GMSS' Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) go to the next level! Changing State and Medicaid regulations will soon require all agencies to document electronically much more information than has previously been required in that format. This change will affect workflows for most agency employees. One critical change will require us to electronically report progress toward goals, something our DSPs are already primarily responsible for both supporting and documenting. Across Vermont, agencies are considering a range of approaches to meet this new requirement.

GMSS has decided that the best way for us to do so is to invest further in our already highly skilled DSPs. The agency has purchased a Chromebook for each of our DSPs and is currently providing targeted professional development so that each of our DSPs will be ready to take on this new task within the coming weeks.

GMSS is excited to be advancing again the skill level of our DSPs and especially pleased that this move away from paper documentation will enable us to evaluate more efficiently the effectiveness and benefit of our provided supports.

Connie Isacksen, New Crisis House Operator
GMSS is excited to have Connie join the team. She originally hails from Long Island, N.Y., and has a physical education degree from Adelphi University. Her family moved to Stowe in 2000 where she taught preschool. Connie worked with Vermont Special Olympics, coaching their ski and snowboard team. She created Phases Coaching, where she helped families learn easy techniques for a calm and happy home. Connie loves the quiet of the mountains and the peacefulness of Vermont. Along with her three boys, they are avid skiers, enjoy x-c and hiking. Summer is all about gardening, swimming, and biking. They love to plan vacation time together and go to the ocean. Connie enjoys reading and learning something new every year. Last year, she earned her NYS real estate license and this year, she is learning to speak and read Spanish.

GMSS Welcomes New Board Member
Scott Robbins is the Director of Development and Communications for Inclusive Arts Vermont and hails from Plainfield. Compassionate and creative, Scott has a personal background coming from a family that included members with developmental disabilities and professional experience in the social services sector, including service to disabled populations, he knows firsthand the importance of this work – not only for those who directly receive services, but for the families, friends, and communities that surround and support them.

In joining the Board, he will be working with the development and communications staff to advise them of best practices in fundraising, the establishment of new avenues of soliciting charitable donations, and strengthening the awareness of GMSS’ impact throughout the communities it serves.

Have a calendar item for next month? An important date everyone should know about? Be sure to email joshs@gmssi.org or marys@gmssi.org.
January Shared Living Provider & Employee Anniversaries

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES
Christina Bell - 2/16/17 (3 years)
Nicole Turner - 2/19/19 (1 year)
Stephanie Lindgren - 2/17/15 (5 years)
Anne Margaret McElroy - 2/28/18 (2 years)

SLP ANNIVERSARIES
Danielle Draper - 2007 (13 years)
Karen Langdell - 2007 (13 years)
Ethan Perry - 2016 (4 years)
Maureen Rimlinger - 2015 (5 years)
Steve Maskell - 2019 (1 year)
Jennifer Adams - 2014 (6 years)
Lisa Maskell - 2016 (4 years)
Lori Demar - 2004 (16 years)
Shari Williams - 2011 (9 years)

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Empowering Neighbors with Disabilities to be at Home in the Community.
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