

Evergreen Hall Day Habilitation

Evergreen Hall is a bright, welcoming space where people engage in fun and meaningful activities while developing daily living skills, promoting independence, and strengthening social connections. The program celebrates each achievement and fosters a strong sense of belonging for everyone who enters. Our message of inclusion and acceptance extends beyond the program and into the local community.



Director of Day Habilitation Services, Tony Merante and Program Manager, Teresa Avery, provide support to 28 people with 15 teammates.

Did you know??

Evergreen Hall originally opened in 1987 and later moved to its current location in 2003. Both sites have been located in Valatie.

Key components of Evergreen Hall

Creative Expression

Art Omi, Music with Mr. Engel and museum memberships that encourage creativity and self-expression.

Life & Learning Skills

Educational activities and practical skill-building opportunities that support independence.

Health & Wellness

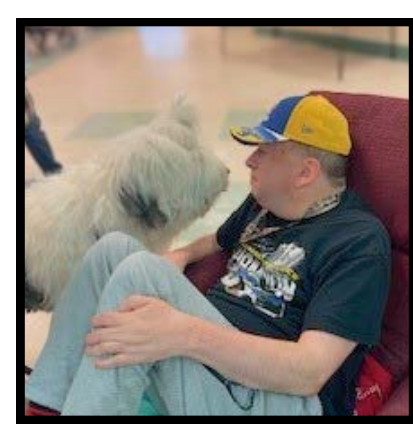
Movement groups with Jen, outdoor walks, and activities that promote physical health and emotional well-being.

Community Connections

Volunteering at our local food pantry and Meals on Wheels. Monthly visits from Harle, our beloved therapy dog, are always a highlight.

Celebrations & Social Engagement

Birthday celebrations, holidays and special events that build friendships, joy, and lasting memories.



Achievement Spotlight



“Ronnie is amazing! He interacts with people from the community by name and is always eager to help. The community responds in kind, offering praise and gratitude. They are so thankful for his help.”
Evergreen Staff

Ronald “Ronnie” Lippman

When Ronnie first joined Evergreen Hall Day Hab in 2011, he was very introverted and often declined opportunities to participate in activities or community adventures.

Now, Ronnie looks forward to his volunteer work and is a valued and respected member of the food pantry team. He has volunteered at the Valatie Food Pantry every Monday for the past 13 years. His role has strengthened his confidence and allowed him to build meaningful relationships with fellow volunteers and community members. Known for his strong work ethic and willingness to help, Ronnie’s generosity has carried over into the day program, where he is always ready to lend a helping hand, from taking out recycling and assisting with deliveries to helping with the annual turkey and pie distribution. His kindness brings him a deep sense of pride and fulfillment.

Ronnie prefers to help quietly and does not enjoy being the center of attention. He loves taking walks and often accompanies peers and their families, as well as joining group trips to the YMCA.

Building community with Maple Hill's 7th Grade Connections Class



"The overall experience was fun. Mark was really nice and so was everyone else. Mark also tried really hard to put some of the bingo chips onto the correct spot and succeeded." L.R.

"The Connections class has a long history at Maple Hill. Each course is 10-weeks long during which students make several trips within the community. I model the course on the tenants of service learning, so we begin each "connection" with an investigation into the organization we'll be visiting. (For Evergreen, this involves researching disabilities and generating questions about the people and organization to be answered during a Zoom call). Then students prepare a plan of action for that connection before embarking on the trip. After our trip, students reflect on their experience and what they learned before finally picking one experience to demonstrate through a final project."

Ian Marvinney
Connections Teacher

"I can now tell what they can do and what they can't because of their disabilities. I think many people just judge them by a first look very fast and they should take more time working with disabled people to learn how they really are." -R.R.

"We can spend more time with the disabled and not be as nervous to be around because we know that they are people too and they are also friends:)." -M.T.

"My perspective changed because I used to feel scared to talk to them but it isn't scary it is nice to have a conversation with them." -A.R.

"My experience at Evergreen hall was one of the best days ever. I got to meet new people and my favorite part was playing bingo." -J.C.

"It felt weird at first because I thought they were very different from me but, over time it felt more normal and I realized they are very similar to me. Thinking back now I think it was a great learning experience." -R.R.





Did you know that Evergreen Hall is known for spreading kindness and building meaningful connections throughout the community. Outreach efforts include, delivering kindness bags, visiting and reading at local nursing homes, providing cards and care packages to the Firemen's Home during Fire Prevention Week, and sharing holiday cheer through caroling during the Christmas season.

