

Annual Report
The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center
July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

The Grapevine mission is to promote family and community health and well-being through support, education and the sharing of resources. Our programs support parents, as their children's first and best teacher; children, so that they will be healthy and eager to learn; and communities, as healthy and supportive environments for all.

Highlights

- Grapevine staff and board participated in an all-day retreat at The Harris Center and subsequently developed and approved a Strategic Plan to take the organization through 2017
- The 1st Annual Grapevine Online Auction, coordinated by Beth Bradford, raised just over \$10,000 to support Grapevine programs.
- Grapevine staff was trained in the National Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support.
- By winter the number of parents and infants in Better Beginnings for Babies required the formation of a second group, also facilitated by Nancy Macalaster MA.
- Family Supports Program Director Beth Bradford MA finished her 10-year tenure with The Grapevine this year, and Carol Lunan M.Ed was promoted to the position in July.
- As of August 30, 2015, Kristen Vance stepped down as Executive Director after more than 18 years of service, and Melissa Gallagher was appointed Interim Executive Director.

Accomplishments

Family Support and Early Childhood Programs – We strive to provide supportive, nurturing, enriching, fully accessible programs for all parents and their children birth to 5 years of age through parent-child programs, parenting education, access to resources, and other family supports.

Better Beginnings Parent-Child Program: This program met three mornings each week and served **19 children and 14** adults. Program Coordinator and Early Childhood Educator Amy Doyle M.Ed teamed up with assistant Paula Coombs, as well as playgroup helper Linda Bryer, to lead the program using a developmental approach with a focus on strengthening social and language skills.

Parenting Educator Carol Lunan led weekly discussions on child- and family-centered topics. The parent groups offered parenting support and information on child development. Discussion topics included:

- Child development and health
- Relationships: parent-child, parent-partner, siblings
- Setting limits, reasonable expectations and positive discipline
- Family history and the impact on current family life
- Family values and principles
- Caring for the caregiver
- Temperament and personality traits

Better Beginnings for Babies began its twelfth year. For the third year, parenting educator Nancy Macalaster of Hancock welcomed parents and their infants. Nancy, former family programs director at

Sophia's Hearth in Keene, facilitated informal parent discussions and created a nurturing and supportive environment for both parent and baby. **14** parents and **14** babies participated. Topics discussed included breast and bottle feeding, family bed or crib, sleeping, routines, taking care of yourself so you can care for your baby, balancing work and parenting, parenting styles, crying and other child development issues.

The Learning Vine: The Learning Vine, a parent-cooperative early childhood learning program for preschool-age children, completed its 14th successful year in June. Taught by Carol Lunan, the curriculum offers hands-on learning for children and a unique opportunity for parents to enrich the learning experience. Classroom activities and field trips into the community combine to create a rich experiential learning environment. Community trips included visits to Rick and Diane's Pizzeria and Norway Hill Orchard. **9** children and **18** parents participated in The Learning Vine.

Access to Services

Monadnock Family Services – Linda Perry, used our provider office to offer youth and family counseling on a sliding scale to people who live in Antrim and neighboring towns. MFS therapist Linda Perry regularly met with clients each week, serving **4** adults.

Rosemary Moran-Weidner, MA used the provider office to offer counseling services to **11** Adults.

NH Easy – The Grapevine continued to offer help applying for assistance online.

Community Supports and Resources

Community Wood Bank—

Since the community wood bank at The Grapevine began in 2003, we have been pleased to consult with others who have started wood banks over the years in Frankestown, Greenfield and Hillsborough, with the most recent wood bank starting up at The River Center in Peterborough. Free firewood is available for families and individuals who cannot afford to buy wood and who use wood as a primary heat source. Many thanks to Ed Lemire & Sons, Priscilla Starratt, Paul Merrill, DH Hardwick, Linda McGilvery, Anita Mendes, Ed & Jane Pelletier, Ron Galik, Bruce Gardner, Al Weissange, Carol Owen, & Robert Benoit for donations of wood, and to the many volunteers who cut, split and stacked so far this fall: Peter Martel, Isaac Battaglia, Ron and Wanda Clough, Larry and Donna Martel, Wayno Olson, Ben Pratt, Cathy Joly, Dick and Lorraine Edmunds, Brian and Caryn Brown, Kristina Burnside, Sean Sweeney, Steve and Linda Osienski, John Schultz, Don McCormick and Jim Thompson. Thanks to these donors and volunteers, **27** families received firewood this year.

Community Suppers—The weekly community suppers in Frankestown, Bennington, Antrim and Hancock, initiated in 2003 by The Grapevine and the 4-Town Citizen Group, continued through the year and promise to go on indefinitely. Every Thursday evening, as many as 100 people enjoyed good food and good company in one of the four towns. Townspeople organize the suppers, which are funded by donations.

The People's Service Exchange—The concept of the People's Service Exchange is elegant in its simplicity: One hour of service equals one "time dollar." Members help each other out, earning credits called "time dollars" as they work, which they can then spend on services they need. The PSE,

coordinated by Nancy O'Brien, served **188** members and offered more than 250 services. The PSE is a member of hOurworld network, enabling members to connect and exchange services online.

Before & After School Clubs—The Before School Club, which provided Antrim Elementary and Great Brook School students with supervision, homework help and enrichment activities every school day morning from 6:45 to 8:30, was run by Lisa Hennessy along with program staff Sarah Hennessy. Lisa and Sarah also staffed the After School Club. Lisa coordinates both programs, providing continuity as well as bookkeeping. The Before School Club served **23** children and the After School Club served **26** children on the Antrim schools campus.

Avenue A Teen & Community Center— Avenue A continued to offer programming and facilities use to children, teens, and adults of the Monadnock Region. In addition to Friday night teen open hours, the Ave A Club for Great Brook Middle School students (middle schoolers) was created and began in December to provide programming for future teens. Community groups continued to utilize the space, for a donation fee. These groups included Alcoholic Anonymous and the Church of Christ of Antrim. New groups began to use the space for donation as well, which included Al-Anon and a band called Tombstone Territory. Heard It Through The Grapevine Open Mic continued, with 100% of the door and food donations going directly to Avenue A operations. The coordinator of Avenue A Heidi Schultz made many connections with community members, such as Antrim residents, Great Brook Middle School and ConVal High School staff and administration, Monadnock Community Hospital, Antrim Recreation Department, and others who potentially support Avenue A programming. The coordinator participated on Monadnock Community Hospital's Substance Misuse and Behavioral Health Task Force, the HOPE Committee (Antrim's local substance misuse committee) and completed restorative justice training for youth offenders. A generation of teens moved on, and some new faces arrived, with **123** teens and **175** adults visiting the center from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support Conference-In April nearly our entire staff participated in this training seminar, learned more about what a Family Resource Center of Quality looks like, and how in many ways, our organization is already meeting these standards. We look forward to integrating the training and adoption of Standards directly into what we do.

The Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support were issued by the California Network of Family Strengthening Networks (CNFSN) in 2012, and adopted by the National Network of Family Support and Strengthening Networks in 2013. They are the first and only standards in the country to integrate and operationalize the Principles of Family Support Practice with the Strengthening Families Approach and its research-based evidence-informed 5 Protective Factors. The vision is that their implementation will help ensure that families are supported and strengthened through quality practice. Thanks to Kristen Vance's commitment to this work, all Grapevine staff attended this training, and were the only Family Resource Center in attendance to have 100 percent of staff represented. For more information on the Quality Standards, visit:

<http://www.cnfsn.org/standards-of-quality.html>

People Served

From July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, The Grapevine served **1875** children, youth and adults at the center and in the community. Our Information & Referral service assisted **263** families who were helped to find food, transportation, clothing, housing, crisis services, fuel assistance, dental and health care,

child care and other resources. **67** additional children and **99** additional adults participated in special activities including:

- Backyard Summer Adventures for children ages 4 to 9 years
- The Fourth Annual Grapevine Black Fly Art Show
- Big Bold Grown Up Paint Camp
- Dad's Group
- Fancy Schmancy Tea Party
- Collaborative Communication
- Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren Support & Information Group
- Free Tax Preparation and financial management consultation from Larry Schwartz, IRS-certified tax preparer

Funding

Grapevine received financial support from the following:

- Town of Antrim (\$19,000)
- Monadnock Paper Mills (\$14,000)
- Gilbert Verney Foundation (\$10,000)
- Anonymous (\$5,000)
- Town of Bennington (\$5,000)
- Town of Hancock (\$5,000)
- Chris' Concert (\$2,200)
- Town of Frankestown (\$4,000)
- NH Ball Bearings (\$3,000)
- Presbytery of Northern New England (\$1,900)
- Robin Colson Memorial Foundation (\$1,500)
- Bank of NH (\$1,600)
- Keith M. Sullivan Foundation (\$1,500)
- Rick & Diane's Restaurant (\$500)
- Fiddlehead's Café and Catering (\$300)
- Antrim-Bennington Lions Club (\$400)
- The Hancock Inn (\$250)
- The Common Place Eatery (\$161)
- Merrill Family Charitable Foundation (\$500)
- Uplift Musical Festival (\$5,164.10)
- Bellows Nichols Insurance, Inc. (\$500)
- Great Brook Veterinary Clinic, LLC (\$100)
- Gregg Lake Association (\$50)

Due to cuts to the NH Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services and the elimination of State of NH Incentive Funds from the state budget, The Grapevine did not receive any funding from the State of NH again this year.

Our Spring Walk for Families in May raised \$13,602.91. The Grapevine raised \$11,494.95 in fees from Better Beginnings and \$12,829.87 from The Learning Vine, \$26,189.49 in Before School Club and

After School Club fees, and \$6,079.32 in special program fees. No family is excluded from Grapevine programs due to inability to pay.

Thanks to participating local restaurants Rick & Diane's, Fiddlehead's Café and Catering, The Hancock Inn and The Common Place Eatery, The Grapevine raised \$1,211.00 during the March *Eat Out for The Grapevine* event.

Grapevine Family and Community Fund

At the end of the fiscal year (6/30/15), The Grapevine Family and Community Fund—owned and managed by NH Charitable Foundation—totaled \$44,805.80. The Grapevine received a dividend of \$1,734.20 in February.

Individual Financial Contributions—Local people responded to our annual fundraising appeal letter by contributing \$23,553.54. Our thanks to:

From Antrim- Gordon & Mary Allen, Loyall & Pam Allen, Stephen & Linda Bean, Maggie Bean-Wright, Mike & Joy Beauchamp Peter Beblowski & Martha Pinello, Raymond & Judi Bernadi, Paul & Linda Blackman, Paul & Winifred Blackman, Dorothy Boule, Nina & Walker Boyle, Theodore & Deborah Brown, Norma Bryer & Cindy Frink, Linda Bundy, John & Nancy Burnham, Patricia Chickering, Don & Maud Cogliano, John & Susan Conklin, Mary Ellen Cutter, David & Andrea Day, Deeann & David Dubois, Richard & Jathy Dumont, Sarah Dryer, Phyllis K. Fries, Lyman & Cynthia Gilmore, Diane Gutgesell, Ron & Ann Haggett, Roberta Hall, Robert & Denise Holmes, Dick & Donna Holt, Cynthia Jones, Barbara Gard & Phillip Kohl, Tom & Mary Lynch, Peter & Teri Lee Moore, Trish Murphy, Martin Nichols, Stephen & Pauline Noble, Wayno Olson, Ben Pratt & Diane Chauncey, Nathaniel & Melissa Preble, Kevin & Kristin Proctor, Clifford & Joyce Purington, Crockett & Chris Rawnsley, Ed & Cynthia Richard, Marguerite Roberts, John & Pauline Robertson, Lynne & Victor Rosansky, Chris & Christa Salmay, Don & Priscilla Shook, Kim Slater, Sandy & Carol Snow, Doug Stone & Amy Zaluki-Stone, SJohn Zhehi, Mark Tassinari, Steve & Marcia Ullman, Kristen Vance, Pamela Veenstra, Kathy Wasserloos, Pat & Carole Webber, Albert & Karen Weisswange, Barbabra Wells, Sydney Wilson-Smith, Dick Winslow, Linda & Richard Withington, Don & Diana Woodhouse, Sam & Catrina Young, Rod & Ruth Zwirner.

From Bennington- Tom Badgley & Rhonda Barkley, John Connor, Joseph & Erin Cuddemi, Denise French, Richard & Robin King, Jenny Lavoie, Mark & Stephanie Mackesy, Ronald & Christine McClure, Douglas & Sandra Mooney, Nancy W O'Brien, Linda & Steve Osienski, Michael & Susan Smith, Eileen Terrill, Sam & Linny Zachos.

From Frankestown- Elizabeth Behrsing, Robyn & Michael Beisang, Herb & Rosa Bromberg, David & Janine Cowell, Gemma Dreher & Ron Rupp, Kevin & Madeleine Gordon, Daniel & Tania Grady, Harry & Judy Hardwick, Donnie & Meghan Hardwick, Teri Hardwick, Roger & Mary Pat Jackson, Larry & Barbara Laber, Joseph & Shirley Ludwig, Elsie Mikula, Neil & Diane Noonan, Andrew & Karen Paul, Hannah Proctor, Charles & Sarah Pyle, Brooks & Nancy Rice, Don & Kay Severance.

From Hancock- Nancy & Edwin Adams, David & Katherine Anderson, Roberta Beeson, August & Ruth Bohn, Eleanor Briggs, Meade Cadot & Sandy Taylor, Barbara Caverly, Alan & Shirley Chandler, James & Denise Chenowith, Donna Coty, Megan & Phil Dodge, Robert & Karen Dudra, Susanna & Thomas Faber, Jon & Elizabeth Grosjean, Hancock Woman's Club, John Hayes, Diana Jacobs, Werner

& Gertrude Kanner, Allison E. Kerwin, Edward & Beverly Leach, Howard Mansfield & Sy Montgomery, Theodore & Linda Renna, Phil Jones & Jane Richards-Jones, Lawrence & Marcia Schwartz, Sean & Janet Sweeney, Richard & Josephine Warner.

Other Towns- Alissa Atkins, Robert & Theresa Benoit, Carl Bradford, Laura Bruno & Mark Driscoll, Bruce & Iris Campbell, Alan & Kristine Chidester, Nanette & Larry Colby, Patricia Dahlstrom, Ross Davidson, Carol & Jerome Diamond, Nick Dionne, Joseph & Diane Ferrisi, John & Mary Fleischman, Cheryl & Stanley Fry, Laura Gingras, Lucy Gobin, Hal Grant, Cathy Hemming, Andrew Houston, Elizabeth Houston, Gordon & Valrie Lewis, Gail Marsh, Mary Elizabeth McClellan, Alexis Murray-Golay, Linda & Norm Nickerson, Rose Novotny, Emily Noyes, Maureen O'Brien, Betsey Olson, Keryl Olson & Micheal Wright, Lori Pedrick & David Trifiletti, Dave & Dotti Penny, Dorothy Peuraharju, Amy Proctor, Fred & Ruth Richardson, Albert Robichaud & Julie Hughes, Charles Setaro, Earle & Jeanne Shumway, Andrea Smith- Gilbert & C. Wendell Gilbert, Laura Sullivan, Jason Vance, Michael Weil.

Volunteers and In-Kind Donations

The Grapevine would not exist but for the generosity of this community, not only financial donations but also donations of time, services and goods. We always hesitate to mention these generous businesses and people because we are sure to leave out many, and we acknowledge that the list below is incomplete. It does, however, represent the contributions without which The Grapevine could not provide its many services and resources:

Rick & Diane's Restaurant
MoonRivers Technology Group
Antrim-Bennington Lions Club
Fiddlehead's Café and Catering
Edmunds Ace Hardware
Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation
Houghton Farms
Great Brook and Antrim Elementary Schools
C&S Wholesale Grocers

Teen Center volunteers: Sue Smith, Steve and Marcia Ullman, Sue Conklin, Antrim Grange
Chris' Concert and Heard It Through The Grapevine volunteers: Rick Fitzgerald, Cheryl Barlow and Doug Aborn

Children's program volunteers: Linda Bryer & Jess Pescitelli

Wood Bank volunteers: Peter Martel, Isaac Battaglia, Ron and Wanda Clough, Larry and Donna Martel, Wayno Olson, Ben Pratt, Cathy Joly, Dick and Lorraine Edmunds, Brian and Caryn Brown, Kristina Burnside, Sean Sweeney, Steve and Linda Osienski, John Schultz, Don McCormick and Jim Thompson

Brown Bag Coalition: Dick Loveland, Steve Ullman, Beth Merrill, Sydney Wilson-Smith, Dawne Hugron, Sharon Dowling, Janice Howe, Anne Allwarden, Kathy Chisholm, Ted Brown and Steve Roy

Parent Events Committee: Eren Pils-Martin, Sue Conklin, Melissa Gallagher and Sadie Cahoon

HOPE Committee: Marcia Ullman, Joan Gorga, Jason LePine, Sydney Wilson-Smith, Kathleen Robbins, Celeste Lunetta, Arlene Soule, Heidi Schultz, Janice Howe

Community volunteer Isaac Battaglia

Community supper sites: First Presbyterian Church of Antrim, Pierce School, Frankestown Community Church, and Hancock Congregational Church

Thank you to the many individuals and groups who coordinate and host community suppers in Antrim, Hancock, Bennington and Frankestown.

In 2015, we welcomed two new board members to the Board of Directors: Richard Edwards, Jr. of Antrim and Matthew Ferrisi of Hancock.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Gallagher
Interim Executive Director

Grapevine Board of Directors

Melissa Gallagher, Chair
Rose Novoty, Treasurer
Peter Martel, Secretary
Marcia Ullman, Vice Chair
Ben Pratt
Linda Osienski
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