

2024 Annual Report



The heart of a volunteer beats in the service to others.

Dedicated to our many volunteers

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

FROM WILLIAM F. FRANK, MD



Dr. Frank (R) with members of the Grahamtastic Team

In a world often driven by numbers and statistics, it's essential to recognize that the true measure of an organization's impact lies in its service to others and the kindness it spreads. At Grahamtastic Connection, we wholeheartedly embrace this philosophy, understanding that our mission is not only to provide support to seriously ill children but also to foster a culture of compassion and generosity. By prioritizing acts of kindness, we create a ripple effect that not only enhances the lives of the children we serve but also enriches the entire community. Through our commitment to service and empathy, we believe that we can truly gauge our success—not just by what we achieve, but by the love and hope we share along the way.

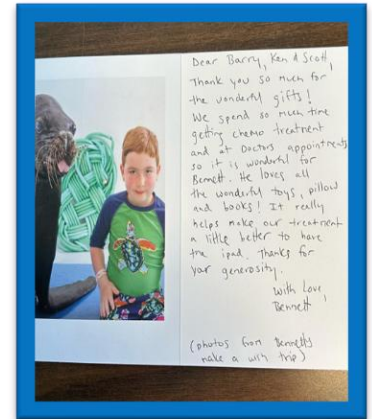
At the heart of our journey lies a profound understanding that while profit and loss are part of any endeavor, the true essence of our work is rooted in compassion and the way we uplift those around us. It's all too easy to become consumed by numbers and outcomes, but what truly matters is how we treat others and the positive impact we can have on their lives. Having been a part of this incredible organization for many years, I have consistently been inspired by our core mission, which is dedicated to supporting children facing serious health challenges and their families. Together, we can create a nurturing community that fosters hope and healing, reminding us all of the importance of coming together to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Imagine a seriously ill child, alone in a sterile hospital room or confined to the walls of their home, grappling with the weight of a daunting diagnosis that fills their heart with fear and loneliness. Each day can feel like an endless battle against uncertainty, leaving them yearning for connection and comfort. But then, a bright moment arrives – a care package filled with warmth and hope. Inside, they discover a computer that opens up a world of connection, a soft, cozy blanket that wraps them in a comforting embrace, and a delightful assortment of age-appropriate toys that ignite their imagination and brings a smile to their face. Among these treasures is a handwritten note from a caring volunteer, filled with encouraging words that remind the child they are not alone, that there are people who truly care about them. The joy that



radiates from such a simple act of kindness is immeasurable, as it not only brightens their day but also instills a sense of hope and belonging during such challenging times.

At Grahamtastic Connection, we are continually touched by the heartwarming pictures and videos sent to us by children as they excitedly unwrap their packages, their beautiful smiles lighting up our

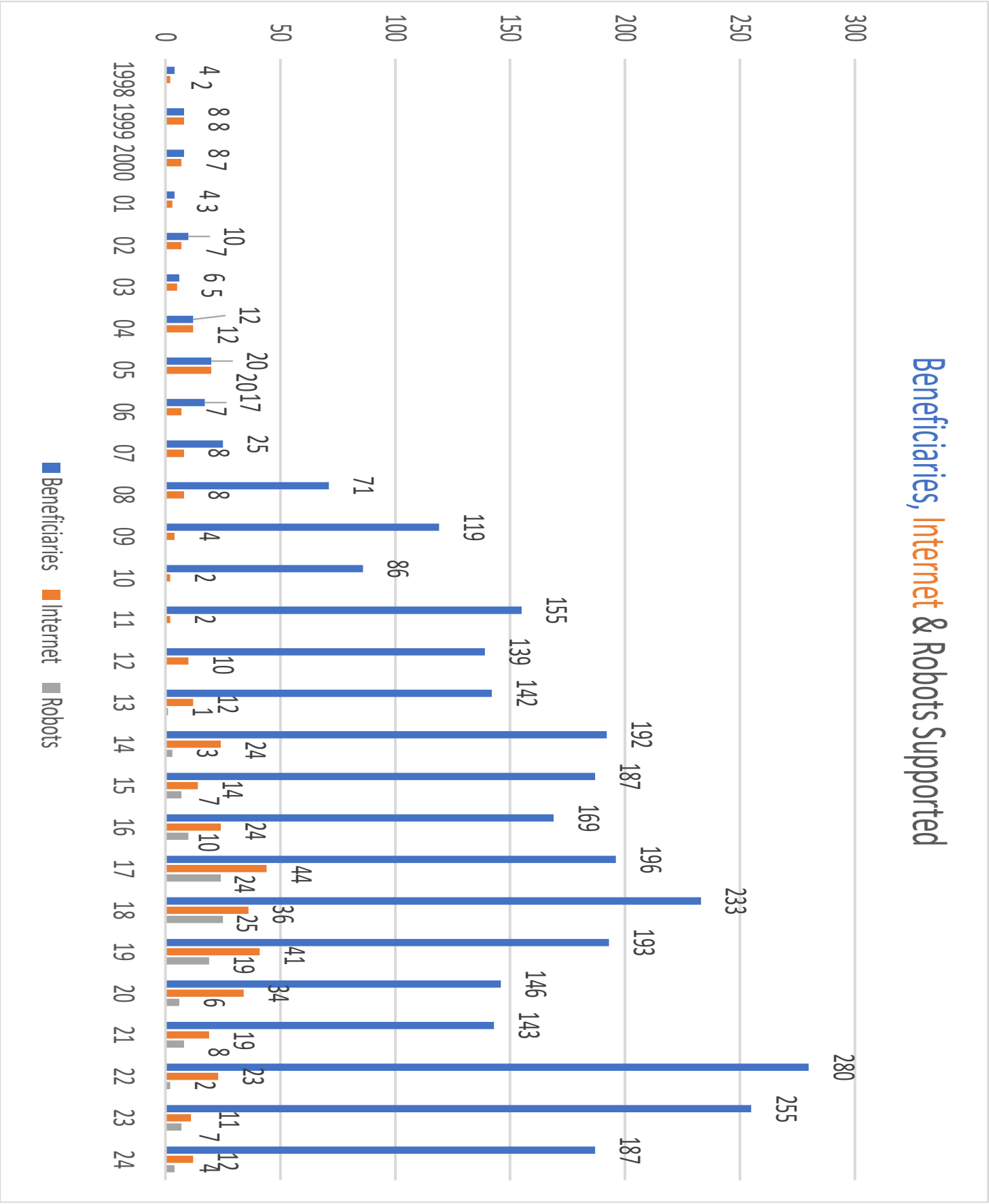


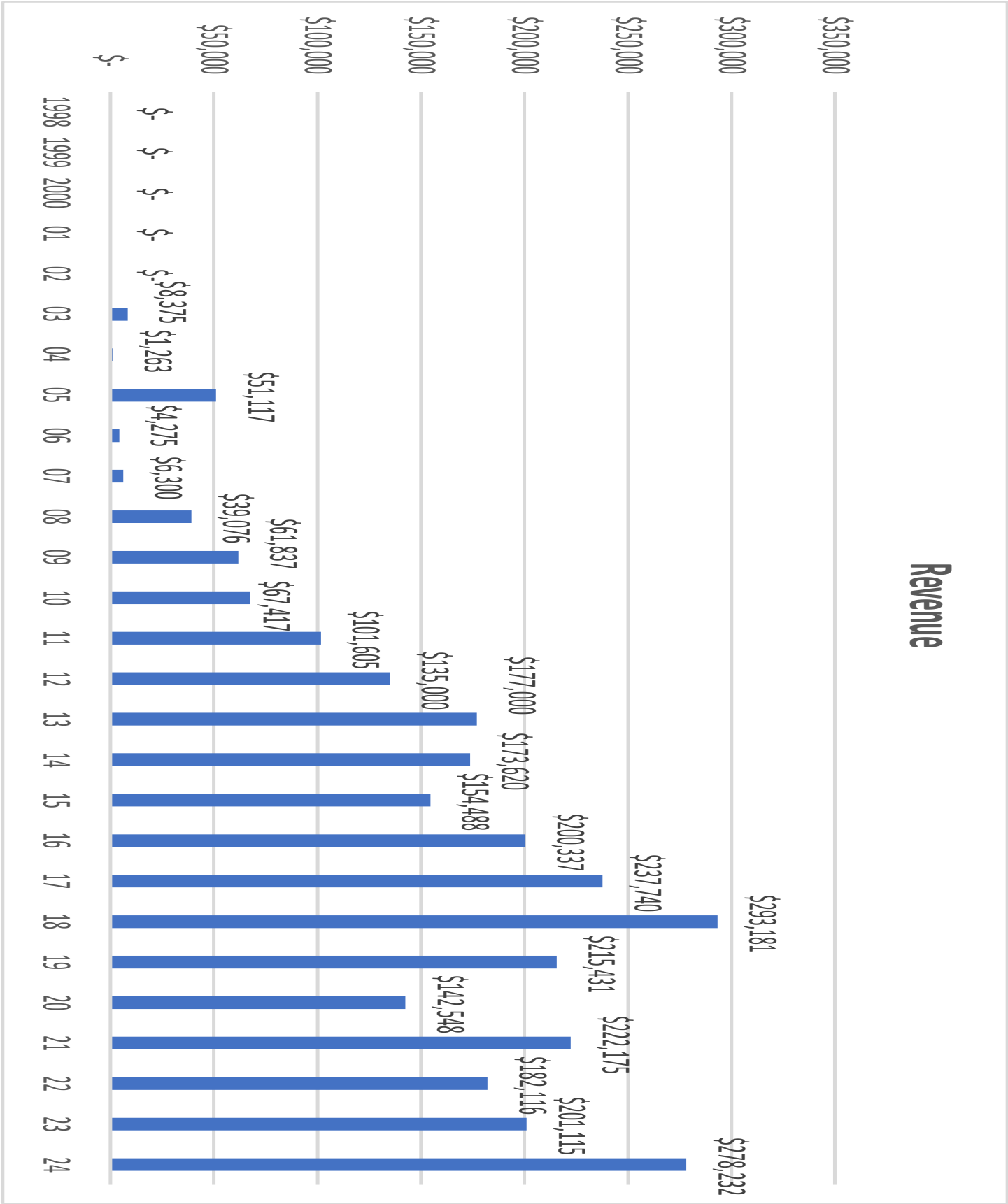
days. It is with immense gratitude that we extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers and generous donors who make this important work possible. Your unwavering support not only brings joy to these brave children but also fosters a sense of hope and connection during their challenging times. Together, we are creating a compassionate community that uplifts the spirits of seriously ill children, and your contributions play a vital role in this mission. Thank you for being a crucial part of this journey! Kindness and Service!

Sincerely,

Bill

Beneficiaries, Internet & Robots Supported





ABOUT GRAHAMTASTIC CONNECTION

Our mission is to provide free technology to children with cancer and other serious illnesses to support their education, as well as their social and emotional well-being. Technology, including iPads, laptops, robots, and internet access, enables our children to continue their education during treatment while also remaining connected to family, friends and medical providers. This technology is virtually bringing them to the places they want to be and connecting them when their world is out of reach.

During this year, we supported 187 children. Each child supported receives a Backpack Full of Joy containing a laptop or iPad with OtterBox case and wonderful accessories such as stuffed animal, a homemade quilt, toy, art supplies and a book.

This year marks our 12th year that we have provided free tele-presence robots for hospitalized or homebound children with 4 children utilizing our robots this year. Of these tele-presence robots, all 4 were placed in Maine schools. Additionally, we have a tele-presence robot placed at Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine and another at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire. We have had a total of 71 children using our robots since our first acquisition. We continue to be an

important resource in providing this service to sick children.

The organization was founded in 1998 by Leslie Morissette in honor of her son, Graham, who sadly lost his battle to cancer in 1997 at the age of 8. Leslie learned first-hand what it was like to spend months at a time in the hospital while her son was in cancer treatment at Maine Children's Cancer Program and Boston Children's Hospital. One of the key needs during such times, and the inspiration behind Grahamtastic Connection, is for a child to remain connected to school, family and to friends during extended periods of isolation. Often this access is out of reach due to medical and financial limitations.

The program started by supporting six qualified children in 1998, providing them with computers and internet access. This enabled them to continue their education while being treated and to communicate with family members and friends. Today, we are proud to have supported 3,068 children with cancer and other serious illnesses, with 398 children receiving internet access as well. Additionally, thousands of ill children have utilized our computers placed in shared areas of hospitals and clinics.

MEET SUPERSTAR ELIJAH, OUR 2024 FEATURED CHILD!

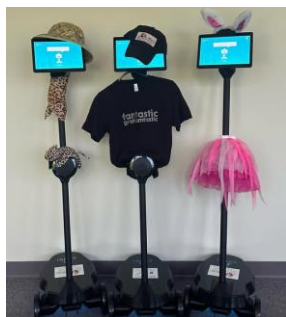
Elijah is an active, funny and caring 12-year-old who was diagnosed with

Blastic Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cell Neoplasm (BPDCN). BPDCN is a rare, aggressive blood and bone marrow cancer that can affect the skin, lymph nodes, spleen, and central nervous system. This rare cancer affects fewer than 1,000 people each year.

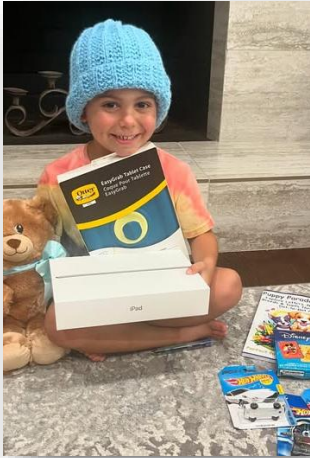
Being hospitalized with cancer was the last thing on Elijah's mind because he was very busy working to become a YouTube star. He absolutely loves creating content for his channels which are dedicated to his favorite pastimes, racing cars, and Legos. Elijah dreams of being a Formula 1 race car driver, but for now, he's practicing his driving skills with his friends through video racing games like Gran Turismo 7.

Elijah is also a huge fan of UConn Men's Basketball Team. To his delight, his favorite team would often visit him in the hospital and also provide him and other patients with free tickets to their home games.

We were happy to support Elijah with an iPad and home internet access while receiving cancer treatment. Today, Elijah is back to school and growing stronger every day, after over a year of aggressive chemotherapy. With the strength and determination Elijah shows, there's no doubt that someday we will see him cross the finish line in first place at the Grand Prix.



OUR CURRENT PRIMARY ACTIVITIES



- Providing laptops or iPads to individual patients for contact with clinics and interactive learning with schools.
- Placing computers in medical facilities where they are accessible to hundreds of children.
- Providing high-speed Internet access to families with seriously ill children.
- Supplying robotic technology in patients' schools, allowing seriously ill children to move around their classroom, walk up and down the school hallways, attend assemblies and field trips and interact with their teachers and peers from their hospital room or home in real time.
- Sponsoring our "Kids Helping Kids" Program, in which children of all ages support Grahamtastic Connection while learning valuable skills and the importance of helping those who are less fortunate.
- Advocating, proactively, at the local, state and federal level for critical measures and action plans focused on closing the Digital Divide and ending Digital Inequality for all children across our country.



THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

We are immensely grateful to Peter Barrett of the Evelyn S and K E Barrett Foundation for introducing us to the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, which has led to a fruitful partnership that exemplifies our shared commitment to community collaboration. Through this partnership, we have successfully placed one of our telepresence robots in the museum, enabling children who are hospitalized to engage with the museum's offerings from their hospital beds, thereby ensuring they do not miss out on vital educational and recreational experiences. Our recent participation in the NH Makers Fest further showcased the transformative impact of our initiative, as families and children of all ages delighted in interacting with our robots at this vibrant event dedicated to invention, creativity, and resourcefulness. This not only highlights the joy that our technology brings to young attendees but also underscores Grahamtastic Connection's dedication to providing emotional and educational support to children during challenging times. We invite everyone to join us in our mission to enhance the lives of children facing serious health challenges, whether through support or active involvement in our initiatives.



RECOGNITION

2024: Comcast Newsmakers “Telepresence Robots Help Children Keep Social & School Connections”
2023: Nourish Award, Northeast Credit Union’s award for enriching and nourishing the lives of others
2023: WGME Featured News Story, “Mainers Making a Difference”
2020: FCC Digital Opportunity Equity Recognition (DOER) Award
2019: Down East Magazine Giving Back Issue featured Non-profit
2019: On the Marsh Golf Course Charity Give-back Month of June
2019: Turbocam Laptop Drive & Charity Spotlight Month of July
2019: Marc Motors Charity Spotlight Month of August
2019: Prime Motor Group Charity Spotlight Month of October
2018: Today Show Mother’s Day Special featured guest
2018: Tourist & Town “Local Heroes” featured story
2018: Woman’s World, Redbook, Good Housekeeping & Woman’s Day articles published
2017: Top 10 CNN Hero
2017: Huffington Post, “5 Innovators Creating Human Connection Through Technology”
2017: Maine’s 20 Outstanding Women, Maine’s Coast 93.1 and Hannaford Supermarkets
2014: Town and Country Federal Credit Union “Good Neighbor Award.”
2012: Toyota 100 Cars for Good. Winner of a Toyota Highlander.
2011: Parent’s Magazine, August issue “Power of Parents.”
2009: John Baldacci, Maine Governor “Exemplary Service Award.”
2008: Guest on CNBC’s “The Big Idea” with Danny Deutsch
2006: WCSH, United Way and TD Bank’s “Six Who Care Award.”



COMCASTNEWSMAKERS.COM

Telepresence Robots Help Children Keep Social & School Connections

Grahamtastic Connection founded by Leslie Morissette in memory of her son Graham, provide...



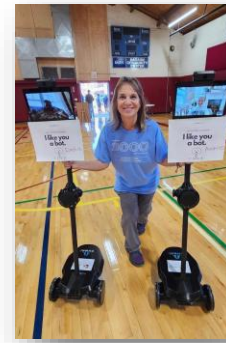
OUR VOLUNTEERS

"Alone, we can do so little. Together, we can do so much" – Helen Keller

At Grahamtastic Connection, our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for our incredible volunteers, whose unwavering commitment and attitude of gratitude truly light up our mission! Your hard work and dedication are the lifeblood of our organization, and the generous spirit you bring means the world to the children and families we serve. Your generosity doesn't just make a difference; it creates a ripple of happiness that spreads far and wide, brightening the days of those we serve! You're not just volunteers; you're the heart and soul of our community, and your unwavering support means the world to us. Thank you for being the superheroes we need! Keep up the fantastic work as we continue to spread joy together!



October – 5K Race Event



March – Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive

February – Partners Bank Jeans Day



STAFF AND SUPPORT

Leslie Morissette, Founder and Executive Director

Kathy Tranchemontagne, Program Director

Volunteer Board of Directors:

Executive Committee:

William Frank, MD, President, Director

Denise Pepin, Vice President, Director

Lien Fajardo, Treasurer, Director

Charlotte Frank Sage, PHD, Secretary, Director

Directors:

Jennifer Clarke-Burke

Jennifer Dolloff

Margaret Trefethen

Adam Quinlan

Advisory Board:

Robert Caron

Dan Cummings

Melody Martin-Robie

Vanessa Nason

Bruce Wooding

Lawrence O'Bryan

Additional Volunteers:

Heather Thomas

Mary Frances Frank

Darlene Burns Quilting & Friends

Favolise Family

Morissette Family

Pamela Cote

Diane Lamontagne

Michelle Palmer

Judy Ley

Elaine Morin

Sharon Liveira

Sew E-Z Quilters

Justin Maynard

Patco Employees

Pratt & Whitney Employees

Northeast Credit Union (NECU) Employees



(l to r) Jenny Clarke-Burke, Director; Leslie Morissette, Founder/Executive Director; Gary Morissette, husband/volunteer; Kathy Tranchemontagne, Program Director and William Frank, MD, President



Vice-President Denise Pepin with husband Dave participating in the 5K



Director Margaret Trefethen and husband Dean participating in the 5K



Quilts by Michelle Palmer



Hat by Diane Lamontagne



Blankets by Judy Levy



Quilt by Elaine Morin



Quilt by Sharon Liveira



Justin Maynard arranging a special delivery!



Quilt by Burns Quilted Memories & Hat by Diane Lamontagne