



VANDERHEYDEN

Giving new life to youth, adults and families

FAMILY FOCUSED • TRAUMA INFORMED • COMMUNITY BASED

CELEBRATING
190
YEARS

NEWSLETTER

Summer at Vanderheyden



In this Issue

- **Giving back**
- **2024 Graduation Ceremony**
- **Summer Fun!**
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**
- **The Vandy Thrift Shoppe**

We need your support!

**For only \$18.33 a month.
You can make a difference!**

SCAN & SUSTAIN



*Vanderheyden's roots began in 1833 as The Troy Orphan Asylum. As we celebrate the past 190 years of changing lives to save lives, we look towards the future of Vanderheyden. Since 1833, our focus has shifted from the basic necessities, to providing a successful future for those in our care. **To do this...***

We need your help!

**Help us create a world where
all have an opportunity to thrive.**

Mail your monetary donation to:
Vanderheyden; Development Department
PO Box 219, Wynantskill, NY 12198



vhmedia@vanderheyden.org



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GRADUATION



Congratulations to the Class of 2024! Graduation Day is a well anticipated day at Vanderheyden, full of smiles and pride as we celebrate a major milestone for the students at our special education school.

In addition to the celebration, President and CEO, Karen M. Carpenter honored James Stone, who retired this year from Vanderheyden's Board of Directors. Thank you, Mr. Stone, for your dedication, and a special thank you to our incredible educators for all they do!

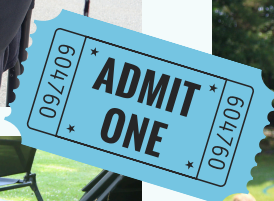
**Graduation Photography Curtesy of Ed Quinn*



SCHOOL CARNIVAL

Vanderheyden's year-end School Carnival is the best way to welcome Summer and say goodbye to the school year! This year's carnival was filled with sweet treats, furry friends and lots of fun activities for the students to enjoy.

A special thank you to Stephanie, teacher at our Special Education school, and the Student Council for hosting and organizing this event year after year!



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



WHY DEI?



“As a human services organization, we not only serve but employ a diverse community. It is essential that we do everything we can to support, represent and celebrate our diversity. It's important for all to have access to feel heard, seen, have an ally, and to be an ally!

*Andrew Baumgras, Co-chair
Committee of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*



LET'S CELEBRATE!

PRIDE MONTH

Pride is a time dedicated to celebrating the LGBTQ+ community's resilience, diversity, and ongoing fight for equality. At Vanderheyden, we recognize the importance of understanding the history behind this month-long celebration. To celebrate, Vanderheyden team members attended this year's Capital Pride Festival!



JUNETEENTH

Vanderheyden's DEI committee organized a Juneteenth celebration featuring multiple Black-owned small businesses at our main campus in Wynantskill. Vanderheyden hosted guest speakers from LLTY SNUG of Trinity Alliance and Pastor Mark Thompson of New Day Christian Empowerment Center to educate, empower and uplift our team members. Enjoying a lunch catered by Yayas House Southern Cuisine, our team members were able to shop at the local vendors and share a wonderful meal together.

Learn more at www.vanderheyden.org



Meet Henry

Found a forever home through Vanderheyden



What should people to know about you?"

"Well, I am very tall, so people always think I play basketball - which I do. I love basketball and football. Go Bills! I hope people know that I am funny, kind and friendly, too. I love making people laugh and I'm always making jokes. I like meeting new people and making their day."



How has Vanderheyden helped you?"

"I feel like when I first came to Vanderheyden, I was really angry and didn't know what to do with my emotions. Before I came to Vanderheyden, I would take my anger out on whoever or whatever was around me. Vanderheyden has shown me I can help myself. Now when I am upset, I just take time away and listen to music."



Who are some of your favorite staff and why?

"Bridget my house manager is my favorite staff ever. Bridget says she "Don't play no games!!"and is always there for us. Bridget is always the same no matter what is happening. I know I can always count on her and she doesn't let anything affect her job working to help us. I also like my house staff Amar. We just connected right away, and we always get along. I feel like he gets me, and I can trust him. He always helps me when I need it."



What advice would you give to someone coming to Vanderheyden?

"Sometimes it's hard and it's not always fun because staff push you to focus on yourself and become a better person, but it is worth it all in the end. I am 15 now but wanted to give up so many times but you have to trust the staff. They want to help, and it works. You have to give it a chance and try!"



What are you most excited about in the future?

"I am most excited about having a family finally! I hope with Roscoe's help I will get my driver's license soon because I love cars and I'm so excited to drive! I want to go to college, get a job and play basketball or football, hopefully both! I can't wait to start at my new school."



Learn more at www.vanderheyden.org



Meet Roscoe

Embodying our mission of building brighter futures

Henry in 2023!



Tell us a little about your role here at Vanderheyden.

I've been with Vanderheyden for 9 years in various roles. I'm currently the community services AOD coordinator as well as the Per Diem DSP manager. I oversee the daily operations of the AOD team and manage the community services support team.

Can you tell us about your Boxing Program?

Level Up Boxing, previously Boxing with Roscoe, is a boxing program my daughters and I started here at Vanderheyden. It's a program where the individuals we serve can earn a spot in showing their ability to be focused and commit to something. We conduct a 3 minute round training programs where they work hard while having fun. The program was designed to teach boxing skills while learning life skills such as discipline, focus, and hard work! We have become a community of committed individuals that support and push one another.



Tell us about your connection to Henry and how it all began.

Henry and I met for the first time about a year ago when he expressed interest in our boxing program. The first thing I remember saying to him was that we didn't allow Buffalo Bills fans to participate. I remember the belly laugh he got out of that, as well as the ribbing he gave me for being a Giants fan. From that day on, we would kid with each other about the football teams each of us liked. We have built a great connection through the program. A few months back I asked Henry if he would mind if I became a volunteer for him. The more time we spent together the more he became one of the family.

What would you say to someone who is looking to foster/adopt youth?

If you have the opportunity to foster or adopt a youth, it will be one of the most rewarding experiences you will ever have. I know I can speak for my family when I say that we have been blessed by Henry coming into our lives.



What is something you would like everyone to know about Vanderheyden?

Vanderheyden changes lives! I've seen it change the lives of our team members, as well as the individuals we serve. I can speak from personal experience that Vanderheyden and the team of individuals I work for have personally changed my life for the better.



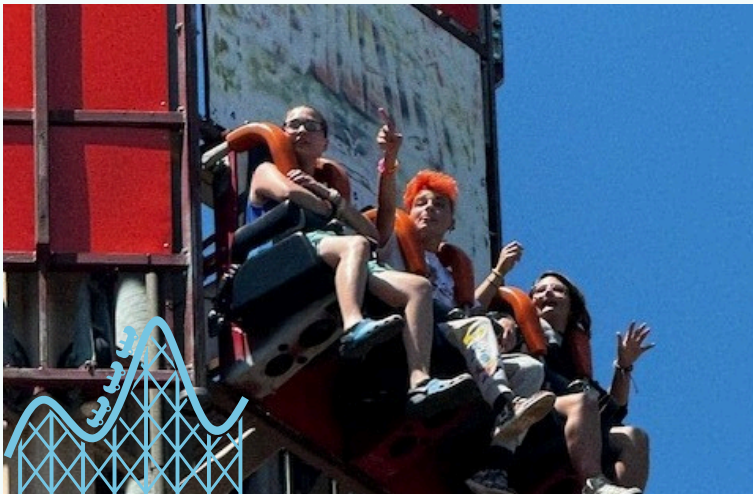
Learn more at www.vanderheyden.org



Residential Treatment Center

For Youth

Vanderheyden's Residential Treatment Center for youth has been enjoying the heat! No Upstate Summer is complete without a trip to amusement parks, barbecues, and lots of Ice Cream! Activities are essential in facilitating normative, positive childhood experiences. One resident reporting it was her first time ever on a charter bus - She was just as excited for the bus ride as she was for the park!



Community Services



Our Community Services Programs provide an array of services throughout the Capital Region. Although our programs are vast, key components like community integration and increasing independence are some of Vanderheyden's top priorities.

Our team members do an incredible job finding activities and opportunities for the individuals we serve to expand their knowledge, grow, and have fun doing it!



The Vandy Thrift Shoppe

Great clothes, shoes and household items - all at an affordable price!



The Vandy Thrift Shoppe is a training location for future retail positions for those we serve. Vanderheyden students, team members, clients, and volunteers work collaboratively to operate and manage the shoppe. This project-based approach focuses on the operation of a unique storefront to teach valuable job training skills that can be applied to a variety of industries.

100% of items are donated, and 100% of proceeds go directly to Vanderheyden programs.



Summer HOURS

Wednesday & Friday 11am - 2pm

Thursday 11am - 6pm

***Saturday & Sunday 11am - 3pm**

Connect!



[@thevandythrift](https://www.instagram.com/thevandythrift)

[The Vandy Thrift Shoppe](https://www.facebook.com/TheVandyThriftShoppe)

Learn more at www.vanderheyden.org



Community Partners

Subaru of Troy

Thank you so very much to Paul and his team at Subaru of Troy for presenting Vanderheyden with a \$25,000 check from Subaru's "Share the Love" program. This is the fourth year Vanderheyden has been chosen as Subaru of Troy's hometown charity, and we are unbelievably grateful for their continued support.



Stewart's Holiday Match Program

A very special thank you to Dave and his team at Stewart's Shops in Wynantskill, NY for their generous donation of \$5,500 for Vanderheyden's Holiday Program!



Corporate Volunteers

Thank you to Tim and his team from Fidelis Care for volunteering in celebration of United Way's #518Day! The team cleaned up and cleared the Vanderheyden school pavilion and trail, planted flowers and painted the sidewalks. All enjoyed the beautiful weather as we celebrated the day of giving!

Learn more at www.vanderheyden.org



Please provide HOPE for those who need it the most.

Their future is in our hands.



**The Troy Orphan Asylum's original compound on Spring Avenue in Troy, NY*



At Vanderheyden, we see potential where others see obstacles. With various programs meeting the needs of both at-risk youth and adults with developmental disabilities, Vanderheyden recognizes that independence and job training is key to a successful future. With your help, Vanderheyden can provide after care, housing and job training so these individuals can live independently and successfully.

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Celebrating the past & imagining more!

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