

# Springfield Area Parent Child Center

## Strong Communities, One Family at a Time

### 2015 marks 24 years of Service to the community for SAPCC!

This September marked SAPCC's 24th year of service to the communities of South Windsor and North Windham counties. There has been much change and growth over these past 24 years, from a small 2 person agency offering limited services, to a full service community based Parent Child Center employing 34 people. Change has been the theme for us here over the past few years, and it's often been said that change is one of the only constants in life. A quote from Benjamin Franklin comes to mind that still holds true today: "When you are finished changing, you're finished" and here at SAPCC we are far from finished with the rewarding and challenging work we've been committed to doing so well for over 24 years.

Our new Executive Director, Jill Rapanotti is excited to take the helm and continue the tradition of providing quality wrap around services to young children and their families. Jill has been involved with SAPCC in several different capacities over the years, and she will tell you that this agency holds a special place in her heart. Jill began as a Developmental Educator and from there became the Director for Learning Partners Child Care. She also served a term on the governing Board of SAPCC, and finally became our Children's Integrated Services Coordinator before accepting the position of Executive Director a few months ago.

As SAPCC moves forward into its next 25 years of service, Jill sees the center continuing the work of building strong communities, one family at a time. Jill was born and raised in Springfield. She has always felt connected and committed to the well-being of Springfield and its surrounding towns. She states, "The communities gave me so much when I was growing up. Now it is my turn to give back."

"Parenting is the most challenging and rewarding job when the going is good. Stressors on families have increased, and many of the families in our area are struggling in a variety of ways. Along with the people of our communities and area agencies, the Parent Child Center has always had a big role to play. By recommitting to our mission, growing our staff, strengthening our community relations, and listening to the families of the communities that we serve, the SAPCC will continue to be a primary resource hub for families parenting young children."



As for our current impact on the community, we estimate that we've reached approximately 3200 families and providers from January through June of 2015. 400 families served through home visiting, childcare and the Learning Together on-site program; 600 families served through childcare subsidy, referral, play-groups, and parenting classes; 200 providers receiving training; and

2000 families reached through outreach/education activities such as newsletters, public events, welcome baby bag distribution, and generic information and referral.

From all of us at SAPCC, we look forward to continuing the important work of early childhood development and support for children and their families in our communities into the next quarter century. Thank you for your continued support!

## Early Childhood News

Summer/Fall  
2015

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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

**Jill Rapanotti**

#### Board Members:

**Carrie Jewell**  
Springfield, VT

**Scott Whittemore**  
Springfield, VT

**Deb Ankuda**  
Springfield, VT

**Christina Perkins**  
Springfield, VT

**Lara Peck**  
Springfield, VT

**Sharon Laskevich**  
Springfield, VT

**Marilyn Thompson**  
Springfield, VT

**Richard "Deke" Dexter**  
Springfield, VT

**Kathy Knoras**  
Springfield, VT

**Kristen Hurd**  
Reading, VT

**Lizzy Craig**  
Weathersfield, VT



## Learning Together Fall Update

We are off to another bright start this fall in the Learning Together Program. We had two graduates projected for last June, and both women did complete our program and received their diplomas.

*Submitted by Megan Buchanan, LT Educator*



Pictured here from left to right: Tiffany, a 2015 graduate with Black River High School, Michelle will be a 2016 Springfield High School graduate and Kayla, a 2015 graduate with Springfield High School.

We are so proud of our graduates!

This fall we have two more seniors currently enrolled, and we have more students joining the program in the coming months. Our current students are very motivated and dedicated to their immediate task of finishing high school, but they are also working on broader goals such as family wellness, parenting, and job skills for the future. Our LT participants are valuable helpers downstairs at PlayWorks!

We have some exciting developments underway with our current students: Michelle is enrolled in a math skills course at CCV, getting her feet wet in a new college setting. Felicia has begun the LNA completion course at RVTC, a twice-weekly evening program. As we prepare for college and exploring options beyond high school, we're also working on navigating the world of financial aid.

In our SAPCC classroom this semester, our high school credit courses include World Literature, U.S. History, Women's Studies, Mindfulness, and Nutrition. These offerings meet Vermont State high school requirements and align with our integrated and supportive approach to education and parent education, job skills and interpersonal skills. We are grateful for our strong partnerships with the area high schools that create the pathways for our students to earn diplomas through their work here at our center. Here's to another successful year!

## My Time at SAPCC - A Learning Together Participant viewpoint

*Submitted by Michelle, LT Participant*



I have been at the Parent Child Center for a little over a year now and within that time I have met some amazing people and have learned new skills. For about 2 hours every day I work at PlayWorks assisting the teachers in the Four Square room. I play with the kids, I help them with their problem-solving skills, I help them with crafts and help the teachers prepare the crafts, and I also help children who have a harder time being quiet and sitting still to pay attention. Some of my favorite things to do with the kids are crafts, like making masks and drawing flowers that they can color in.

Some skills I have learned from working with the kids and watching the other teachers are how to effectively speak to the children. This skill has helped me at home with my daughter Serenity. For example, using words and phrases like, *no thank you, it's your choice, use your words, no hurting hands, make a different choice, talk it out and take a break*. One of the best things about working with the kids is getting greeted by them when I come into the classroom. They enjoy my company as much as I enjoy theirs.

The Parent Child Center has helped me accomplish so much and I am grateful to have the opportunity to come here. Since I have been here I have almost completed my high school diploma, and I recently got my driver's license -- now I just need a car! Also, with the support of staff here, I have gotten some work done on my teeth that was much needed, and I have started dual enrollment with CCV and am attending a math class there. Now I am looking forward to the future and completing more of my many goals in life.



## Myrtle's Closet Closes - Community Internships Sought

In the early days of Springfield Area Parent Child Center, when the agency was still up on Myrtle Street, the idea came about to open up a Thrift Store. The thought behind this venture was to first and foremost provide a worksite for Learning Together, an intensive pre-vocational and educational program that was just being offered at SAPCC. The other benefits were a small income for the center and providing community service work as well as a venue for affordable, gently used quality clothing.

Over the years Myrtle's has moved and grown and transitioned along with us at SAPCC. From its beginning in 2002 at the Myrtle Street location, to the past 10 years here at 2 Main Street in North Springfield it's had a great run as a training facility and community thrift shop. After 13 years of providing job training and a community thrift shop experience, we have decided to close the doors on Friday August 21st for the last time. We find that we have more donations coming into the Thrift Store than sales of clothing going out of the store these days, so it's time to say goodbye to Myrtle's and look to different methods as we move forward. This does not mean that we will no longer provide worksite training experience for our Learning Together program – we are instead looking to enhance worksite experience with internship placement experience for our participants outside the center to take them to the next level of job preparedness.

Please consider this an invitation for businesses and Community Service organizations to reach out and to partner with us. Our goal will be to have our participants continue to get their level one training in soft skills here at the center in our clerical, culinary and child care worksites, and then be ready for a level two internship out in the community, before they graduate and leave the program.

Worksites that would fit with the skill sets of our participants would be as follows:

- Health Care and Service Organizations
- Retail outlets
- Hospitality & Tourism Venues
- Entry level Clerical positions
- Offsite Child Care/Early Education

If you are interested in supporting our Learning Together program to help us reach our goals of providing intensive job training and education, we welcome you to contact us at 802-886-5242 and set up a time to tour our facility and learn more about the work we do here.

On behalf of Myrtle's Closet, we thank everyone that has supported our efforts there over the past 13 years; it's been a great experience for our participants, community partners and shoppers in our surrounding towns. We look forward to creating new community partnerships in the years ahead as we continue to transition to meet the current needs in the towns we serve in South Windsor and North Windham counties.

## Fall Play Groups are Back!

**Mondays from 9:30—10:30 beginning on November 2nd!**

Playgroups are a fun and free way for Parents and Children to meet others outside the home. Playgroups are also a great way to children to practice social skills and learn more about how to get along with others. They're awesome for moms, dads, grandparents and caregivers as well! Come Join us Monday mornings!



## Do you enjoy volunteer work with young families?

Good Beginning Upper Valley is looking to extend their network into the Greater Springfield Area. If you are interested in learning more about this program geared to assist young families with a child 6 months old or younger, then please come to our informational gathering on November 2nd from 6—7pm here at SAPCC. Feel free to visit their website: [www.gbuv.org](http://www.gbuv.org) or give us a call for more info at 802-886-5242.

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



*Learning Together  
and the Children's  
Gardens this summer*

Our new potting shed arrived this July



Garden Trugs installed in the PlayWorks playground were a big hit with the children!



Early season harvests included spinach, lettuce, chard and radishes



Green beans, tomatoes squash and cukes arrived later and were all served in our lunches.



## Chef Jason Tostrup visits PlayWorks !

*Submitted by Melisa Beaulieu*

Many thanks to Chef Tostrup for his visit to PlayWorks. He is not only a locally renowned chef, but also the father of a student in our Sunset Orange classroom. We always encourage parents to spend time in the classroom with us, whether they are just observing or if they have something they want to share.



Chef Tostrup shared pasta making with us and it was a huge success! The children (even those that don't usually stay on task) were all engaged throughout the entire process. It was so much fun watching the children's faces as they worked with the manual pasta maker rolling and cutting their own pasta. Chef kept the children engaged with high flour 5's and sharing that all recipe's taste better when you use a special ingredient....LOVE! Our pasta must have been



made with a lot of love, as it tasted yummy!!!!

# PlayWorks Open House

On a beautiful late summer afternoon on the very last day of August, the PlayWorks staff invited in students and their families to an open house to meet the staff and join in on some fun activities both in the classrooms and outside on the playground. Take advantage of a perfect opportunity to talk over with our teachers, meet other parents and children and enjoy some hot pizza and cool watermelon on a brilliant end of summer afternoon. The smiles and excitement for the start of a new school year were just so awesome to see!!



*Tye Dying, Face Painting, Bubble Blowing, Play Doh, Sand tables, Pizza, classroom fun and so much more!*



*Strong Communities, One Family at a Time*



# Meet the PlayWorks Teachers

playWorks Support  
Staff



Honey Yellow  
Room

Ages 6 weeks to 18 months

Edie DeRosia—Lead Teacher



Brenda Martin—Teacher



Sunset Orange  
Room

Ages 1.5 to 2.5 years

Melisa Beaulieu—Lead Teacher



Kendra Dana—Teacher



Jenn Rousse—PlayWorks  
Director



Celeste Marquise—  
Behavior Team Coord.



Blue Green  
room (Aqua)

3 Years Old

Megan McCarthy—  
Lead Teacher



Cassandra King—  
Assistant Teacher



Amanda LeWallen —  
Teacher



4 Square Room

4—5 Years Old

M J Grennan —  
Lead Teacher



Shel Emerson-Small —  
Assistant Teacher



Donna Battista-Young —  
Teacher



Erin Curtis Gallant—  
Floating Teacher



Kim Kiniry— Child Care  
Support Services Coord.

parenting is a  
difficult job!



### We Can Help!

SAPCC hosts and sponsors a number of parenting classes open to the public throughout the year.

Classes typically run for six consecutive weeks and are about 1.5 hours per session and are generally free of charge. In many cases free child care can also be arranged.

Here's a list of the type of classes we offer:

*Positive Discipline*

*Siblings without Rivalry*

*Parenting for Prevention*

*Mindful Parenting*

*How to Talk so Kids will Listen....*

And many more.

**Please contact:**

**Stacey Sanderson for current class schedules and information at 802-886-5242.**



**Vermont Northern Lights  
Career Development Center**

### Did you know . . .

Early Childhood Professionals in Vermont have a tool designed for tracking and planning their professional growth. The Vermont Career Ladder organizes coursework, credentials, degrees and licensure into one Northern Lights Professional Development System. Each of the six levels requires education, a current Individualized Professional Development Plan (IPDP) and professional experience with children and families. We would like to recognize the achievements of our local providers during the past year:

Level I : Alicia Horwedel, Laura Rounds, Elizabeth Roberts, Catherine Hebert

Level II : Alicia Horwedel, Jacquelyn Kissell, Debra Knapp, Joyce Mitchell, Shelley Wilcox, Karen Balch, Amber Millette, Ashley Broughton

Level IIIA : Heather LaPlante, Sheila Roby, Katie Jackson

Level IIIB : Jazmin MacNeil, Chelsea Chase, Amy Hoisington

Level IVA : Jodie Peebles

Level IVB : Laura Rounds

Level VB : Karen Prior

Afterschool Essentials : Brandon Lynch

For more information on the many opportunities available to the early childhood workforce, visit Vermont Northern Lights Career Development Center (<http://northernlightscdc.org>).



~Submitted by Kim Kiniry

**From one of our Subsidy and Referral Clients, thanks for the kind words, Angel!**

I want to extend my compliments on your outstanding employees and services. When in need employees have gone to great lengths to help me in a professional manner. I stopped in when I was new to the area as I was lost. This is tremendously accommodating when in a taxing, time sensitive situation. This is not a service you normally assist with, yet the kind woman at the front desk assisted without hesitation.

Nicole Downing has given amazing effort especially when tasked with last minute alterations concerning daycare. This has been of assistance as we have changes in daycare facilities without much notification. I have always received quality service at your facility, and Ms. Downing's extended help is a prime illustration. She distinguished just what to do to rectify any problem swiftly and efficiently.

Such service builds great working relationships. I will confidently bring all my friends and family in need to the Springfield Parent Child Center when in need of assistance towards child care. In addition, I have in the past and will continue to refer family and friends to the Springfield Parent Child Center for programs offered such as parenting classes.

The services you offer are great for the community and the references are amazing. Without your support many families would experience a challenging time affording daycare in order to meet their employment needs.

Respectfully,  
Angel Johnson



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



## Many Thanks to the Inn at Weatherfield for sponsorship

Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup> marked the Inn at Weathersfield's Annual Farm Dinner Celebration. SAPCC was thrilled to be a part of this celebration of locally sourced food and farmers. Many thanks go out to the Inn for orchestrating such a special, festive evening and for selecting Springfield Area Parent Child Center to be the recipient of the Silent Auction pledges. The Learning Together Program at SAPCC is what sparked Innkeepers Marilee and Richard Spanjian to honor us with their sponsorship this year. Learning Together is an intensive pre-vocational, educational and parent training program. It is geared to help young parents get the support, education and information they need to become self-supporting contributing workers, citizens and parents.



We were very pleased to have one of our own Learning Together Graduates, Darian Holden participate in the evening's events as a server. Marilee shares our passion and our pride in our program, and called Darian up during the dinner to speak about her accomplish-

ments to the entire group of diners. She illustrated how Darian is a great example of how our program can make a real difference in the lives of a young family. Darian was 15 when she gave birth to her daughter Raelynn, and was unsure and afraid of what the future would bring. Through Learning Together, Darian was able to complete her high school education, receive her diploma and gain both job and parenting skills while having her daughter onsite attending pre-school at PlayWorks Child Care Center. Darian is now the Center's Cook preparing breakfast, lunch and snacks for up to 52 children and adults daily.



Many thanks once again to Richard and Marilee of the Inn at Weathersfield, along with their Farm Partners, all the local businesses supplying the auction items and for the music of the Springfield Stringers and Johnny O for an amazing night of local food, music and community spirit.

Over \$3200.00 was raised for our Learning Together program through this event, and we are very grateful to Richard and Marilee for their community spirit and sincere efforts to give back

and enrich the lives of those within their local reach.

As a non-profit community service organization we are always looking for ways to form partnerships and sponsorships to continue to raise funds, provide learning opportunities and enrich our existing programs. If your company or organization is interested in community outreach and would be interested in supporting us in our mission to continue to build "Strong Communities, One Family at a Time" please do contact us at 802-886-5242.



## Consider A Donation

Every child needs a helping hand.

Your tax free donation is a great investment in our most important asset, the children of our communities and their families.



**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!*





Strong Communities,  
One Family at a Time

# The SAPCC Children's Integrated Services Team

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Newsletter Editor and  
Photographer ~ Jan Zona

## 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.

Stacey Sanderson  
CIS Team Coordinator



Sarah Rose  
CIS Early Intervention &  
Referral Coordinator

Lori Johson  
CIS Child Care  
Coordinator



If you are struggling with paying for childcare due to an unexpected crisis in your life you may be eligible for family support childcare regardless of your income. This 6-12 month program can help provide stability for your children while you work toward resolving your crisis and helps you get a step ahead.

Are you a pregnant or new mother? Questions regarding nursing, infant care or just have questions regarding the day to day care of a young child. We have a nurse who is available to come to you to help support you in making informed decisions regarding the many choices parents are faced with.

Are you living in unstable housing, worried about having enough food to last through the month, wondering how to obtain medical insurance, child care, need to find a doctor or dentist etc.? We have a family support worker to help you obtain needed resources

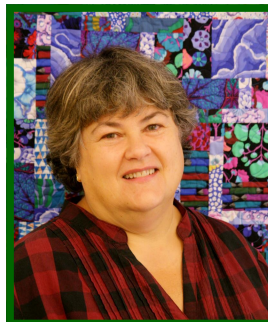
Do you have questions or concerns regarding your child's development.....worried that they may not be developing as quickly as their peers....early Intervention can help answer your questions and provide developmental services for your child.

***Please don't hesitate to give us a call to set up an appointment—we can help and our CIS services are FREE! You can reach us at 802-886-5242, please ask for Sarah Rose.***



Jillian Gurney  
CIS Developmental  
Educator

Cathleen Corliss  
CIS Developmental  
Educator



Tynisa Bayles  
CIS Developmental  
Educator



Leigh Dakin  
CIS Nurse Home  
Visitor