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## **UCS Holds Super Tag & Bake Sale for Youth**

Bennington and Manchester, Vt. — The Specialized Children's Services program at United Counseling Service is holding a Giant Tag & Bake Sale at 314 Dewey Street, Bennington, on June 19 – 20 to raise money for summer activities, outings, and therapeutic events.

“When the kids are comfortable with their surroundings, barriers to change fall away and it’s easier to resolve issues and build self-esteem,” Clinician Amanda Burrows said. “It works! It’s wonderful. Getting kids into a different space helps them shed negative behaviors.”

Burrows and her colleagues see that kids who build their personal foundations have the inner strength to be successful over time.

Each year, UCS serves hundreds of children through specialized programs to promote emotional, behavioral, and personal growth. For them, summer offers the chance to experience new environments that teach positive skills and foster growth.

Some of these children come from ordinary backgrounds, while others cope with extra difficulties, living in poverty, traumatized from abuse, or needing help because their parents are mentally ill.

“We see children struggling with attention deficit disorder, substance abuse, oppositional-defiant disorder, school failure, and so on...they need opportunities for praise and pride,” said Lorna Maki, the director of Specialized Children’s Services. “They need acceptance and support that sets them up for success.”

To address these needs, Specialized Children’s Services provides a variety of supervised summer outings — from romping in the sprinkler or planting flowers to visiting science museums and hiking in the Green Mountains.

The children are focused on fun while being immersed in trust. It’s a proven formula: the personal safety they feel enables them to take positive steps while learning about their world. Many of the children have never had the chance to frolic in a lake or hold baby animals at the petting zoo.

So come see what's happening at 314 Dewey. From great items to cookies and cakes, you'll be satisfied!

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