



95 N. State St., #3, Concord, NH 03301

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CONCORD, NH
Permit No. 1416

A newsletter of the New Hampshire Children's Trust Fund, reporting on our efforts in "keeping children safe and families strong" in New Hampshire.

I. Our Mission

The New Hampshire Children's Trust Fund was established in 1987 by legislative statute RSA 169-C:39 to support programs in New Hampshire that work to prevent child abuse and neglect. Our focus is primary prevention initiatives that keep children safe and families strong.

II. Governance

The business and affairs of the NHCTF are managed by a Board of up to 16 members. The Board is composed of:

- three members knowledgeable about child development, child health, child psychology, education, juvenile delinquency, or related fields;
- three members knowledgeable about the organization and administration of volunteer community services and grant administration;
- two members knowledgeable about banking, finance, investments, tax law, business, or public relations;

Appointees:

- two from the NH Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;
- two from the NH House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- the Attorney General, or a designee;

- one from the Division of Children, Youth and Families appointed by the Commissioner of the NH Department of Health and Human Services;
- one from the Department of Public Health appointed by the Commissioner of the NH Department of Health and Human Services;
- one appointed by the Governor.

III. Sources of Funds

Since 1996, the Governor has designated the NHCTF as the lead agency eligible to receive CBCAP (Community Based Child Abuse Prevention) funds, under CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act) Title II. These federal dollars are allocated to the states on a per child formula. These funds are combined with our endowment at the NH Charitable Foundation and with annual donations and are granted annually to organizations that work to strengthen and support families. In the past 18 years, the NHCTF has granted over \$1.8 million to more than 330 community-based programs around the state.

IV. Programs Supported

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Family Support Grant Programs– We believe that the best way to prevent child abuse and neglect is to provide parents, caregivers, and other adults with the skills and support they need to raise healthy children. To this end, the

NHCTF provides financial support to community-based programs each year.

Technical Assistance and Training– In addition to funds, the NHCTF also provides training and technical assistance necessary to the development of effective programs and strong organizations. Currently, our training focuses on capacity building, fund development, governance, and outcomes measurement.

Support to Family Support NH– Formerly known as Network New Hampshire, this is a statewide coalition of community-based family resource centers supported by the NHCTF and other public and private dollars. This group links local family resource centers with the latest research in the field and on emerging practices across the country, and provides a network of peer support.

Public Education– The NHCTF is actively involved in statewide public education efforts to promote the concept of creating caring communities that support children and their families.

Smith Award– Given every two years, this award recognizes and rewards best practices by a non-profit, community-based organization. Past recipients include Families First of the Greater Seacoast, Concord Heights Neighborhood Family Center, HUB Family Resource Center in Dover, and the Family Resource Center at Gorham.

Keeping Children Safe and Families Strong

NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

About This Year's Smith Award Finalists

Following an intensive application process, the 2006 Smith Award Selection Committee has selected four NH non-profits as finalists for the 2006 Smith Award for Excellence in Service to Families. They are The Children's Place and Parent Education Center of Concord, Good Beginnings/Diana Love Center for Children and Families of Sullivan County, The Grapevine of Antrim, and Riverbend Parent-Child Centers in Concord, Penacook, Pittsfield, Franklin and Hillsboro.

"We selected these four for their community leadership, the quality of their programs, their dedication to families, and the exceptional quality of their service. The committee had a challenging time this year—the organizations that applied were truly outstanding and it was difficult for us to narrow the choice to these four. The common thread that they all share is their dedication to serving families and the outstanding way that they provide that service," said Audrey Knight, Selection Committee Chair.

The 2006 Smith Selection Committee includes Bonnie White, Lynne Bartlett Merrill, Eileen Mullen, Keryn Kriegl, Liz Hager, Suzanne Boulter, Monica Zulauf, Ed Barnwell, Cathy McDowell, and Karen Carpenter.

The Children's Place and Parent Education Center ("TCP") was established in 1978 and is a family resource center providing services to families in Greater Concord, including support services,

childcare and group play, parent education and community outreach programs. Parent driven and parent led, TCP emphasizes respect for and understanding of children and the importance of parenting. Located in a renovated house, large and spacious areas allow children to play, receive individualized attention and cozy, comfortable rooms welcome parents for parent education and support groups.

State Legislator Mary Stuart Gile noted that *"Many times whether it is in the context of testifying on a bill or thorough committee hearings, TCP has been referred to as an organization that proactively strengthens families and provides universal access to all families. TCP does not label or judge but takes everyone in."* A parent expressed it well—*"Parent involvement and staff make it so excellent...staff are good communicators and use a lot of modeling. They make parents feel like 'I can do that.'"*

Good Beginnings/Diana Love Center for Children and Families has evolved since 1992 from a home visiting program to a comprehensive family resource center managing a large industrial building, enticing other agencies to co-locate and share costs, with an attractive thrift shop, drawing donations, volunteers and shoppers. Their creativity and perseverance have harnessed significant resources in a community that is underserved and economically depressed. It is one of the ten agencies in the nation selected in 2005 to receive a 5-year Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Grant.

One reference praised the Center: *"The quality of the staff—it's 'extraordinary'—they are compassionate but maintain boundaries, provide mutual reinforcement to each other and keep an eye on 'the big picture.' They balance professionalism with human caring and warmth."* And a very grateful mother said, *"They literally saved my life."*

The Grapevine, Antrim. Founded in 1996, The Grapevine's main programs and activities for children and parents are located in a renovated building in the town center, next to the library. But equally important are the activities that occur outside that building and in the communities that it serves. In the back yard, is the Wood Bank, a symbol of one kind of support available. Weekly community suppers provide great opportunities for families to reduce the isolation so prevalent in NH's rural communities.

continues on page 2



SPRING 2006 ISSUE...

- New Staff Member** p.2
- Girls Inc. of Manchester** p.3
- Thank You Dr. Boulter** p.3
- True/False Quiz** p.3

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lynne Bartlett Merrill – *Chair*
 Gail Barba – *Vice Chair*
 Bernard Bluhm
 Lucy Fowlkes Breed
 Senator Peter H. Burling
 Janice Fitzpatrick
 Peirce Hunter, MD
 Audrey Knight, MSN, RN
 Senator Sylvia Larsen
 Sandra Matheson
 Betsy McKinney – *Treasurer*
 Representative Karen McRae – *Secretary*
 Representative Sharon Nordgren
 Bonnie White

STAFF

Karen H. Carpenter, MA, JD –
Executive Director
 Katie Brandt, MM – *Family Support
 Outcomes Director*
 Diane M. B. Hastings, MS –
Special Projects Director
 Paula Furlong – *Administrative Assistant*

This newsletter is a publication of the New Hampshire Children's Trust Fund. Please contact us if you know someone who would like to be on our mailing list...

New Hampshire Children's Trust Fund
 Phone: (603) 224-1279
 Fax: (603) 228-7676
 E-mail: info@nhctf.org
 Web: www.nhctf.org

New NHCTF Web site—Check it out!

Recommended viewing—
“Climate: A Crisis Averted” a short internet film created by Stonyfield Farm about how all citizens can take action to demand clean energy and other steps to reverse climate change. View at www.renewus.org

Smith Award Finalists *continued from page 1*

Some of the comments from parents: *“It’s very inclusive for ALL in the community, not just ‘child-centered’ but thinking about issues like drugs and alcohol that will face parents later on, it’s fabulous...”* And *“The people who run it are so amazing! They are like a family—unconditionally loving, nonjudgmental. They go out of their way to help. Their wood bank is so great.”*

Riverbend Parent-Child Centers, (“PCC”) were started in 1982 as a result of collaboration and increasing awareness of child abuse and the need for a prevention model. The focus at the various sites in Concord, Penacook, Franklin and Hillsboro is to provide family resource centers for parents and their children of all ages. Programs for grandparents, and one on one home mentoring are additional support services as well as transportation. The program supports, honors and strengthens families, enhances the parent-child relationships and promotes the healthy development of children by increasing parenting skills, and developing a parent support network.

The words most often used about PCC are *“loving, nurturing, and supportive...well qualified teachers that are on call 24/7... a program that has been effective for years.”*

These four finalists now compete for the prestigious Smith Award that is granted every two years to an outstanding organization, which receives a cash prize of \$15,000. The criteria are that the organization excels in all four standards of excellence, including a philosophy of service that recognizes the inherent value of skillful parenting and healthy families in shaping a child’s future, the organizational capacity to operate family support services in a challenging environment, a program delivery system of exceptional quality and community leadership.

The award winner will be announced on May 16th at Concord’s Tuck Library. Gary Hirshberg, CEO of Stonyfield Farms, will be the keynote speaker. Sponsors are Comcast, Northeast Delta Dental, Life is Good, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Alison Banks, Kathleen Barger, Cambridge Trust Company, The Inns & Spa at Mills Falls, Jefferson Pilot Financial, Nathan Wechsler and Company, Annie’s Home Grown Products and Saint Paul’s School. NH’s Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families and volunteer George Hastings have provide in kind support. ☺

NHCTF Newest Staff Member



Diane Hastings is our new Special Projects Coordinator responsible for resources for new initiatives. She comes from The Children’s Place and

Parent Education Center (TCP) in Concord where she served various leadership roles for over nine years, including two terms as Board President and most recently as Executive Director. As President, Diane led during an exciting time of great change and growth, including purchasing TCP’s first permanent home. Diane brings skills in fund raising, grant writing and developing and strengthening

collaborations and in-depth knowledge of parenting programs to the NHCTF.

A graduate of Leadership Concord class of 2005, Diane is past chair of Concord Children’s Initiative, past treasurer of Family Support New Hampshire and currently serves on the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce Business and Education Partnership Committee and the United Way of Merrimack County Allocations Committee. Diane has a masters degree from Murray State University and lives in Contoocook with her husband George, a 14-year old aspiring electric guitarist son, a 12-year old *“I wanna be Tony Hawk”* skate boarding enthusiast son, and a 9-year old daughter. **Welcome!** ☺



Girls Inc. of Manchester

When we talk about family support programs, we often envision adults leading the charge to spread the message of the importance of prevention and we only see children as consumers of services. Yet, the strong, smart, and bold girls at Girls Inc. of Manchester did not let their status as pre-teens get in the way of their desire to want to take action to prevent child abuse and neglect. Girls Inc. is a non-profit program with a passion for empowering girls to achieve their personal best and realize their own potential for greatness through education, enrichment programs, and opportunities to develop healthy relationships with staff and volunteers. At Girls Inc. in Manchester, Saint Anselm College volunteers realized that the girls had questions and concerns about child abuse, and they were passionate about making a difference to keep kids safe.



In response to those questions and concerns, the Saint Anselm volunteers enlisted the help of Psychology Professor Maria McKenna and NHCTF staff member Katie Brandt to provide the girls with information and inspiration on how their voices could make an impact. On a snowy afternoon in March, seven Girls Inc. girls arrived at Saint Anselm with enthusiasm, questions, and energy to begin a project that would let kids and parents know what kids need to stay safe, strong, and free. By the end of the afternoon, the girls were sporting blue wristbands in promotion of Strengthening Families Month and creating pictures that will form the patchwork for a Quilt of Safety at their program site. This group of third, fourth, and fifth graders proved that children can be leaders too. Armed with information and determination for a new task, the girls gathered together for a group photo, and on the count of three, their voices were heard as they exclaimed, “Keep kids safe!”

To find out more about Girls Inc. programs in New Hampshire go to www.girlsincnewhampshire.org 😊

With Sincere Thanks...

Dr. Suzanne Boulter of Concord was recently honored at a Board meeting, receiving thanks for her nine years of service as a Trustee. She will continue to volunteer as a community member. Suzie’s energy extends way beyond her practice in pediatrics and adolescent medicine, where she has served over 25 years at the Hitchcock Clinic and now with the Dartmouth residence program at Concord Hospital where she mentors 24 residents in family practice. She frequently brought her medical residents to Trust Fund Board meetings so that they would know about what was being done in the community to help prevent child abuse. As a Trustee, she was a meticulous reader of grant applications. From her perspective as a family practitioner, she understands in particular the parenting challenges faced by recent refugees arriving in Concord. Her energy also extends to the ski slopes where she has competed and won national masters titles—keeping cool under pressure is a great skill, as a doctor *and* on the slopes. 😊



Try this quick True or False Quiz to see how much you know about preventing child abuse:

1. Children can be abused by strangers and people they know and trust.
2. It is up to kids to make sure they are always safe.
3. A grandparent, uncle or cousin can be a foster parent.
4. Kids that live in foster care still get to see their parents.
5. Child abuse can be prevented.
6. If I am abused while I am a kid, I will grow up to abuse my kids.
7. It is a law that all adults in New Hampshire must report suspicion of child abuse to the Division for Children, Youth and Families.
8. Teenagers are most likely to suffer from child abuse.
9. Boys are more likely to suffer from child abuse than girls.

False: #2, 6, 8, 9. All the rest are true.