

FALL 2021

every child deserves a childhood

150 YEARS LATER AND WE'RE STILL HELPING

Soon after I started working at what was then known as Spaulding Youth Center, I “discovered” a trove of old journals and ledger books tucked away in the corner of a storage room. Initially, my attention was captured by the debit and credit entries in the accounting ledger as I was fascinated by the painstaking handwritten entries and descriptions of the accounts. But my interest quickly shifted to a second book, a Record Book of Applications to Enter Children into the Home – a fascinating handwritten account comprising almost 700 entries recording applications for child placement at the New Hampshire Orphans’ Home from 1890 to 1905.

The New Hampshire Orphans’ Home, originally founded to care for orphans from the Civil War, and later known as the Daniel Webster Home for Children, was an antecedent to today’s Spaulding Academy & Family Services. The “stories” in the Record Book were as sad as they were compelling – I could not stop reading the entries. I wondered how families could end up so destitute and so torn by events that they were forced to give up their children. I read about families unable to make more than \$3 a week and who were therefore unable to support their kids. There were notes about either or both parents deserting the family, about divorce and death and illegitimacy. When my eyes filled with tears, I would have to put the book down so as not to compromise the already aged document.

In the late 1950s, the Daniel Webster Home for Children would merge with the Golden Rule Farm, a place where children who were deserted by their parents as well as orphans and other children were, “cared for, educated, and trained for life ... the institution

H.F.G. Littleton, NH. wants us to take six children from 6 mos. to 8 years of age – all from one family. 2 boys and 4 girls – bright children – mother deserted family – father drunkard. Like to have homes found for them. (July 21, 1898)

Mrs. E.H. of Apthorp (Littleton) N.H. applies asking admission for her six children, 2 boys and four girls, the oldest 13 years + youngest 2 years old. Mrs. H is leaving her husband and going to Boston to work + wants a home for her children. Replied that we would take them if possible, enclosing blanks. Children came October 8, 1901. (October 8, 1901)

accepted mildly delinquent boys under the age of sixteen,” and the name Spaulding Youth Center was established.

It has been almost five years since I first perused these archival treasures, and it seems to me that a lot has happened in the meantime. But then again, not really. To be sure, the Spaulding that we know today – Spaulding Academy & Family Services – probably looks a lot different but our mission has not wavered. Spaulding is still here to care for the needs of the children who are most vulnerable in our society. We care for all sorts of children who need our help – help to secure a better future for themselves. We care for those who are challenged in ways that require our specialized attention in their education, and we care for those who are not safe at home or who have been traumatized by their young life experiences. For me, the tears have not stopped. I know that no child should ever have to struggle as many of our children have, some for an unconscionably long time.



And so, maybe things have not changed all that much, which is in itself a shame. While we don’t have six kids at a time dropped off at our doorstep, there are many children who need a home or the wrap around services that Spaulding provides. Right now, in the State of New Hampshire, there continue to be many children in need of foster care placement or who are looking for a ‘forever home.’ We can do this – we are doing this – but we need help. Every day, our Community Based Program staff are in the community working with foster families and agencies looking for ways to transition these kids to a safe and loving home.



The centuries may have changed, the campus may have changed, but the stories from The Record Book are, in many ways, today’s stories. We still have children who need our help – to find a home, to be able to learn, to live without fear. We have been helping for 150 years and we will continue to help – because every child deserves the opportunity to experience a childhood.

Todd C. Emmons
President & CEO / CFO

TO READ ABOUT our most recent success stories, visit SpauldingServices.org/stories.

SPAULDING AWARDED DISTINCTIVE CARF INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

For the past two years, Spaulding Academy & Family Services has been carefully preparing for its accreditation application with Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International. This independent, nonprofit organization evaluates every aspect of health and human service providers to determine if they meet its one or three-year accreditation standards – or simply cannot be accredited. Spaulding’s Leadership and Residential Teams are pleased to share that CARF International has awarded Spaulding a three-year accreditation, and the organization is now considered a Qualified Residential Treatment Provider (QRTP).

This thorough process required Spaulding to conduct detailed research, including off-site trainings to understand CARF International’s standards and reviews of CARF International manuals (some 400 pages in length!). To align with standards CARF International upholds, Spaulding redefined programs and their descriptions; created new student, stakeholder, and staff surveys; developed student and parent “Bills of Rights”; ensured all Residential program staff members completed trainings on restraint and seclusion, emergency response, suicide prevention, treatment services, and gender identity; and instituted regularly scheduled competency-based trainings.

This comprehensive diligence and attention to detail paid off when CARF International conducted a two-day virtual survey this spring, followed by an on-campus safety review in July. The accreditors were extremely positive about their findings on Spaulding’s staff, policies, and processes, and had few recommendations.

CARF International announced Spaulding’s three-year accreditation and naming as a QRTP on September 29. This important distinction speaks to the quality of services Spaulding provides its children and families every single day and serves as a guidepost for the organization as it evolves.



TO LEARN MORE about the spaulding residential program, visit SpauldingServices.org/residential.

Housekeeping is now “In-House!”

This summer, Spaulding transitioned its housekeeping services from a contracted company to an in-house team. Lisa Huckins was named Housekeeping Supervisor and leads eight full-time housekeepers. They are expertly managing the variety of cleaning needs campus-wide and have already proven a great addition to the Support Services Team.



PROGRAM UPDATES

Spaulding Academy

As educators, the Spaulding Academy staff appreciates that learning never stops. This year, they are eagerly pursuing professional development opportunities through a variety of resources, including the Winnisquam Regional School District, LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) and project-based learning training.

It is proving an invigorating experience for our teachers to spend time with other educators as they seek training in areas of their personal interest. Our students are benefiting from the new ideas and approaches their teachers are learning, including fresh language arts lessons and project-based education. For example, while learning about the life cycle of plants and vegetables this summer, students enjoyed reading, writing, math, and research lessons all relating to the project and were very enthusiastic about the holistic approach.

In addition, several Academy staff members recently completed their teacher credentials and Orton-Gillingham Approach reading certifications. Spaulding Academy is committed to providing the mentoring, planning, and funding to help its staff achieve professional development - both to enhance the curriculum and meet the evolving needs of our student population.

Residential

There is always something happening in the Residential program. The children enjoy structured leisure time and after-school therapeutic recreational activities that boost confidence, enhance social skills, and make campus life even more fun!

Community Based

The 14-member Community Based program staff now has a dedicated office space - just two miles from campus - at Spaulding's newly renovated Shaker House. The team consists of a foster care licensing worker, masters level clinicians, case managers, and family aides who partner to provide Individual Service Option (ISO) Foster Care, In-Home Services, and Child Health Support to children and families. When not on the road visiting the families they support, the staff is able to host supervised visits in Shaker House's private, home-like family meeting room. It is a wonderful asset to the Community Based program and to Spaulding.

Recently, the team renewed its contract with NFI North to continue providing FAST (Families and Systems Together) Forward services, which delivers a range of community-based services and supports for children, youth, and their families with (or at risk for) mental health challenges.

With the state's high demand for foster care, the Community Based program is always working to recruit more foster families. The team attended Concord's Market Days in August to offer information and is currently working on a variety of opportunities to promote foster care training and participation.



TO SEE MORE PICTURES OF SPAULDING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES, please visit SpauldingServices.org/photos.

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EMPLOYEES SPEARHEAD COMMITTEE FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION EFFORTS

In the aftermath of George Floyd's murder, several Spaulding Academy & Family Services employees were inspired to take positive action to tackle issues of race and equality on campus. After discovering they were like-minded in their motivation, Donnelle Combs, Special Education Teacher; Charley Suter, Digital Learning Specialist; and Clinicians Melissa McEvoy and Doris Theberge discussed the idea of formalizing an on-campus group to combat discrimination and hate speech through education and open dialogue. With support from their immediate supervisors and organizational leadership staff, the group established Spaulding's Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee.

They consulted regional experts, including JerriAnne Boggis, Executive Director, Black Heritage Trail of NH, and conducted research on how to approach education, training, and communication about a variety of inclusion areas for both fellow staff members and Spaulding's children. Online DEI learning modules for employees are now available, along with activities for the kids (adjusted for age levels) that highlight celebrating similarities and differences and how to handle situations when someone is treated unfairly.

The optional committee is open to all employees, and meets weekly, rotating shifts to give everyone the opportunity to participate. According to Suter, some are quick, brainstorming sessions, while others focus on reconciling emotions and coming up with a plan to move forward.

"This work cuts into so much of our realness as humans and as parts of this organization," he explains. "Fundamentally we want to make the world a better place, and this is an extension of that - we are trying to support each other and improve as a community."

TO LEARN MORE about the Spaulding DEI efforts, visit SpauldingServices.org/DEI



Spaulding Academy & Family Services is a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and we are grateful to our many donors and sponsors who support our mission. If you would like to discuss creating a custom package to support your professional or personal giving goals, please contact Sandy Marshall at 603-286-8901 ext. 107.



SCHOOL'S IN FOR MEDICALLY-INTENSIVE CHILDREN!

Imagine being unable to attend school because of a manageable medical condition, like being in a wheelchair, using a gastrostomy tube (G-tube), or having a seizure disorder. Sadly, this is the case for children in New Hampshire - and across the country - who are relegated to staying at home, being in a hospital, or living in a nursing home (often out-of-state) due to their medical needs. Spaulding Academy & Family Services is working to change this for these children by opening academic and residential enrollment to medically-intensive students.

Spaulding is now licensed for up to ten medically-intensive children. While they can be day or residential students, the majority will likely live on-campus. The children will not require acute care, but nursing staff will be available around-the-clock to oversee and support their needs. Staff members are well-trained to manage medications, G-tube placements, and seizure episodes, so families can feel confident their medically-intensive children are healthy and safe while enjoying a more traditional academic experience - with clinical support - close to home.

"We are the least restrictive environment for medically-intensive kids and can offer them the most 'normal' school experience available," explains Nicholas Lefebvre, RN, Health Services Director at Spaulding. "We currently have a medically-intensive day student who formerly had 24/7 nursing care without any peers. The kids here have rallied around her and support her - and see her as one of their own."

In addition to expanding opportunities with peers and broadening horizons, transitioning medically-intensive children to Spaulding, rather than providing in-home care, better prepares them for any required future services. It often proves challenging to enroll adults in facilities who didn't have facility relationships as children.

Spaulding is eager to share its academic, clinical, and residential expertise with medically-intensive children and their families.



TO LEARN MORE about our admissions process, visit SpauldingServices.org/admissions.

DONATE TODAY IN THREE EASY WAYS We appreciate your consideration to help support extraordinary children and their families toward a successful future. Contributing to Spaulding Academy & Family Services is as easy as 1-2-3:



1. Donate online at SpauldingServices.org/give



2. Mail a donation to 72 Spaulding Road Northfield, NH 03276



3. Contact the development office at 603-286-8901 ext. 107 or donate@SpauldingServices.org



Thank you for supporting the children and families of Spaulding Academy & Family Services

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT: John Hamilton, Teenage Student to Lifelong Donor



At first glance, John Hamilton's childhood experiences seem like scenes from a 1950s movie. A self-described "juvenile delinquent," he was sent to various homes in upper elementary school due to his fondness for mischief - including starting fires to watch the fire trucks arrive. In 1956, he was sent to Golden Rule Farm (now Spaulding Academy & Family Services), where he lived in Colcord Cottage, worked in the dining hall, did farm chores, and played DJ for his friends with a speaker he made. Two years later, he snuck out his window and hitchhiked all the way to Texas - staying in local jails at night for food

and shelter - in a ploy to get to California to stay with his uncle. He was recognized as a runaway and sent back to Golden Rule Farm on a Greyhound bus under the watchful eye of a plain clothed officer.

Once the school became co-ed, John and the other boys moved down the hill but enjoyed sock hops and dances with the girls. He loved riding the tractor with his friends and working on the farm. John left in 1959 and eventually joined the Air Force working in computer programming and landing gear hydraulics, married and had children, and enjoyed a career in medical equipment and surgical technology, including installing the first surgical robot at Tacoma General Hospital, Washington. Although retired, John is an active volunteer for the local Amateur Radio Emergency Service and on the deployment crew for the county Mobile Operations Command Center.

A longtime Washington State resident, John is a generous monthly donor to Spaulding. He understands and appreciates that his time here guided him toward better choices, despite his tendency to misbehave and run away. "It gave me the opportunity to play and learn what I liked, with enough freedom, responsibility, and guidance," he explains. He credits Spaulding with making a positive impact on his young life and now happily returns the favor by supporting the organization, as one of its most loyal donors.



TO LEARN MORE about ways you can give, visit SpauldingServices.org/Giving.

It's Time for Everyone to Play

With the recent program expansion and admission of medically-intensive children (see related article), Spaulding Academy & Family Services is staying true to our belief that every child deserves a childhood. While the existing playground was designed to meet sensory needs, this area does not offer truly adaptive playground equipment for children with co-morbidities.

Therefore, we are excited to announce that we are in the early planning stages of a fully adaptive playground design which will provide everyone equal opportunities to play, interact, and just be a kid. Details on how supporters can donate to the Adaptive Playground efforts will be available in the coming months, along with updates on our grand plan! Stay tuned for more details later this fall!



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Vicky Blodgett, Industry Professional to Board Member and Beyond

It's been 35 years since Vicky Blodgett was introduced to Spaulding Academy & Family Services (then Spaulding Youth Center) when she was a special education director in the Conway School District, and she'll never forget her first impression: "This place is a family. I saw the school as a beacon of hope and compassion - and a future where children didn't have to be scared."

Vicky recalls how impressed she was with the staff and how well-trained they were, which she experienced during her visits to her out-of-district students and when she drafted their individual education plans (IEP) each year on-campus. She eventually moved to Arizona but returned two years later - and hasn't left Spaulding's side since. When she returned, Vicky was asked to join the Board of Directors. During her 25-year tenure, she also enjoyed a term as Board Chair, was an advocate for the new school construction, served on the program committee, and has been a consistently generous financial supporter of the organization for years.

When asked why she donates to the organization, Vicky replies, "It's simple. These children need Spaulding. They need a childhood, and this place gives them one." She also shares that she exclusively donates to a handful of local organizations she knows are good quality and are truly impactful.

Vicky loves to visit Spaulding regularly to check out the new programs, touch base with some of the staff, see the kids enjoying themselves firsthand, and even eats with the children in the dining room. She considers Spaulding her second home and invites others to learn more about its unique qualities.

"All you have to do is drive up the driveway and see the kids, they are loving every minute of it," Vicky says. "It's such a warm, inviting, loving place."

TO LEARN MORE about our history, visit SpauldingServices.org/History.

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Every year, Vicky and her poodle Cleo dressed as elves for the campus holiday festivities

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FOSTER LOVE, FOSTER HOPE, FOSTER CARE

Do you want to open your heart and home to a child in need? If you are considering whether foster care is right for your family, Spaulding Academy & Family Services can help.

We are a licensed Child Placing Agency through the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). Since 2005, our organization has recruited, trained, and licensed foster families for the many children who qualify for the Individual Service Option (ISO) Foster Care Program.

DCYF Foster Care Program informational sessions are held regularly through Granite State College, and required Foster & Adoptive Care Essentials (FACES) trainings for licensed foster care parenting are readily available.



Let us be the bridge that connects you with your foster child.

Contact Dawn Fontaine Recruitment & Licensing Specialist, Spaulding Academy & Family Services at (603) 937-0549 or DFontaine@SpauldingServices.org

TAKE A STROLL DOWN SPAULDING MEMORY LANE

With a legacy beginning in 1871, Spaulding Academy & Family Services has a rich history of supporting children and families in need. In fact, we estimate that our staff has guided over 46,000 children and family members toward a successful future. As we reminisce the many bright spots of our history during our 150th anniversary, we would love for you to join in our celebrations!



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