

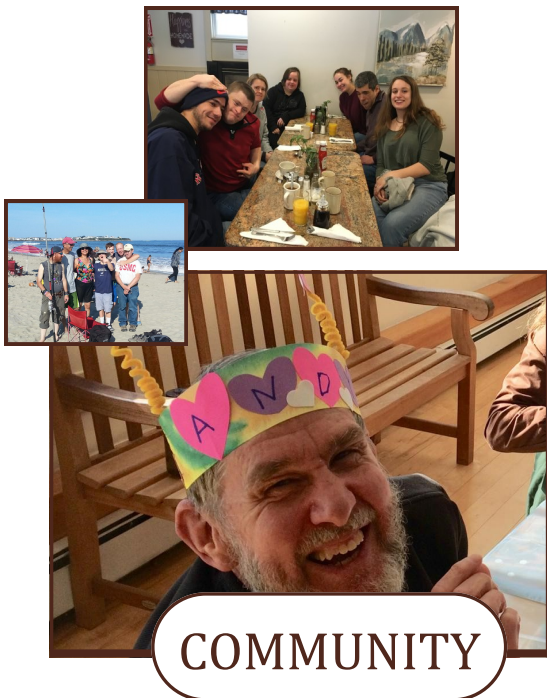


October 28, 2020

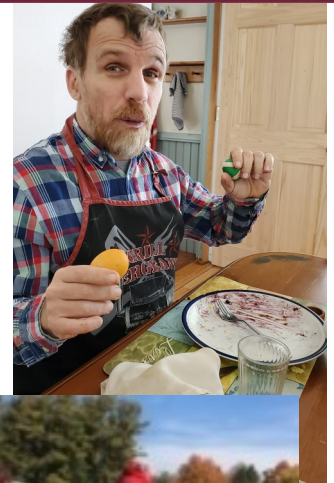
## Hello to Lukas Friends and Families:

It goes without saying that the coronavirus pandemic has rocked the entire world. In March 2020, the number of cases spiked and NH ordered all long-term care facilities to “stay-at-home”, essentially isolating our vulnerable population. Today, there have been nearly eleven million confirmed cases in the United States alone. In the midst of an intensifying pandemic and a political whirlwind, Lukas has stayed steady and all of our residents and staff are safe.

## How is that possible?



Some of the many faces of the Lukas Community



The Lukas Community is an intentional, residential community where our four houses have become separate ‘pods’. Our residents and staff live, work, eat, and socialize together in a safe environment. In many ways we were already uniquely suited to quickly and effectively implement the “stay-at-home” order. Remember Heightened Scrutiny, when the State forced us to prove Lukas was not isolating our residents and that we regularly participated in the larger community life? Now, I hear repeatedly how lucky we are to have our 65 acres of tranquil land to hike, garden and play, and that Lukas is one of the best residential facilities in NH. **Wow, how times have changed!**





Many of the biggest challenges have been in making adjustments and shifts to our traditional rhythm, program and festivals, which everyone is still coming to terms with, and this has not always been easy.

We are also **fortunate** to have hired our outside staff to replace our volunteers who were forced to return to Germany in March. These wonderful people have become passionate and supportive members of our Lukas family.



While life at Lukas remains one of consistency, peace and rich programs within each house, we are also experiencing costs that we had not foreseen. Nor have we experienced a staffing model based solely on paid outside staff to work with our houseparents. We continue to work out the nuts and bolts of scheduling, but with the loss of our volunteers (who lived 24/7 at Lukas),

**our staffing budget has grown exponentially.**





The responsibility for safeguarding our residents, staying nimble with the changing requirements in the early days of the pandemic, and being physically cut off from the larger communities that are such an important and enriching part of our lives has not always been easy by any means. But working through these challenges with our houseparents and outside staff, who are committed to self-development and ever seeking a deeper understanding and care for our residents as fellow hu-



mans, has been an inspiring and truly beautiful experience. When the residents spend so much of their time with the same small group of people, it can sometimes lead to tensions, but also presents an opportunity to learn more about each other and grow.

We remain **resilient and optimistic** as we all engage in the many 'firsts' this

pandemic has presented.

To those who have donated to Lukas in the past, your support has truly made a positive difference to the well-being of Lukas, and all who live and work here. Your donations not only support our work serving adults with developmental challenges, but are **investments in society** and the way it treats those who may be viewed as less advantaged members – as equals, with dignity and purpose. **We thank you.**

To everyone, past supporters and new friends, we need your help to meet the challenges of the future, and to provide for the well-being of our residents, as they deserve. This year, and the foreseeable future, hold many challenges and opportunities for Lukas. Our website has several links to make it easy to give online, and recurring gifts in any amount are welcome. Please support Lukas, and thank you in advance for joining us in keeping Lukas a special place for a group of very special people.

Sincerely,

**Kristen Stanton, Executive Director**

The Lukas Community

PO Box 137, 63 Memorial Highway

Temple NH 03084







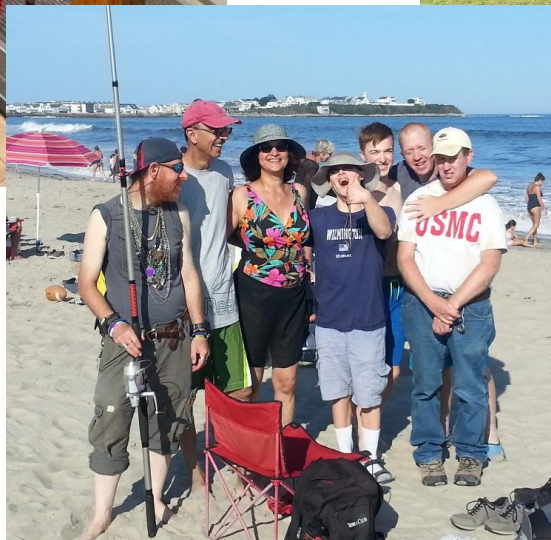
Make a donation online through these secure portals:

**JustGiving™**



For direct links, go to our website:

[https://www.lukascommunity.org/support\\_us](https://www.lukascommunity.org/support_us)



## The Lukas Community

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