



Annual Report
The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center
July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

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

- In 2016, *The Grapevine celebrates twenty years* of service to its community!
- As of August 30, 2015, Kristen Vance stepped down as Executive Director after more than 18 years of service. Melissa Gallagher stepped in as Interim and was then hired into the permanent position of Executive Director as of January, 2016.
- In the Fall of 2015 Bantam Grill of Peterborough held a special evening event called the Beast Master Classic, raising \$6,000 for The Grapevine.
- The *2nd Annual Grapevine Online Auction*, coordinated by Beth Bradford, raised over \$10,000 to support Grapevine programs.
- With support of a major grant funded by ACCESS, the Grapevine has begun a *home visiting program* for individuals and families in our area.
- Grapevine Staff and Board held an event *in honor of Kristen Vance* in recognition of her work and contributions to the Grapevine and community and dedicated the *Vance Family Garden* raised garden beds.
- The Antrim Historical Society hosted a *special presentation on the history of The Grapevine* and welcomed a panel of past and present leaders involved in the founding and ongoing success of the organization.
- In the Spring of 2016 the Grapevine began its *first ever parent-child program in Hillsborough* in partnership with Smith Memorial Church.

Accomplishments¹

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 **41** children and **34** adults. Program Coordinator and Early Childhood Educator Amy Doyle M.Ed teamed up with assistant Paula Coombs, as well as playgroup helper Sonia Drummond and volunteers Emily Dean and Jess Piscetelli to lead the program using a developmental approach with a focus on strengthening social and language skills.

¹ Every effort is made to ensure that the current year statistics provided are *non-duplicative*



Parenting Educators Carol Lunan and Nancy Macalaster led weekly discussions on child- and family-centered topics with Carol facilitating the groups on Mondays and Tuesdays and Nancy facilitating Thursdays. 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 thirteenth year. Parenting Educator Nancy Macalaster 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. **12** parents and **11** 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 **17** parents participated in The Learning Vine.

Hillsborough Parent Child Playgroup: The Grapevine opened its first program in Hillsborough in the Spring of 2016 in partnership with Smith Memorial Church. The 6 week pilot program served **7 adults** and **5 children**. Based on feedback and demand, a full year playgroup was planned for Fall 2016.

Home Visiting Program: Thanks to the support of a major grant through ACCESS, The Grapevine began a home visiting program in the fall of 2015 for families and other individuals who have a need for more focused supports. The Grapevine is especially interested in reaching those facing or at greatest risk for developing cognitive, physical, mental and emotional challenges. In its first season, the home visiting program served **10 families**.

Grandparents Support Group: In partnership with The River Center of Peterborough, The Grapevine offers a monthly support group to area grandparents and caregivers who are caring for grandchildren. The grandparenting trend is on the rise due to the the drug and opioid



epidemic and parents dealing with substance misuse. Grapevine Parenting Educator Carol Lunan and River Center Parenting Educator Wendy Hill co-facilitate discussions on topics of interest to participants. Recent discussions have focused on advocacy and speaking for the children. **12 adults** and **6 children** participated.

Guiding Good Choices: In the fall, The Grapevine once again offered this nationally-recognized workshop, which teaches parents of children ages 9-14 the effective family management and communication skills needed to help reduce their children's risk for using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. **7 adults** and **6 children** participated. It is offered in partnership with Great Brook and Antrim Elementary Schools, and generously sponsored by Bank of New Hampshire.

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 **22** families.

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. Thanks to donors and volunteers, **10** families received firewood this year. (This number is unusually low, due to the mild winter we experienced.)

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 PSE, coordinated by Nancy O'Brien, welcomed **19 new** members and served a total of **199** members. The mission of the PSE is to promote the exchange of individual talents and services that value each participant's abilities and contributions equally. Time Dollars are the currency and 1 Time Dollar = 1 Hour of any service. The PSE belongs to the hOurworld network of Time Banks, which enables members to connect online if they choose.



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 and Linda Bryer. Lisa, Sarah and Erica Durgin staffed the After School Club. This year both clubs joined in partnership with the Antrim Recreation Department to expand club offerings and welcome new children. Lisa coordinates both programs, providing continuity as well as bookkeeping. The Before School Club served **24** children and the After School Club served **27** children on the Antrim schools campus.

Avenue A Teen & Community Center— Avenue A has undergone some wonderful change and expansion this year. Programming and facilities continued to be offered to children, teens, and adults of the Monadnock Region. In addition to Friday night teen open hours, the Ave A Club which is run by new staff addition, Arlene Soule, is for Great Brook Middle School students (middle schoolers) and had another successful year with **9 students** enrolled. This program gives youth and parents an early introduction to Avenue A prior to high school. Community groups continued to utilize the space, for a donation fee. These groups included Alcoholic Anonymous, Al Anon and the Church of Christ of Antrim. New groups began to use the space for donation as well, which included a Creative Writing Club for high school students. Heard It Through The Grapevine Open Mic took a hiatus; in its place other groups have formed with 100% of the door and food donations going directly to Avenue A operations.

In May of 2016, The Coordinator of Avenue A Heidi Schultz stepped down. Heidi laid the groundwork for new partnerships with the community including 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. Through support from The Verney Foundation and NH Charitable Foundation, Avenue A has become more engaged with efforts to address the drug and opioid epidemic. Heidi became involved with the 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 **111 teens** and **230 adults** visiting the center from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. While Heidi will be missed, Jacqueline Roland, another dynamic and energetic leader, has taken her place.

Preparing for Family Resource Center of Quality Designation - This past year Grapevine staff worked to integrate the training and adoption of The Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support directly into The Grapevine's programming, practice and facility. The Grapevine has spent time preparing to apply for the Family Resource Center of Quality Designation through Family Support New Hampshire and overseen by the NH Legislature's Wellness and Primary Prevention Council. This designation is based on an intensive assessment of the Center's practices, policies, protocols, staff training, engagement of families and much more. For more information on the Quality Standards, visit:

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



Free Tax Preparation and Financial Planning Services - IRS certified tax preparer, Larry Schwartz, once again offered up free tax preparation services for low to moderate income families. Between January and the April filing deadline, Larry served **62** families.

People Served

From July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, The Grapevine served **1316** children, youth and adults at the center and in the community. Our Information & Referral service assisted **121** families to find food, transportation, clothing, housing, crisis services, fuel assistance, dental and health care, child care and other resources. **342** children and adults participated in special activities including:

- Backyard Summer Adventures for children ages 4 to 9 years
- The 5th Annual Grapevine Black Fly Art Show
- Big Bold Grown Up Paint Camp
- Guiding Good Choices
- Play and Communication Workshop
- Dad's Group
- Tools of Play Workshop
- Fancy Schmancy Tea Party
- Valentine Card Making
- Internet Safety
- Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren Support & Information Group
- Adventures in Creativity Workshop
- Safe Sitter training at Avenue A

Funding -

Grapevine received financial support from the following:

- Town of Antrim (\$19,000)
- Monadnock Paper Mills (\$14,500)
- Gilbert Verney Foundation (\$10,500)
- NH Charitable Foundation (\$10,000)
- Bantam Restaurant (6,000)
- Anonymous (\$5,000)
- Town of Bennington (\$5,000)
- Town of Hancock (\$5,000)
- Chris' Concert (\$1673.02)
- Town of Frankestown (\$4,000)
- NH Ball Bearings (\$3,000)
- Presbytery of Northern New England (\$900)
- Robin Colson Memorial Foundation (\$2,000)
- Bank of NH (\$400)
- Keith M. Sullivan Foundation (\$1,000)
- Osram Sylvania Community Engagement Team (\$500)



- Rick & Diane's Restaurant (\$400)
- Fiddlehead's Café and Catering (\$300)
- Antrim-Bennington Lions Club (\$100)
- The Hancock Inn (\$240)
- The Common Place Eatery (\$120)
- Hancock Women's Club (\$200)
- Hayleys Service Center (\$50)
- Lake Sunapee Bank (\$45)
- Grove Street Fiduciary (\$150)
- Antrim Community Suppers (\$423)

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 \$11,849.47. The Grapevine raised \$11,508.10 in fees from Better Beginnings and \$11,384.04 from The Learning Vine, \$26,077.68 in Before School Club and After School Club fees, and \$3,879.23 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.

The Grapevine was the grateful and honored recipient of donations in memory of Betty Avery, who passed away in May 2016. Betty was a beloved, dedicated volunteer of the Grapevine for many years. Children and adults alike responded to Betty's lively spirit and kindness. She will be greatly missed.

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 \$42,965.75. The Grapevine received a dividend of **\$1,772.22** in March.

Individual Financial Contributions— We are fortunate to receive the continued support of so many individuals and families throughout our local community and beyond. We receive donations throughout the year, including those who respond to our annual appeal and support our annual Spring Walk for Families. In total, **\$41,584.39** was raised through individual donations. Our thanks to:

From Antrim- Gordon & Mary Allen, Maggie Bean-Wright, Mike & Joy Beauchamp, Paul & Linda Blackman, Barbara Block, Joshua & Lacey Brown, Theodore & Deborah Brown, Noma Bryer & Cindy Frink, Tod & Linda Bryer, William Bryk & Mimi Kramer-Bryk, Kenneth & Linda Bundy, DAn & Diane Campbell, Donald & Maud Cogliano, Dolores Collier, John & Susan Conklin, Richard & Jacqueline Cottle, Marcel & Paula Couturier, Mary Ellen Cutter, Jefferson & Rhonda



Davis, Lori Davis, David & Andrea Day, David & DeeAnn Dubois, Paul & Michelle Dugre, Sarah Dyer, Richard & Jeanine Edmunds, Robert & Sarah Edwards, Richard & Susan Ellsworth, Trish Fletcher, Kevin & Brenda Flinkstrom, Jess Gerrior, Frank & Joan Gorga, Diane Gutgesell, Ron & Ann Haggett, Marie Harriman & Chris Condon, Kristie Harris, Bill & Tricia Harris, Jay & Brenda Hennessy, Lisa Hennessy & Shawn Hugron, Arnold Hutchinson, Barbara Gard & Philip Kohl, Charles Levesque & Noreen Kilbride, Richard & Robin Loveland, Mark & Donna Lyon, Stephen & Diane MacDonald, Ike & Amanda McCarthy, Marilyn Mercier, Renee Mercier-Gerritsen, Arthur & Beth Merrill, Joseph & Ryan Montano, Peter & Teri Lee Moore, Wayne & Thelma Nichols, Russell & Nancy Niven, Stephen & Pauline Noble, Russell & Rose Novotny, Denis & Rosemary Nugent, William Martin & Eren Pils-Martin, Ben Pratt & Diane Chauncey, Kevin & Kristin Proctor, Sheila Proctor, Richard Reilly, Marguerite Roberts, John & Pauline Robertson, Lynne & Victor Rosansky, Tom & Sue Rugg, Christopher & Crista Salamy, Doug Stone & Amy Zaluki-Stone, Ryan & Carole Storro, Diane Sullivan, Jonas Taub & Ruth Benedict, Stephen & Marcia Ullman, Kristen Vance, Elsa Voelcker, David & Linda Ward, Kathy Wasserloos, Harold & Carole Webber, Karen & Albert Weisswange, Barbara Wells, Paul & Helen Whittemore, Sydney Wilson-Smith, Richard Winslow, Richard & Linda Withington, Steven & Nina Zabriskie, and Rod & Ruth Zwirner.

From Bennington- Tom Badgley & Rhonda Barkley, Wanda & Robyn Clough, John & Mary Ann Connor, Suzanne Griswold, Susan Hallock, Heidi Lee Holland, Tom & Char James, Alyson Lyons, Matthew & Laurie MacKeigan, Mark & Stephanie Mackesy, Wade Mackie, Nancy O'Brien, Linda & Steve Osienski, Kristen Readel, Daniel & Eileen Sullivan, Rhea Taylor, Joe & Cheryl Valley, Sam & Linny Zachos, and Joy Lewis.

From Frankestown- Elizabeth Behrsing, Robyn & Michael Beisang, Dennis & Tiffany Calcutt, Ben & Molly Cook, Edward Graham & Marcia Tripp, Jessie Hale, Harry & Judy Hardwick, Ben & Sara Hardwick, Teri Hardwick, Henry & Linda Kunhardt, Larry & Barbara Laber, Matthew & Stephanie Lee, John & Carol Lunan, Neil & Diane Noonan, Katherine Overend, Dale & Jeanne Pickett, Hannah Proctor, Charles & Sarah Pyle, Cheryl Rasmussen, Tracey Rokes, Don & Kay Severance, Stephen Simard & Heather Whipple- Simard, Effie Stubbs, Kim Wheeler, and Fletch & Holly Wilson.

From Hancock- Edwin & Nancy Adams, Keith & Laura Akerley, Harvey Ames, David & Katherine Anderson, Carl & Linda Blicher, August & Ruth Bohn, Douglas & Barbara Bowen, Seth & Robyn Brady, Eleanor Briggs, Phil & Julie Brown, Dennis Caldwell & Deborah Sampson, Alan & Shirley Chandler,, Tom & Sharon Dowling, William & Carol Eva, Kevin & Stephanie Fallon, Matthew Ferrisi & Elizabeth Cohen- Ferrisi, Mark & Melissa Gallagher, Diane Goodman & Ronald Mack, Hancock Woman's Club, John Hayes, Rodney & Cynthia Hixson, Billy Horton & Robin Gregg, Phil Jones & Jane Richard-Jones, Werner & Gertrude Kanner, Marsha Kono- Stevens, Edward & Beverly Leach, Hank & Lilla Lyon-Drury, Nancy Macalaster, Paul & Rebecca MacNeely, Howard Mansfield & Sy Montgomery, David & Janet Phillips, Theodore & Linda Reena, Kenneth & Kathleen Robbins, Lawrence & Marcia Schwartz, Richard & Johanna Simpson, Chris & Stephanie Stahl, Sean & Janet Sweeney, and Mark & Debra Thompson.

Other Towns- Jennifer Allen, Kari Anderson, Johanna & Adam Arnone, Alissa Atkins, Julie Auclair, Victoria Azotea, Sue Badley, Cheryl & Steve Barlow , Anton & Virginia Bartoldus, Sarah & Sam Bay, Joslin & Ross Bennett, Robert & Theresa Benoit, Rebecca & Brian Bettencourt, Peggy Bodore, Fran Bona, Carl & Stephanie Bradford, Beth Bradford, Meghan & Tyler Brandow, Amy Cabana, Bruce & Iris Campbell, Mike & Betty Cook, Justin & Paula Coombs, Michael & Amy Doyle, Jeffrey Drake, Robert & Mari Edmonds, Joseph & Jo Ann Fletcher, , Richard & Roberta Fogg, Robert & Carol Fogg, Bob & Eleanor Gallagher, Lani & Chris Gallagher, Cathy Garland, Steve & Maureen Gelinias, Tori & Peter Gelinias, Laura Gingras, Kerri Goulet, Hal Grant, Patty Grant, Nicole Haley, Bonnie Harris, Douglas & Judith Hatfield, Cathy Hemming, Cecily Houston, John Houston, Kenneth Houston, Peter & Janice Howe, Joel & Anne Huberman, Karen Johnson, Steven & Tracy Jones, Beth Kelly, Elizabeth Kerwin, Kelly & Will Kirkpatrick, Michael & Linda Kohler, Kristina Kriebel, Amanda & Jeremy Leblanc, Josh Lunan, Linda MacGillvary, Marylou Martel, Meredith Martin, Mary Elizabeth McClellan, Nanci McCrackin, James & Denise McGrath, Amy Meyers, Betty Murphy, David & Margaret Nelson, Nora Nelson, Maureen O'Brien, Patricia O'Brien, Tina O'Brien, Betsey & Keryl Olson & Michael Wright, Mary Virginia Orr, Janice Packard, Erica Peery, Richard & Sage Pendleton- Wheeler, Dave & Dotti Penny, Karen Peterson, Dorothy Peuraharju, Kristine & Mike Pouliot, Marilyn Powers, Sarah Quinlan, Ronald & Lynn Reimer, John & Carol Richards, Wanda Robie, Clifford & Grace Robinson, Cynthia Schlosser, Laura Sebert, Charles Setaro, Nisa Simila, Glen Stann, Robert & Joanne Stein, Ellie Stubbs, Peter & Diane Ullman, Judith & John Vance, Steven & Samantha Walker, Deb Walsh, Gail Welton, and Donna Wright.

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 may be incomplete. It does, however, represent the contributions without which The Grapevine could not provide its many services and resources:

Antrim-Bennington Lions Club provided Vision Screening

C&S Wholesale Grocers

Common Place Eatery

Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation

Edmunds Ace Hardware

Fiddlehead's Café and Catering

Great Brook and Antrim Elementary Schools

Houghton Farms

MoonRivers Technology Group sponsored the 2nd Annual Online Auction

Rick & Diane's Restaurant

Wood Bank donors: 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



Avenue A Teen & Community Center volunteers: Sue Conklin, Matthew Ferrisi, Heidi Schultz, Ted Brown, Jacqueline Roland, John Anderson, Arlene Soule

Children's program volunteers: Emily Dean & Jess Pescitelli

Wood Bank volunteers who cut, split and stacked: Ben Pratt, Stephen and Marcia Ullman, Melissa and Mark Gallagher, Matt Ferrisi and Liz Cohen, Isaac Battaglia, Ben Pratt, Rick Edmunds, Lisa Hennessy, Shawn Hugron, Tom Badgley, and Nancy and Grace O'Brien.

Brown Bag Coalition: Dick Loveland, Steve Ullman, Beth Merrill, Dawne Hugron, Janice Howe, Anne Allwarden, Ted Brown, Scott Lester, John Jordan, Robin Gregg

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

HOPE Committee: Marcia Ullman, Sydney Wilson-Smith, Kathleen Robbins, Arlene Soule, Heidi Schultz, Janice Howe, Hope Driscoll, Officer Juan Lluberes, Jacqueline Roland

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.

Welcome

In 2015/2016, we welcomed:

- Kathleen Robbins of Hancock and Tom Badgley of Bennington to the Grapevine Board of Directors
- Arlene Soule as the Avenue A Club Coordinator
- Jacqueline Roland as the Coordinator of Avenue A Teen & Community Center

Farewells

We bid farewell with much gratitude and thanks to:

- Chris' Concert and Heard It Through The Grapevine volunteers: Rick Fitzgerald, Cheryl Barlow and Doug Aborn
- Dick Loveland, for his leadership on the Brown Bag Coalition, as a Lions Club member and Coordinator of the area Vision Screen program and long time supporter of the Grapevine
- Heidi Schultz, Avenue A Coordinator, 2 years of service
- Peter Martel, Board Member, 10 years of service
- Kristen Vance, Executive Director, 18 years of service
- Beth Bradford, Children's Program Director, 10 years of service
- Betty Avery, who passed away in May 2016, a long standing, dedicated volunteer of the Grapevine. We are incredibly grateful for her years of service to our organization and our entire community.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Gallagher



Executive Director

Grapevine Board of Directors

Marcia Ullman, Chair

Rose Novotny, Treasurer

Matthew Ferrisi, Secretary

Ben Pratt

Linda Osienski

Richard Edmunds Jr.

Kathleen Robbins

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Nancy O'Brien

Amy Doyle

Paula Coombs

Nancy Macalaster

Jacqueline Roland

Arlene Soule

Sarah Hennessy

Linda Bryer

Erica Durgin