



Empowering Youth
Strengthening Families
Building Community

LARAWAY

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES



March 2012

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Justin Philie

Greg Stefanski,
Executive Director

March Madness! Mr. Lincredible! It's just a game, right?

This time of year with playoffs starting, basketball gets a lot of attention. Many Laraway youth—and staff—enjoy a good game of hoops.

At Laraway School, we concluded another successful season of **Shooting For Goals** in which students join **Johnson State College Coach Mike Osborne** and **JSC Women's and Men's Basketball Teams** to develop skills and play ball.

Many youths in our foster care program play on area public school teams. We had a huge turn out for **Laraway Night at JSC**. This event brings youths, their families and friends, and staff together for pizza and a chance to watch the JSC teams in action.

Sure, basketball is just a game. It's also a gateway to important life lessons. Young hoopsters push themselves physically while learning about teamwork. College players are positive role models and mentors. Spending time on a college campus improves a young person's chances of continuing education beyond high school. Thank you to Coach Osborne and JSC players—you're Lintastic!

Regardless of how much—or how little—you suffer from March Madness or Linsanity, best wishes for a great spring!

Greg Stefanski,
Executive Director



Laraway forms partnership with local faith community

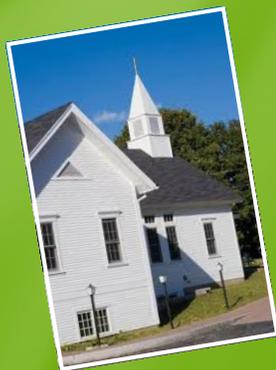
The question posed to **Fr. Rick Swanson** was simple: "What would you think if we began a ministry serving the needs of kids in Lamoille County?"

This initiative, spearheaded by a parishioner and embraced by the larger congregation, spurred a unique philanthropic effort by **St. John's in the Mountains Episcopal Church** in Stowe, Vermont.

Parishioners created the **St. John's Fund for Lamoille Community Children,**

which, by design, provides grants of up to \$75 to children who need assistance. Laraway is fortunate to have been selected as a beneficiary agency.

From winter jackets, to school clothes, to musical instruments, to therapeutic horseback riding lessons, the grants are bringing tangible, life-giving benefits to the youth we serve. We appreciate the generosity of this faith community.



**Anonymous
Donor
Issues Capital
Campaign
Challenge
Grant**

With just under \$20,000 left on our \$900,000 goal, an anonymous donor will match all donations received by March 31, 2012, up to \$5,000

“Community support for our project has been amazing. Our new facility allows us to meet growing demand for our highly specialized services”

**Katherine Stamper
Laraway
Development
Director**

Donations can be sent to Laraway or made conveniently online at www.Laraway.org

Save the Date!

**Capital
Campaign
Donor
Appreciation
Event**

**Thursday
May 31st
4:00-6:00**

**Join us for ice cream,
music and fun!**

Individuals

- Anonymous
- Jim & Jennifer Adkisson
- Bill & Susan Barlett
- David Bergh
- Doug Boardman & Jacqueline Gale
- Elise Braun
- Sue & Paul Cano
- Tom Carney
- Alice & Alfred Ceppetelli
- John & Rachel Duffy
- Naomi Dumbleton
- Paul & Mary Dupre
- Charles & Patricia Eyler
- Sharon Fortune
- Sally Fraize
- Robert & Lois Frey
- Ellen Hill
- Scott & Sally Johnson
- Jane Kennelly
- Robert Kilkenny
- Fred & Mary Killenbeck
- Stanley & Christina Kluckowski
- Carrie Lambert
- Ted Lancaster
- Paul & Lori Ledak
- Gertrude & Jeannette Lepine
- Janice Lovell
- T. Kent & Natalie Mitchell
- Barbara Murphy
- Sidney & Marian Nichols
- Jolly Parker
- Judyth Pendell
- Chris Piatek
- Pamela Polhemus
- Nicholas & Patricia Racheotes
- Dan Regan & Jude Matheson
- Casey & Howard Romero
- Michael & Barbara Sadowsky
- Bill & Kate Schubart
- S. Arnold & Karen Smith
- Richard & Joy Spanier
- Kermit & Hazel Spaulding
- Katherine Stamper
- Terry Starkey
- Robert Stearns
- Elizabeth Steele
- Greg & Jennifer Stefanski
- Patricia Stuart
- Meg Sweitzer
- Victor Swenson
- R. Marion Taylor
- Duncan & Nancy Tingle
- Phil Wells
- Lee & Sharon Weltman
- Alice Whiting
- David & Peggy Williams
- Ann Zinser & Gregory Stefanski

In Honor of

- Jim & Sally Southard

Businesses / Organizations

- A+ Appliance Repair
- Avery Appraisal
- Bee's Knees
- Butternut Mountain Farm
- Buffalo Mt. Co-op
- Cady's Falls Nursery
- Champlain Investment Partners
- Concept 2
- Costco
- Craftsbury Outdoor Center
- The Dark Side
- Dig My Loot
- Downs Rachlin Martin
- Ebenezer Books
- Echo Leahy Center
- Essex Cinemas
- Family Table
- Farm Family Insurance
- Fraternal Order of Eagles: Gr. Mt. 3210
- Great Big Graphics
- Grenier Engineering
- Hardwick House of Pizza
- Hoagies
- The Hub
- IBM
- Jimmz Pizza
- Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept.
- Laughing Moon Chocolates
- The Manor
- Manufacturing Solutions, Inc.
- Northern Highlights
- Power Play
- Price Chopper, #137
- Red House
- Ross Environmental Associates
- RG's Turning Heads
- Sabrina's Bakery
- Shaw's General Store
- Shaw's Supermarket
- Smugglers' Notch
- St. Johns in the Mountains Church
- Stowe Insurance
- Stowe Family Dentistry
- Stowe Rotary Club
- Stowe Tree Experts
- Town & Country Honda
- Green Mt. Fund
- Wheelhouse Designs
- Yankee Dollar
- Yummy Wok

If your name was inadvertently omitted, please contact Katherine Stamper at KatherineS@Laraway.org

Meeting the challenge of adulthood

*Mark carries a hard-won maturity,
honed by difficulties he worked diligently to overcome*



Mark*, in many ways, is a typical 17 year old. He stands tall at 6'3" and enjoys basketball and cooking, the latter with ample doses of barbecue sauce.

Mark cuts a handsome silhouette. He is well-dressed and groomed, with blue eyes and a shy smile. Mark harbors a deep desire for a spiffed up Dodge Challenger---black with whitewall tires.

In other ways, Mark is not a typical 17 year old. Issues at home, not of his making, landed him in foster care at age 9. He arrived at Laraway when he was thirteen, attending Laraway School before transitioning to public school. He currently receives foster care services through Laraway.

Mark carries a hard-won maturity, honed by difficulties he worked diligently to overcome.

Mark stands out for his good manners and strong desire to be successful. Growing up in a difficult family situation, he's quick to point out, "I don't want to get in trouble. It's more fun to do the right thing."

As a student studying automotive mechanics in a Vermont technical high school, Mark shows up daily, on time, ready to learn. His instructors have only good things to say about his abilities and, most importantly, his positive attitude. He knows to stay away from drugs and alcohol, common temptations of youth.



Asked about his favorite teacher, Mark is quick to mention an instructor at the technical center who is, "good at explaining things and makes the learning easy."

"Over the last year, Mark has been given small doses of independence and responsibility and he was successful," **Laraway Case Manager Dave McAllister** observes. "He's making very good decisions and is showing real maturity."

Mark acknowledges that it's good to feel trusted by his foster parents and the Laraway staff he has come to know. As he approaches graduation and the prospect of living on his own, he's opting for extended care services, allowable under Vermont State Statute, until age 21.

"More support is better than no support," Mark says. He's actively looking for paid employment, recognizing that one can do more with coins jangling in his or her pockets. Auto mechanics is a field that can't be off-shored. Mark is counting on a job to support himself.

With guidance and a personal commitment to succeed, this fine young man is earning his diploma while acquiring marketable job skills. He's also developing discernment, an ingredient so crucial to living an independent life.

*Name changed to protect confidentiality



MISSION

Providing opportunities for children and families to recognize their individual strengths while supporting them to grow and contribute within our communities

Staff Profile: Cal Stanton, always a kid

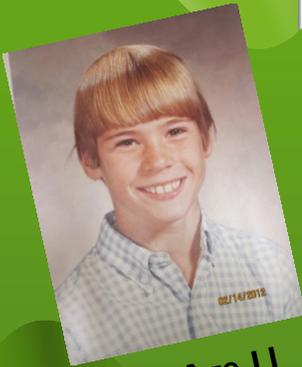
Cal Stanton is a musician, carpenter and dad. He's also the **Behavior Coordinator** in Laraway's School Program.

Cal has been at Laraway for 20 years. He's witnessed many young people grow and achieve in a learning environment attuned to their individual talents and needs.

"We try to create an oasis for kids, a safe place for them to learn," Cal said.

Whether sharing a meal with a youth in the cafeteria or figuring out the math behind a hands on carpentry project, Cal is committed to enhancing the learning that happens at Laraway.

Thanks, Cal, for all you do to help kids at Laraway learn, thrive and grow!



Cal, Age 11



LARAWAY
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

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Laraway Goes GREEN

If you wish to receive this newsletter electronically, please email Katherine Stamper at KatherineS@Laraway.org and indicate GO GREEN in your subject line.
THANKS!

Laraway is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to identifying and building on the strengths of children and youth with emotional, behavioral and mental health challenges, through alternative education, therapeutic foster care and public school based behavioral intervention supports.