

E66 Share Cuz You Care

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SPEAKERS

Brenda, Henry, Liz, Terri, Michelle, closing, Kevin



Terri 00:00

Caring for our community has been part of Triangle's DNA since we incorporated 85 years ago. Community means so much that we added it as one of our core values. Through volunteerism, donations and sponsorships, Triangle supports over 50 charitable organizations that help our communities for those who need a helping hand. Stay tuned to hear from local charities, how they help others, and how you can help with a simple vote in our Share 'Cuz You Care campaign.



00:26

You're listening to Triangle's Making Money Personal podcast, where we engage in real talk about financial matters that affect our community. Today's episode is sponsored by Triangle Credit Union recently voted best credit union in New Hampshire.



Terri 00:51

Welcome to the Making Money Personal podcast. It's Terri, Liz and Kevin and today, we're going to talk about community and serving those in our community through charitable organizations. And we're really excited about this because community and serving others means a lot to triangle and for those who are currently in this room.



Liz 01:11

Yeah, that's right. And as you mentioned, Terri, and the little teaser is community is one of our core values as a company, the others are diversity and service. But we thought as an institution, that the community is just so important to us that we wanted to ingrain it into what we stand for as a company. So we're just going to want to kind of talk a little bit about community, we're

going to talk about, you know what we do for the community. But we also want to encourage people listening to keep in mind that they can also contribute and help with their community and improve the lives of the people that they live and work with.

T Terri 01:46

Right. Right. Can you kind of break down what this session is going to be all about Liz?

L Liz 01:52

Yeah. Okay, so awesome we're going to do is we want to talk a little bit about what this campaign is going to entail. And this particular episode is going to be a little different than our regular episodes, because part of us focusing on the community, we want to draw in three particular organizations that we've selected that we want to support financially. And we're going to need your help, because you're going to need to help us vote for which one, you want to receive a top donation. Again, part of our campaign, we'll talk about that a little bit. But in this episode, we're going to have three separate interviews, we're going to be sitting down and talking to a representative from each organization. So they can share a little bit about their organization, what the organization means to them. And then how, if anyone's interested in learning more, they want to get involved how they can do so. So if you keep listening, after we share information, you're going to hear a short, seven minute interview, one from Kevin, one from Terri, one from me, with these reps as they share their organization.

K Kevin 02:51

Excited about that, we also get to hear about how they serve the community since you know if I can start just by this thought, is what strikes me about when you look at the word community, what I've always drawn my eye to is that community, when I look at it, it's common unity. And what I find interesting about that, is that we're connected together, yes, by sort of things like we live in the same area, or maybe we know the same people. But when you look at it from a standpoint of having a common unity, you can look beyond the things that often divide us. And these organizations seek to do that by drawing people together, simply because in a lot of cases, because well, they're human beings, and they have a need. And that's really cool. And I'm grateful to work for an organization that highlights community, and not just community from sort of like a 30,000 foot view, but really into some of the nitty gritty of the organizations that work directly with the people that we see in the streets and in the supermarket. Right.

L Liz 03:54

Yeah. I think it's important too that we focus on community, because there's so much need, there's so much need out there in so many ways. And these organizations work very, very hard to to touch the lives of the people who truly need it. You know, and I think it's really good that we take time to honor that. And to remember that, you know, and I loved, I loved your connection of common unity, Kevin, I think that that is spot on.

K

Kevin 04:20

Yeah, a lot of these organizations, particularly service organizations are typically nonprofit, right. And they're funded by other means and methods. So campaigns like this are also very cool because it allows people to not only know about them, in fact, some of them that we're going to be presenting, I was unaware of them. And I think beyond just highlighting them, it also becomes a resource for us because Liz, you're absolutely right. There's so much need. And I think what's cool is when you know that these organizations exist, and you encounter somebody that might benefit now it becomes a referral or a resource that you can add rather than "oh boy, that's difficult. What can I do about that?" It becomes something that you can tell somebody about that they might benefit from.

T

Terri 05:08

I'm really excited just to hear the interviews as a whole, you know, I know that we're going to record them separately, and then bring them together for the overall podcast episode. But there's so much passion. And that's really what I'm interested in, you know, hearing their passion, and hopefully, igniting that for our listeners, for us, as well. And, you know, and then being able to come alongside and offer a little bit more financial support through the campaign that we're running. So I'm excited about it.

K

Kevin 05:40

Yeah. And the interesting thing is these, these are three different organizations, right? And there's lots of others. Yeah, obviously, we'd be doing this podcast for a year if we were highlighting all the right. But what's interesting is, is I've probably said that a lot, but it is interesting is the organization's target specific things, right? I think when we think about the totality of the need that exists, it can be overwhelming. And I think it's important to remind ourselves that it's, it's not me, but we, and we do this together. And it's important that everybody plays a part because then the burden, if you will, and it can, it's a fair word to use, burden is shared amongst all of us. But then the reward for the service or the reward for being involved in the community is also shared.

T

Terri 06:25

Right.

L

Liz 06:27

So well said, Kevin. Wow, I'm so inspired already. Okay, we've pretty much taken some time to share a little bit about what we're excited about for this episode. So I'm just gonna go into a little bit about what this campaign is. So we're calling it Share 'Cuz You Care. And what we're going to do is, as I mentioned, we're going to interview each nonprofit. So three total nonprofits, and Triangle is going to donate, make a donation to each one of these nonprofits, but what we want our listeners to do is we want you to vote on which of the three charities you would like to receive the top donation of \$1,000. The second, and third will receive \$500. So

take a listen. And oh, I have to tell you about how to vote. Before I tell you that, so to vote, what we're going to do is we're going to have a form on our website, trianglecu.org, and you're going to fill out that form. And that form will be sent to us and we will track all the votes just tell us in that form, which organization, you want to receive the top vote. You can vote every day. So once every day, if you're willing to go back and resubmit, you're more than welcome to do so. So this contest runs, it starts February 15. So it's the day after Valentine's Day, that's a Thursday, the release date of this episode, actually. And then it's going to run until February 29th. So it's a two week, two week campaign. So make sure you share with your family and friends and get the word out there. So yeah, take a listen. And Terri, anything you wanted to add?

T Terri 07:58

I just want to reiterate that where you can find more information about this is trianglecu.org. That's our, that's our homepage. On our website, there will be a banner, you select the banner. And that will take you right to more information with a little bit of bio on all of the three charitable organizations that we're featuring. And then you select vote now, which will take you to a voting page. And then you can cast your vote daily. So we encourage you to do that. So I'm excited again, catching the passion, educating, bringing more awareness about these organizations. That's part of our duty.

K Kevin 08:41

I'm excited, yeah. Yeah, listeners, please share. It's so easy these days. If you have social media just to repost something or share something. And since most of us are on social media, it's an easy way to just spread the word. Yep. Yeah.

T Terri 08:54

That's pivotal. That's the sharing part. Right?

L Liz 08:57

Yes. Share 'Cuz You Care

T Terri 09:00

And get others within your circle to get engaged as well.

L Liz 09:06

Well, we thank you all for listening. We hope you enjoy the interviews upcoming and make sure that you vote and keep us posted. We're looking forward to it. Welcome, everybody, thank you for tuning in to this special interview on the Making Money Personal Podcast. I'm super excited

to introduce our guest Henry Och, CEO of Harbor Care. Welcome, Henry.

H Henry 09:30

Hi, thank thank you very much for having me. I'm very excited to be here.

L Liz 09:33

Yeah. Thank you so much for joining us. I do want to say congratulations to harbor care for being selected as one of our organizations that we're featuring in our Share 'Cuz You Care campaign. We've explained a little bit of that prior. So

H Henry 09:45

Yes, we're very honored. Thank you very much.

L Liz 09:47

Fantastic. So I just want to kind of give you an opportunity to share a little bit about your organization so people listening who might not be familiar with it will kind of gain a little bit more knowledge about what you do. So we'll just start off with what's your organization's mission?

H Henry 10:02

Well, Harbor Care has had a long history in the greater Nashua area. We were established about 40 years ago. And currently, we are driven to end, help end homelessness in greater Nashua and across the state of New Hampshire. Now, we do this by providing stable housing to individuals and families across the state, along with medical care, mental health care, dental services, as well as addiction treatment.

L Liz 10:30

Wow. That's a lot of services.

H Henry 10:33

Yes, yes indeed.

L Liz 10:34

Did you always start with all of that dental how, like?

H Henry 10:38

No, the, the organization, when it was established, started off with one group home, located at Winter Street, and since then, it's grown quite a bit. Right now we have a workforce of nearly 300 employees with a budget of approximately \$40 million dollars.

L Liz 10:54

Wow. Okay. Now, how long have you been CEO of Harbor Care?

H Henry 10:57

A little over a year.

L Liz 10:58

Oh, so you're new then. Cool. Um, what have you learned? Like, while you've been there as CEO, like what drew you to Harbor Care, I guess

H Henry 11:08

the mission of the organization is one that aligns with my personal values. One of the many programs that we operate, in addition to what I outline is veteran services. So we provide support to individuals who are military veterans, who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness. I'm a veteran myself. But I have also worked in public health for 20 years. So this organization was able to leverage both of my skill sets.

L Liz 11:38

Nice. Nice. So you're bringing your experience and your expertise to this company? Yep. Awesome. So how has working with Harbor Care impacted you personally? Do you have any personal story that you'd like to share?

H Henry 11:53

Oh, there's so many. I'll share one. And this story actually goes back to 2020. I was with a group of outreach workers in the City of Manchester. While we're focused on greater Nashua, we have a statewide presence. So in this particular day, we were in Nashua, I'm sorry, in Manchester, and we were walking through one of the many homeless encampments. And I was with the Veterans Services Outreach team we were looking for homeless veterans and as part of the work that our outreach workers do, they establish relationships with individuals in

the encampments. And whenever a veteran comes into the encampment, the folks that they establish connections with help them out to help identify people in need. So this particular morning, around eight o'clock, we were made aware that there was a couple that had just moved into the encampment, they came from northern New Hampshire. And one of the individuals in the encampment said that they believe that the one of the individuals was a veteran, well we found them, and he was indeed an Air Force veteran. We verified his eligibility. Again, this was around eight o'clock in the morning, by 12 o'clock that day, he and his spouse were in a hotel room. And within a few days, they were in one of our transitional housing programs. So that really left an impression on me because it's, it demonstrated the effectiveness and agility of the system that we have in place to get people the services that they need.

L Liz 13:32

Yeah. And you said that was in Manchester?

H Henry 13:34

That was in Manchester.

L Liz 13:35

Do they find areas for them within that, like the nearest locations? Or did they have to come to Nashua? Or how do you

H Henry 13:42

Well, it all depends. The individuals that receive care at Harbor Care typically go through some type of intake process, where we go through either a service assessment or a clinical assessment, and we tailor our services to their needs. So in the case of this particular individual, there was an assessment conducted and ultimately, they were placed in transitional housing and subsequently into permanent housing down the line.

L Liz 14:10

Nice. Wow. It's amazing that you can provide all of those you provide not just the housing, but you go the step beyond and you do the clinical assistance or anything that they need when it comes to dental, medical, right, stuff like that.

H Henry 14:23

Right. So we have a clinic at 45 High Street here in Nashua, where we provide that primary care, behavioral health and dental services, in addition to addiction treatment, and that's for anybody, you don't have to be a veteran. But we do have a focus on individuals who are either

homeless or at risk of homelessness, and we provide those services regardless of their ability to pay.

L Liz 14:46

That's fantastic. Wow. That must give you so much pride to know that you're involved in something that really changes lives.

H Henry 14:52

Absolutely.

L Liz 14:53

Yeah. So what do you believe is the greatest value of your organization when it comes to providing these services to the community.

H Henry 15:02

So I would say that there's there's two items there. The first of which is that we have demonstrated that individuals that we house, nine out of 10 of those individuals remain housed after one year. They don't fall back into homelessness. And that's a result of the many support services that we provide to get them connected to the care that they that they need.

L Liz 15:28

Wow. It's a success rate. Right?

H Henry 15:32

It is and there's there's so much more to unpack there, because individuals who, who are specifically chronically homeless, utilize other other services, like the emergency departments, and we're able to really have a positive impact on in that regard.

L Liz 15:54

Wow. What would you say, at this time as part of the greatest need, that you're noticing, in particularly the communities that you serve? Is there a rise in homelessness over the last, you know, few years? Or is homelessness decreasing?

H Henry 16:12

Great question. So I'll answer that by saying that across the state of New Hampshire, there is a housing shortage. And that impacts lots of people. But it disproportionately impacts those communities whose journey has a lot of stigma. So as we're trying to find housing for individuals who were previously homeless, we have a tough time, landlords have a choice of who they can they can rent to. So we do we do struggle there. Now, as we're trying to house military veterans, specifically, one of the challenges that we have there is, there's quite a bit of a good portion of the population that we serve within that program that are Vietnam era veterans, and as a result of that they're older. And they have some challenges ambulating so we have to look for first floor apartments or handicap accessible units. And those are hard to find.

L Liz 17:18

Yeah. If you guys weren't around, if Harbor Care wasn't around to help, what kind of situations would these these people be facing?

H Henry 17:30

Well, I'll give you an example. Over the course of the past couple of years, we have been able to house 200 previously, chronically homeless individuals within the greater Nashua area. These are individuals and families that are probably amongst the most the most vulnerable. So if Harbor Care was not around, many of those individuals will still be out on the street.

L Liz 17:51

Yeah. Wow. Well, thank you for doing what you do for the community.

H Henry 17:55

Well, we can't do it alone, we have a great set of community partners across Nashua, and it's really a wonderful community.

L Liz 18:02

Fantastic. And you do families as well as individuals, right? As you said,

H Henry 18:06

That's right.

L Liz 18:07

Pretty much anyone who's in need of these particular needs. Awesome. So I guess I'll just wrap

it up with this final question. So people who are interested in getting involved or volunteering, what are some ways you would recommend they assist you and your organization.

H Henry 18:21

So there's, there's three ways. The first is come join our team. So we're always looking for great, great people. We have many job postings that are listed at harborcarenh.org. So that would be the first way the second is to donate. We do rely on philanthropic efforts. So you can learn more, again that that website harborcarenh.org. And the last is something that you just mentioned, we do have opportunities to volunteer. And that information can also be found on our website.

L Liz 18:57

Awesome. We'll link to that to your website in our show notes so people can easily access. So thank you so much. For anyone listening. Thank you for tuning into this particular segment. We want to remind you that if anything that you've heard right here moved you to remember to place a vote for Harbor Care in our Share 'Cuz You Care campaign. Thank you so much for joining me, Henry.

H Henry 19:18

Thank you for having me.

L Liz 19:19

Take care. Hello, everybody. Thank you for listening in. I'm so excited to introduce our special guest for this segment. Her name is Brenda Guggisberg, the Executive Director for the Upper Room. Welcome, Brenda.

B Brenda 19:36

Thank you. Thanks for having me.

L Liz 19:37

Absolutely. Well, congratulations on being selected to compete for Triangle's Share 'Cuz You Care campaign.

B Brenda 19:43

Thank you. We're very excited to be part of it.

L

Liz 19:45

Awesome. So we're just going to start, we want to give you the floor. We're gonna give you a few minutes to share everything about the Upper Room and just share with us its mission and what you do.

B

Brenda 19:58

Great. So our mission is strengthening individuals and families by providing them with the education services and resources needed to live healthy, self sufficient lives. And how that plays out is through 18 programs that serve young children, families, teens and their caregivers. And we offer a variety of programs that intersect and some that are just individual and we are working with children and trying to strengthen families with our programs.

L

Liz 20:24

Fantastic. Yeah. How long have you been around for?

B

Brenda 20:28

We began in 1986, and have been kind of one of our pillars in our community, we get to partner with some really cool people and their communities.

L

Liz 20:39

What kind of programs do you facilitate?

B

Brenda 20:42

Great. So we offer a high set program, which is the high school equivalency. So we run two sessions of that a day we run a lot of parenting programs, a teen parenting program, we run a food pantry. We have several family based programs. So we go in the home, we have a counselor on staff who does therapy, and a lot of adolescent wellness services. So a juvenile diversion program, we run a drug and alcohol course, an anger management course, community service, that kind of thing. So yeah, a lot going on there.

L

Liz 21:18

Wow. That's great. So how has working with the organization impacted you on a personal level? Is there any particular story you'd like to share?



B

Brenda 21:27

It's kind of a calling. Yeah, just kind of, I think I was sharing with you earlier, you fall into it. I think having the privilege of, you know, post working with somebody about 20 years ago, seeing her posts and watching her raise five beautiful children, and uplift a foster program in the south. And she has her master's degree. And knowing that in some small way, the upper room was a piece of her journey. And she testifies about that just really makes that part of her story. That in some way, we were part of not just her growing and success, but the fact that she is helping her own family to be beautiful and successful. And she's also lifting a foster system in a place that really needs it. So yeah, just really cool to be part of any piece of something that amazing. Yeah,

L

Liz 22:21

Now in, in a case like hers, did she approach The Upper Room for assistance? Or how do people find to connect with you?

B

Brenda 22:31

Yeah, good question. So we take referrals, it's self referrals, school referrals, we might get a call from a counselor, school counselor, social workers, the police, the probation and parole. And so she probably, she was connected to us through the school. And then we began working with her as a young mom.

L

Liz 22:52

Wow, that's really cool. So you have a lot of other. I don't know if organizations are the right word, but maybe organizations or other groups that are aware of you, so they can help kind of funnel people to you as needed.

B

Brenda 23:04

Right. I like to look at us as the net. Right. So we are a piece of a whole system of support. We're just one of the many that do awesome work. And there are so many amazing organizations in New Hampshire, like we're a really interesting state. So yeah, yeah.

L

Liz 23:22

And you're located in the Dery?

B

Brenda 23:23

Right here in Derry.

L Liz 23:24
But you serve more than Derry, right?

B Brenda 23:26
Yeah, Southern New Hampshire. So last year, we served people from 43 different communities, different towns, states. So you know, we do have a footprint, and we kind of felt some of our contracts, you know, have us working within a certain space. But if there's not a program available in a community, people are welcome. And we are that is some of our, you know, tenants that we want to serve all people. So if people show up, we're going to try to do what we can do to support them.

L Liz 23:53
You're not going to turn anyone away.

B Brenda 23:54
No, no.

L Liz 23:54
Yeah. That goes along with your mission.

B Brenda 23:57
Yeah, sure. Yeah.

L Liz 23:58
So what do you believe is the greatest value that your organization provides to the community?

B Brenda 24:04
I think we really want to be a partner, and not just a partner to the community, but a partner to families. And we want to be part of this walk with. And so that is really how we operate. We just hope that we can work together with anyone and everyone, whether it's a client or a community member or another agency or our municipalities. Yeah, so yeah. We want to be part of it?

L

Liz 24:33

So I'm just curious, The Upper Room, the name, what's the origin of the name?

B

Brenda 24:38

The origin of the name was the original founders, Anna Willis and Claire Hamilton. Had a very tiny grant like \$2,000 and sat on it for a bit and wondered how are we going to use this and Claire had a dream and called Anna and it was about a place upstairs. It was an upper room and they began. Yeah, this place literally in an upstairs space. Our first place was in a second floor space in downtown Derry. And so it, well, some people think it's a religious affiliation. It really is not it is. It was born out of kind of their dream and kind of waiting for something to show for them. And they they knew they had to do something good with it.

L

Liz 25:25

And that was to reach out to people in the community and pretty much start this mission.

B

Brenda 25:30

Yes, yep. Yeah, working with families and kids, they felt that young people needed to get their education, and they were going to try to help everyone do that. And they wanted parents to have what they needed to, to build those competencies within the family and build the skills and support and communication.

L

Liz 25:49

Well, I can imagine for some parents, you know, there's all kinds of things that can happen in life. So to have to have an advocate, there to assist you. Or as you're, you know, going through some of these things in life is probably, you know, it's an incredible asset for you. Incredible help. Great. So how many people within the community do you think you're serving at this time?

B

Brenda 26:12

Good question

L

Liz 26:12

Do you measure that?

B

Brenda 26:13

Yeah we do. So last year, we served over 4000 people in person. So that was through our direct

mean we do. So last year, we served over 4000 people in person. So that was through our direct service and community outreach programming. And in total, we served over 19,000. So because we're a resource and referral agency, we do get a lot of calls and just walk ins where people are looking for how to get connected to Headstart or where's the local nursing home for their parent? Or how do I sign up for tax assistance. So some of it is real simple lifts and asks, and we can get people on their way really quickly. And other people we're making referrals for and working with for a period of time, so Yeah,

L Liz 26:49

Okay, so for anybody who's listening, um, some people might be looking for ways to get involved to help out, how would you suggest that they do so?

B Brenda 26:57

I think, first just know who we are, know what family resource centers in the state do. But we're local, and make referrals, right, because everybody might need an answer for something. And it can be one in a million things. Definitely providing support. And that can be connecting us to other agencies who might align with our mission so that we can expand our resource knowledge base, support a program through a function through a grant through sponsoring an event. And volunteering. We love volunteers, people who have information and expertise that will help support a piece of information, a person, a program, and a time of need. Yeah

L Liz 27:39

When you say volunteer, would it be like, Would it be in the terms of like being on your location to help with any kinds of distribution of items, maybe could be a course, or some some type of thing like that?.

B Brenda 27:52

And it also could be organizing a diaper drive. We just talked about, yep.

L Liz 27:59

Which Triangle has done a couple different times.

B Brenda 28:02

Yes, yes.

L Liz 28:02

Well, we've assisted in we weren't the main organizers. We've helped with that

well, we've assisted in we weren't the main organizers. we've helped with that.

B Brenda 28:05
You're right.

L Liz 28:05
Correct? Awesome. Well, Brenda, is there anything else that you wanted to share? Before we close?

B Brenda 28:11
No, just thank you to Triangle for helping nonprofits lift up a little bit. And we appreciate the business partnership and the care that you put towards the community. Thank you.

L Liz 28:22
Well, absolutely. Thank you so much for doing what you do. So anybody listening to this, if you like what you heard, and you're you want to learn more about The Upper Room, you can check out their website, I'm sure. And remember, you can cast a vote for them in our Share 'Cuz You Care campaign. So thank you for tuning in, everybody. Thank you, Brenda.

B Brenda 28:38
Thank you.

T Terri 28:48
Welcome Michelle O'Malley, CEO of the Webster House to the Making Money Personal podcast, and congratulations to the Webster House for being selected as one of our Share 'Cuz You Care campaign organizations.

M Michelle 28:59
Thank you so much.

T Terri 29:00
We're so glad to have you in the studio today.

M Michelle 29:03
Excited to be here with you ladies. Yes,

T Terri 29:05
that's awesome. So, Michelle, let's get right to it. Why don't we talk a little bit about your organization, your role in your organization, maybe and what the mission is?

M Michelle 29:15
Absolutely. So I'm the Chief Executive Officer. I've been in this position just under three years. And my main role is to work on the community development. And I report directly to our board of directors, and really just trying to familiarize people with our mission and what we do. This is our 140th year serving New Hampshire's most vulnerable youth and I'm really proud to be there. And yeah, so just trying to get our name out there, get our mission out there and provide the best support and highest quality of care that we can for our residents. Our mission is to provide a safe supportive home for children who cannot live at home primarily for reasons of neglect or abuse, challenges in the community.

T Terri 30:01
Okay, awesome. Well, that's not awesome. It's kind of sad. But I'm so glad that your organization fills that role. It's a very important role for our community. So where are you located?

M Michelle 30:12
We are in Manchester, New Hampshire. 135 Webster Street, right across from Dunkin Donuts. Right at the cross section of Hooksett. Road. If you're familiar with that area?

T Terri 30:23
All right. And do you service mostly, we're going to get into the some of the logistics and your sort of service organization a little bit later. But do you service Southern New Hampshire or primarily the Manchester area?

M Michelle 30:36
Actually, we provide services for the entire state. And so, children are referred to us through DCYF. And, and that is how we receive the the children in our care. So they come from all over the state.

T Terri 30:53

Okay. All right. Great. All right. So, um, let's look at some of the questions that we had. How has working with the Webster House impacted you personally? And do you have a story that you could share that is touched you on a personal level?

M Michelle 31:09

Sure. So, you know, my role, as I said, is mostly in the community and fundraising and donor development. However, my office is in the house where the the children live. So you know, I see them every day, and I see them after school, or I see them after school, and they do have an opportunity to come and talk with me, typically, Fridays are a great day, they come and sit down. And usually they want to put their hands in my candy stash. But they'll they'll talk about their day, and things they might be doing that weekend, share their poetry and draw. But I do have some connections that are closer with others, there was a young boy that lived with us for a while, and he would come and meet me every day after school was our meeting time, I was like his person. And but he, you know, he would bring me his artwork, and it was very special. And unfortunately, he needed a higher level of care. So he had to transition out to another home out of state. And it's hard when that happens, because we do build relationships with these kids. But we also have to understand that sometimes they need more services than we can provide, it's bittersweet?

T Terri 32:28

How many children do you typically have at the house?

M Michelle 32:32

Oh, it's hard to answer that question. Because it really ranges we can have up to 19 children right now we have 14. And like I said, they're referred to us. And so we we have to read about the child and make sure that they're appropriate for our level of care. We don't necessarily accept everyone because there's different levels of children's homes. But right now we have 14, and we always have referrals, kind of I'll say in the pipeline, not to make it seem like it's inhumane.

T Terri 33:09

But I think everybody knows, like, we're, referring to it as a pipeline, you know, that they're children waiting, basically.

M Michelle 33:16

Sure, sure. And, you know, it's kind of like a domino effect. Because there might be people waiting to come into our care. And we might be waiting to transition, someone who's in our care to another location who needs more attention. It goes into detail. But But yes, right now

we have 14, and we have children, ages eight, to 18. And then we also have two beds that we hold for children, ages 18 to 20, who might not have anywhere to go, and they might not be ready to live on their own. So we want to make sure that they have everything they need all the tools that they need to be successful.

T Terri 33:54

Excellent. And can you give us an idea of how long do they typically stay with you?

M Michelle 34:01

Sure. That also ranges we sometimes have what we call emergency placement. And it might just be for a weekend or maybe two weeks. But we have kids that have been with us for three years, and maybe even longer before my time. But it since my time we've had actually siblings that were with us for three years. And I'll actually never forget it was my very first week. And the Friday, my first Friday there, all three siblings were taken into the same foster family.

T Terri 34:38

Oh, wow.

M Michelle 34:38

And it was very bittersweet because as you can imagine, the staff became close. They were their guardians. So everyone, it's kind of a tradition. Everybody goes on to the front porch and waves in you know, tears. But that's what you want for them. Right.

T Terri 34:54

Exactly. Happy tears.

M Michelle 34:56

You want them to have a home. It was it was very, very bittersweet.

T Terri 34:59

I love that. That's, that is really nice. Can you explain a little bit about what you would determine is the greatest value that your organization provides to the community?

M Michelle 35:10

Well, and that's hard to because is it when you say community, is it the residents or the community at large? For the residents that we have, I would say that we provide them with a second chance. Because some of them don't have a good home environment. And we provide them with the structure and the opportunity to have, I'll say, somewhat normal childhood, you know, we keep them busy, we have social activities, we transport them to and from school we help them secure job. So really just providing those, the foundation for them that a guardian or parent would, we also provide them with independent living skills, it's one of the foundation of our services, so that when beyond our care, they're able to live a successful life and flourish. For the community. I would like to say that Manchester in particular, that we're hopefully providing these kids with an opportunity to be our future leaders.

T

Terri 36:16

Oh, I love that. That's wonderful. You had mentioned that about the three siblings, and that they found their forever home with foster care is that typical of part of your process is to place them into a permanent family situation, like do you work with the foster care system of New Hampshire, or other agencies too I guess, not just that one.

M

Michelle 36:40

Sure. And, and that ranges from child to child, some of some of the children will transition back with their family, for whatever they have going on in their life, perhaps they have addiction or other challenges, the families were trying to work through those challenges. And they may still have guardianship. And the kids will stay with us until they're ready to transition back. In other cases, we have children whose parents lost custody. And so they might be with us, hoping to go into foster care, hoping to be adopted. And if that's the case, we don't necessarily lead that charge. But our staff works very closely with the services within the state. And so typically DCYF, or the case managers would help facilitate putting them on the New Hampshire adoption website, for example. So we might have kids in our home that are hoping to be adopted, and you would find that information up on the adoption site. But right now, I don't believe any of our children are in that position. I believe they are hoping to transition home.

T

Terri 38:05

What that's, that's wonderful, as well. What are some ways that beyond voting for the Webster House in this particular campaign, but what are some other ways that people can get involved with the Webster House in terms of support?

M

Michelle 38:19

Thank you. Well, we have an amazing board of directors, and one of our committees, is really helping us like I had mentioned, get our name out through social media. So we have a website, websterhouseh.org. And through that website, you can find all of our social media platforms, which I am not an expert in. However, we do have a Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn account, as well as our website and one of our board members created a link tree, which I never knew anything about. But on the link tree, you can find all of those platforms. And we do

have our one fundraiser every year. It's the Annual Night of Giving, and it's our third year, and it's on April 3 at the Manchester Country Club. And that information can be found on our website as well. This our goal is \$300,000. And we're already at \$150,000.

T Terri 39:12
Wow, great.

M Michelle 39:13
We only have about 30 seats left. So if you're interested, please go to our website, and you can also find my information. Reach out to me for more.


T Terri 39:22
That's wonderful. That actually concludes everything that I had. Is there anything else, Michelle, that you would like to share that we didn't get an opportunity to cover?


M Michelle 39:31
I just want to thank you first and foremost, because like I said, it's really important that people understand what our mission is. For a long time, and the house has been there, you know, 140 years, some people think it's a halfway house. Some people think it's, you know, some sort of rehab. They don't understand that it's a home for children. And they're not delinquent children. These are children who, you know, unbeknownst to themselves have just been dealt a hand that isn't favorable. And so we're there to provide them with the services to help them feel unconditional love and give them direction and structure. So I think that's really important for people to know in the community.

T Terri 40:13
Absolutely. Absolutely. Well, thank you for sharing all that you have today. We really appreciate your time. And again, for those who are tuning in for the Share 'Cuz You Care campaign, this is the Webster House. If this has really touched your heart, then please make sure you vote for the Webster House.

M Michelle 40:29
Thank you so much.

T Terri 40:30
Thank you, Michelle. I appreciate it.

 Michelle 40:32
Have a great day.

 Terri 40:32
You as well.

 closing 40:33
That wraps up this episode of The Making Money Personal podcast. If you've enjoyed today's show, we would love to hear from you email your thoughts about this show or any other ideas at tcupodcast@trianglecu.org Thank you to all of our subscribers and if you haven't yet, please hit that subscribe button wherever you listen to podcasts so you don't miss out on any new episodes or money tips. Thank you for listening and have a great day.