

Message from our Executive Director

The Upper Room found 2021 to be a year of innovation, creativity, and persistence. 4,712 people had direct contact with our programs and an additional 11,293 received phone support or attended a community event. The staff, interns, and volunteers who ran programs this year were unique in their compassionate approaches to meeting family needs. Our small but welcoming center provides individuals who enter a place to connect with a caring professional who takes the time to understand what is going on, and support a direction that offers solutions when challenges arrive.

The Upper Room staff have been frontline heroes, going above and beyond to find human connections that make lasting impacts. With support from the Board of Directors, a strong volunteer base, and very solid interns, The Upper Room offers a continuum of services for the communities it serves.

Brenda Guggisberg
M. Ed, Executive Director

The Upper Room met the challenge of the application, and criteria for consideration and was designated as a Family Resource Center of Quality in May of 2021.



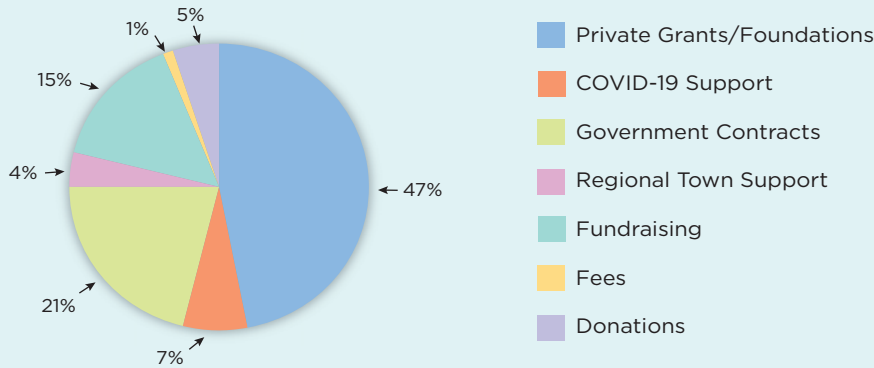
FUNDING

The Upper Room relies on grant, foundation, and contract dollars for more than 2/3 of our funding. We are grateful for community fundraising and support from you!

In addition, we received \$232,748 of in-kind donations, from office supplies to auction items, food, and building supplies.

Volunteers provided 1,464 hours of direct service to The Upper Room this year. We could not do it without the dedication of our volunteers! Thank you!

Donations have allowed us to serve those in our community seeking support. Thank you!



HIGHLIGHTS

Our 20th Annual Upper Room Family 500 Auction, held October 17, 2021, was a success!

Thank You to Our Auction Sponsors

- Tupelo Music Hall - Presenting Sponsor

Benson Ski and Sport

Chapman Construction

Royal 'T' Car Wash
- Enterprise Bank

Minuteman Press

Derry Village Rotary Club

Parkland Medical Center

Water Energy Distributors

Linahan Limousine



Our Auction Team

Bill Burke our Auctioneer

Alan Cote at Auction

This Year's VIP Table Winners representing the Derry Village Rotary, Carol and Steve Dente, and Susan Ochoa.



Andrea Younie and Gale Stanley

Ladies in the Kitchen

Meet our Food Pantry Volunteers. For 22 months, Andrea Younie and Gale Stanley have been serving families outside to keep people safe. This year hundreds of families found their way to our pantry and found more than food—they found love, compassion, care, resources, and services. They found laughter and supplies that they needed, all thanks to the generous donations we received this year!



17th Annual Ice Cream Social
A huge thank you to Moo's Place Ice Cream owners Kristy and Steve LaRocca for catering our event, as well as to the

musicians from Simply the Best and Monica from Trading Faces face painting. The children and their families had fun, played games, ate ice cream, and enjoyed the day.



Derry Village Rotary Club

We kicked off with a surprise visit from Ryan Hazelton and Dennis Toombs from Derry Village Rotary, who stopped by to help us out! Our Rotarians are an amazing asset to our agency and our ability to do what we do. These folks also put in a lot of sweat equity for our Shed project this summer, which has more than doubled our outside storage for programs and our Food Pantry.

Congratulations to The Upper Room

Derry News readers spoke loudly and clearly about their favorites top picks of places that make a big impression and for what you do to make our communities special.



Town Fair Tire Foundation brought a new gift and source of support to The Upper Room this year and we are excited for this level of local connection in support of families.



Tyler Hall, Jacob Wiesmann, Mat Solso, and Elizabeth Bergeron

Our Board of Directors participated in our Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament in Spring.



Youth Day of Giving Back

An annual tradition in partnership with Pinkerton Academy students. The students offered a day of community service to local non-profits.



Your Voice

"My voice has been heard in the family programs especially throughout the pandemic. We were able to log on weekly and connect with The Upper Room staff and other families as well as attend summer field trips. This helped me to stay connected to resources that I needed when caring for my granddaughter."
— Linda Abel



Frost Festival

Our Marketing Coordinator Shelly Koza (seen in photo with Frosty) and (ED) Brenda Guggisberg participated along with many businesses, food trucks, musicians, and Frosty himself to promote a full day of family fun. This is a Derry tradition started by the Benson Family.



Garden Party

Our weekly event for families.

Support Groups (FREE)

- TIPS—for teens and young parents up to age 23 (childcare available when in person)
- PARENT CAREGIVER CAFÉ—for parents of teens
- CONNECT—fun activities, support, resources for parents/caregivers of children ages 0-8
- TEEN TALK—drop-in group for youth offering a place to talk and connect with other teens
- ON My OWN—weekly theme-based group for teens offering activities and life skills



Better Money Habits—a program directed at offering budgeting basics, money-saving ideas, and TIPS. Thanks to the support of Bank of America. Visit our website www.URteachers.org.

Visit our schedule of Classes, Services, and On-Demand Programs: www.URteachers.org

EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS: In 2021, our HiSET Program had the largest class of graduating students ever.

In June, 54 students in caps and gowns received their High School Equivalency Test diplomas, with family members, teachers, and loved ones watching the backyard ceremony. Our staff added a HiSET Summer Institute for eligible students to assist them with their high school completion. Many of these students are currently working, in college, doing apprenticeship programs, or traveling. In total, 87 students were served through the HiSET Program.



NEW INITIATIVE: The Upper Room, working to build childhood systems of care.

The Upper Room has been named as a sub-recipient of the New Hampshire Preschool Development Grant, acting as the co-lead for Greater Derry and Greater Manchester, Region 4 Early Childhood Network. The newly named Early Childhood Networks are being established as part of New Hampshire's Preschool Development Grant, with support from the University of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Education. In close collaboration with the lead, Amoskeag Health (launch Manchester), The Upper Room will work to develop a system of partnerships that enhances early childhood care and education (ECCE), school/family support collaborations, and build infrastructure for cross-sector collaboration and alignment to coordinate resources and services within Region 4, throughout 14 Southern NH communities.



We welcome Dr. Susan Norton to our team to guide The Upper Room in this project.

ADOLESCENT WELLNESS: Program undergoes Service to Science Process.

The Upper Room provided other professionals in the state the training necessary to facilitate our very own Take Control Program, which offers support for adolescent anger management. Nine people participated in the two-day training and are now equipped to facilitate the program in their own schools or agencies. A Service to Science grant for 2021 continues to offer a Community of Practice for those who engaged in the program. Submission of our Take Control project for continued consideration as an Evidence-Based Program will happen in 2022.



PARENTING & CAREGIVER SUPPORT: Programs to support families with children are thriving.

Through parenting groups, home visiting, classes, support groups, summer garden parties and field trips, Connect Parent Child playgroup, and Parent Caregiver Café, to such programs as Positive Solutions, Kinship and Nurturing Parenting, The Upper Room strengthens families through support and education and helps families recognize their own strengths and build their networks.



ABOUT US

The Upper Room is a non-profit Family Resource Center committed to the development of strong individuals and families in Southern New Hampshire. The Upper Room has a team of dedicated professionals who are working to improve the family life of citizens and communities in a way that is unique to any place in New Hampshire.

Mission:

"Strengthening individuals and families by providing them with the education, services and resources needed to live healthy, self-sufficient lives."

Vision:

It is our vision that we work to create a strong, vibrant, and self-sustaining community where conflict and hunger, homelessness and poverty, and ignorance and intolerance no longer exist. We look to the day where all families thrive, and children have within their reach the tools to succeed. We will work to achieve our vision by living our mission and honoring our values each day.

We aspire to be an organization that:

- Is responsive to the community
- Is compassionate and non-judgmental
- Respects diversity
- Empowers each individual and family
- Works as a team
- Encourages innovative and creative ideas
- Maintains strong ethics and integrity



36 Tsienneto Road
Derry, New Hampshire 03038

603-437-8477

URteachers.org

Here's to a healthy 2022!!!



Strengthening individuals & families by providing them with education, services, & resources needed to lead healthy, self-sufficient lives.

