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# WINTER 2025

## NEWSLETTER

### SUPPORT

## Donate Today in Three Easy Ways

We appreciate your consideration in helping to support extraordinary children and their families toward a successful future. Contributing to Spaulding Academy & Family Services is as easy as 1-2-3.

#### 1. Online

[SpauldingServices.org/Give](https://SpauldingServices.org/Give)

#### 2. By Mail

72 Spaulding Road  
Northfield, NH 03276

#### 3. Contact the Development Office

603-286-8901 ext.107 or  
[CLEighton@SpauldingServices.org](mailto:CLEighton@SpauldingServices.org)



Spaulding Academy & Family Services is a private, 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, and we are grateful to our many donors and sponsors who support our mission. If you would like to discuss creating a custom package to support your professional or personal giving goals, please contact Courtney Leighton at 603-286-8901 ext. 107.

## Our Mission: Supporting exceptional children and families toward a successful future.

Learn More: 603-286-8901 or [SpauldingServices.org](https://SpauldingServices.org)



## LIMITLESS LEARNING

### Introducing Spaulding's New Podcast



In early November, Charley Suter, our director of technology and innovation, recorded conversations for the first episode of our brand-new podcast called "The Limitless Learning Podcast." The podcast launched on Spotify on Monday, December 23, 2024 and Charley and his team, including Digital Learning Assistant Brendan Donahue, are looking forward to airing new episodes monthly.

Charley and co-host Garrett Lavalée have been dreaming of doing a podcast for years, but we never quite had the space or equipment at Spaulding to turn those dreams into reality. The newly created Innovation Room solved the space problem, and our former director of human resources donated equipment to get the project rolling. Additional investments in microphones, cables and software got the effort up and running with capacity to speak to guests both in person and remotely.



> **For the first podcast episode**, our speech team helped Charley gather questions from students to ask Scarlett Lewis, founder of the Choose Love Movement. Garrett also invited one

of our students to have a conversation with Scarlett and tell her personally about the impact that Choose Love has had on her life. Shannon Desilets, program director of Choose Love NH, joined the discussion and was moved to tears by our student's conversation with Scarlett. "It was incredible to hear the impact that Choose Love has had on a young person's life. Through the podcast, Spaulding is providing an opportunity — once again — for more connection with one another. Thank you for having me as part of it," she said.

The podcast is the result of brainstorming across all Spaulding departments about motivating topics. Our goal is to create engaging content to share with other

educators and the community to educate, inspire and connect. In the future we hope to have students take an active role creating podcasts and utilizing math, science and language skills in the process. We are so excited to share fascinating conversations with both on-campus and guest experts in this way!

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

### Spaulding Meets Rigorous Standards to Earn CARF Recertification



Carol Sanborn, Spaulding's quality assurance specialist, hoists a hefty book onto her desk. The more than 300-page manual outlines all the standards that Spaulding must meet to be recertified by CARF® International, an independent, nonprofit

accreditor of health and human services organizations.

Spaulding must be accredited to receive state and federal funding, but the importance of recertifying goes far beyond just checking off a requirement. Carol says it best when she explains that CARF "comes in as a partner to guide you to being the best organization you can be."

Through on-site visits; surveys with all constituents, including staff, parents and students; and written reports submitted by Spaulding, CARF ensures that we are providing child and youth services safely, effectively and to the highest performance standards. Every aspect of our organization — from the services we provide, to fiscal policies, communications, succession planning and more — is examined as part of the review.



Spaulding is proud to receive CARF recertification for the next three years, but that doesn't mean that we can rest on our laurels.

We provide annual reports to retain accreditation — a job that Carol welcomes because it provides an opportunity to step back and look at how all aspects of our organization come together to fulfill our mission. "It is easy to focus on the day-to-day. The CARF accreditation process ensures that we regularly take a global view of Spaulding's operations and how they work together," she said.

## GENERATIONS OF LOVE

### Staff Spotlight: Amber Groz



When you call Spaulding, chances are good that the cheerful voice you hear on the phone is Amber. As our Administrative Assistant - Reception/Switchboard, Amber is usually the first person to welcome visitors and callers to Spaulding,

but that's just the beginning of her job responsibilities. She is also our go-to person to handle all types of administrative tasks, from clerical work to making staff vehicle and room reservations and so much more.

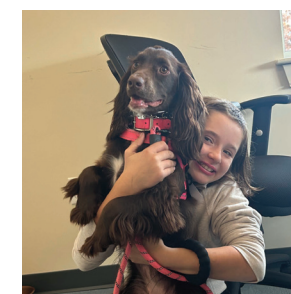
Amber has been in her current position for 3 1/2 years but has been part of the Spaulding family for most of her life. Amber's mother has worked for us for more than 24 years and Amber has fond memories of volunteering with her two sisters for special events when she was young. She joined our Food Services team 11 years ago but jokes that "11 years ago is just when they started paying me to work here."

Spaulding has a special place in Amber's heart — not just because she grew up accompanying her mother on campus, but also because she finds it so gratifying to serve on a team to help provide students with

childhoods full of safety, opportunity and love. Amber is clearly a "people person" and it is no surprise that she treasures time with family and friends most of all when she is not working. We are so thankful that Amber followed in her mother's footsteps to Spaulding and brought her warm, welcoming personality and invaluable skill set to our team!

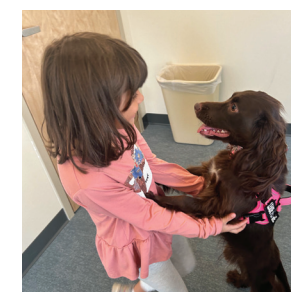
## WELCOME ABOARD

### Meet Millie



Our latest team member is a year and a half old with warm brown eyes and a tail that never stops wagging! Meet Millie, an English cocker spaniel and certified therapy dog.

Millie comes to Spaulding once a week with her owner, Laurie Belanger. Laurie retired from a full-time career as a counselor to provide part-time counseling support at Spaulding. When Millie was a puppy, Laurie thought her gentle, social nature would make her a wonderful therapy dog, and she was right! After extensive training, Millie earned her therapy dog certification and began accompanying Laurie to Spaulding in mid-October.



Millie loves playing and snuggling with students. She is a patient and cuddly audience for stories read aloud and is a calming presence just being with a student who needs a little extra TLC. She has brought out smiles and

conversations for the first time for a few of our students and compassion and caring from everyone who meets her. Welcome Millie!

