We Are Andrus

Summer 2024

OUR MISSION Andrus is dedicated to transforming lives through innovative, coordinated social and emotional support for all.

OUR VISION Our vision for the community we serve is for children and families to discover a place of safety and healing.

Elevating our legacy on a solid foundation

A Message From Our Interim President & CEO, Corine E. Lurry-Mabin

Dear Friends and Supporters, This summer has marked a pivotal moment for Andrus as I step into the role of Interim President and CEO. I am wholeheartedly committed to guiding Andrus into the future, honoring our legacy of compassionate care and impactful community service, and leveraging the strong foundation established by the five pillars of our strategic plan. I am thrilled to share that this season has affirmed our strategic direction and the vitality of our mission. Here are some key highlights from this summer:

Pillar 1: Champion Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging and Accessibility

Our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging and Accessibility Committee has made remarkable strides this summer. Through our outreach efforts and the newly launched "Month Ahead" emails, we've been able to spotlight a rich tapestry of holidays and observances. This initiative fosters a culture of inclusivity and promotes meaningful conversations among our youth and staff, reinforcing our commitment to belonging for all.

Pillar 2: Implement an Innovative Integrated Practice Model

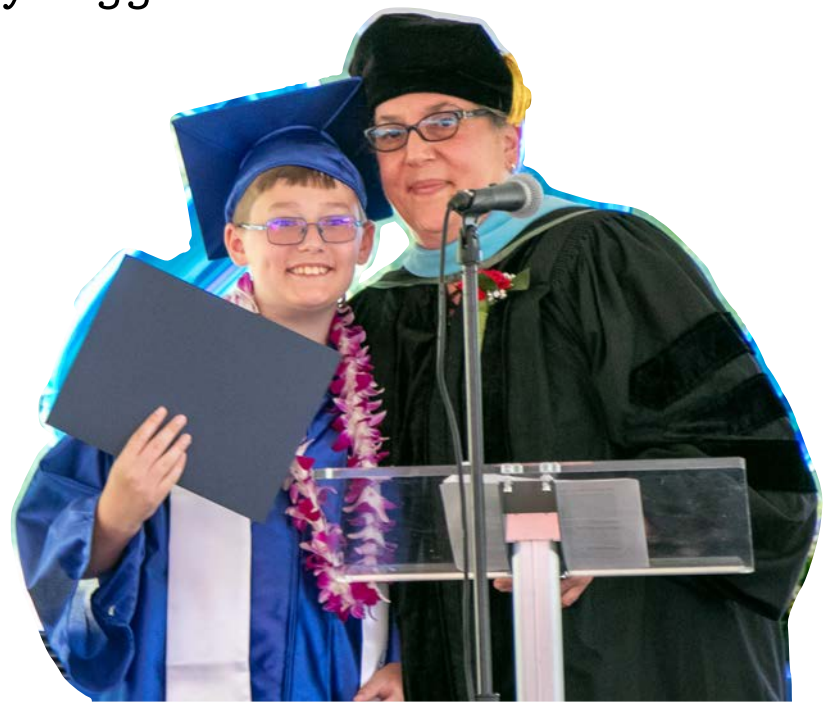
Westchester Medical Center has continued to facilitate seamless care transitions for our youth, enhancing our collaborative efforts. Additionally, our Community Programs, such as Healthy Families of New York Westchester, have strengthened their outreach, elevating Andrus's presence on referral lists from programs like New York State's Health Department's WIC (Women, Infants, Children). Our teams are passionately sharing the breadth of services we offer, and our new website has successfully streamlined access for clients to request services through convenient online forms.

Pillar 3: Build and Sustain a Culture of Innovation We are excited to announce the upcoming launch of a FootGolf course at our Yonkers Campus, an innovative initiative designed to enhance our community engagement and inclusivity while generating revenue to be invested in other programs. (continued page 3...)

We proudly celebrated the Class of 2024 from our Healthy Families New York Westchester County Program. From pregnancy to kindergarten, an exciting milestone!

"If I never came to Andrus, I would have never known how to recognize and manage my triggers and I would never have made so many friends."

At the Orchard School's eighth grade graduation, valedictorian Liam Sperry shared his personal journey. Initially uncertain about attending a new school, Sperry admitted it was difficult to leave behind the life he had always known. However, he soon found support in the staff, made new friends, and embraced his time on campus. Liam credited his success to the positive relationships he built and the valuable lessons learned in managing challenges. **Grateful for the experience, Liam noted that his time at Andrus helped him grow academically and personally, shaping him into the confident achiever he is today.** We are so proud of Liam and our 26 graduates.



Valedictorian Liam Sperry with Debra Argentina, Horticulture Teacher

Celebrating Staff with a Rodeo Roundup

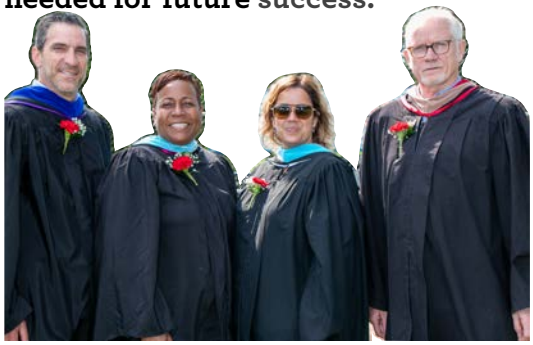
Andrus staff enjoyed a great time together at this year's annual Staff Appreciation Party - a Rodeo Roundup down on the Andrus farm. Thank you to all our staff for all you do! We appreciate you!

Pictured: Michelle Yadon, Director of Theraputic Recreation, Sandra Vilar-Ferreira, Senior Director of Clinical and Residential Service & Desiree Jordan, Residential Clinician.

Pictured Below: Our team enthusiastically participated in the instructor-led line dancing. It was a fantastic experience enjoyed by all.

Board Member James Schutzer Applauds Graduates' Achievements

At the Andrus graduation ceremony, Board Member James Schutzer congratulated graduates for their hard work, growth, and resilience. He reflected on a recent campus visit, noting the challenges students overcame and the unique talents they contributed to the Andrus community. **Schutzer emphasized that graduation marks both the end of one chapter and the start of a new one, with Andrus providing the tools needed for future success.**



Pictured left to right: James Schutzer, Corine E. Lurry-Mabin, Lynette Garcia, Richard Thompson

Andrus Alumni, Aaron Brandt, Inspires Graduates with Keynote Speech

Former Andrus resident and valedictorian, Aaron Brandt, took the stage to share a heartfelt message of resilience and growth with the Class of 2024. Reflecting on his own journey at Andrus, he recalled, **"Mistakes are opportunities for growth, and it's important to never give up, even when things are tough."** With a personal story about his first dirt bike lesson on campus, he emphasized stepping outside one's comfort zone and learning from every experience. "The beauty of being young is that you can afford to make mistakes. Make sure that you learn from them, because nothing in life is free, even life lessons," he advised.

With poignant memories flooding back, Aaron spoke about the challenges faced after graduation and the importance of perseverance. **"No matter how many odds are stacked against you, you now have the tools to persevere and to come out on top."** As he encouraged students to embrace their passions, he concluded with an important reminder: "You now have the tools and power to create and share the legacy and the life that you dream of." The inspiring speech left a lasting impression on both the graduates and their families, reminding them of the strength and potential they carry into the future.

Aaron currently works at Andrus and is pursing a Bachelors Degree in Social Work.

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We look forward to unveiling this project at an exclusive event in November, marking a new chapter in our outreach efforts.

Pillar 4: Strengthen Board Culture and Governance Capacity
During this transition, our board has been an invaluable source of support. They have empowered us to reestablish community outreach. . Together with our senior leadership team, I am actively reconnecting with our nonprofit partners, including Green Chimneys and Greater Mental Health of New York, to cultivate collaborations that will amplify our collective impact in the community.

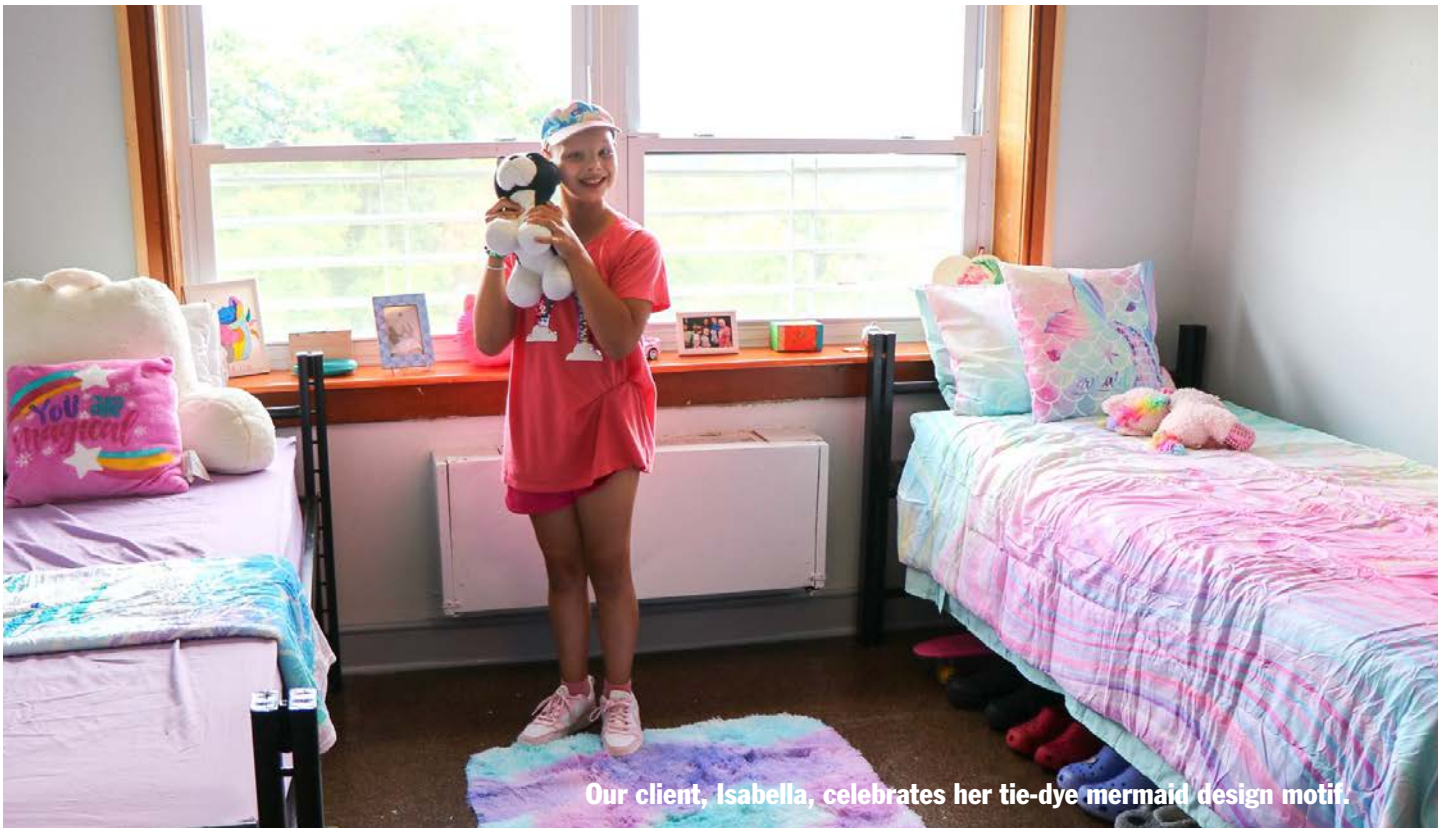
Pillar 5: Deliver Best-in-Class Customer Service
This summer, we reaffirmed our commitment to providing exceptional service by upholding our Sanctuary commitments. I prioritized direct engagement with all teams, fostering open dialogues about their aspirations and challenges. Additionally, I introduced a weekly video message to keep everyone informed about Andrus's progress and new initiatives. A highlight for our on-campus youth has been the new room decorating initiative, which allows residents to personalize their living spaces. Each resident receives a checklist and budget to choose bedding, wall colors, and decor, creating a sense of ownership and pride in their home away from home.

This summer has been both energizing and transformative. I am filled with optimism about the future of Andrus and all that it holds for the children, families, and communities we serve.

Thanks to Orchard School Music Teacher Sean Gillen, Andrus is back to having concerts where students like Aiyana, can showcase their talents

Andrus, Home Away From Home

Andrus Residents Take On Interior Design



Our client, Isabella, celebrates her tie-dye mermaid design motif.

Our Andrus residential students are returning to school after completing an interior design project. We help our youth change their living area into a true home away from home. A place they can be excited about and call their own. A lesson on personal preference and responsibility for their belongings, which they may keep after they depart.

Andrus Summer Olympics

The Recreation Therapy team delivered a summer of engaging activities, from Olympics events to cook-offs.

This summer, our Andrus. recreation therapy team brought the excitement of the 2024 Paris Olympics right here to campuswith the Andrus Olympics!, Our kids teamed up by their residential cottages,diving into a campus-wide competition full of spirit and determination. Each day, they took on new challenges, earning points and showcasing their talents. We witnessed remarkable effort, sportsmanship, and heart in that summer heat!

Our resident, Joel, full of pride with his three gold medals and honorable mention.

Happening at Andrus

October

2	Breakfast on the Farm
7	Bulldogs Homecoming
	Flag Football
24	Haunted Hike
30	Halloween Celebration
31	Diwali Celebration

November

6	FootGolf Reception
14	Health Benefits Fair
28	Thanksgiving Dinner

December

4	Tree Lighting Ceremony
14	Carriage Rides
19	Holiday Dinner
25	Christmas Breakfast

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