

The Current

FALL 2025

At Northern Rivers we know that education is not a one-size-fits-all system.

Students learn in many diverse yet equally important ways, and 10th grade student Joaquimia is no exception. Joaquimia came to our school in Albany with unique academic needs. She was searching for a place to belong in a new environment.

And soon enough, she found it! Soon after starting the school year, she began working with our Bella Greenhouse and Educational Center. Joaquimia quickly found an amazing natural talent for agriculture, flower arranging, and other creative tasks. Working in the greenhouse was her favorite part of the school day. With this new avenue, she was able to explore her skills and abilities, and, with the help of our greenhouse staff, she created all the flower arrangements for the wedding of one of our staff members!

As we expand our programs and begin offering new Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses this year, Joaquimia and students like her will have the opportunity to learn in fields that match their interests and skills, like our new Horticulture program! This will offer them a clear pathway to graduation, that may have not existed before. Once students graduate



from these programs, they will be fully prepared to be employed in their field!

This is just an example of the education that Northern Rivers has been providing for the past 50 years. We have three schools across Schenectady and Albany that have taught thousands of students from preschool to 12th grade. Our middle and highschools are focused on providing education to those who have behavioral or mental health struggles while our Early Learning Center is focused on caring for children who are living in poverty. Regardless of the school, each of our students finds a safe environment with trained and caring staff and teachers. We're so proud of the impact our schools have had. Here's to 50 more years of education at Northern Rivers!



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Bill's Current... cares

In this issue, we're proud to kick off our yearlong celebration of 50 Years of Education at Northern Rivers, marking the opening of our first school during the 1975–76 academic year. Throughout the year, we'll be honoring the incredible work happening in our Albany and Schenectady schools, reflecting on our past and looking ahead to a bright future.

A lot has changed since 1975, not just music trends or hairstyles. Northern Rivers has grown, evolved, and innovated across every one of our services. And that spirit of progress goes back even further, to our roots in 1829.

The world looks very different today than it did even five years ago (let alone 200), but no matter what the future holds, one thing remains constant: Northern Rivers will continue to be here, supporting children, adults, and families as they change their lives and strengthen their communities.

William T. Gettman Jr.
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Advocacy season is just around the corner—stay tuned for updates on how you can join us in speaking up for children, families, and human services across NY.



“First off let me say that when **YOU'RE IN SCHOOL YOU CAN'T WAIT TO GRADUATE** but once **YOU GRADUATE YOU WANT TO GO BACK.**”

- Emileigh, a 2025 graduate at the School at Northeast





BIKING 78-MILES FOR A CAUSE

Andrea and Jesica from our Foster Care team in Herkimer are really on a roll! They joined the 78-mile Ride for Missing Children this year to raise money and awareness about the critical issues of missing children and child exploitation. They shared, "We are riding for the children and families affected by tragedies, to promote awareness, provide emotional support, and instill a sense of hope."



SCHOOL-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS HELP STUDENTS THRIVE

Our School-Based Behavioral Health clinics provide mental health services and counseling to over 1,400 students in 19 school districts. Our mental health professionals, like Rachel shown at Cohoes High School's Mental Health Awareness Event, become integral parts of school communities and provide thousands of hours of service each year!



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES EXPANDING IN RENSSELAER COUNTY

We are expanding our reach in Rensselaer County with a new Youth Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team in Lansingburgh and by locating one of our Mobile Crisis Response teams inside the Troy Police Department. Youth ACT is an intensive community mental health outpatient service for youth ages 10-21 while Mobile Crisis response teams are deployed to assist individuals who are experiencing emotional or behavioral health crisis situations.



GRANT FOR CHILDREN'S TOY THERAPY

We are so grateful for the generous grant from the Charles R. Wood Foundation to be able to buy therapeutic games and toys for our children's counseling team at the Sexual Abuse Treatment Program (SATP) in Schenectady. These toys and games are a fundamental part of therapy for children, providing a safe space to express and understand their emotions.

Northern Rivers Family of Services

The Current

Make the Holidays Brighter!

November 17 - December 19, 2025



From November 17 to December 19, NORTHERN RIVERS' HOLIDAY GIVING program helps ensure every child and family we serve can experience the joy of the season. ***You can make a difference by:***

- *donating online*
- *shopping from our wish lists*
- *set up a donation box at your workplace*

SCAN THE QR CODE TO GET STARTED AND SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER!



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