

GREETINGS FROM THE FAMILY PLACE,

We were so pleased to have seen many of you at our recent 20th annual Gingerbread Festival! It was wonderful to gather for an in-person event and celebrate the season together, after years of adapted events during the pandemic. Smiling faces, gingerbread confections, and a generous community are all hallmarks of this beloved event.

We have some news to share: Later this year, I will step down from my position as Executive Director of The Family Place, and we will start an exciting new chapter of leadership, ideas and initiatives. For the past 7.5 years, it has been my privilege to work with an amazing staff and dedicated community partners who have prioritized the health and well-being of the youngest members of the Upper Valley and their families.

We could not do the work we do without your ongoing support. This impact newsletter shares highlights of how your gift made a difference.

In gratitude,

Nancy Bloomfield

15 YEARS OF HELPING CHILDREN FIND THEIR VOICES

Meet Sarah Schneider, TFP Children's Integrated Services Early Intervention Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) and Developmental Educator

Sarah Schneider recently celebrated 15 years at The Family Place and has been a speech-language pathologist (SLP) for 27 years. About her work, Sarah shares, "We have a wonderful, dedicated, knowledgeable team in Early Intervention who show great passion, teamwork and care for the families we serve. I enjoy celebrating both big and small victories that our team accomplishes by helping a family achieve their goals. I am always proud when a child reaches an age-appropriate level of speech and language skills and no longer needs my help. It can be bittersweet to see them move on, but it is so satisfying."

For a lasting positive story, Sarah shared, "I had worked with a mother whose priority was to hear her 2.5-year-old child call her Mama. We worked hard on finding ways to help the child achieve this. One day, my phone rang, and it was that mom. She said, 'He said it! He said it!' and then she handed the phone to her child and asked him to say it, and he did. I won't lie, I shed a few tears and had a big smile on my face."

Sarah, pictured on the right, always has a welcoming smile for children and families.



WILLING HANDS: PARTNERING TO FEED OUR FAMILIES

"It can be hard for families to meet basic needs, like food, and we help by providing nutritious meals to their children," says Kim Toland, Director of TFP's Early Care and Education Program (ECEP). With weekly deliveries to TFP from Willing Hands that goal is met. "We have a handful of families who rely on us to help keep their family fed. The daily meals and snacks made and provided here provide nourishing food for the children who attend our program."

In our Families Learning Together Program, coordinator Tia Fotion shares, "The food we receive from Willing Hands has been very helpful in our meal preparations for the ECEP and FLT program lunches. The produce gets inventoried each week and from there, our students plan the menu for weekly lunches and the grocery shopping list. This teaches valuable life skills such as meal planning and budgeting. In addition, we share the extra food we have with families at the end of the day and week."

Thank you to Willing Hands for delivering 1,204 pounds of food since July 1 (2,350 pounds in 2022). Willing Hands recovers fresh food from farms, grocery stores, restaurants, and wholesalers, and delivers it year-round, for free, to social service organizations across the Upper Valley Region.

OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT SINCE JULY...



23 CLIENT FAMILIES (82 INDIVIDUALS, 40 CHILDREN) WERE CONNECTED TO **HOLIDAY SPONSORS** WHO PROVIDED BASKETS, GIFT CARDS, PRESENTS, & OTHER SUPPORT DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON



133 BOOKS FROM THE BOOK ANGELS PROGRAM AT THE NORWICH BOOKSTORE WERE RECENTLY DELIVERED FOR OUR CLIENT FAMILIES!

Every year the Norwich Bookstore partners with community members to help gift books to kids across the Upper Valley for the holiday season. Book requests from local non-profits are hung on a large wreath at the bookstore, and community members purchase books from the tree in November and early December.



20 PLAYGROUPS HELD IN OUR COMMUNITY, INCLUDING OUR NEWEST PLAYGROUP AT THE MONTSHIRE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE



1,204 POUNDS OF DONATED FOOD RECEIVED FROM WILLING HANDS FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT



\$4,216 DOLLARS WERE RAISED ON GIVING TUESDAY, A GLOBAL DAY OF GIVING



1,100+ COMMUNITY MEMBERS ATTENDED OUR 20TH ANNUAL GINGERBREAD FESTIVAL



115 GINGERBREAD HOUSES DONATED AND DISPLAYED AT OUR GINGERBREAD FESTIVAL



448 ACADEMIC/PROGRAM HOURS OF FAMILIES LEARNING TOGETHER, OUR ON-SITE HIGH SCHOOL AND EDUCATION PROGRAM



THE FAMILY PLACE

delivers comprehensive programs designed to strengthen positive relationships, teach essential skills and promote enduring healthy growth for families with young children in the Upper Valley and surrounding communities.

LEARN MORE AT FAMILYPLACEVT.ORG

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