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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Rick Aupperlee of Laraway named Lamoille Region Chamber of Commerce Employee of the Year**

Rick Aupperlee has worked for Laraway Youth & Family Services for 18 years. In his present role as School-to-Work Coordinator, he introduces students to the work world. He helps them understand expectations and supports needed to find success on the job. He also works with employers to insure they feel well-supported as they help youth find their footing at work.

Rick is also a strong advocate for hunger awareness and action. Laraway's School-to-Work students often start with volunteer experiences at local food shelves and the Johnson Community Meal. They develop valuable work readiness skills such as showing up on time, maintaining a positive attitude and completing tasks as requested.

"Rick always has a smile on his face, everybody knows his name just like 'Norm' on Cheers in this town," wrote Tom Fondakowski, Dining Services Director at Northern Vermont University and Johnson Community Meal partner in his nomination. "Rick is a soft spoken, modest man, but his tireless efforts, in my opinion, don't get recognized by our community leaders and I wanted to make sure he gets some recognition for everything he does, not only for his community, but giving our youth opportunity at Laraway, assistance to those in need, and coordinating all of us."

Laraway Youth & Family Services is a non-profit 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, therapy and public school based behavioral intervention supports. For more information, please visit [www.Laraway.org](http://www.Laraway.org).

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