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FALL 2024

NEWSLETTER

SUPPORT

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We appreciate your consideration in helping to support extraordinary children and their families toward a successful future. Contributing to Spaulding Academy & Family Services is as easy as 1-2-3.

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72 Spaulding Road
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3. Contact the Development Office

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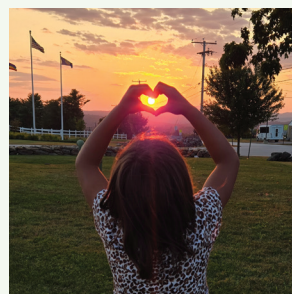
Spaulding Academy & Family Services is a private, 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, and we are grateful to our many donors and sponsors who support our mission. If you would like to discuss creating a custom package to support your professional or personal giving goals, please contact Courtney Leighton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

Our Mission: Supporting exceptional children and families toward a successful future.

Learn More: 603-286-8901 or SpauldingServices.org

THE CHOOSE LOVE MOVEMENT

Spaulding Becomes First Ever Choose Love Certified Campus



The positive energy at Spaulding is palpable. Laughter fills the halls, expressive artwork covers the walls, students celebrate who they are, and staff members are close knit and supportive.

Principal Garrett Lavalée gives much of the credit to the Choose Love Movement. "As an educator, I have never believed in anything more than this program," he said. Founded by Scarlett Lewis after she lost her son in the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, the Choose Love Movement provides free Character Social Emotional Development programs to create safe, nurturing environments. The Choose Love Movement emphasizes open discussions, celebrating successes, and thoughtful responses to challenges in day-to-day life.

Since Garrett became principal and director of special education in April 2022, Choose Love has become a way of life at Spaulding and, beginning in September 2022, has been integrated into the overall curriculum. In July 2024, Spaulding became the first Choose Love Certified campus in the nation. The certification recognizes best practices to foster a safe and compassionate environment by implementing and practicing Choose Love effectively.

Since Spaulding adopted the philosophy of Choose Love, crisis behaviors have decreased by 35 percent and standardized test scores have increased. Garrett has not been surprised at the tremendous results, feeling that it makes sense that "students need to be happy and stable in order to learn."

Spaulding is collaborating with the Choose Love Movement team to help other schools learn about and potentially implement the Choose Love framework and

is now offering the first Choose Love Masterclasses in the country. The masterclasses teach every Spaulding staff member, from groundskeepers to administrators, the tenets of Choose Love – Courage, Gratitude, Forgiveness and Compassion in Action. "Choose Love is not just for kids. It is really a way of life, a way of culture, and a way of community," Garrett explains.

TRANSITIONS

Meaghan Emmons Named New President & CEO



When Todd Emmons decided to retire as Spaulding's president and CEO, we knew his shoes would be hard to fill. Fortunately, we didn't need to look far for the perfect fit. "While we were prepared to do an extensive external

search to fill our CEO opening, our transition team quickly recognized that we had a very natural and highly qualified candidate in our midst," said Michael Ventura, chair of Spaulding's Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors named Meaghan Emmons our president and CEO in August 2024. Meaghan has been our CFO since 2022 and has a deep love for and knowledge of Spaulding. While she looks forward to introducing new initiatives, she also values continuing the path that her predecessor set. "With the team we have, anything is possible. Todd allowed people to take their great ideas and turn them into reality. I want to continue to do that and support them while we provide the best opportunities for our kids. At the end of the day, it's all about the kids," she said.

Before joining Spaulding, Meaghan spent nearly two decades with Granite Group Benefits and Alera Group, serving most recently as senior vice president of finance and overseeing the company's finance and accounting teams. Meaghan has spent most of her life in New Hampshire and holds an MBA from Southern

New Hampshire University and a BA from Saint Anselm College. In her free time, she travels the world, volunteers with UpReach Therapeutic Riding Center, and bakes – laughingly saying that she has dreams of being a baker in a Hallmark movie.

INSPIRATION AND CONNECTION

DCYF Youth Summit Inspires and Supports



Ten Spaulding students and their accompanying staff members had a wonderful time at the 20th Annual NH DCYF Youth Summit held in August at NHTI-Concord's Community College. The event supports youth involved with DCYF child

protection and juvenile justice service as they begin a transition to independent living. The 2024 theme "Your Adventure Begins" captured the excitement of starting a new chapter in life.

Joyce McKenney, Community Engagement Specialist at Spaulding, said that students look forward to this event all year. "Our kids get to spend time with other kids from around the state with similar challenges and interests. They reconnect with people that they haven't seen in years, attend training sessions about practical skills, put on a talent show and just have fun. And there is lots of swag, which our kids really enjoy," Joyce adds.

In the past, Spaulding students have assumed leadership roles planning the event, but this year they were focused on catching up with friends made at previous summits, learning, and having fun. One Spaulding student volunteered to be a talent show judge, another received a standing ovation for her singing in the talent show, and another won a raffle for Beats headphones, but the focus for all the

Spaulding participants was simply to learn from and be inspired by youth just like them.

HAVING FUN

Staff Spotlight: Nick Lefebvre



Nick Lefebvre, our Director of Health Services, has such a passion for helping others and healthcare that he seems born to be in the health services field. Surprisingly, this wasn't always his path.

Nick was born into a family with an ornamental plaster business and spent three years in the family business before branching out on his own doing carpentry and plaster work. After 10 years in business for himself, he felt unfulfilled and yearned to be in a field serving others. Inspired by family members who were nurses, he pivoted to nursing and has never looked back.

Nick received his nursing degree in 2010 and joined Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center, where he spent 11 years as an RN and subsequently as Director of Health Services. When Crotched Mountain closed in 2020, he became part of the Spaulding team.

Today, Nick leads a team of 17 health services staff members, conducts healthcare trainings for Spaulding staff, and provides hands-on care to students as needed. He continually seeks innovative ways to reduce restrictions so students facing health challenges can enjoy as normal a childhood as possible.

"I am so lucky that I found a job that I love. I love helping people, learning new things, working with children and finding solutions to challenges. This job has it all," he said.

