



RIVERFLOW

FALL 2025



[01]

[02]



[01] Riverflow welcomes Heartbeet for a Fall Festival

[02] Charlie and Connor making pizza

[03] Connor and Duncan in the corn maze

[04] Jesse enjoys apple picking

[03]



[04]



THANK YOU TO EACH
AND EVERY ONE OF
YOU WHO HAS MADE
RIVERFLOW'S FIRST YEAR
POSSIBLE.

OUR HEARTS ARE
BURSTING WITH
GRATITUDE.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

HANNAH SCHWARTZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is hard to believe that our very first year has already come and gone—both in a flash and with the depth of a lifetime. Just one year ago, the gold and crimson leaves of autumn framed our opening days at Riverflow, holding our hopes, dreams, and questions. I can still feel the overwhelming joy of our opening day! Today, as we look back, we are filled with gratitude for all that has unfolded.

This year has been about deepening our relationships, building a solid carrying team, learning each other's strengths, and finding ways to create a meaningful life together. We all worked hard, side by side, to bring the land back from its abandoned state, dug our first vegetable garden, and just finished canning 16 quarts of pesto and freezing applesauce. Along the way, we enjoyed summer squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, and yes—an abundance of eggs from our new flock of chickens!

There are so many highlights it is hard to capture them all: welcoming 200 people at our first Open House, celebrating birthdays in abundance, dancing and jamming to music, and sharing long walks in the meadows. Thanks to some very special support that came in over the summer, we built a new office space and a new pole barn, found joy in bike rides, hikes, and summer swimming holes, and joined in the spirit of Special Olympics where, truly, there is a sport for everyone.

As most of you know, we have also been working hard on a full site design—engineering and permitting for four new therapeutic homes, three tiny homes, a community center, and a barn. We accomplished so much this summer in partnership with Barnard and Gervais and are now very close to the finish line. We are profoundly grateful to all of you who carried us through Phase One. Because of your generosity, we were able to purchase

the property outright, renovate our first home, and end our first year debt free. Every gift has truly changed lives and planted seeds for a better future for those most in need of our deepest consideration. For this, we are beyond thankful.

Now we need your help once more. The last big steps before us are raising the final \$150,000 for the road construction and \$1.7 million for House Number Two, which we hope to open early in 2027. Construction costs have risen significantly, but we still believe that this second house is an achievable next step for our community; the need for low income, disability housing is desperate and we will continue to work to respond to this need. Designed to support and train new residential householders, House Number Two will also welcome four new Friends into Riverflow. We have been busy running trial visits this summer and are excited to introduce the Friends waiting in the wings to call Riverflow home.

From the smallest daily rhythms to the big community milestones, Riverflow is becoming a place of belonging, healing, and joy. None of this would be possible without you. As the crisp air of Fall returns, we invite you to join us once again in sustaining and building this vision—house number two brings us into lifesharing at a new level; expanding friendship, carrying shoulders, and of course meeting the tremendous need for inclusive housing. Every gift, large or small, brings us closer to a vibrant future together and your support makes all the difference.

Thank you for walking alongside us in this beginning. We are deeply grateful to be building Riverflow with you.

With warmth and deep gratitude,
Hannah



“TRUST FALL”

By Hannah Schwartz

Opening day—
A dream,
Prayer, vision, hardwork, overwhelm,
a house transformed to home.

Walking the land, stones and trees, land becomes known
hands in soil,
Side by side working with patience as the raspberries ripen.
A chicken house arrived,
Chickens followed—figuring out fencing
Now eggs bless our breakfast and quiches,
as the garden swells
with cucumbers, basil, tomatoes,
squash and even a bell pepper or two.

Seneca and Friends imagine and break ground, healing herb garden,
learning the ancient quiet power of plants,
original medicine,
teaching us how to tend and be tended to.

An open house, two hundred hearts,
filling rooms with laughter and hope—undeterred by the downpour.
Swimming, hiking,

Vermont mountains that whisper magic,
Wow! to maple creemees,
Fairgrounds, gondola views of Mount Mansfield
Biking, lawn music,
Pie-eating contest with second place, celebrating birthdays
sweet enough to last a year and cakes personalized to perfection.

There were hot days and super-soakers,
days that stretched into golden evenings.
And now the air cools,
the nights sharpen,
apples ripen and fall—
a year circle closing,
friendships deepening,
a community takes root.

Trust fall—
we lean into the unknown to
find each other at Riverflow.



WE HAVE A POLE BARN

A FIRST STEP TOWARD
THE RIVERFLOW FARM





Riverflow is taking root in a new way. On the back five acres of our land, the first building of our farm vision is rising—a sturdy pole barn that stands as a symbol of beginnings. Though still in progress, the pole barn already warms the landscape with its invitation to dream of a small therapeutic farm in the near future. This three-sided barn will house farm machinery and a few sheep by next spring. If someone is interested in donating a tractor, we now have the space for it!

As we make use of the last warm days of fall to complete construction, we pause in gratitude. This milestone would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors and the leadership of Jim Caffry, who guided this project from idea to reality.

The pole barn is more than just a building—it is the cornerstone of a dream, a place where community, care, and the land will grow together.

OUTGROWING THE SPACE: A NEW OFFICE ARRIVES



Within less than a year, Riverflow's first - and only - building is already busting at the seams, filled with the laughter, warmth, and busy-ness of a community home, administrative building, kitchen, woodshop, meeting space, and art studio all rolled into one. The office space in the house quickly became needed for other purposes, so we put our creative thinking caps on and found a wonderful company that could build us a sweet, small modular office. Thanks to each of you who responded to this fundraising request, Riverflow now has an administrative space that matches the needs of our steadily growing organization.





GOODBYES

NATE LEMONS
COWORKER 2024



We want to thank Nate Lemons for his year of service at Riverflow. Nate came with charm, gusto, and experience. We are truly grateful to him and look forward to continuing our relationship with him as he moves to Heartbeet.

HELLOS

BENNA TRACHTENBERG
RIVERFLOW UVM MSW INTERN 2025



Hello Riverflow friends and family! My name is Benna, I am a foundation-year student at UVM working towards earning my Masters in Social Work and I am so thrilled to be joining Riverflow as this year's MSW intern! While I am a native Philadelphian, I have lived in Vermont for just over four years as I completed my undergraduate studies at UVM in their psychology and political science programs. I am entirely new to the Camphill model and have loved immersing into Riverflow this past month, getting to know the Friends, daily flow, and more about Camphill philosophy and values. This community and this place are both incredibly special and I simply cannot wait to continue developing relationships within the Riverflow community. More about me! I am a theatre kid, and am involved in Burlington's theatre scene both on and off stage. I run a theatre company, Between the Willows, with my partner Ry Poulin, where we produce works with the goal of uplifting queer voices through theater and dance. I love music, having grown up playing the violin and transitioning to guitar as an adult and can sometimes be seen playing guitar on stage at various Burlingtonian events. Art is at the core of everything I do, and I cannot wait to sing, dance, and create with everyone at Riverflow. Thank you so much for welcoming me into your world!

LEVI WICKE
COWORKER 2025



Hi everyone! My name is Levi Wicke, and I'm excited to join the Riverflow Community for the next year. I'm from Bremen, Germany, where I grew up with my parents, my younger sister and brother, and our wonderful dog. I love spending time outdoors, especially going on long walks in the park and nature. In my free time, I enjoy canoeing and playing the guitar. I recently graduated from a Waldorf school, and am grateful to have the continuity of the arts, singing and celebrations that are here at Riverflow. I'm really looking forward to being part of Riverflow, getting involved in the community, learning from the Friends and building skills in social inclusion.

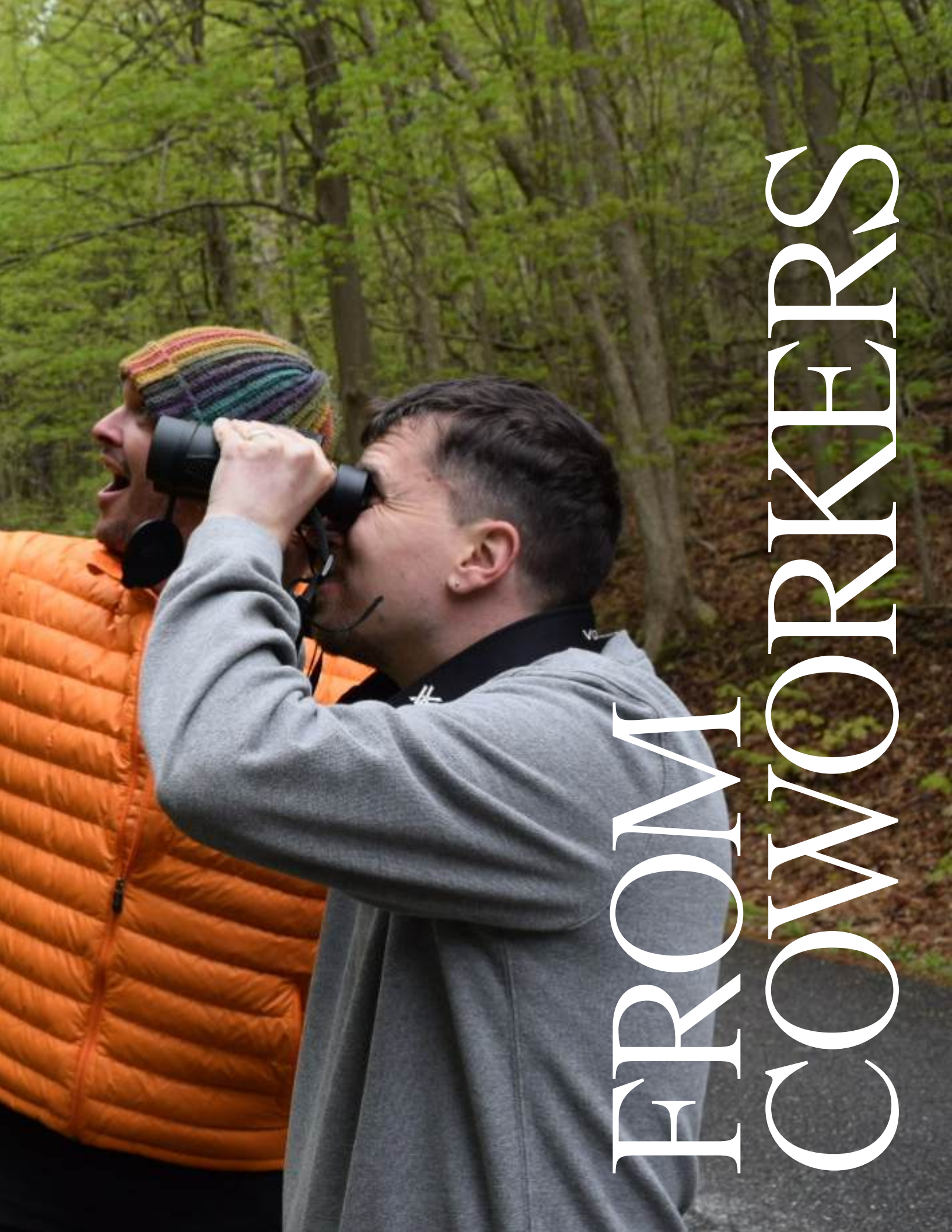
ANWAR CHOHO
COWORKER 2025



Anwar has just arrived from Germany and is looking forward to his year here—exploring the area, getting to know the friends and expanding his understanding of direct care and social inclusion.

REFLECTIONS





FROM CROWDERS

JOHN

“LOOKING FORWARD
TO YEAR 2, I FEEL EVEN
MORE EXCITED THAN I
DID UPON MY ARRIVAL TO
RIVERFLOW.”

BURGER

I first entered Camphill in a moment of grand transition in my life. After a decade of self discovery, adventure and exploration of the broad reaching field of supporting folks with disabilities throughout Colorado's Rocky Mountains, I had returned back to my Pennsylvanian roots to work with a Camphill Community called Beaver Farm. It did not take long for me to recognize that there was something special here and that this model of care is something I would like to commit to nourishing in the world. When I found out about a fledgling Camphill-inspired community in Colombia, all signs were pointing south. My partner Sage and I packed up our bags and bought a one way ticket to Bogota! It was a beautiful experience and we connected with some wonderful people, but ultimately Visa troubles and a sensation that the community was at a stagnant point led us to carry on with our journey. By way of Patagonia, Costa Rica, Alaska and some stops along the way, we landed in our new home of Vermont in September of 2024. In the midst of house hunting and job searching during our first month in the green mountains, I received an intriguing text from an old coworker. Had I heard about my former housemate Duncan Caffry's new project up in Vermont? Something called Riverflow...



Following my interview with Hannah, River and Seneca I recall feeling grateful that I had not yet committed myself to any of the other positions I'd been considering. The opportunity to be a part of a new community from Day 1 was one that I could not pass up. On October 8th, we opened our doors and I felt immense gratitude to be part of the blossoming of a loving, caring project. As the leaves fell, we cut our way through a decade's worth of overgrown weeds and tried to liberate some of the previously tended bushes of raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries. The burn pile would build up for weeks, then reduced to ash in an afternoon. Rinse and repeat. It seemed we may never get out of the weeds but slowly our gardens began to take shape again.

Throughout this process, we learned about our guys and developed supportive routines and strategies to help them land in the new community. Charlie began his daily compost run and walk about the land. Duncan figured out the order of the house and found his ways to keep everything tidy. Jesse, perhaps most dramatically, came to realize just how capable he is and now delights in supporting the community across various jobs. And then Connor came and brought a liveliness to the household that we didn't know we were missing. By the time we made it through winter, things were settling into rhythm in a beautiful way. Sugaring season began and was likely the highlight of my year. Long, chilly days collecting sap from our back yard maples and tending to a fire with the guys - this was the reason I came to Camphill.

Looking forward to year 2, I feel even more excited than I did upon my arrival to Riverflow. We have our potential next residents visiting weekly. The land is opening up enough that we can take a look at how we hope to develop and care for it into the future. I am able to lead the guys on weekly adventures around Vermont. Every week we get to collect more and more eggs from our maturing hens. Our fresh basil, tomatoes, kale, and squash are finally making it to our plates. It is very exciting to be supporting a project with so much momentum behind it and I cannot wait to see where the river flows!

VALOR

“I’VE NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING MORE
BEAUTIFUL, ANYTHING
MORE MEANINGFUL,
IN MY LIFE.”

MARSH



I wanted to explore America before student loans and rent made me stationary, and that led me to a short visit to Camphill Kimberton Hills in June of 2024. Within a week of living there, I knew with every fiber of my being that inclusive community life couldn't and wouldn't just be a brief story. I went home, found Riverflow Community, quit my job and moved to Vermont, some 800 miles away. It was here in the Green Mountains that I realized: if I thought Kimberton Hills was great, it was a drop in the ocean compared to the instant sense of home I felt at Riverflow. Sometimes things just click into place—and this was the case for me at Riverflow.

Everyone I meet is so full of enthusiasm and love, for everything. For me, for the Friends, for this home we've built and the land we care for. I've never seen anything more beautiful, anything more meaningful, in my life. In my first months, I'd get choked up and teary at the reverence of it all, but now I just soak it in. Every candle that is lit at a mealtime, every blessing, and every smile pushes me to be a better version of myself. To commit to change, to thoughtfulness, and dedication. I couldn't imagine living anywhere else, growing community building skills, and it was not hard to decide if I would stay another year. It is so overwhelmingly a yes, and so overwhelmingly a lifetime of yeses that will follow.





TURNING WITH HOPE

With full hearts, we are turning toward the opening of Riverflow's second home. This Fall, we have been running trial visits, and it has been a joy to witness each individual as they discover what Riverflow has to offer, and the unique gifts that shine through in each person as they explore whether our community is the right fit.

Because Riverflow is a choice, not a placement, trial visits allow for a mutual exploration of belonging, ensuring that this community is the right fit for those who will move in.

We are delighted to share that four new Friends are preparing to call Riverflow home.

RIVERFLOW'S

TOWARDS



SECOND HOME



ELLA

A former Stowe resident who now resides in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, Ella brings with her a wealth of community experience, including her time at Camphill Beaver Farm. She is an extraordinary artist whose whimsical drawings of animals are available on greeting cards at Black Cap Coffee of Vermont. Ella also loves music, dancing, animals, growing flowers and making bouquets. Leaving school is a big transition, but Ella is ready to dive into adulthood—expanding her creativity into pottery, embracing winter sports once again and building lasting friendships.

ALEC

Hailing from Stowe, Alec is an upbeat, personable young man with a big personality, a great smile and a warm heart that draws people in wherever he goes. Alec is a true lover of the mountains and skiing. He brings with him a playful spirit, a love for musicals, funny movies, and most of all, his gift of laughter and joy. Alec is excited to step into this next chapter of life beyond school and into the heart of community.



MICHAEL

Quiet, kind, and deeply thoughtful, Michael radiates warmth wherever he goes. He is gentle, curious, and eager to explore community life. During his visit he especially loved outings—apple picking was a highlight! Michael is looking forward to building new friendships and skills when he moves to Riverflow.



BRIELLE

After 10 years at Heartbeet, Brielle is ready for a new beginning. On her 30th birthday, she made a bold and heartfelt announcement: she was moving to Riverflow. What once felt like a dream is now becoming reality. With her extensive community experience, natural gift for event planning, and her role as an enthusiastic ambassador, Brielle will bring vibrancy and dedication to her new home.



Alongside our new Friends, we are also seeking caring coworkers and families who will help bring this second community home to life. We look forward to introducing them in our next newsletter. Now, we turn to you, our extended community, with a heartfelt ask:

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT
TO RAISE \$1.7 MILLION
SO THAT THESE
FOUR REMARKABLE
INDIVIDUALS CAN CALL
RIVERFLOW HOME.



Together, we can expand into House Two, deepening our mission of being an inclusive, intentional community where every person is welcomed, recognized for their gifts, and celebrated.

JOIN US IN GROWING
RIVERFLOW!

WAYS TO GIVE

GIFTS OF CASH

Gifts of cash are the easiest and most direct way to make a contribution and are fully deductible for individuals who itemize their federal income tax return. If you make a cash, check, or credit card gift, you will be eligible for a deduction for the full value of your gift.

Mail a completed Donation Form with your check made payable to Riverflow Community to:

Riverflow Community
Attn: Development
57 Cedar Ln,
North Ferrisburgh, VT 05473

DONATE NOW ONLINE

Donations can be made through the online portal on our website:

<https://www.riverflowcommunity.org/donate>

MAKE A PLEDGE

Pledges are a great way to make a gift over time! Reach out to Hannah Schwartz and she will send you a pledge form:

hannah.s@riverflowcommunity.org

GIFTS OF APPRECIATED SECURITIES

If you gift stocks or bonds that you have owned for at least one year, you will be eligible for a deduction for the full mean market value of the security on the date that Riverflow receives it.

Reach out to Hannah Schwartz for more information on giving Appreciated Securities donations:

hannah.s@riverflowcommunity.org

BY PHONE

If you would like to speak with someone at Riverflow personally, call our office at:

802-498-4180

MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers or former employers, if you are a retiree, will match your charitable contribution. This often doubles or even triples your initial gift. Obtain a matching gift form from your human resources department and enclose it with your contribution to Riverflow Community.

Riverflow Community, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. You should always consult your attorney or tax/investment professional before making any kind of charitable contribution.



Riverflow aspires to create wholeness in life for everyone who is part of and connected to the community. United by meaningful work, community members with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities form friendships, gain vocational skills, and pursue dignified, self-directed lives.

Find us online at riverflowcommunity.org