



IMPACT NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023



CELEBRATING THE UNSUNG HEROES

The annual Shield Our Children from Harm Conference in April, offered jointly by The Family Place and Dartmouth Health, focused on child abuse prevention, detection, and treatment. Two local Unsung Heroes were honored at this event, including our own Meg Moody. Meg is the Administrative Coordinator and Family Advocate for The Family Place's Windsor County Unit for Special Investigations and Child Advocacy Centers. Meg and the entire team work tirelessly to respond to all reports of child and adult sexual assault and abuse as well as reports of serious physical injury to a child, including child fatalities. Child Advocacy Centers' services include interviews, case management, therapy, coordinating medical exams, and information and referral to other programs, services, and agencies when appropriate.

In her role as a Family Advocate, Meg helps families navigate through a most difficult experience and find resources for safety and healing. "In just over a year, Meg has been a tremendous asset in advancing our prevention and outreach efforts. She is adored and appreciated by her team members. When in the Family Advocate role, Meg has a way of explaining what can be a complex process, in a way that puts a parent's trepidations at ease. I once observed her talking to a mom who was concerned why her teenage daughter couldn't or wouldn't confide in her. In some ways, Meg's youth makes her even more relatable when supporting families. She draws on her own experiences and helps make sense of things for others." – Julie Gaudette, Director, Windsor County Unit for Special Investigations and Child Advocacy Centers of The Family Place



GETTING "THROUGH THE BLUES"

Community conversations about issues impacting young children and families are the hallmark of The Family Place's annual Force for the Future (FFTF) Luncheon. On a sunny May morning the week of Mother's Day, we hosted our 12th annual FFTF at the Cornerstone Community Center in Hartford, VT. A panel, including a family therapist, an early childhood educator, a pediatrician, a parenting coach, and an advocate for Postpartum Support International, shared personal and professional perspectives on perinatal and postpartum mental health issues. Attendees enjoyed a catered lunch and heard firsthand what resources are available to address this issue in the Upper Valley and beyond.

One attendee said, "Having experienced postpartum depression myself and having struggled to find support and validation, I was impressed with the number of services that are available for families. I left the event with a lot of hope for those facing challenges." Executive Director Nancy Bloomfield said, "The Family Place's staff and all panelists brought heart, passion, and thoughtful insight to the conversation – grounding the topic in real experiences and offering hope." A video recording of the event is available on Junction Arts & Media's YouTube Channel (<https://bit.ly/12th-Annual-Force-for-the-Future-Luncheon>).



SINCE JANUARY, THE FAMILY PLACE HAS...



REFERRED **33** FAMILIES TO **CHILDCARE PROGRAMS**



HOSTED **13** PLAYGROUPS AND
8 WEEKS OF **DAD GROUP**



PROVIDED **378** MENTAL HEALTH SESSIONS WITH CHILDREN,
PARENTS AND FAMILIES, REPRESENTING **54** UNIQUE CLIENTS



STARTED A **FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** WITH
5 LOCAL FAMILIES REPRESENTING OUR SERVICE AREA



INSTALLED **107** PINWHEELS ON CAMPUS IN SUPPORT OF **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**, EACH ONE REPRESENTING A CHILD THAT HAS BEEN SUPPORTED AT OUR CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER



DISTRIBUTED **100** CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS
FOR NAEYC'S **WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD** TO **118**
CHILDREN IN **32** TOWNS OF THE UPPER VALLEY



SERVED **277** FAMILIES WITH **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS**
FOR CHILDCARE, INCLUDING **441** CHILDREN & **398** ADULTS



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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