Congratulations to the Supported Employment team for having a 7% increase in their census count for the state! Their average earning was 84% of the statewide earnings in the fiscal year 2018/19. It has been about 3 years since Vocational Rehabilitation took a 79% decrease in funding, leaving them unable to grant the Supported Employment programs throughout the state. When they did fund the programs and a Supported Employment program reached a 5% increase for the year, they would grant that program a small bonus. This meant the program went above their set outcomes. For example, if the Vocational Rehabilitation grant asked for 3 additional people to be employed in the year, GMSS would get 5 to 7 people employed, which would earn them a small bonus for the program. When Vocational Rehabilitation stopped funding the program, it left the state and agencies to provide their own funding. While there are no longer set outcomes, the data is still kept every year. The state is able to give small bonuses to Supported Employment programs if their census increased by 5%. Green Mountain Support Services Supported Employment program had a 7% increase. It’s never just about making money. Joshua Smith of GMSS states, “This goes for everyone. Finding a job and working connects you to something much bigger than yourself. It gives you a sense of community. You belong. Here in Vermont, a job creates social value as well. No matter where you go conversations with folks will inevitably turn to ‘So what do you do for work?’ supporting folks who are proud to answer that question means so much.”

GMSS supports a gentleman who works at one of the local Maplefields in Morrisville. He is always excited to go to work and is eager to take on more hours. We always make sure the supports he needs are available. This comes in the form of a Direct Support Professional who assists him to ensure that he continues to be successful.

Ultimately the strategy is that we work with his employer to cross train some of his co-workers to help him out, allowing us as an agency to slowly fade back and help when necessary.

As Program Manager of Supported Employment, I would like to thank Debbie Johnson who has moved on as a Service Coordinator but was a huge part of this outcome, and Kelly Cassidy, for all their hard work and dedication to the program. Congratulations, ladies!

JOSHUA SMITH, Executive Director at GMSS
talking about the importance of the Supported Employment program

Joseph O’Riordan stocks shelves at Maplefields in Morrisville.

“This goes for everyone. Finding a job and working connects you to something much bigger than yourself. It gives you a sense of community. You belong. Here in Vermont, a job creates social value as well...”

- Supported Employment Program Manager
Marsha LaBree
March Shared Living Provider & Employee Anniversaries

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES
Liza Bothfeld – 3/23/17 (3 years)
Michelle French – 3/15/16 (4 years)
Diana Clark – 3/28/19 (1 year)
Joe Sheffield – 3/20/11 (9 years)
Casey Dewey – 3/15/15 (5 years)
Kelly Cassidy – 3/27/17 (3 years)
Nia Cusack – 3/26/19 (1 year)

SLP ANNIVERSARIES
Maureen Aldrich – 2013 (7 years)
Pattie Annis – 2009 (11 years)
Frank Buffo – 2003 (17 years)
Bonnie Clark – 2017 (3 years)
Peg Draper – 2001 (19 years)
Dave & Catherine Godfrey – 2018 (2 years)
Laura Hale-Soule – 2016 (4 years)

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

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