

Growing Places



*Where Love and
Learning Grow Together*

Winter 2011

Early Care, Education, and
Youth Recreation in
Durham Lee Madbury
New Hampshire

A Non Profit Agency

gazette

Together We're Better

Our Mission

Growing Places provides quality child care, educational enrichment, and youth recreation programs in a safe and caring environment which supports families in raising responsible, respectful, and resourceful children.

Our Programs

Infant Toddler Program

Pinkham Road, Lee

Pinkham Preschool

Pinkham Road, Lee

Woodside Preschool

Strafford Ave, Durham

Our Time School Age Program-Moharimet

Elementary School,
Madbury

Camp Cowabunga/ Bridge Camp ~ Durham and Madbury

www.growingplacesnh.org

Seacoast Area Child Care Centers Collaborate to Save Money, Resources.

"If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together."
~African proverb

Growing Places is an active member of The Seacoast Early Learning Alliance, a coalition of ten area early learning centers. These professionals know that early learning lays the foundation for children's future success. They know that *quality* early childhood education strengthens families and communities, and believe all children should have the opportunity to reach their full potential. This group is working to create a regional early education system that shares administrative services and management while leveraging buying power. The goal is to save money on overhead, and direct money towards programming, thereby further enhancing the quality of seacoast child care programs.

While remaining independent, members will share and reallocate services, management, staffing, buying power, marketing, tuition billing, and collection practices with an eye toward increased efficiencies and lowered costs. Program staff will have an opportunity to share expertise, supervision, evaluation and professional development opportunities to increase program quality.

This group was successful in securing grant funding to hire project director, Stefany Shaheen. The first tier of Alliance member benefits begins this month! Goals for 2011 and 2012 include:

- Creating a pool of qualified substitute teachers for centers,
- Securing funding for a Behavior Specialist who will provide mental health consultation and support for children in all the Alliance centers, and
- The development of a scholarship pool for families.

The innovative work of the Alliance is being closely watched at the state and national level. If successful, this collaborative model could be replicated in other areas in the state and nationally.

For more information about the Alliance, please contact Cellissa Hoyt at 868-1335.

*Toddlers at Pinkham Road preparing
their friendship feast*



Growing Places Family Portraits: Meet the Gooch Family

Faith Gooch, daughter of Ben and Toni Gooch, joined Growing Places in February 2010. She was sixteen months old. "Returning to work was a hard transition. We really wanted to find a place that Faith would be happy and I would be comfortable going to work everyday. At first Faith was staying with a friend who had two children of her own. After just a few short weeks, we decided that was not working. It was important for Faith to be with children her own age. I mentioned at work that I was looking for a day-care, two of my colleagues highly recommending Growing Places. My husband and I went for a tour and met with Shane. We were lucky that there was a spot and Faith was able to start the following Monday. Her transition was so easy. I am so grateful that I have found such a wonderful place for my daughter."



Third Annual Auction Success

Thank you to all that attended our third annual auction in November! The auction raised over \$18,000 for Growing Places. The evening featured sumptuous desserts, two bars (one full and one coffee from Espresso Dave), and the great sounds of DJ Dream Imagine Studios. Special thank you to Dassie Ramsay, Pam Gill, and Loren Selig, who coordinated the event, and Alicia June, who created the wonderful video presentation. We'd also like to thank sponsors UNH, Itaconix, and Loren Selig of Keller Williams Real Estate.



With our "Direct Ask" program during our live auction, donors got to choose which curriculum areas to donate to. On the left, a Pinkham Road preschooler wears a new costume, and on the right, Woodside students work with "Tree blocks", both purchased with generous donations from our November Auction.

There are many ways you can help us fulfill our mission! We can accept direct and in-kind gifts, gifts of stock, and gifts that are part of estate plans. Call Sue Chase at 868-1335 to find out more!

Growing Places Board of Directors

Alyson Mueller,
President

Dassie Ramsay,
Vice President

Kathy Watts, Treasurer

Matt Goldberg, Secretary

Lisa Taylor

Madiha Farag

Chris Regan

Yvon Durant

Katy Lilly

Rob Sullivan

Cellissa Hoyt,
Executive Director

Advisors

Tina Nadeau

Shelley Mitchell

Caroline Carlson

Bev Shadley

Written by:

Sue Chase

Cellissa Hoyt

Toni Gooch

Please direct questions,
comments, or suggestions
to: Sue Chase, 868-1335

growingplacesnh.org



Annual Agency Art Show

Featuring Children's Exhibits,
Art Work of children ages 6 weeks—12 years!

Refreshments Served!

Thursday March 3

Moharimet Elementary

6:30-8:00

All friends, family community members welcome!



Pinkham Road Preschool Children

learn teamwork under a parachute.



Woodside Pre-K Class gets ready to share in their harvest feast.

Growing Places Open House Board Meeting

Growing Places is governed by a dedicated and diverse group of individuals, the Growing Places Board of Directors. Nonprofit governance includes ensuring that the organization has the financial and human resources to fulfill its community mission. If you are interested in what happens behind the scenes at Growing Places, and how our Board supports our work, consider attending a Board meeting!

The Board would like to invite parents and community members to an open meeting on Wednesday, February 16. Board meetings are held at the Durham Police station on Madbury Road in Durham from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please contact Cellissa Hoyt at 868-1335 if you are interested in attending!

What's in Your Attic?

Need to dig out after the holidays? Do you have a pile ready to go to the swap shop or donation store? Consider donating to Growing Places' *Cash in the Attic*, a great way to de-clutter, get organized and give to Growing Places! Think of it as a virtual garage sale; participants donate items that they no longer use/need and we list them on Craig's List and handle the entire sale. The money earned from the sale goes directly to the program budget. The program has raised over \$1600 since its inception in the Spring of 2010.

Consider what unused items you have around your house that might be taking up much needed storage space or simply collecting dust- electronics, instruments, small appliances, sporting equipment, furniture, strollers, play yards, etc. If you are willing to donate one or more of these items to Growing Places, we will do the rest. We are hoping to collect items worth \$50 or more. All you need to do is identify what you might like to contribute and get in touch with us to review what you would like to donate. We will come to your home to pick up the item(s) at a day/time that is mutually convenient, take care of listing/selling the item(s), keep you posted on their status.

Please do not hesitate to contact Sue Chase, at 868-1335 if you have any questions about items you might be interested in donating or about how you can get involved to help with the Cash in the Attic program.

Growing Places

Where Love and Learning Grow Together

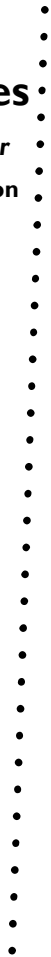
Early Care, Education, and Youth Recreation

56 Pinkham Road, Lee, NH 03861

603-868-1335

www.growingplacesnh.org

A nonprofit agency



Growing Places Offers Three Week LEGO Session at Moharimet!

Lego City ~ Build Your Dream House

Lego Races ~ Build a fast vehicle and test on our custom track

Creative Creatures ~ Build your favorite fantasy creature

Sessions: Feb 2 + 3, 9 + 10, 16 + 17 from 3:15 to 5 p.m.

To register, or for more Information, please contact:

Jen Hayward at 868-1335; jenhayward@growingplacesnh.org



Dominoes in motion at Our Time.

Growing Places Children's Champions

