

# Our Mission. Our Milestones.

**EverGreen Meadow Academy (EGMA)  
EverGreen Meadow Services (EGMS)  
Friends of EverGreen Meadow Academy**

2023



EverGreen Meadow  
ORGANIZATIONS

# EverGreen Meadow Organizations

## 2023



“In a dark time of confusion, Evergreen Meadow Services was a beacon of light, support and hope. We appreciate your compassion and respect.”

– S. Smith, Guardian to Romea

In 2023 suicide levels surged for young people, with suicide now cited as the **second-most frequent cause of death for people aged 10 to 14** and 20 to 34. The intense psychological stressors created by COVID-19 that children and teens experienced; long wait times at emergency rooms for distressed kids to see mental health professionals; and adolescents’ own impulsivity have created a **perfect storm** of factors leading to this crisis. Put another way, the U.S. leads all other wealthy countries in deaths by suicide each year, meaning that **someone will lose their life to suicide in the time it takes to read this annual report.**

This past year, news outlets across the nation rang the alarm about a **true epidemic of mental illness** in young adolescent girls, particularly among LGBTQ+ and girls of color, with the CDC’s data showing that **young girls are facing record levels of depression**, feelings of isolation and worthlessness, anxiety, and thoughts of self-harm. Outpacing boys by a wide margin, last year, 60% of girls nationwide reported that they felt sadness every day for at least two weeks during the previous year – twice the rate of boys. The most troubling data-point of all: last year **one in 3 teen girls considered taking her own life.**

**We can and must do better to provide support, access and hope. EverGreen Meadow is stepping up to the challenge.**

# Our Ongoing Mission to Support Young Girls & their Families



Three years ago, the founders and pioneer board members of **EverGreen Meadow Academy** were brought together by a single vision and mission: to establish a culturally responsive, state-of-the-art residential treatment center and middle school for young girls in crisis, where everyone feels welcomed, understood, and safe in a healing environment. In the past year, thanks to the hard work of our talented clinicians and program staff, as well as the efforts of our board members and advisors, we have come even closer to our goal. We are delighted to update you on our progress!

## A Year of Planning and Momentum

As anyone who's ever built a home will tell you, **pre-construction is the hard part**, the planning part, the financing challenge – *the hard work before the hard work*. As we build a home-away-from-home for girls in trauma, we dedicated the lion's share of our 2023 work to the many aspects of pre-construction planning, with an eye to breaking ground on our facility in 2025.

Fortunately for us, throughout this journey, EverGreen Meadow has been supported by an extraordinary group of allies, supporters, advocates, advisors, donors, subject experts, and friends. We've built a strong foundation of support from individuals, foundations, state and federal sources; engaged in planning for the center itself while simultaneously providing life-saving services to girls and their families; and continue to create meaningful partnerships with schools, community organizations, hospitals and other social service agencies to inform and strengthen our work.



# MILESTONES

Below are some of the milestones we've achieved in 2023 – with your help!

## Watershed Support from our State Assemblymember



Sometimes, all it takes is one person to pave the way for a smaller organization like EverGreen Meadow to surge ahead towards new opportunities and growth. In 2023, thanks to the champion efforts of **Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther** and her staff, **EverGreen Meadow secured a \$250,000 legislative budget line item** to support our programs and operations. As Chairperson of the State Assembly’s Committee on Mental Health, Aileen has also spoken out against and advocated to address the inequities in treatment access and quality for diverse racial and ethnic groups, as well as lack of services in more sparsely populated regions in the state. We cannot overstate the importance of our partnership with Assemblywoman Gunther – a caring New Yorker (and nurse!) – and her heroic staff!

## More Highlights from 2023

- Signed our 99-year lease with the Center for Discovery for 34 acres in the Catskills, where EverGreen Meadow Academy will be located**
- Completed the Schematic Design Phase of our project**
- Hired our Project Management team as we move into the preconstruction phase of our project**
- Empowered over 100 girls and their families in prevention/intervention programs and therapeutic services**
- Formalized our Family Navigation Program to support families in crisis and accessing care**
- Introduced weekly messaging on our social media channels to counteract negative messaging to girls, along with tips for mental well-being**
- Engaged Hutton Health Consulting to project manage a gap analysis of mental health services for girls in NYS as we build our referral system**
- Brought on new member Rebecca Benghiat to our Friends of EverGreen Meadow Board**

While evidence of progress, these milestones are so much more than that: they are **proof that EverGreen Meadow Services and Academy are no pipedream**, but a well-planned, intentional effort – led by experts in the field, caring adults, and public officials -- that’s well on its way to being able to provide comprehensive and essential mental health services for young girls and their families who are most in need.

# Midsummer Broadway Salon



Photo Credit: Belinda Gallegos

*Talent & compassion combined (l to r): Broadway stars Seth Rudetsky, Seth Sykes, Howard McGillan, Judy Kuhn, Nicholas King and Brenda Braxton*

EverGreen Meadow's supporters came together on the evening of July 11<sup>th</sup> to celebrate our progress while recognizing a group of talented and equally compassionate Broadway stars at the UWS home of Barbara Bradley Baekgaard. Hosted and produced by Broadway talents Seth Rudetsky & James Welsley, the evening featured joyous and moving performances by Howard McGillan (*Phantom of the Opera*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*), Judy Kuhn (*Pocahontas*, *Fun Home*), Brenda Braxton (*Smokey Joe's Cafe*), and cabaret artists Seth Sykes and Nicholas King (*The New Belters*). Following a welcome from Friends of EverGreen Meadow's Board Chair, Lee Perlman, guests heard multiple tunes and duets from these extraordinary artists, along with a closing message from Founder Stacey Millman about the importance of supporting young girls facing mental health crises. After much applause and many glasses of wine, our inaugural friendraising event raised over \$15,000!

## Meet our Executive Director!

Some may have met her when she was leading EverGreen Meadow Academy & Services on a part-time basis, but we are thrilled to **(re) introduce Adrienne Jensen as EverGreen Meadow's first full-time Executive Director!** Adrienne has over 20 years' of operational, programmatic, and family services experience. The former Executive Director of Human Rights for Sullivan County, she has worked with and developed programs for at-risk youth, rural and migrant families, women's empowerment, elder services, and issues around the ever-growing housing crisis. A former professional dancer and Taiko drummer, Adrienne has developed multiple ways to incorporate dance and expressive movement in support of our program participants' emotional well-being.



Photo Credit: Belinda Gallegos

# EverGreen Meadow Academy

## 2023 Donors

Nothing is possible without the generosity of donors, and **everything is possible with you!** While we thank all who have generously donated in the past year, we'd like to give an extra shout-out to the major contributors to EverGreen Meadow in 2023:

### CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS

Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation  
Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust  
The Boston Foundation  
Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan  
Rowley Family Foundation Fund for Women and Children  
Jacob Kotin Teens in Crisis Fund  
Richmond County Savings Foundation

### LEADERS

Mitra Behroozi & Chris Renaud  
Jennifer Cunningham & Christopher "Kim" Elliman  
Gail Donovan  
Buzzy Geduld  
Marc & Nora Mazur  
Stacey Millman & Scott Goodman  
Lee Perlman & Linda Riefberg  
Bruce Raynor Family Foundation  
Andrew Stern & Jen Johnson

### CHAMPIONS

Norman Adler  
Theresa Bischoff & Dennis Rivera  
Deborah Brown & Jeffrey Pollock  
Van Dunn  
Gene & Mary Holtzman  
Donna & Howard Jacobs  
Martha Kamber  
Marc & Dinah Kramer  
Harlan Levy  
Liberty Rotary Club  
Vilma Linares Vaughn & Ronald Vaughn  
Kerri Lyon  
Bruce McIver  
Suzanne Metzger

Sunil Oommen  
Quorum Initiative  
Donna Rey  
Sheilah Sable  
Phyllis Silver  
Suzanne Taranto

### SUPPORTERS

Karli Bainbridge  
Cyrus Behroozi & Tom Natan  
Pam Brier  
Bright Funds Foundation  
Laura Bronstein  
Alba Cabral  
Kathy Cabral  
Randi Cohen  
Abigail Enevoldsen  
Alberto Espinosa  
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Anne Filloramo  
Denise Gilbert  
Rachel Gilbert & Craig Sparer  
Steven Gilbert  
David Goodman  
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Andrea Kornbluth  
Helen Mango  
Ilene Margolin  
Leslie Millman  
Lorraine Monchak  
Bill Newberry  
Carol Prevost  
Dan & Sydney Ratner  
Ellen & Damon Rawlings  
Jon Shoates & Laura Washington  
Gary & Judy Siegel  
William & Sherry Silver

Diane Silverman  
Jeffrey & Denise Stein  
Margaret Sullivan  
Gina Taglieri & Tom Brady  
Bruce Vladek  
Douglas Wirth

### IN-KIND SUPPORT

Thanks to **Bencom Communications, Camino PR** and **Belinda Gallegos Photography** for their generous in-kind contributions.

With deep gratitude to our legal partners, **Ropes & Gray LLC** and **State & Broadway**, for their pro bono representation.

### SPECIAL THANKS

Barbara Bradley-Baekgaard –  
*for her hospitality*

Blue Fox Motel & The Quorum Initiative –  
*for their event sponsorship*

Seth Rudetsky & James Wesley –  
*for their talent*

Superfine Life – *for helping our girls find their power*

Andrea Schaffer – *for everything & then some!*

**DONATE**

## Elected Support for EverGreen Meadow Academy

Special thanks to **Governor Kathy Hochul and the Governor's Executive Office** for their support in working with us, **Majority Leader Chuck Schumer** and **Senator Kristin Gillibrand** for their continued support in planning for and building our future Academy. Thanks once more to **Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther**, in whose assembly district the school will be built, and who has supported our efforts from the start.

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## Partnerships

**The Center for Discovery**, located in the foothills of the Catskills, is home to one of the most innovative research centers and programs for children and adults with complex conditions. We're extremely grateful that they have dedicated 34 acres of their land to house the future campus and home of EverGreen Meadow Academy!

Based in Lake Placid, **Mountain Lake Academy** houses a NYS-approved 853 therapeutic school for middle and high school boys. The Academy has partnered with EverGreen Meadow in developing policies and best practices throughout our licensing and approval process.

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## EverGreen Meadow Board and Advisory Members

We are deeply grateful to our EverGreen Meadow Board and Advisory members,  
who make everything possible!

### EverGreen Meadow Boards 2023

Mitra Behroozi, Esq.  
(Chair, EGMA/EGMS/Friends of EGMA)

Lee Perlman  
(Chair, Friends of EGMA)

Becca Benghiat  
(Friends of EGMA)

Jennifer Cunningham, Esq.  
(Friends of EGMA)

Alberto Espinosa, M.S.Ed  
(EGMA/EGMS)

Sandra Harris LMSW  
(EGMA/EGMS)

Marc Mazur, Esq.  
(EGMA/Friends of EGMA)

Stacey Millman  
(Founder/EGMA/EGMS/Friends of EGMA)

William Moss, M.Ed  
(EGMS)

Carol Prevost, MSW  
(EGMA/EGMS)

Linda Riefberg, Esq.  
(EGMA/EGMS)

Vilma Linares Vaughn, CPA  
(EGMS/Friends of EGMA)

### EverGreen Meadow Advisory Committee 2023

Laura Bronstein, LCSW, Ph.D.

Alba Cabral, Ph.D.

Kathy Cabral

Gail Donovan

Martha Kamber

Susan Lamontagne

Tama Lane, Ph.D.

Ilene Margolin

Bruce McIver

Donna Rey, Ed.D.

Phyllis Silver, M.Ed.

William Silver, Ed.D.

### Clinical, Programs and Operations Teams – Serving Girls & their Families State-wide

Adrienne Jensen, Executive Director

Tama Lane, Ph.D.

Harrald Magny, Ph.D.

Carmen Martinez, MSW

Emily Rentz, Ph.D.

Eileen Rosario, MSW

Hannah Turk, MSW

Trish Meade, Administrative Operations

Solveig-Margreta Jensen, Intern