



Our Chamber of Commerce membership primarily consists of for-profit private enterprises as you'd imagine, but we also have many area non-profits who are doing amazing work in the community. This month's member spotlight is on one of them, Spurwink.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with two individuals from Spurwink, which is a state-wide nonprofit that provides behavioral health and education services for children, adults and families. Gabrielle Gallucci, Director of Mission Impact and Shannon Taylor, Regional Director for Outpatient & Community Services (OCS) in the Biddeford office, took me through the services that Spurwink provides, and how they're connected to the Biddeford community.

Spurwink has seen significant growth in York County over the last year, now serving approximately 1,800 individuals. The Spurwink York County office is in the heart of Biddeford in the Pepperell Mill and provides outpatient therapy, public school counseling in partnering schools, functional family therapy strengthening family relationships for at-risk youth, and behavioral health homes for children, adults, and families. In partnership with Biddeford public schools, Spurwink launched ShifaME in 2018, providing trauma therapy for refugee children and their families. Spurwink's Therapeutic Preschool in Saco supports 25-30 children with acute behavioral health needs and often histories of complex trauma.

In January 2018, Spurwink merged with Community Partners Inc., and now serves more than 75 adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities throughout northern York County where they focus on connecting adults with behavioral health challenges, intellectual disabilities, and autism to the community and gaining life skills.

I was very impressed to learn that Spurwink has recently adopted two parks, Williams Court Park and Main Street Park. Volunteers visit the parks weekly to help maintain and clean them for the public. This Spring, they even plan to build a community garden in Williams Court Park! This is just another great way that Spurwink is making a difference in our local community.

Please reach out to Gabrielle or Shannon directly if you want to learn more, volunteer, or help in any way. To read more about what Spurwink is doing in the Biddeford community, check out: spurwink.org/blog.

