



Organization Profile:

Incorporated in 1983, One Sky Community Services is dedicated to *assisting people with developmental disabilities or acquired brain disorders to live as valued and participating members in their communities.*

Honoring the inherent value of every human being, we are committed to:

- Helping people make choices about where they live, work and spend time;
- Using all existing resources possible to create and maintain support services that are flexible and responsive to the needs of each individual;
- Assisting families in ways to maximize their support for the individuals we serve;
- Promoting community understanding, acceptance and support for individuals with disabilities;
- Fostering the inclusion of those we serve in community relationships and affairs;
- Working together with citizens, professionals, and partner organizations to realize our mission.

As a private 501© 3 nonprofit organization, One Sky is the designated Area Agency for Region VIII, serving the following 24 cities and towns in Rockingham County: **Brentwood, Deerfield, East Kingston, Epping, Exeter, Fremont, Greenland, Hampton, Hampton, Falls, Kensington, Kingston, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, North Hampton, Northwood, Nottingham, Portsmouth, Raymond, Rye, Seabrook, South Hampton and Stratham.**

One Sky is required to operate under state-mandated rules and regulations, and is the initial point of contact for any individual with a developmental disability or an acquired brain disorder requiring support and/or assistance within our service area. We determine eligibility for available funding, work with eligible individuals and their guardians to identify specific service needs, suggest a variety of possible service providers, help the individual and guardian decide which ones to select, and monitor the quality of care. Through our One Sky *Futures* organization, we also provide direct services, including long-term housing options.

Since 1983, with only a handful of individuals transitioning out of the state's institution (Laconia State School), and relatively few dollars, we have grown into a comprehensive service agency serving over 1200 individuals and families yearly.

From birth to age 3, we provide early supports and services to infants and children with developmental delays or established conditions such as Down syndrome. From ages 3 through 21 we help the families of children with developmental delays and disabilities obtain services and supports to ease the burden of caretaking and enable their children to participate as members of the community in the fullest way possible.

Once an individual turns 21, we work with them and their family/guardian to develop a plan for long-term support that, in most cases, will allow the person to live as independently as possible in their own community. Day services may enable the individual to remain in their own home with a family member who goes out to work, or in some cases, independently. Another option is placement with a state-certified "foster" home care provider, supplemented by in-home or community-based day services. We may also place an individual in a small group home with round-the-clock supervision.

The people we serve – our "clients" – currently receive all of these different kinds of services, either through our One Sky *Futures* service provider or the 18 major service provider partners with whom we work.



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ONE SKY READINESS FUND

For more than 33 years One Sky Community Services has been dedicated to the notion that every individual has the potential - and the right - to live a rich and fulfilling life and make an important contribution to the community in which they live.

Our focus has been to help individuals with developmental disabilities and acquired brain disorders receive the support and services they need to fulfill their potential and make their contribution to their community.

We are now at an important crossroad as an organization.

As the age of the individuals we support increases, so have their needs. At the other end of the demographic spectrum, more and more children are being diagnosed with conditions that qualify for the services we provide. Layer on top of that, the growing workforce and budgetary constraints facing New Hampshire and we are in the midst of a highly challenging financial and service delivery environment requiring us to rethink what we need to do to remain a vital and life-changing organization. In short we need to:

- Become more proactive in advocating for the current and future needs of the people whose lives we want to improve
- Streamline our operations to minimize unnecessary costs, strengthen our financial position and maximize the value delivered to the people we serve
- Embrace and/or develop new programs and services that respond to the needs of the people we now serve
- Partner with other organizations and adopt solutions that are more regional and collaborative in approach
- Strengthen and expand our connection to and visibility in the communities we serve
- Support and reward the dedication and commitment of our employees and to continue to empower them to be change agents for the people they serve

The **ONE SKY READINESS FUND** was created to directly address those critical client and organizational needs that are currently not funded and will not be funded in the future. All development and fundraising efforts will focus specifically on funneling all raised monies into this important fund.

The following are the key areas we have identified as essential to meeting all the needs of those we serve:

- **Client-Centered Employment Assessment and Training Program**

We believe there is a job for everyone we support. The challenge is finding – or creating – that job that matches the interests, skills, and needs of each of those individuals. To do that we need to build a network infrastructure within the business community to enlist not only their support but to bring clarity and understanding of the many advantages hiring people with Developmental disabilities and Acquired Brain Disorders offer their business. But it also means having the resources available to invest in this new business opportunity. To do this, we will:

- **Client-Community Regional Transportation Program**

Many of the individuals we support are either unable to drive a car, or do not have access to reliable and safe public transportation. When they get a job, they must arrange for transportation to and from work. There is no state or Medicaid funding to provide any support. We need to create this program that will tie into already existing transportation efforts to provide a regional system to accommodate and provide direct support to those who are in most need, with the possibility of purchasing van(s) for One Sky to use for those who cannot be accommodated through this program because of particular unique circumstances (to be driven by One Sky volunteers). Because one single organization cannot "do it all" success will be achieved through the creation of partnerships with complementary groups and entities.

- **Dental Care Services Program**

Unfortunately, most of the adults we serve are not eligible for dental care, except in the most extreme cases, and often times that is too late. Lack of decent and appropriate dental care can lead to serious health issues, but it also can create significant self-esteem issues, making their social and economic challenges that much more difficult.

- **Emergency Assistance Fund**

There are many times when those we support need something that we know will provide vital assistance to their everyday life, which traditional programs of support will not cover. This can range from making a van wheelchair home accessible to installing new locks or a smoke detector in a home.

The EAP will enable us to give monetary aid and support to those individuals living marginally, who simply require the basic living needs and safety devices until they are in a better position, socially and economically, to support themselves

- **Gas, Food, and Home Heating Voucher/Card Program**

Often when a child is born with a disability, family members miss a good deal of work, sometimes losing pay, because they are required to travel for specialized care on a regular basis. This program can have a significant impact on the family's financial situation. Food, gas, and home heating vouchers/cards can greatly ease travel costs and income loss.

- **Educational Camp Scholarship Program**

Everybody deserves a period of rest and we have found that one of the many ways we can assist our clients, particularly the children, is providing the opportunity to attend a fun summer camp. This is a very popular program at One Sky and has been greatly reduced due to funding shortages. Many NH camp programs offer activities that are educational and fun, where one can learn new skills and be exposed to new cultural and historical adventures.

- **Life Enrichment Opportunities Program**

One aspect of living a well-rounded and fulfilling life is to have the opportunity to go to a ballgame, attend a play or a movie, or go to a museum. We want to be a position where we can offer those opportunities to the people we serve through the One Sky purchase of group tickets to various educational, cultural, and historical activities and events throughout New Hampshire during the course of the year.