

# Springfield Area Parent Child Center

Early  
Childhood  
News  
Spring/Summer  
2013

*Strong Communities, One Family at a Time*



## Highlights from the 20th Annual Celebrate Young Children Family Festival

Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> marked Springfield Area Parent Child Center's 20<sup>th</sup> annual hosting of the Festival at Riverside School, in conjunction with the National Week of the Young Child. One of the traditions of this festival is the Springfield Police Dept booth, providing photo and finger print IDs for children. Another busy booth was the Scholastic Book Fair, offering a Buy One, Get One Free sale that many families were able to take advantage of as well. Clifford the Big Red Dog was a hit wandering about the Riverside Gymnasium giving hugs to the children attending and posing for photo ops! Thanks go out to all of our exhibitors, your collaboration helps make an event like this the success that it was.

***Coming up in October, we'll be hosting a fundraiser at Summerfield's Restaurant at Crown Point Country Club. Save the date—Sunday, October 6th, for SAPCC's Fashion Show and Silent Auction! More information to follow soon....***

Events like these, and our new event held this past February, **TASTE of WINTER Bazaar** are important to the Center to help us reach our goals and to strengthen community bonds. We welcome community support of these events in any number of ways. By simply attending, contributing a donation of goods/services; or if you are, or know of a local business that would like partner with us as a corporate sponsor for any of these three signature events, we'd love to hear from you. **To explore ways to partner with SAPCC please contact Jan Zona at 802-886-5242 x245 or at [janz@vermontel.net](mailto:janz@vermontel.net).**

*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.*

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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.

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

# Owen's Story

*What is courage?* How is a person courageous? Courage comes in many forms and means different things to different people; to me courage is overcoming obstacles in your life, even without knowing just what you have overcome. My three year old son Owen has shown more courage in his short life than many people have in a life time. Owen was born with physical, mental and visual disabilities, but he has beaten the odds and overcome many obstacles life threw at him, and continues to thrive.

When Owen was born everything seemed normal, but when we took him for his six month check up, we found out that was not the case. Our Doctors explained that when I was pregnant with Owen he most likely suffered from a prenatal stroke, causing his brain to be under developed. The images showed that 75% of the left side of his brain was missing and 15% on the right side. Because of this the EEG showed that he had epileptic activity and would most likely suffer from seizures as he grew. Although Dr. Holmes couldn't tell us what Owen's future held because of how rare his case is, another doctor decided to firmly tell us that Owen would not walk, talk, or move beyond an infant stage, this was devastating to hear, but Owen has proved her wrong.

When Owen was eight months old he began to have seizures known as Infantile Spasms, a form of epilepsy. Infantile spasms are dangerous to children; because they can cause a child to lose motor skills. After exploring a number of medications, we resorted to steroid therapy with a medication called Acthar. It was a hard decision, to administer these shots twice a day for a month, knowing the pain it causes your child, but the therapy worked. A new EEG shows that there was no seizure activity in Owen's brain.

At this point in time, all Owen could do was lie on the floor or bounce in his "Johnny Jump-up"; he could not crawl, walk, or talk. Although the shots caused Owen to scream and cry all day long, he did something amazing, he started to crawl.

He had a physical therapist, a vision therapist, and an occupational therapist, each one showed up in that month and to their amazement and ours we saw a drastic change, he was progressing quickly. I remember the tears welling in my eyes when his physical therapist looked at me and said "I can't believe this, he is a totally different child!" The baby we were told would never walk or talk was crawling and cooing.

While Owen made great progress learning to crawl, then walk and talk, unfortunately it was a little over a year later that the seizures returned. We opted not to do another round of Acthar, so Owen was put on a medication called Bazel. Again Owen amazed us all, he continued to progress, he was starting to climb on furniture, play with more complex toys, say more words, he even began putting words together in a sentence. I took him to a follow up a few months later and even his Doctor was extremely shocked and impressed with Owen's progress. As we drew closer to Owen's third birthday we started to discuss if he was ready to start school. After meeting with the director of the school we decided it would be a great idea. Owen started school last fall the day after his third birthday.

Owen has been going to school for five months now, and has progressed beyond what I had ever imagined. He has overcome every obstacle that has been placed in his path. Owen has proved so many people wrong, doing things some predicted impossible with the amount of brain he lost.

Owen is courageous without even realizing just how courageous he is. The courage he shows is not to show people how brave he is, it's doing everything he does without letting his disabilities get in his way. Many people faced with Owen's disabilities would give up and submit to not being able to do certain things, but not Owen. Owen is the most courageous person I know, and I am amazed with him every day, he is my child, my role model and my hero.



## Strong Communities, One Family at a Time

### Alexis' Story

Hi! My name is Alexis and I have been coming to PlayWorks since June of 2011. I was just 5 1/2 months old when I started here!

I had some developmental issues to overcome, and with the help of my teachers at PlayWorks and my CIS educators Nancy and Celeste (I call her CC) I have accomplished many of my milestones.

Because of all the help I have had, I am able to move onto the next classroom with the older two year olds.

Oh and by the way, I am excited about becoming a big sister very soon!



### Staff Spotlight - Amanda

Hello!!

My name is Amanda and I am the new PlayWorks teacher working with 2 and 3 year olds in the Sunset Orange room. I started at the beginning of May and I am excited for the summer as well as the upcoming year! The children, staff, and Learning Together students have made me feel so welcome!

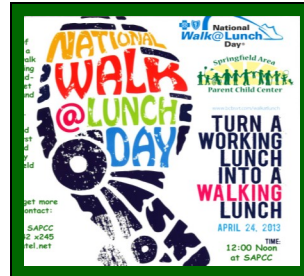
I have only been teaching at PlayWorks Child Center for a few weeks, but the children are amazing! I cannot believe how comfortable they are with me in the little time I have been here. Their smiles make my day and I love seeing all their different personalities develop.

Jen Bixby or as the children call her, "Jenny B" is an awesome co-teacher! We will go on adventures, plan activities, and teach while incorporating each child's individual needs as well as their interests. We will learn and grow while having a blast at the same time.

I am so thrilled to be a part of PlayWorks Child Care Center! I am also excited to continue to meet new children as well as their families. The Springfield Area Parent Child Center benefits so many individuals in our community and I am glad to be a part of such a great program!

### Rachel's Story

I was new to the area with a 18 month old, and going through a high risk pregnancy when my husband said he wanted a divorce due to the stress of our situation. I was devastated and soon after for health reasons put on bed rest and wasn't able to work. I was petrified on how I would be able to provide my daughter and soon to be son with the consistency they so greatly needed during the divorce, when I had no income and even after returning to work would only have a single income. The thought of having to find \$340 a week was overwhelming. I was told about the Springfield Area Parent Child Center. I went in and spoke to Nichole, who instantly assured me I wasn't alone, and we would figure out the daycare payments. Not even two days later my daughters school had all the payment information and was receiving payments to help. There's not a better feeling in the world than knowing you can provide for your children. I am now back to work and amazed at how SAPCC still is going above and beyond to help me. They have been a massive blessing to me and I am so grateful to the staff.



April 24th was a glorious day for a walk across the Reservoir! SAPCC, in conjunction with Blue/Cross Blue/Shield sponsored the walk for National Walk at Lunch Day. Staff, Students and PlayWorks children all participated.





# The Learning Together Garden & Cooking Class



Three raised beds to grow vegetables are being built this semester as part of the Learning Together Gardening and Cooking Class. Elements of Everyday Math, Science and Nutrition are being incorporated in to the class curriculum to compliment the gardening and cooking skills utilized in this class. Children from the PlayWorks Child Care Center will also be a part of the garden project, helping to water and to harvest vegetables.

The Learning Together Garden is made possible in part by a grant from the Fanny Holt Ames and Edna Louise Holt Fund (BACCGF), Bank of America, N.A. Trustee.



Thanks also go out to High Mowing Seeds of Wolcott, VT for their donation of seeds packets. Many thanks also go out to PlayWorks Parent, Calista Tanner for her kind donation of nursery herbs and plants as well.

## Program updates from PlayWorks Child Care Center

**Big news** - In September, PlayWorks will expand to open another room for infants (age 6 weeks to 3 years). We have a waiting list again and we have one more room to open in the new building. We are interviewing teachers now to increase staffing. If you need full time child care, please give us a call. 802-886-5242 - ask for Rose.

We are also exploring whether there is a need for care after 4:30 pm - our current hours are 7 am - 4:30, so let us know.

PlayWorks Child Center will be closed July 1 - 5, 2013. We close for two weeks each year; one week in the summer and a week in December in order to do maintenance and to give teachers a vacation. The rest of the Parent Child Center is open that week so if you have questions, please feel free to call 886-5242.



PlayWorks children in Shirley's Foursquare room learn about Vermont's Green Up Day and put on their blue protective gloves and help clean up and Green Up our grounds along the river.





# See how we GROW in Meadow Green

This winter, our music, artwork, books and movement kept us busy growing. While the snow melted, the children had hands on experience with colors and how we can stay healthy. We all ate our “red” strawberries, “green” beans, “brown” bread and drank our “white” milk to keep our bones strong! Then, we rolled, jumped, giggled and tumbled on the exercise mats and through obstacle courses to get our hearts revving. A big thank you to Dr. Rick Marasa for loaning us real stethoscopes from Springfield Hospital’s ER so we could hear our hearts. As a result, one of the children expressed having a “great” visit to the doctor and smiled as they used the stethoscope! Another thanks goes to: Dr. Chris Fauver for giving all the children toothbrushes and letting us use his dental molds to learn more about our teeth and practice good brushing.



We have continued learning sign language for - please, thank you, welcome and friend. Enhancing language skills is a constant as we learn to name people, places and things. We use sign and words for phrases such as “help”, “more”, “all done”, “thank you” and “excuse me” to communicate needs. Throughout our curriculum we continually keep in mind our goal of increasing each child’s self-help skills. As we work toward self-reliance the children feel good about themselves and

gain more independence.

This Spring we will get our minds and bodies going as we: “call all bubbles”, make nature bracelets, have water fun, get in the “goo”, knead homemade play dough, make a “volcano” and more. On the playground we will be running, climbing, pushing, sliding, pulling and digging with each other. We will continue to encourage the children to enjoy each new experience as we explore our world together, share with each other and love getting messy while learning and having fun! We are so fortunate to have such a great group of families and look forward to Summer.

## playWorks Playground Phase II ~ Next Steps!

Our playground committee is planning its second phase of creating the natural playground for PlayWorks. This second phase includes the planting of a sunflower hut, perennials, herbs, building a structure that will provide some shade, and adding water play to our sand area.

We will be sprucing up the playground, planting, and building for this phase on June 22nd. If you would like to help us out with our next step, we would welcome donations of perennials and/or herbs.



## kids Yoga at Playgroup



Our Playgroups are free and open to the public. They are a great opportunity for parents and children to socialize and interact together. Yoga for children was a featured activity during one of our June Playgroups. Playgroup meets on Monday mornings. If you’d like more information about Playgroups, please contact Nichole at 802-886-5242 x227



## Upcoming parenting Classes at SAPCC

Thursday, July 18 -  
August 22, 2013

Positive Discipline  
for Preschoolers

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Life with an active child can be very demanding. No matter how much you love the child, there will be moments filled with frustration and anger. Learn to understand why children misbehave and how to solve behavior problems. *Positive Discipline for Preschoolers* provides basic principles that will bring child and adult closer together. Childcare provided on a limited basis - call 802-886-5242 to register.



For the full calendar of parenting classes offered at SAPCC, please check our website: [www.sapcc-vt.org](http://www.sapcc-vt.org)

# June 2013 Learning Together Graduates



*Jennifer Dow Nichols graduated with Bellows Fall High School, Darian Holden and Mc Kenzie Jelley graduated with Black River High School and Ronni Daniels graduated with Springfield High School this June*

All of the staff at SAPCC are proud to congratulate our four High School Graduates for 2013. These four young women have had a strong commitment to the 20 hour a week program that combined education credits, work-site training and parenting classes. They all were able to benefit from having their children in PlayWorks Child Care Center while they completed their education and job training. For a young mother, the ability to have the time to bond with their children and check in on them during the day is one less thing to stress about as they juggle their busy schedules.

**Ronni** joined us on February 12, 2010. She is the first high school graduate in her family, including her parents and siblings. Ronni particularly enjoyed working in our Cooking worksite, learning about food preparation working with our staff cook preparing lunches and snacks for the PlayWorks Child Care Center and the Learning Together Café. Her goal is to continue her job training and find a full time job.

**Mc Kenzie** is a Florida native that came to us on October 19, 2010. She managed to survive the Vermont winters and has been focused on pursuing a career in Health Services. While with us in the Learning Together Program, she also participated in Health Career classes at the Tech Center, and has applied to several local colleges to reach her goal of becoming a Medical Technician.

**Darian** has been with us since April 1, 2011. Her goal is to continue her job training and to find a full time job. Darian is very artistic and found ways to realize her creativity here in the variety of classes we offered, she'd like to pursue her continuing education, part-time in the evenings.

**Jenn** came on board on August 23, 2012. While here with us she found that she has a love of cooking and gardening, and has started her own small garden. She's reached many of her goals this year, she has gotten married, received her diploma and is excited about her first full time job.

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



## 3 Generations team up to donate to Locks of Love



Jenn Rousse, her mom, Joyce Martin, and Jenn's son's Clayton and Phillip all went to the New England School of Hair Design on June 1st to donate their "ponytails" to Locks of Love.

Between the four members of this family, they donated a total of 48 inches towards the manufacture of wigs to Locks of Love. The donation of their hair will enable Locks of Love to provide hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 21 suffering from long-term medical loss from any diagnosis. The mission of Locks of Love is to return a sense of self, confidence and normalcy to children by utilizing donated ponytails to provide the highest quality hair prosthetics to financially disadvantaged children.

Jenn is Co-Director of PlayWorks Child Care here at SAPCC and we commend her and her family for reaching their goals and making a difference in the lives of others, by their donation.

## provider Appreciation at SAPCC



On May 8<sup>th</sup> 20 childcare providers gathered for Provider Appreciation Night hosted by the Springfield Area Child Care Provider Network. Providers were treated to dinner and were presented a certificate of recognition showing their dedication for the work that they do. Each provider left with a small gift of appreciation. The Child Care Network meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 6:30-8:30 at the Parent Child Center.

For more information on the Child Care Provider Network call Rachel Hunter 886-1070 or Staci Otis 885-3029.

## Heartfelt Thanks

Go out to our donors from our March 2013 Annual Appeal

### THANK YOU!

Stephen & Ellen Ankuda  
William & Leigh Dakin  
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John Follett  
Wayne & Lois Golden  
Patricia Graves  
Amy D. Hill  
Tom Johnson  
Cynthia Martin  
Jessica Naumann  
May Peavey  
Tony Petrillo & Ellen Pinter  
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*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!*



Strong Communities,  
One Family at a Time

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## 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)

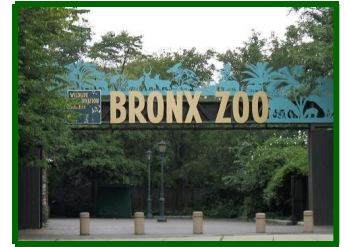
We reserve the right to deny or edit any submission. All submissions must have names of the person or agency submitting the info. Please call or e-mail with any questions.

# Please Join Us!

Why not consider joining the Springfield Area Parent Child Center as they celebrate their 21<sup>st</sup> year of service to families in our communities by sponsoring a trip on September 7<sup>th</sup>. You'll board in Springfield and travel via luxury coach to New York City where you'll have the choice of



spending the day at either **The Bronx Zoo** (the World's Greatest Zoo featuring more than 4,000 animals) or **The New York Botanical Garden**, where you'll see



spectacular seasonal exhibitions and explore 50 diverse gardens and plant collections across 250 acres of year round beauty. Just think – no driving, no parking, no hassles, just a pleasant day. The total cost, which includes your admission ticket, is \$109 per/person. \$25 deposit due at sign up – final balance due by August 1, 2013.

For additional information or to reserve your seat(s) on this outstanding day trip, please call Kim at 802-886-5242 ([kimk@vermontel.net](mailto:kimk@vermontel.net)) or check our website [www.sapcc-vt.org](http://www.sapcc-vt.org).



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