of Nashua Center:



RIES GRONDSTRA

At Nashua Center, we are fortunate to have dedicated team members who go above and beyond to support the individuals we serve. Our Service Award recognizes employees whose compassion, commitment, and positive impact help strengthen our programs and enrich the lives of others.

We are pleased to recognize Ries Grondstra for the difference he makes each day.

From the moment he joined Nashua Center, Ries has demonstrated a strong work ethic, a willingness to learn, and a genuine desire to help others. He is dependable, hardworking, and always willing to go beyond his day-to-day responsibilities to support his clients, coworkers, and the organization as a whole.

What truly sets Ries apart is the care he brings to his work. He takes the time to get to know each individual he supports, building genuine relationships based on trust, patience, and respect. He has developed a special connection with his client by investing the time to understand

their unique needs, interests, and goals. His kindness, flexibility, and person-centered approach help those he supports feel valued and understood.

Ries is someone who consistently puts the needs of others before his own. He gets along well with everyone, approaches challenges with a positive attitude, and is always ready to lend a helping hand. His peers appreciate his support, and the individuals we serve benefit from the authentic connections he creates every day.

Thank you, Ries, for the dedication, compassion, and heart you bring to Nashua Center.

We are grateful for all that you do and proud to recognize your contributions through this Service Award.

Submitted by the Day Services Team

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

Meet Koko:



Every person at Nashua Center has a unique story to tell. Through our quarterly Remarkable Person Spotlight, we celebrate the people who make our community so special—their personalities, interests, accomplishments, and the relationships that enrich our community.

This quarter, we're celebrating Koko.

It's easy to see why Koko is affectionately known as the "Queen Bee." A member of the Nashua Center family for nearly 20 years, her infectious laugh, expressive communication through sign language, and unforgettable personality brighten every room she enters. She has a wonderful way of connecting with the people around her, and her smile is enough to make anyone's day a little brighter.

Koko loves music and isn't shy about turning it up. Whether she's listening to Pink, Michael Jackson, or one of her many other favorites, music is never far away. She also enjoys classic movies like *Dirty Dancing* and *Flashdance*, and can always count on *Reba* for a good laugh.

Shopping isn't just a hobby for Koko—it's an event. Whether she's picking out new clothes or finding the perfect makeup, she enjoys every minute of it. With her signature smile, playful personality, and just the right amount of diva attitude, she keeps everyone around her smiling.

When she's ready to slow things down, you'll often find Koko relaxing on the deck, watching the birds and admiring the garden, taking in the neighborhood, or making a trip to Josie's for ice cream. One of the highlights of her week is spending time with her father whenever he comes to visit.

At Nashua Center, we believe great support starts with knowing the person. For Koko, that means encouraging the things she loves, celebrating what makes her unique, and creating opportunities to make choices, build relationships, and enjoy the experiences that matter most to her. It's how we help each individual build confidence, foster independence, and live a life that's meaningful to them.

Thank you, Koko, for sharing your laughter, your wonderful sense of humor, and your unforgettable spirit with all of us. We are so grateful you're part of the Nashua Center family.

Ph: (603)883-6163 | Fax: (603)881-7198 | www.NashuaCenter.org

The Power of Every Month

Small gifts. Lasting impact.

When you become a member of Nashua Center's Circle of Impact, your monthly gift provides dependable support that helps children and adults build confidence, gain independence, and experience meaningful opportunities every day.

No matter the amount, your generosity makes a lasting difference.

A small monthly gift makes a big difference.



\$10/month

Supports
our mission



\$25/month

Inspires
independence



\$50/month

Strengthens
our community



\$100/month

Changes
lives



Join the Circle of Impact today.

Scan the QR code to become a monthly donor.

