

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Favarh - The Arc of the Farmington Valley, Inc.





Dear Friends of Favarh,

We have come so far in our collective effort to advocate for and empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Just 65 years ago, people with disabilities were not allowed to attend school with their peers, which is why Favarh was originally formed. Today, the landscape of opportunity for people with IDD has vastly expanded thanks to the tireless efforts of self-advocates, and dedicated families, friends, and supporters like you.

In 2023, Favarh helped over 250 individuals to live independently, to find gainful employment, to volunteer in their communities, to graduate post-secondary education programs, to participate in life-affirming social activities, and to achieve their personal best. We celebrated the return of the Favarh Players Theater Program, and finally performed Aladdin Jr. after a three-year Covid-19 induced hiatus. We built new partnerships with employers, social groups, and other nonprofits to strengthen our community ties. Our residents at Lavender Fields celebrated their one-year anniversary of living independently in their own apartments. It was a good year.

Despite the many successes of our supported individuals, we know there is still so much more to look forward to. Supportive Housing programs like Lavender Fields and Bear Woods are spreading rapidly across the state of Connecticut and beyond, empowering hundreds of individuals with IDD to finally realize their dream of living independently. We are proud to be at the forefront of this movement and are eager to continue supporting other organizations to build Supportive Housing programs of their own.

Thank you for your continued support of Favarh, and of people with IDD. We can't believe how far people with disabilities have come, and we can't wait to see where they go next.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen E. Morris".

Stephen E. Morris
Executive Director

Our Mission

THE MISSION

To Help Each Person Achieve Their Personal Best.

THE VISION

Our Vision is of a future where each person with an intellectual or developmental disability is living in the community and has the supports needed 1) to be a contributing citizen, 2) to live as independently as possible, and 3) to enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Growth
Innovation
Advocacy
Collaboration

VALUES

Safety
Wellness
Equity, Opportunity, Inclusion
Leadership Development
Fiscal Responsibility



Brandon

Brandon made his theater debut in Favarh's Aladdin Jr. this year. When he's not acting he enjoys working at Favarh's thrift shop and participating in Special Olympics.

Leadership

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PATRICIA NADEAU
Director of Residential Services

GAIL NEBEL
Director of Employment Services

PENNY PHILLIPS
Director of Marketing and Communications



Anne Marie

Ann Marie, who recently celebrated her 63rd birthday, has also reached a milestone in her life by retiring after an amazing 27-year career at the local Stop & Shop. She is a resident at Favarrh's Lavender Field Apartments.

Favarh by the numbers

252 total individuals with IDD served

103 residents in Favarh housing

110 people employed in the community

104 people engaged in daily life enrichment programs

67 people transitioning from adolescence to adult life

166 people utilizing Favarh transportation

100 people participating in Recreation programs

100+volunteers

Favarh provides programs and services that empower people with IDD in every aspect of life, from adolescence through old age. We believe that every person is capable of leading a healthy, active, fulfilling life as a valued member of their community, as long as they have the right support. Our job is to create structures that help people with IDD to overcome the challenges they face, to pursue their goals and dreams, and to thrive.

Some of the supports we provide include housing, employment and day programs, school to adult transition, recreation, transportation, and more. We also help individuals realize their personal goals, from authoring a book to acting in a short film.



Robert

Robert loves to express himself through his many t-shirts... He has one for every occasion! He is a great conversationalist and is always excited to talk about his numerous interests including hip-hop music and dance.



Programs - Residential Services

2023 saw continued growth of our Supportive Housing program. Residents at Bear Woods apartments and Lavender Field apartments celebrated their two year and one-year anniversaries of living independently in their own apartments! Two additional Supportive Housing projects based in Farmington were also approved. They are set to open in 2024, and 2026.

Supportive Housing Timeline

- 1983: First Favarh residential program opens (group home)
- 1995: Individuals placed in scattered apartments
- 2008: Avon Old Farms apartment complex opens
- 2015: Ojakian Commons opens
- 2021: Bear Woods apartments opens
- 2022: Lavender Field apartments opens
- 2024: 80 South Road apartments set to open
- 2026: Second Farmington apartments opens

Group Home Renovations

Providing homes that are safe, accessible, and welcoming is one of our top priorities. This year, we completed major renovations at Sunset and Alleluia group home to ensure they continue to meet their inhabitants changing needs for years to come.



John

John moved into Bear Woods Apartments in 2021. He enjoys having his own place to practice karate, cook dinner after work, and kick back on weekends with his roommate.

Bear Woods Apartments



We believe that meaningful employment opportunities can transform lives and strengthen communities. Our Employment Services program connects individuals with IDD to rewarding job opportunities that match their skills and interests. We partner with local businesses and organizations to create inclusive workplaces where everyone can contribute and thrive.

Like many people, employment provides our supported individuals with pride, purpose, independence, and belonging in the community. In turn, companies get to employ enthusiastic, dependable, workers who are grateful for the opportunity to be part of the team. Together, we make a stronger workforce and a more integrated community.



Community Partners Employment

- Accel International
- Dyno Nobel
- Farmington Library
- Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center
- Hospital For Special Care
- Kamatics Corporation
- Legrand Wiremold
- Microcare
- Paragon Medical
- U.S. Electrical Services, Inc.

Chris

Chris is a hard worker. He is employed five days a week in the kitchen at Hospital For Special Care where he works as a member of the dish washing crew. He achieved his goal of independence when he moved from his family home into Bear Woods Apartments rooming with his longtime friend.



Programs - Day Services

At Favarrh, our Day Services program is designed to empower individuals with IDD to live their lives to the fullest. We provide a wide range of enriching activities and personalized support to ensure that each individual can explore their interests, build skills, and cultivate meaningful relationships in a safe and nurturing environment.

Every day, our supported individuals are out in the community, volunteering, participating in local events, and frequenting their favorite establishments. Back at Favarrh, we welcome a steady stream of volunteers, service providers, and other community members who run arts and crafts classes, educational seminars, music and pet therapy, and more. Through innovation and compassion, we continue to expand our services and adapt to meet the evolving needs of our community.

Community Partners Day Services

- A Beautiful Life Project
- Auer Farms
- Avon Senior Center
- Collinsville Congregational Church
- Fitzgerald's Food Store
- Flatbread Restaurant
- Foodshare
- Friendly Hands Food Bank
- McLean Foundation
- Meals On Wheels
- Playhouse on Park
- Services for The Elderly
- Starbucks
- Valley Community Baptist Church



Sylvia

Sylvia lives at Favarrh's Main Street group home and attends Favarrh's Day Program five days a week. She's a fan of Zumba and loves to come to all the Favarrh dances.

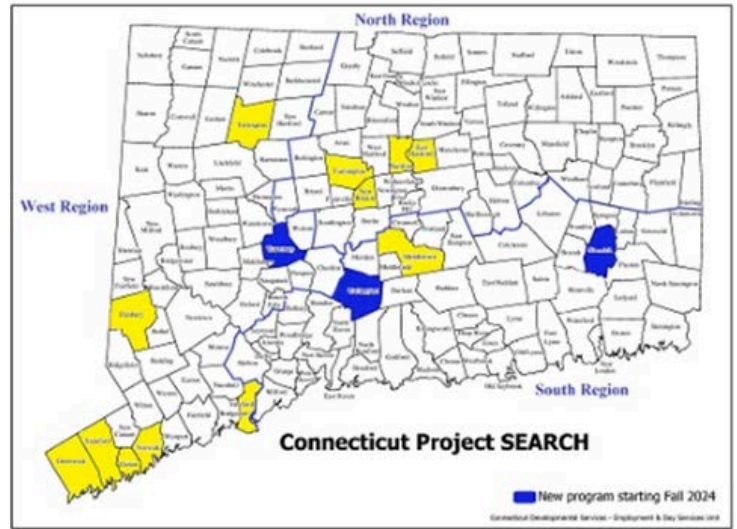


Programs - Transition Services

Making the transition from high school to 'adult life' can be a daunting change for anyone. Our transition program ensures adolescents with IDD receive the proper education they need to successfully bridge the gap to adulthood. We are now partnered with nine school districts across Connecticut to provide an alternative path to high school students, and most students stick around to become part of our community after they graduate.

This year, seven individuals graduated from Favarh's Project SEARCH, our internship program in collaboration with UConn Health. These individuals all found competitive, individualized employment in the community thanks to the skills they developed as interns. To date, 99% of program participants have found community employment as a result of Favarh's Project SEARCH. Seventeen new Project SEARCH sites have launched across the state since Favarh first introduced the program to Connecticut in 2015.

2024 Project SEARCH expansion in Connecticut



Source: [CT Department of Developmental Services Website](#)

Cate

After graduating from Project SEARCH, Cate successfully landed a job as an administrative assistant at Mintz + Hoke Advertising. She is also the unofficial chief morale officer, event planner, and a valued part of the team.



Programs - Recreation Services

Recreation and Wellness activities play a crucial role in the health and wellbeing of our community members, especially in the wake of the pandemic. This year, we were especially grateful to congregate for yoga, Zumba, walkfit, Yard Goats games, holiday dances, and more.

The Favarh Players theater program also made its return, performing Aladdin, Jr. after a three-year hiatus. We also formed a new partnership with October Kitchen who now provide affordable, healthy premade meal options to our residents living independently. These meals enable our residents to maintain a healthy diet on a budget while staying engaged and active.



DJ

DJ lives at Favarh's Old Farms Crossing Supportive Housing program in Avon, and loves to participate in theater, sports, and other recreation activities. He is a proud Special Olympian.

Favarh Player in The Lion King





MARCH 16, 2023

INCLUSIVE THEATER GROUP RETURNS TO STAGE WITH 'ALADDING JR.' IN WEST HARTFORD THIS WEEKEND

by Emily DiSalvo | CT Insider
In the three years since 2020, Lauren and Scott Masson fell in love, married, and moved to a new apartment in Canton. But the couple has yet to perform in "Aladdin Jr.," a play they've been preparing for since pre-pandemic.



MAY 2, 2023

ARC OF FARMINGTON RECEIVES \$1.5 MILLION GRANT TO HELP BUILD THIRD SUPPORTIVE HOUSING COMPLEX

by Steven Goode | CT Insider
The Arc of the Farmington Valley has received \$1.5 million grant to help build a third supportive housing complex that will set aside units for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.



MAY 1, 2023

PROGRAM TOUTS ITS 98% PLACEMENT RATE

by Ed Stannard | Hartford Courant
Project SEARCH, a partnership between The Arc of the Farmington Valley and UConn Health, has meant meaningful work for dozens of young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

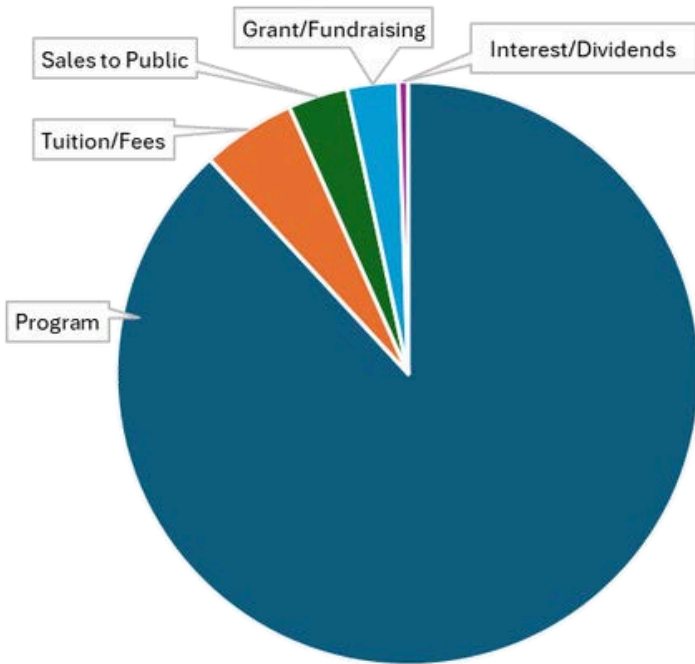


NOVEMBER 1, 2023

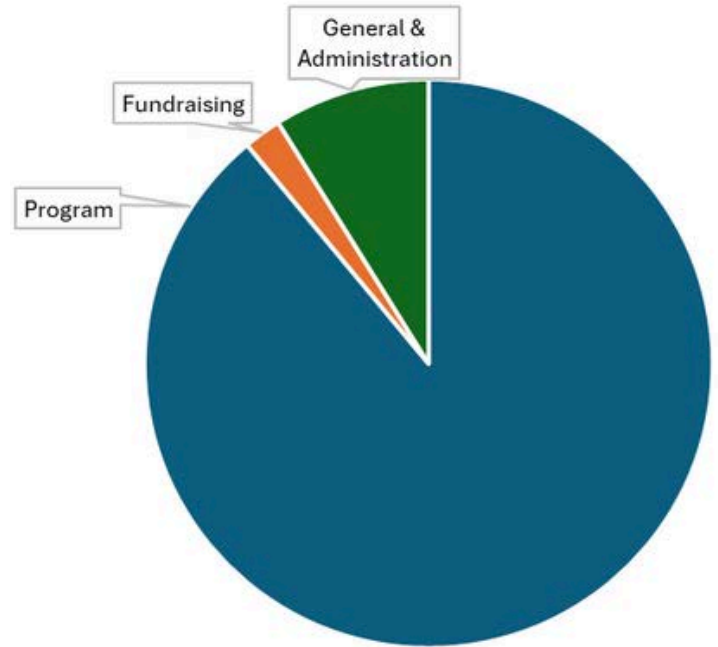
FAVARH MARKS 65 YEARS OF IDD SERVICE

Today Magazine CT
Nestled in the heart of Connecticut stands an organization that has been quietly transforming lives for 65 years.

Revenues



Expenses



At Favarh, we are continually focused on strong stewardship of the money and resources we receive to support our mission

Our commitment to our funders and our participants and their families is to provide mission focused, leading edge, cost effective services that help each individual we serve to reach their personal best.

We do this through sustained emphasis on revenue generation and strong commitment to cost control. We utilize fundraising dollars specifically for capital improvements, expansions, and safety enhancements, all of which help us meet the ever growing needs in our community.

We believe these needs -- such as community living, job opportunities, and recreation activities -- are essential for each person to achieve their personal best.

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Kimberly's dream of an independent life apart from her family was made reality when she moved into Favarh's Bear Woods Apartments.

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Cynthia Smith



David is always smiling. He lives with friends at Alleluia Group Home. He's a fan of old-time music and loves moving to the beat.

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 Union Savings Bank
 Foundation
 United Way of Central &
 Northern Connecticut
 Voya Financial
 Workers' Compensation
 Trust



Lindsey recently moved from her parent's home to live at Sunset Hill Group Home. She is very active, walks and runs regularly, and studies marshall arts.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you feel there is an error, please contact Sean McCarthy at smccarthy@favarh.org.

**HELPING
PEOPLE
ACHIEVE
THEIR
PERSONAL
BEST**

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