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Volume 1 | March 2023



Announcing staff changes

On Feb. 13, the Greater Falls Connections (GFC) Advisory Board named Neil Allen (they/them) as the new director. Previously they were the communications coordinator and then, temporarily, the interim director. They can be reached at 802-463-9927 or neila.gfc@gmail.com.

In mid-March, Ginger Driscoll (flexible pronouns) returned to GFC as an administrative assistant. She will be responsible for helping to keep the office running as well as focusing on fundraising. "Having a person who is dedicated to fundraising has been a long-time goal," said Allen. "Ginger has been working in grassroots fundraising and received a lot of training so I know she'll be a huge asset to the organization."

Friday Fun Day playgroup has started

On St. Patrick's Day, the first Friday Fun Day playgroup was held at the Rockingham Free Public Library. Nearly 10 families showed up to play with the wonderful toys at the library and enjoy free snacks. Friday Fun Day takes place every Friday, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the library.

The playgroup is made possible through a collaboration between GFC, Parks Place, Rockingham Free Library, and the Springfield Area Parent Child Center.

Family dinners coming soon to Bellows Falls

Dads will gather on the third Thursday starting on May 18. Both dinners will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Parks Place.

The moms and dads with kids ages 0-8 bring their children with them to enjoy the meal together, then the parents get to hang out while we watch the kids. There's a limit to 12 families each dinner and you must RSVP by 3 p.m. on the Monday before each dinner. You can call 802-463-9927 or send a Facebook message to GFC or Parks Place.

The family dinners are made possible through a collaboration between GFC, Parks Place, Rockingham Free Library, and the Springfield Area Parent Child Center.



New members needed for Advisory Board

The GFC Advisory Board seeks new members to help support the work being done in the coalition. The board meets once a month, currently in-person on the second Monday of the month, at 5:30 p.m., along with committee meetings. Members are generally elected to the board during the annual meeting held in late June, however members can be voted onto the board at any time. The application to be a board member is located [here](#).

Job opportunities

Greater Falls Connections is seeking a part-time prevention specialist to join our team. In the role you'll engage with the public and build community as well as help prevent substance misuse and abuse for youth and young adults. We're looking for someone who is organized, has strong communication skills, is open-minded, a team player, has a positive outlook, is a good listener and, ideally, has life experience. 30 hours a week plus benefits. For more information about the position, click [here](#).

Building a Positive Community is seeking a part-time communications coordinator/administrative assistant. In this position, you will increase the external and internal capacity of BAPC administrative functioning, outreach, and capacity-building, thus supporting the successful achievement of the mission. Hours are flexible. Up to 1300 hours a year which is approximately 25 hours per week (option to work more or less hours over the course of the year; as well as holiday, vacation, and sick time. To apply, visit [here](#).

Youth Services has a case management position for the family support specialist. This position will work with youth aged 12-17 and their caretakers around stabilizing factors to support them toward living independently. See more on their website [here](#).

West River Valley Thrives is hiring a new coalition director to lead the organization's efforts to build community and capacity around substance abuse prevention efforts. Please see the full job description [here](#).

'Any Time of the Year' donations

You can support GFC during its 'Any Time of the Year' giving! It's community members like YOU who have helped guide us as we continue to bring a collaborative and holistic approach to our work with youth and families impacted by substance use disorder and trauma. THANK YOU to those who have supported us with their generous donations over the past year! Click [here](#) to donate.

Keep your kids and pets safe with lock boxes

GFC has lock boxes that can be used to prevent your kids and pets from getting to



emergency medical care because they ate cannabis products and waste that was not properly disposed. One way to prevent them from having access to them, is to store them in a lock box. This is also a great way to keep your kids and pets from getting into your prescription medications too. Give us a call at 802-463-9927 ext. 208 or send an email to info@greaterfallsconnections.org.

Need help talking to your kids about cannabis? Check out our video with tips for parents to talk to their teens about cannabis and marijuana. Watch [here](#).

Ready to give up smoking?

If your New Year's resolution to give up smoking or vaping is not going as well as you hoped, cessation classes can help get you going or stay on the path and provide support with patches, gum, and a teacher that understands the struggle. You can register for classes at myhealthyvt.org. While you're there, check out the other healthy lifestyle programs available.



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