

# Springfield Area Parent Child Center

## Strong Communities, One Family at a Time

## Early Childhood News

Fall 2013

### Betty Kinsman, founding Executive Director announces her retirement after 22 years



Betty Kinsman has led the Springfield Area Parent Child Center as its Executive Director for all of its 22 years. Her strong leadership for these years has enabled SAPCC to move forward and grow with our communities, adding programs and services throughout the years to meet the needs of families. Her fiscal acuity has made possible the expansion of programs and construction of a building to adequately house those programs. Her leadership as director of this center manifests itself in low staff turnover. Betty is known for her dedication to children and families, her gracious and modest demeanor to everyone and in all that she does for the people of our communities. She is fair, thoughtful, dedicated and knowledgeable and will be greatly missed. We wish Betty all the best for a happy retirement.

*Amy Hill, Chair of the Board*

Recently Betty spoke in an interview about her time as Executive Director here at SAPCC. She relates her tenure to an incredible journey and very much a team effort to accomplish all that has transpired since 1991. Here's an abbreviated timeline of some of the milestones reached over the past 22 years.

**1991** the seeds of what is now The SAPCC were sown with a small group of dedicated people hoping to fill the needs for community services and education for young families.

**1992** SAPCC becomes Incorporated and a member of the Vermont Parent Child Center Network and purchases the Myrtle Street building.

**1993** The first annual "Celebrate Young Family Festival" begins its 20 year tradition. Family, Infant and Toddler Project and REACH UP Services begin

**1995** PlayWorks Child Center Opens

**1997** Expansion is now needed, new location in North Springfield added at 2 Main St.

**2002** Myrtle's Closet – A Thrift Store Opens on Myrtle Street as a job training site for the Learning Together program.

**2004** Property adjacent at 6 Main Street, North Springfield is purchased to consolidate staff and services in the future.

**2010** Planning and fundraising has been ongoing and now groundbreaking for the new building begins. Newly dedicated CAC services provided at the Center.

**2011** Ribbon Cutting for the new building and the move into new quarters, expanded child care.

**2012** Groundbreaking construction on the new PlayWorks Playground and 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Family Picnic

In closing a quote from Betty: "If I had to make one wish as I leave this job I've loved for so long, it would be for SAPCC to continue to be the hub of early childhood services and continue its family-centered values – serving ALL families with young children, regardless of income or need."

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*Serving families and children in the communities of Andover, Ascutney, Baltimore, Bellows Falls, Brownsville, Cavendish, Chester, Grafton, Londonderry, Ludlow, Perkinsville, Plymouth, Proctorsville, Reading, Rockingham, Saxtons River, Springfield, Weathersfield, Weston, West Windsor, Windham, and Windsor since 1992.*



Incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit agency in 1992, SAPCC is governed by a Board of Directors composed of voluntary members plus an Executive Director.

#### **Executive Director**

**Betty Kinsman**

#### **Chair**

**Amy Hill**

Weathersfield, VT

#### **Vice Chair/Secretary**

**Peg Grimard**

Windsor, VT

#### **Treasurer**

**Scott Whittemore**

Springfield, VT

**Jillian Rapanotti**

Springfield, VT

**Jase Harris**

N Springfield, VT

**Cynthia Martin**

Springfield, VT

**Deb Ankuda**

Springfield, VT

**Lara Peck**

Springfield, VT

**Sharon Laskevich**

Springfield, VT

**Marilyn Thompson**

Springfield, VT

**Carrie Jewell**

Springfield, VT

## *Strong Communities, One Family at a Time*

# **SAPCC Board of Directors welcomes new members**

The board of directors of SAPCC is happy to have 4 new members join us over the past 6 months, bringing the membership to 11. During our months of the capital campaign while we were raising \$2 million it was difficult to recruit new members. Sharon Laskevich, Lara Peck, Marilyn Thompson joined the board in February and Carrie Patch Jewell joined in August. We are happy to have them and thought we'd share a little bit about our new members with you.

**Lara Peck** ~ I currently work as a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator for Springfield Medical Care Systems and serve on the SAPCC Board. I'm married to Lester Peck, better known as "Pete" and we own Pete's Pharmacy right here in Springfield. When our son Weston was first born and into his first year, Pete and I felt very lucky to have the resources available to us through SAPCC. We had some questions and a few concerns about Weston's growth and development and we were quickly connected with the support and help we needed to get all of our questions answered and evaluations, as needed, with one phone call to the SAPCC. It was like magic! The staff is very kind and supportive and we felt so confident in the help we received. SAPCC has helped so many other families and I was amazed to learn even more about all of the programs and resources they offer, right here in Springfield! As a community member with a young child who lives and works in Springfield, I was honored to be able to join such an amazing organization!

**Marilyn Thompson** ~ Is a registered nurse employed by Springfield School District. She strongly supports family and early childhood education, and has been a past member of the Springfield School Board. Marilyn is also an accomplished artist, having grown to appreciate the benefits of Art Therapy through her extensive nursing career. She paints from her home studio, Covy Hill, and her work can be found in numerous private collections as well as at the Hartness House and St Mary's Galleries in Springfield.

**Carrie Jewell** ~ I was born, raised, and lived in Springfield most of my life. I was employed by SAPCC for five years and not only loved my job, but admired the work that SAPCC does for the families in our region. I left SAPCC to purchase an assisted living facility in Windsor Vermont. My husband Vince and I now own and operate a second facility in Ascutney Vermont. After being away from the area for several years I am excited to be reconnecting to Springfield, SAPCC and volunteering. I had always been an active member of the Springfield community and I can now give back to SAPCC and be a partner in the work that they do.

**Sharon Laskevich** ~ I was raised in Springfield VT and married my husband Jeff here. After an eight year adventure in southern California, we returned "home" to raise our family. We currently have three wonderful daughters, two great son-in-laws and two beautiful grand daughters! I have been in nursing for over 30 years and currently work as the Nurse Manager of the Acute Rehab Unit at Mt Ascutney Hospital in Windsor, VT. This past year I have learned so much about the Springfield Area Parent Child Center, the dedicated people who work there and all the amazing programs they offer. I am proud to be a member of the SAPCC board.

## Strong Communities, One Family at a Time

# SPOTLIGHT on SAPCC EVENTS

As part of our fund raising and community awareness goals, we plan several events throughout the year. Our hope is that we can provide both interesting and informative platforms for community interaction, sharing of information as well as fundraising efforts to help support the wide variety of services we offer for families with young children.



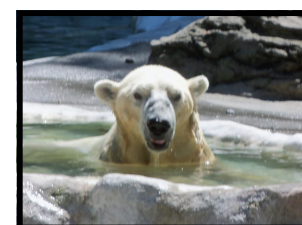
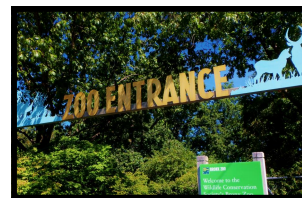
Our most recent event was a bus trip to New York City, with a choice of visiting either the Bronx Zoo or the New York Botanical Gardens. This was a purely fun, fundraising event and the 25 adults that took advantage of the comfortable coach ride into the city enjoyed the adventure, and are eagerly awaiting our next trip. Photos from both the zoo and the gardens appear along the margin.

The next event we will be conducting will be on **September 19<sup>th</sup>**. We will be holding an **Open House here at the Center from 4 – 6pm**. As you will read about more in depth in this newsletter, we have brought on some new PlayWorks teaching staff. This has allowed us to open up a new classroom to increase our enrollment to better serve the community. We thought this would be a good opportunity to invite you in the see the newly configured space and meet the staff. It's also a good way to explore in person some of the many services that we offer to support Early Childhood Education and Family Services to the communities in North Windham and South Windsor County.

Moving on to October, we are excited to announce that we will be conducting a **Fall Fashion Show and Silent Auction to be held at Summerfield's Restaurant, at Crown Point County Club on October 6th, from 1 – 3:30pm**. This event will be a fundraiser, the \$10.00 admission price will include an assortment of delicious appetizers and hors d'oeuvres provided by Summerfield's, a cash bar will also be available for our guests. The proceeds from the Silent Auction will help SAPCC continue to reach the goals of our mission statement: **Strong Communities, One Family at a Time**.

The Fashion Show and Silent Auction is one of Three Signature Events of the Parent Child Center. We have a new event web site that you can visit that will allow you to see a preview of our auction items to get you ready for this fun Fall Fundraising event. To preview, place an early bird or absentee bid, or to learn more about the auction event, please visit the site at: <http://eventsatsapcc.weebly.com/>

Also on this website you can see photo highlights of our other two Signature Events – **Taste of Winter Bazaar** and our **Celebrate Young Children** event held in conjunction with the National event, Week of the Young Child. Taste of Winter will be held in Early March and Celebrate Young Children in mid April. We will be looking for vendors to partner with for the Taste of Winter – if you are interested, please contact Jan Zona, at 802-886-5242 x245 or by email at [janz@vermontel.net](mailto:janz@vermontel.net)





***Justin Parrot***

Justin is teaching in the Honey Yellow Infant room this term. Justin has already had an extensive career in early childhood education, as Director of a PreSchool and as a Case Manager for Early Childhood Care. He's happy to join what he calls the awesome staff and appreciates the professional adult interaction as well as that of the children.

***Catrina Gaudette***

Catrina has just relocated back to this area from Maine, where she also had a long career in early childhood education. She began working in child care in this area when she was 15 years old at Valley Regional. Catrina enjoys working with our Teen Moms in the Learning Together program as well as her co-workers here at the Center. She is a teacher in our Meadow Green room.

***Carolyn Edson***

Carolyn is a recent graduate from Keene State College, but she's no stranger to early childhood education either. She found her passion for childcare back in the 5th grade, when she began spending all of her summers working in child care and education at Summer Camp. She is a teacher in our Sunset Orange room.

# PlayWorks Child Center Expands

## New Classroom Opens, Extended Hours, New Teaching Staff

To meet the public need for more child care and longer hours, the PlayWorks Child Center opened another room of care for infants and toddlers on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. PlayWorks now serves an average of 54 children per day, ages 6 weeks to 6 years. This room, the Marina Blue room, is one that has been empty due to funding issues during the two year move into the new building at the Parent Child Center. With support from the Vt. Children's Trust Fund, the room will now open with 8 infants and toddlers.

The hours of care will also expand. New hours are 7 am – 5 pm. The center has had waiting lists for the past several months and hopes this will help.

With the opening of this new room, we have added three new teachers to our staff as well, read on to learn a little bit the newest members of our PlayWorks Staff.



***Justin Parrot***



***Catrina Gaudette***

***Carolyn Edson***



# Jennifer Bixby will be missed

A tragic motorcycle accident took the life of one of the PlayWorks Child Center teachers,



Jen Bixby in June 2013. She was an upbeat and positive teacher of our 2 and 3 year olds at PlayWorks, known to her students as "Jenny B".

Her laughter on the playground with the children, her playful teasing of other teachers who were quietly observing, the way she cheerfully joined right in with the children in their games; these are just a few of the many things that we all miss about Jen.

If you check out the SAPCC Facebook or flickr pages, you will see the lovely bubble ceremony/celebration we held with the children, parents and staff. It was a fitting tribute to our bubbly Jenny B.

Here are the links to both:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Springfield-Area-Parent-Child-Center/147030402110341>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/87640984@N02/sets/72157634374485991/>



**The Parent Child Center closes for major holidays as well as certain dates for staff development and training.**

Please note the following dates the PCC will be closed over the next few months and plan accordingly:

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ◆ <b>Staff Development</b>      | Friday, October 18       |
| ◆ <b>Thanksgiving</b>           | Thurs & Fri, Nov 28 & 29 |
| ◆ <b>Winter Break</b>           | Dec 23 - Jan 1, 2014     |
| ◆ <b>Martin Luther King Day</b> | Monday, Jan. 20, 2014    |



*Gear For Grades Day!*

Many Thanks to Citizens Bank for providing our transitioning kindergartners brand new back packs to start off their new school adventures in learning!





# The Learning Together Program

*An intensive parent training program*

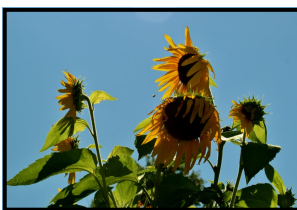
*for pregnant and parenting teens and other young parents*

We are in our 14th year of the Learning Together program at SAPCC and we have been growing steadily since we started. We have served 28 young parents so far this year. The

participants spend time in an on-the-job worksite in addition to a variety of classes, groups and private academic lessons. Our worksites include Myrtle's Closet Thrift Store, Clerical experience, Child-care experience at Play-Works Child Center as well as Kitchen/Cooking experience. Currently classes include Science, US History, Worksite skills, Communication, and Personal Finance. This summer the students have enjoyed planting a garden and cooking with the produce. Our PlayWorks Children have been getting involved with learning about the garden too, as their playground is adjacent to the raised beds. They love to ask questions and help water, and they get to share in the produce we raise too! We've had field trips to local farm stands and garden centers, bringing back produce to compliment our own while trying out recipes using fresh seasonal produce.

The Garden and Cooking Class is made possible in part by a grant from the Fanny Holt Ames and Edna Louise Holt Fund, Bank of America, N A, Trustee. We've also been very fortunate to have received donations of seasonal produce from Maureen Blais of Blais Farmstand throughout the season, as well as donations of produce to our Learning Kitchen from our neighbors at Black River Produce. We'd like to thank both local businesses for their generosity.

Please give us a call if you would like a tour of the building and would like to hear more about The Learning Together Program and the many other programs that are offered at SAPCC.



*Visit us at [www.sapcc-vt.org](http://www.sapcc-vt.org)*

## News from Myrtle's Closet ~ A Thrift Store

Have you heard that there's a new guy in Myrtle's? In fact we are holding a Name our Guy Contest right now! If you stop by between now and September 19th, you can submit an entry to Name our Guy and win a \$15.00 gift certificate for use at Myrtle's Closet.

Speaking of September 19th, SAPCC will be holding an Open House from 4-6pm, and Myrtle's Closet will be open as usual from 10-4 and will then extend hours during the open house through 6pm. We will be drawing the lucky winner of the Name our Contest at this time.

And since Myrtle's will be open as part of the SAPCC Open House, we thought it'd be a great time to kick off a special sale! So, we'll be offering a "Blue Dot" sale starting at the Open House on Thursday from 4-6pm, and again on Friday Sept 20th from 10-4. This means that you can buy a bag for \$2.00 and fill with specially marked Blue Dot merchandise!

### Happy Shopping!



## Heartfelt Thanks

Go out to our donors from our March 2013 Annual Appeal

### THANK YOU!

Stephen & Ellen Ankuda  
William & Leigh Dakin  
David & Laura Driver  
John Follett  
Wayne & Lois Golden  
Patricia Graves  
Amy D. Hill  
Tom Johnson  
Cynthia Martin  
Jessica Naumann  
May Peavey  
Tony Petrillo & Ellen Pinter  
G K N Aerospace—NH Div.

*We welcome your kind donations any time of year, they help us reach our goals and fulfill our mission statement:*

***Strong Communities,  
One Family at a Time!***

If you would like to donate, you may do so by sending us a check or by donating online, via a secure server with your credit card.

Please visit us at [www.sapcc-vt.org](http://www.sapcc-vt.org) and click on the donate button on our home page.

*Thanks for considering a tax deductible donation to SAPCC!*

## News from the Vermont Dept of Health: Immunization Survey to Begin

Each year, child care providers in Vermont must report on the immunization status of children in their care to the Vermont Department of Health (VDH). These regulations apply to registered homes, licensed homes, and licensed centers, including school-based pre-k programs. It does not include LECC, after school programs, non-recurring or any K-12 school programs.

Emails will be sent out the week of October 1<sup>st</sup> and will contain a link to the 2013 Annual Child Care Provider's Immunization Survey. All email messages will show VDH as the sender. In addition, post cards will be mailed a week later to help VDH determine those providers who do not have access to a computer or email.

Any questions can be emailed to the Immunization Program at: [immunizationprogram@state.vt.us](mailto:immunizationprogram@state.vt.us) or call 802-863-7240 or 800-640-4374. In addition, the Immunization Nurse at the nearest VDH District Office location will be able provide assistance. Their contact information can be found at <http://healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/index.aspx>.





Strong Communities,  
One Family at a Time

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sapcc2@vermontel.net  
Web:  
www.sapcc-vt.org

## Technically Speaking...

Funding for the SAPCC programs, including this newsletter is provided in part by Vermont's [Agency of Human Services](#), [Department of Children and Families Child Development Division](#) and private sources.

Submissions and announcements related to early childhood and intended for the general public and those who care about young children are always welcome.

Send submissions to:  
**Early Childhood  
News @ SAPCC**  
6 Main St.  
N. Springfield, VT 05150  
[sapcc2@vermontel.net](mailto:sapcc2@vermontel.net)

We reserve the right to deny or edit any submission. All submissions must have names of the person or agency submitting the info. Please call or e-mail with any questions.

JUST  
A  
REMINDER!

## SPRINGFIELD AREA PARENT CHILD CENTER

Please Join us for an Open  
House at the Center on  
September 19th from 4-6pm\*

Stop by and visit our PlayWorks classrooms, Tour the Center and talk with the following specialists to learn more about our programs:

- Play Facilitators & Child Care Development Specialists
- Child Care Subsidy Specialists
- Child Care Referral Specialists
- Children's Integrated Services Developmental Educator & Home Visitors
- Reach Up Specialists
- Child Advocacy Coordinator
- Job Site Supervisors



\* Myrtle's Closet-A Thrift Shop and our Learning Together Worksite will be open from 4-6pm as well for your shopping pleasure.  
*Please stop by!*

SPRINGFIELD AREA PARENT CHILD CENTER

6 Main Street  
North Springfield, VT 05150

Phone: 802-886-5242  
www.sapcc-vt.org

Strong Communities  
One Family at a Time



### Open House

#### Services Offered:

- Home Visits
- Parent Education & Support
- Child Care Support Services
- On-Site Education & Job Training
- Play Groups
- Early Care, Education and Early Intervention
- Outreach, Information & Referral
- Community Collaboration
- Child Advocacy Center

#### Service Area:

- Andover
- Bellows Falls
- Cavendish
- Chester
- Grafton
- Reading
- Londonderry
- Ludlow
- Plymouth
- Saxtons River
- Springfield
- Weathersfield
- Windham
- Windsor
- West Windsor

## FALL FASHION SHOW AND SILENT AUCTION



PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE SPRINGFIELD  
AREA PARENT CHILD CENTER  
BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

~Please join us~



at Summerfield's  
Restaurant on the grounds  
of the beautiful Crown  
Point Country Club for a  
fun fall afternoon  
fundraising event.

- Fashion Show and Silent Auction to be held in the Banquet Hall
- Admission price of \$10.00 covers hors d'oeuvres and bidding access to an exciting range of auction items
- Cash Bar will be available.
- For a preview of the bidding items please visit our website: [www.sapcc-vt.org](http://www.sapcc-vt.org)

**DATE: OCT 6, 2013**

**TIME: 1:00PM-3:30PM**

Summerfield's Restaurant,  
at Crown Point Country Club  
Weathersfield Center Road  
Springfield, Vermont

For more information, or to make a  
donation, please call us at  
802-886-5242



To Save the  
Dates for these  
upcoming Fall  
Events!

We hope to see  
you there!

