Nature Based Services and Animal Assisted Education with Green Chimneys as Case Study
DR. ROSS AND HIS VISION

We are a Residential Treatment Center and Therapeutic Day School that is a leading model of how integrated nature based services can enhance our special education setting.
The Green Chimneys Mission & Philosophy

Helping young people to maximize their potential by providing residential, educational, clinical and recreational services, in a safe and supportive environment that nurtures connections with their families, the community, animals and nature.
We are School/Treatment Center

200 Students with Psychiatric Conditions
Nursery School
Summer Camp
Community Based Services
600 Staff
Common Challenges of our Students
At home, at public school and at GC

- Emotionally fragile
- Easily upset
- Anxious
- Oppositional
- School avoidance
- Neurodiverse
- Socially isolated/depressed
- Explosive
- Self-harming
- Elopement
- Easily Frustrated
- Rigid and inflexible
- Medication
A Therapeutic Community
A Treatment Team Approach

Nature-Based & Animal-Assisted Services are part of a larger system of care

Trauma Informed and Family Centered Care
Building a RELATIONSHIP with real animals and nature
Sunday, July 17 2022
Alumni Day Moment
That’s when we see the impact of our work
Our Nature-Based Areas

- WILDLIFE CENTER
- CAMPUS STAFF DOG PROGRAM
- FARM ANIMALS
- EQUINE PROGRAM
- GARDENS
- ANIMALS IN OTHER PLACES (AVIARY, FISH, ETC.)
- GREAT SWAMP
- MODEL FOREST
A Strong Commitment to Animal Care and Well-Being!

Building a Relationship is about respecting them for who they really are - not just who we need (or want) them to be!

Michael Kaufmann
THE IMPACT OF ANIMAL ASSISTED/NATURE BASED INTERVENTIONS
Nature-Based area access for Students

- School classes – M-F

- Farm “Job”- individual therapeutic activities with animals, seven days a week

- Social workers, OT, Speech as part of a therapy session

- Evening Programs with Child Care/Other Staff for recreation

No child is forced to interact with nature areas - the children are introduced to all areas and then can choose areas of special interest.
AAE domain

- Leadership/inter-personal
- Social-emotional
- Learning and sensory integration
- Academic learning
- Developing positive character traits
- Helping with self-regulation in classroom
5 traits of Positive Youth Development

Confidence

Competence

connection

Character

Caring

Making Academics Accessible

• Providing sensory rich, regulating environment
• Making topics more tangible and relatable
• Hand-on learning to encourage participation and kinesthetic learning
• Practice without knowing
• Individualize and differentiate
Learning about Life and Death
Thank you