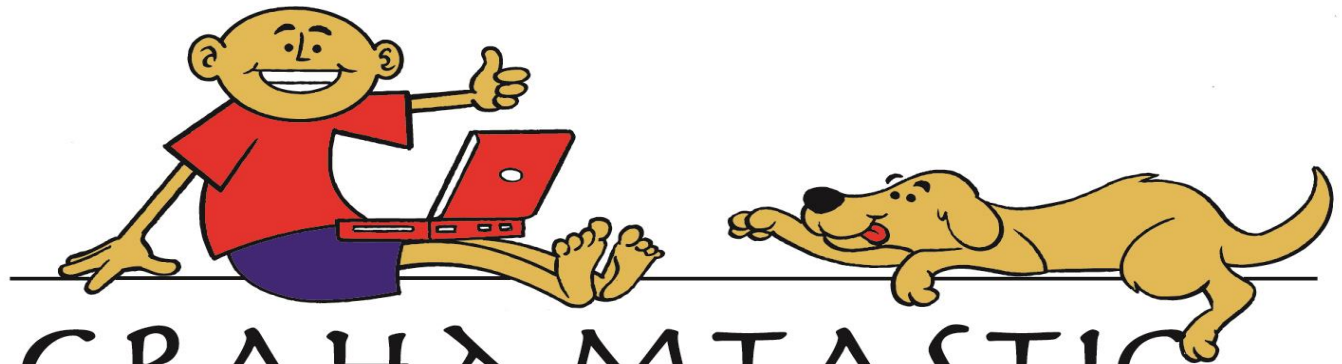


2020 Annual Report



GRAHAMTASTIC
CONNECTION

www.grahamtastic.org



Owen with his iPad

ANNUAL LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER”

Who would have guessed that 2020 would bring us all the challenges that it did, seemingly overnight? In this letter, I will try to avoid repeating some of the overused phrases we heard throughout the year except for a positive one that really came to define our year at Grahamtastic Connection- **“We are stronger together.”**

“We are stronger together” is a perfect portrayal of how, together, our Grahamtastic Connection team worked to adapt, revamp, and delegate as we shifted to functioning, and often excelling, at working remotely. We immediately recognized the importance of enhanced communication and the sharing of new information and ideas. Despite not being able to be together physically, our team communicated more frequently in 2020 than in any previous years, exploring new and innovative ways of operating while continuing to support children who needed to be connected to their classrooms, **now more than ever.**

Our Board and team safely and successfully navigated us through the many challenges that defined 2020. In doing so, we provided free technology to an additional 146 recipients, fulfilling all requests received that fit within our gifting criteria. We also reached the huge milestone of supporting over 2,200

children since we began connecting kids in 1998.



None of this would have been possible without the numerous acts of kindness and generosity extended our way throughout the year. Beginning early in the year, many of our Granting Partners reached out to see how they could help our organization, some going so far as to proactively send additional funding and others lifting their funding restrictions on current grants in order to help us continue our work through this crisis.

Our donors and sponsors were beyond amazing this year. Our Virtual Challenge Event, in place of our traditional 5K race, attracted participants from all over the globe and was a record-breaking fundraising event. Our year-end Campaign Mailer Annual Appeal results also surpassed all expectations, a true testament to our donors desire to help us continue our mission in support of these courageous children. Our

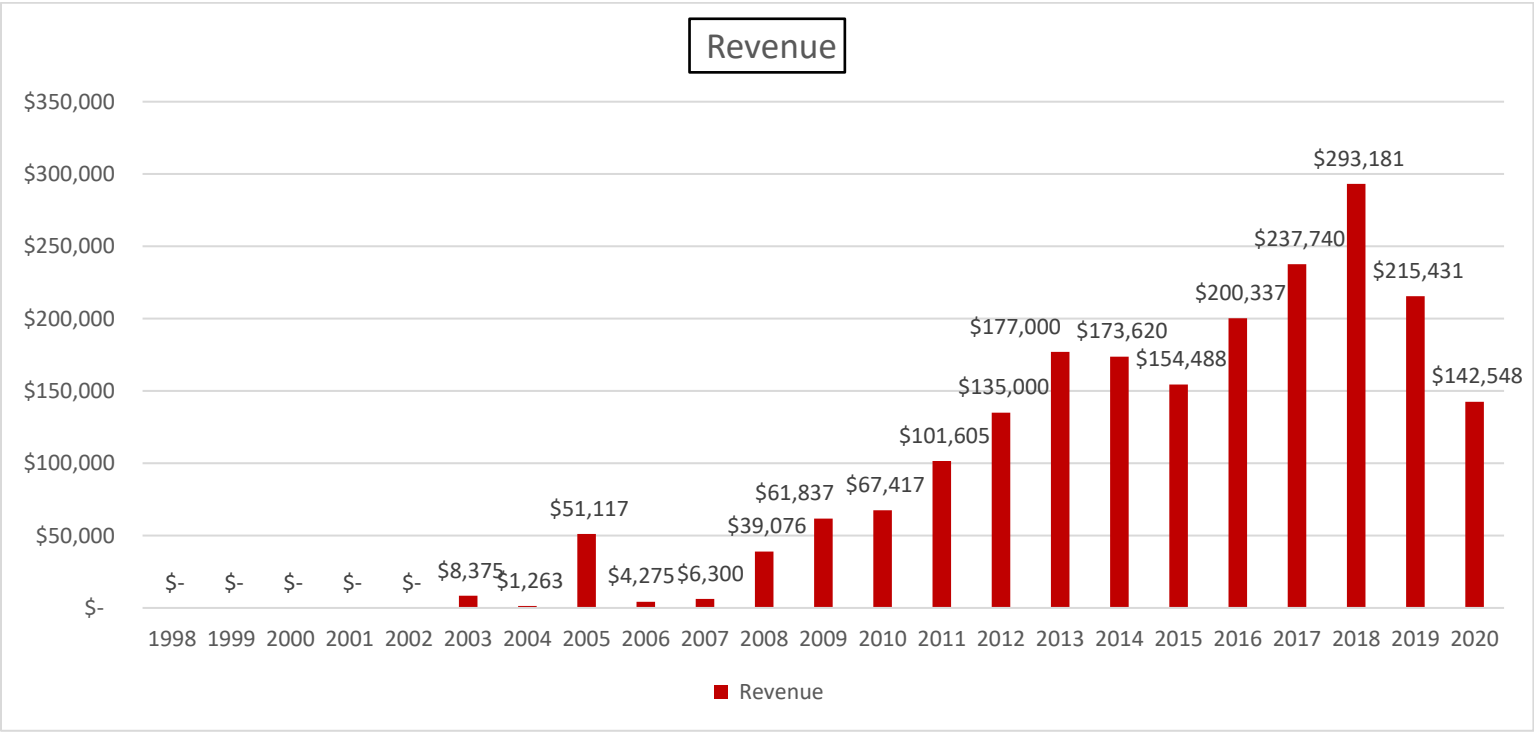
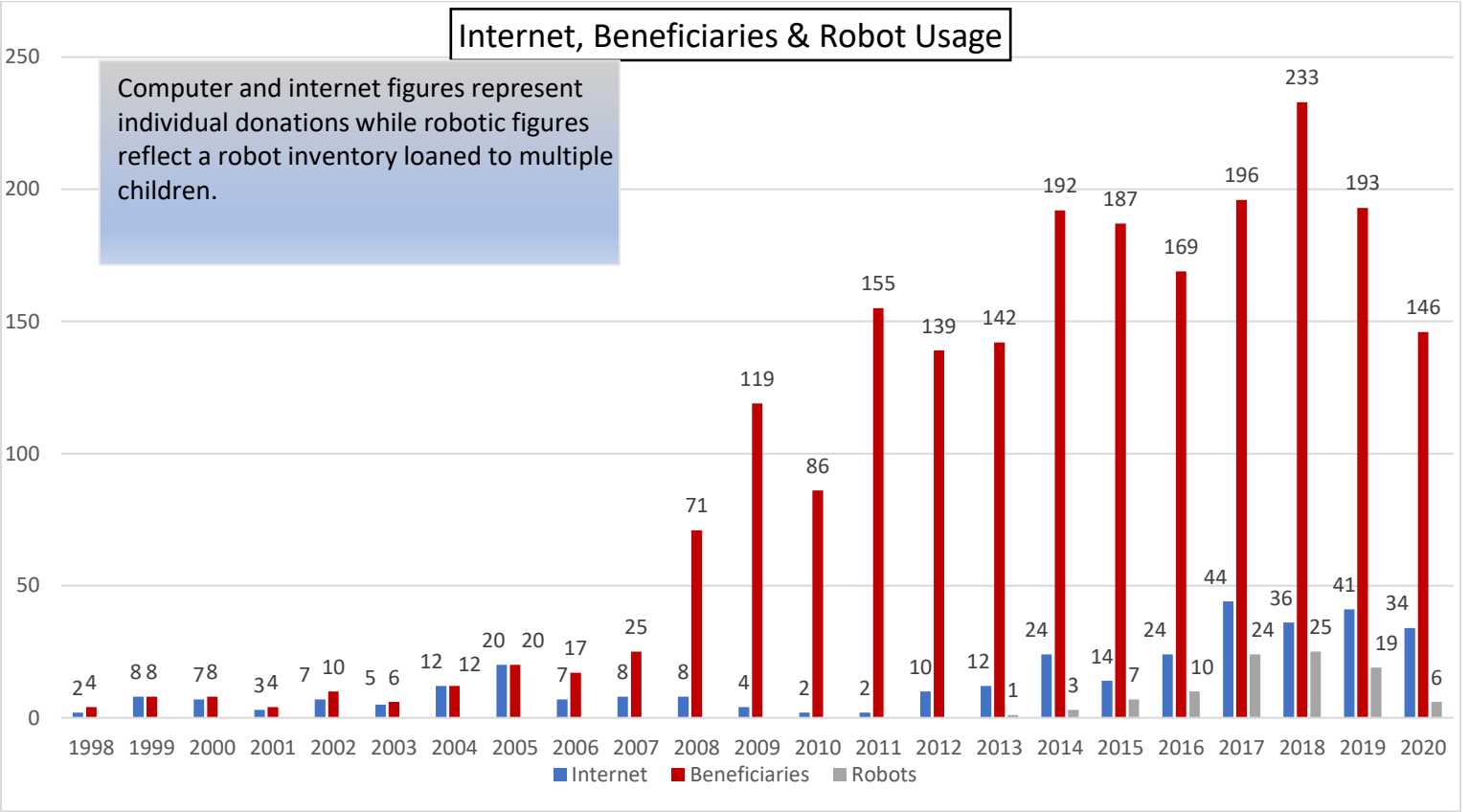
fundraising efforts, coupled with support from the Maine Economic Recovery Grant and CARES Act Employee Retention Tax Credit, enabled us to end the year demonstrating continued financial strength and ready to meet the education, emotional and social needs of our beneficiaries in a new year.



As I reflect on the many challenges 2020 presented, and look to the future of Grahamtastic Connection in 2021, I face this coming year with hope and promise, and also with boundless gratitude to our team and all of our donors, who have shown by example that **“We are stronger together.”**

Leslie Morissette

Leslie Morissette
Founder/Executive Director



ABOUT GRAHAMTASTIC CONNECTION

Our mission is to provide free technology to children with cancer and other serious illnesses for educational purposes. Technology, including iPads, laptops, robots, and internet access, enables our children to continue their education during treatment while also remaining connected to family, friends and medical providers. This technology is virtually bringing them to the places they want to be and connecting them when their world is out of reach.



During this year, we delivered 145 pieces of technology to individual children and 1 laptop was placed in a shared area of a hospital for dozens of children to use. Of the 146 pieces of technology delivered, 68 were iPads, 66 were laptops and 12 children received internet access alone. This year 22

children received both an iPad or Laptop and internet access.

This year also marks the 8th year that we have provided free tele-presence robots for hospitalized or homebound children with 6 children utilizing our robots this



year. We have had a total of 63 children using them since our first robot acquisition. We were an early leader in providing this service to sick children.

The organization was founded in 1998 by Leslie Morissette in honor of her son, Graham, who sadly lost his battle to cancer in 1997 at the age of 8. Leslie learned first-hand what it was like to spend months at a time in the hospital while her son was in cancer treatment at Maine Children's Cancer Program and Boston Children's Hospital. One of the key needs during such

times, and the inspiration behind Grahamtastic Connection, is to remain connected to school, to family and to friends during extended periods of isolation. Often this access is out of reach due to medical and financial limitations.



Graham, our organization's namesake

The program started by supporting six qualified children in 1998, providing them with computers and internet access. This enabled them to continue their education while being treated and to communicate with family members and friends. Today, we are proud to have supported 2,203 children with cancer and other serious illnesses, with 334 children receiving internet access. Additionally, thousands of ill children have utilized our computers placed in shared areas in hospitals and clinics.

OUR CURRENT PRIMARY ACTIVITIES

- Advocating, proactively, at the local, state and federal level for critical measures and action plans focused on closing the Digital Divide and ending Digital Inequality for all children across our country.
- Placing computers in medical facilities where they are accessible to hundreds of children.
- Providing laptops or iPads to individual patients for contact with clinics and interactive learning with schools.
- Supplying robotic technology in patients' schools, allowing seriously ill children to move around their classroom, walk up and down the school hallways, attend assemblies

and field trips and interact with their teachers and peers from their hospital room or home in real time.



- Providing high-speed Internet access to families with seriously ill children.
- Sponsoring our "Kids Helping Kids" Program, in which children of all ages support Grahamtastic Connection while learning valuable skills and the importance of helping those who are less fortunate.
- Supporting Computer Technology Curriculums by seeking opportunities to collaborate with career-bound and college students who work on our technical issues and repair of our laptops, iPads and robots. These students are not only solving real life technical challenges, but also are completing community service required from their schools.

RECOGNITION

2020: FCC Digital Opportunity Equity Recognition (DOER) Award
2019: Down East Magazine Giving Back Issue featured Non-profit
2019: On the Marsh Golf Course Charity Give-back Month of June
2019: Turbocam Laptop Drive & Charity Spotlight Month of July
2019: Marc Motors Charity Spotlight Month of August
2019: Prime Motor Group Charity Spotlight Month of October
2018: Today Show Mother's Day Special featured guest
2018: Tourist & Town "Local Heroes" featured story
2018: Woman's World, Redbook, Good Housekeeping & Woman's Day articles published
2017: Top 10 CNN Hero
2017: Huffington Post, "5 Innovators Creating Human Connection Through Technology"
2017: Maine's 20 Outstanding Women, Maine's Coast 93.1 and Hannaford Supermarkets
2014: Town and Country Federal Credit Union "Good Neighbor Award."
2012: Toyota 100 Cars for Good. Winner of a Toyota Highlander.
2011: Parent's Magazine, August issue "Power of Parents."
2009: John Baldacci, Maine Governor "Exemplary Service Award."
2008: Guest on CNBC's "The Big Idea" with Danny Deutsch
2006: WCSH, United Way and TD Bank's "Six Who Care Award."



2020 FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY

*Due to COVID-19, we had to change things up this year. Instead of our usual October 5k, we held a virtual 2-week Challenge asking participants to walk, run, bike, hike, swim, or move in any creative way they chose and to go as far as they could for our Superheroes! This proved to be our most successful 5K event ever raising **\$22,250.20** thanks to all of our generous sponsors, donors and participants.*

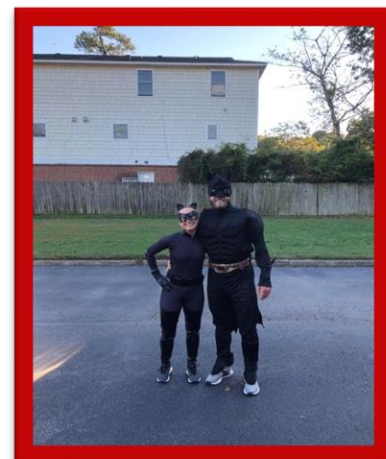


Terri Ball, Mark Rautenberg and Adam Roy



2020 Virtual Run/Walk/Hike/Bike Event
Wednesday October 7th to Wednesday October 21st

**How far will you go
for our Grahamtastic Superheroes?**



Randi Morin and Garret Gmooch



The Sand Witches of the Kennebunks



Krissy Caron and her dog London



The Square Ponders led by Kim Caron, Director

STAFF AND SUPPORT

Staff:

Leslie Morissette, Founder and Executive Director
Kathy Tranchemontagne, Program Coordinator

Volunteer Board of Directors:

Executive Committee:

Beth Brown, President, Director
William Frank, MD, Vice-President, Director
Gwen Bedell Gadbois, Treasurer, Director
Denise Pepin, Secretary, Director

Directors:

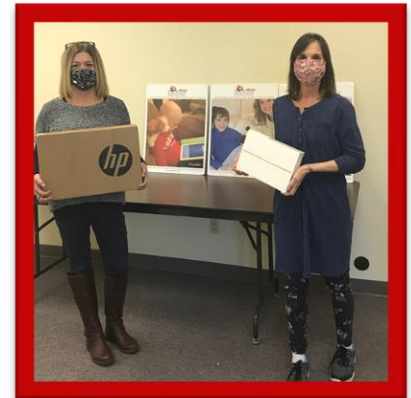
Kimberlee Caron
Gwen Genest
Kimberly Lachance
Lori Laurendeau
Nanci Nason
Lawrence O'Bryan
Matt Wirth

Advisory Board:

Robert Caron
Dan Cummings
Melody Martin-Robie
Vanessa Nason
Bruce Wooding

Additional Volunteers:

Christine Beaudoin
Donna Bourque
Patrick Dwyer
Heather Thomas (Web-design)
Carol Matheson
Bobbi Macrum
Cora Roberge
Debbie Rix
Kelsey Tessier
Southern Maine Community College Students
& Instructor, Rebecca Test
Konnor Simons



**Leslie Morissette, Founder/Executive Director, (R)
with Kathy Tranchemontagne, Program
Coordinator (L)**



**Beth Brown, Board President, Director
(and her adorable dog Harley)**



Denise Pepin, Secretary, Director



**William Frank, MD, Board Vice-President,
Director with his wife Mary Francis**