



# Spaulding Youth Center

*every child deserves a childhood*

Summer/Fall 2013

## Reading is enticing at Spaulding

“Yuk – I don’t want to read; I hate reading.” Beth Witham, a Title 1 reading tutor at Spaulding knows just what most of her young students are going to say when she meets them for the first time. She compares her charges to wilted plants that need nurturing. Witham says it is similar to watering and fertilizing the plant; when you give students the tools to tackle the job they perk up and blossom. Inability to read and low self-esteem go hand in hand. The student’s perceived inability to read produces embarrassment and anger; when a child experiences success his/her anger melts away.



*A student is presented with a certificate for passing Level 2 in the Orton-Gillingham reading program by tutor Beth Witham.*

Witham’s job is to entice kids to want to read – and that she does. She always has several tricks up her sleeve and lots of patience. One of her tactics is explaining that there are many famous and successful people who are dyslexic and, like them, they need to learn some new techniques to be good readers. Witham comments that after hearing that, many children exclaim, “You mean I’m not stupid?”



*A student helps his peer with a program on the computer.*

Andrew\*, a boy who has been particularly defensive, obstinate and uncooperative, forced Witham to try out a new method of enticement. She decided to recruit another student to help

- another student who was pretty much like Andrew at first. Aimee\* was 12 years old, had a very short memory for learning sounds and could not read a three letter word. She was angry and resistant and would shut down when Witham entered her classroom. Over a few of months, Aimee started experiencing success and has now passed the second of 5 levels in the program. Witham witnessed a change from a sad, wilted plant to a happy, blossoming flower and Aimee is so proud of her accomplishment.

Witham told Andrew that there was another student at Spaulding who had just as much trouble with reading as he did. He found it hard to believe, but he agreed to listen to what she had to say. Aimee said to him, “Andrew, it is hard, but you have to try - it is so worth it.” Part of the program consists of reading sounds from a deck of cards and the more you learn the larger your deck grows. Aimee showed Andrew her large pile of cards and he was very impressed. She said, “Andrew, you can have a deck of cards as large as mine if you work hard. Are you willing to try?” Andrew did agree and he is now attending his reading classes, working hard and experiencing success.

Witham uses the Orton-Gillingham reading approach which is perfect for young readers at Spaulding who need consistency and constant reinforcement. Each lesson is predictable and there is lots of repetition. With each lesson the students gain a little more confidence until finally they are volunteering to read aloud in front of the whole class.

## Our Mission:

To leverage our professional expertise to help young people with autism or other developmental and/or behavioral challenges learn the academic and life skills needed to be successful in their homes, schools and communities.

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# From the Hill

*Dear Friends of Spaulding Youth Center,*

As an avid reader and unabashed book lover, I am thrilled with the remarkable strides Spaulding students have made with their reading progress. Whenever a student tells me how excited he/she is to be reading "Harry Potter" while another boasts about reading the entire Stine mystery series, I feel we are sharing a special part of ourselves which we rarely share. On occasion a student might read to me, and it is a moment I always treasure. The morning when Tommy\* read excerpts from a "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" aloud to me, I barely had time to breathe between our giggles.

As the cover story demonstrates, our Title I reading tutoring grant has had a huge impact. The grant helps to provide students with intensive individual reading instruction and helps close the gap between functioning levels and normative grade level expectations. This year several of our students made more than four times the expected growth in an academic year as measured by Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) testing. Now that is something to brag about!



*A student reads to Susan Calegari from the hilarious book, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."*

Whole new worlds open for our students each time they open a book or a Nook, read to a CEO or a peer, or compose an imaginative story on their own or with their classmates on the SmartBoard. I eagerly look forward to the Authors' Tea on October 25, a time when all of our students will present and read from the books they have created. It will be so close to Halloween, please be ready for a special treat – or perhaps you should be prepared to be scared out of your wits! I fervently hope you will join us.



*School librarian Pat Parmenter assists a student on the computer.*

*Susan S. Calegari CEO and President*

*\* Pseudonym used to protect the privacy of the individual.*

This newsletter is published to present information about Spaulding Youth Center, its programs and services. For more stories and information, visit our Web site at [spauldingyouthcenter.org](http://spauldingyouthcenter.org) or contact Gail C. Mayhew, Director of Development, 72 Spaulding Rd., Northfield, NH 03276-4608; (603) 286-7500, ext. 532; [gmayhew@spauldingyouthcenter.org](mailto:gmayhew@spauldingyouthcenter.org).

Editor: Gail C. Mayhew / Photographers: Gail C. Mayhew, Lauren Parker

# 7TH ANNUAL National Foster Care Month Celebration

On a sunny day in May, Spaulding hosted a very popular event to celebrate Foster Care Month. The national month-long campaign to raise awareness about the urgent needs of young people requiring foster care encourages citizens from every walk of life to get involved – as foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors or as employers.



The free event organized by the Division of Children, Youth and Families and Bethany Christian Services was attended by 132 adults, 176 children and 61 volunteers. There were activities for all ages including miniature horses rides, games of chess, hair dressing, make-overs and a barbecue. *Life is good Playmakers* set up games and teenagers were challenged by the EChO (Experiential Challenges Outdoors) team at Spaulding to try out the ropes course in the forest. The day concluded with a talent show and tons of door prizes, including HP laptops for 13 lucky teens.



## THERE ARE MANY CHILDREN IN NEED OF LOVING FAMILIES AND PERMANENT CONNECTIONS.

Spaulding's ISO Foster Care Program provides foster homes for children and youth ranging in age from birth to 18. Make a difference in the life of a deserving child in your community by becoming a foster or adoptive family.

For more information, contact Carol Sanborn, Recruitment and Admissions Assistant at [carolsanborn@spauldingyouthcenter.org](mailto:carolsanborn@spauldingyouthcenter.org) or 603-286-8901 x203.

## Feature story continued from cover...

Throughout the school students are excelling in reading. Principal Colleen Sliva commented, "Most of our students met or exceeded expected growth in reading and language usage for this year as evidenced by the results of the recent Northwest Evaluation Association's tests, Measures of Academic Progress." Teachers are experiencing high levels of success using technology such as interactive whiteboards that are in every classroom and iPads which many non-verbal children carry with them. The teaching staff is to be commended for their adeptness at finding the best methods of teaching children who have multiple challenges.

*\*Pseudonyms used to protect the privacy of the individuals.*



Reading tutor Beth Witham works with a student using the Orton-Gillingham reading program.

# Kent & Mary Alice Warner Day at Spaulding

When students leave Spaulding there is a lot of emotion on the part of the child and the staff. It's good that they are moving on, but they leave a void in our hearts. On the last day the child is a student at Spaulding, there is always a "Success Celebration" held in their honor.

When Kent Warner, a director of Spaulding Youth Center Foundation since 1998, announced that he was leaving the board, the same emotions were experienced by many and so a Success Celebration was in order for him and his wife Mary Alice who was a trustee for Spaulding Youth Center for many years.

The Success Celebration began with a student singing, "Bare Necessities", and then students, staff and board members took turns at the microphone paying tribute to Kent and Mary Alice. The highlights of Kent's volunteer career at Spaulding were formally acknowledged in a citation from Governor Maggie Hassan and in a Spaulding Proclamation read by a student declaring July 29th to be "Kent & Mary Alice Warner Day" at Spaulding. CEO Susan Calegari thanked Kent, who has been bestowed with the new title of Trustee Emeritus, and talked about his numerous accomplishments as a board member, as a donor and as a passionate ambassador of Spaulding. And just like the students' celebrations, the event ended with the presentation of Success Certificates, a scrumptious cake and lots of hugging!



From left to right, Trustee Emeritus Kent Warner, Mary Alice Warner and CEO/President Susan Calegari

## Around Campus



Ready to race at the Kilimanjaro cardboard sled derby.



A student and EChO (Experiential Challenges Outdoors) Program Coordinator Jason Sterner check out the student's tent before spending the night outdoors.



Hatching eggs in the classroom.

# HATS OFF!



AN EXTRA ROUND  
OF APPLAUSE FOR...

## ... MetroCast Foundation for volunteering at Field Day.

MetroCast Community Foundation showed their support of the students at Spaulding by volunteering at their field day event. Regional Manager NH/ME Moira Campbell, who is a Spaulding Foundation Director, recruited her daughter Nicole Gagnon and three MetroCast employees, Wendy Mills, Dianne Luneau and Donna Cannon to run some of the activities which involved a lot of cool water on a steamy hot day. Students loved the impressive looking medals they received from MetroCast and devoured their delicious ice-cream sundae creations. In return students thanked MetroCast by presenting them with a giant three-dimensional card replicating an old fashioned television set. Campbell assured the kids that she would place the card, which was signed by all the students, in the lobby at MetroCast.



Field Day

## ... arts education coordinator Andrew Raeside, visiting artist Michael Zerphy and the performers at Spaulding's 27th Annual Arts Festival.

Michael Zerphy and Andrew Raeside inspired students to dream up skits, acts and mimes for the annual arts festival billed as "Flight of Fantasy." The audience was delighted with the fantasies that took flight. Among the many and varied performances were Dan Gilbert's class miming the building of a fantasy house; Theresa Hemmer's class miming a day at a Hawaiian beach; Denise Luneau's class performing a puppet show using large stick puppets; and Mirjana Karic's class creating a hilarious skit using knock, knock jokes. All the classes put a lot of thought and effort into their performances, props and costumes and the loose theme enabled each child to participate at his/her own level. Our students love to perform and they were very happy to receive accolades from the very enthusiastic audience.



Arts Festival



Winners of the 7th Annual Bette Davis Cup - Team SNHS. From left to right, Phil Grandmason, Gale Hennessy, Ryan Clouthier, Gabe Roy

## ... the 2013 golf committee that raised \$26,000 (net \$20,000) for Spaulding students.

Thanks to a tenacious golf committee and many devoted volunteers and supporters, the 7th Annual

Bette Davis Cup was a success. The committee who solicited golfers, sponsors and prizes was made up of Joe Banks, Jamie Caldwell, Moira Campbell, Jane Cedrone, Sandy Marshall, Dave Palfrey, Kent Warner and Jenifer Williams.

Proceeds from the tournament directly benefit our students, providing them with art supplies, sports equipment and transportation and admission for all kinds of outings including Squam Lakes Science Center, Wellington Beach, the movie theater, the bowling alley and Crazy Kids indoor play center.

## Success Under Construction - A New School for Spaulding Capital Campaign Update

### WE SURPASSED OUR GOAL BY RAISING \$3,209,239!

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all who made the campaign so successful. Our staff and the families of our students observe extraordinary accomplishments every day at school, in the community and at home. Here are just a few examples of recent triumphs that you made possible: Amie passed into Level 3 of her reading program; Michael played a board game with his mom for the first time in his life; Jason read his first novel; and Hannah learned how to tie her shoes. Thank you for investing in a project which will leave a lasting legacy for children, youth and their families for many years to come.

## Spaulding Youth Center Supports an Eco-friendly Environment

This newsletter is printed on paper using 100% Post Consumer Waste (PCW) and is FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) Certified.



**PLEASE NOTE  
OUR NEW ADDRESS**

We haven't moved, but our address has changed to:  
**72 Spaulding Road, Northfield, NH 03276-4608**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**



**Annual Celebration**

Thursday, October 17, 4:30 - 6:30 pm  
Spaulding Community Center  
*Awards will be presented to community partners and the donor wall will be unveiled in The School at Spaulding.*

**Author's Tea**

Friday, October 25, 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
The School at Spaulding  
*Come listen to students read their personal publications.*

**8th Annual Bette Davis Cup  
Golf Tournament**

Monday, June 2, 2014, 7:30 am  
Lochmere Golf and Country Club



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Northfield  
New Hampshire  
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