

Growing Places



Where Love and
Learning Grow Together

gazette

Early Care, Education, and
Youth Recreation in
Durham Lee Madbury
New Hampshire
A Non Profit Agency

Spring 2012

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

Dream Realized:

Growing Places nears the end of campaign to expand and renovate Pinkham Road

Growing Places is happy to announce that we will be breaking ground for our new addition and sprinkler system on Monday, June 25!

In 2010, the Growing Places Board of Directors approved this renovation and expansion project for the preschool building in Lee. Planning included assessing building needs, looking at utilities and electrical systems, future programming initiatives, energy sources, and important safety features. In previous years, the agency handled maintenance and building issues with small annual improvements. After careful agency and facility planning, the Board of Directors concluded that, if not addressed, facility issues would grow and become costly.

To date, \$160,000 has been raised from community members and grants for this project. The following has been completed: renovations and upgrades in all children's bathrooms, kitchen renovations, and total renovation and commercial grade flooring in all classrooms.

Here are the details on what will happen this summer: 1200 square foot addition which includes an entrance way, cubby area, office, classroom, and a science solarium. The installation of the sprinkler system means that we have upgraded systems to keep our children safe in case of a fire emergency.

The agency has been successful in their grassroots efforts; developing additional donors through direct requests, events, and online campaigns. The Board of Directors and Capital Campaign Committee are dedicated to raising the last \$10,000 of this project.

Growing Places has long been valued in the community for its excellent teaching staff and program philosophy. It is time for all of our facilities to work for our mission and support our teacher's commitment and work.

Can you help? It is easy to donate to this campaign! Call Sue during weekly business hours at 868-1335, or, email us at: suechase@growingplacesnh.org, or go to our website: www.growingplacesnh.org, and click on our donate button!

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in this campaign. Many of you have gotten us this far, and we thank you! Together we can be ready for our groundbreaking on June 25!



Thanks to the efforts of many, we have raised over \$160,000 for Growing Places! Our Pinkham Road site will finally reflect the quality of our programs, the caliber of our educators, and our strong commitment to children's growth and development.

Growing Places Family Portrait: Meet the Calhoun Family

Growing Places would like you to meet the Calhoun family: Kevin, Kelly, Hannah, and Jack! The Calhoun's lived in Boston before moving to Dover in 2005. Kelly got a job at UNH, her alma mater, and since they have plenty of friends and family close by it was an easy decision to move back to the area!

Both their children attend Growing Places: Hannah (3) is in Preschool 1 at Woodside, (right up the hill from Kelly's office!) and Jack (19 months) is just now transitioning into the Toddler Room at ITS but will be joining his big sister this fall.

The Calhoun's believe a well-rounded diverse education is important, and work to expose the kids to new and different experiences.

The family loves spending time with family and friends and most importantly being outside, which means they will plan some great summer trips that include sun and water (because both Jack and Hannah love the water!)

Here's what the Calhoun's say about their decision to choose Growing Places for their children: "We had heard nothing but wonderful things from friends and colleagues about Growing Places and when it came time for us to find new a new daycare for our children, we decided to check

it out. We truly believe it has been one of the very best decisions that we have made for our children. Growing Places is more than a daycare; it is a school that has introduced Hannah and Jack to amazing experiences! Growing Places has allowed them to participate in a program where their teachers know how to anticipate their needs and adjust experiences for them to maximize their learning opportunities, all while having fun! The relationships that are cultivated with their teachers and the friendships each one has created, makes Growing Places even more than a school, it is a community."



GP Community News

Special Spring Time Thank yous

We'd like to thank Katie and Doug Wheeler for the wonderful Growing Places party they hosted in April. The party raised over \$15,000! Thank you so much to the Wheelers, and everyone that donated!

A great time was had by all at **QUACKFEST!** Special Thanks to Durham Great Bay Rotary for inviting Growing Places to be a part of this fun family event!

Come Run With Us!

Growing Places is organizing its second annual "Going Paces" running team! Last year the team ran 13.1 miles and raised over \$16,000 for children's programs at Growing Places!

This Year's Race Options

Half Marathon (the full 13.1 miles)

Relay Teams (you pick either 3.3 or 6-7 mile distances, in teams of 2 to 4)

Why Run? All distances will be supported by our amazing running coach, Jack Davis. Through Jack's supportive ways, all levels of running abilities are supported. First time/beginning runners are espe-

cially encouraged to join in!

Why does Growing Places need our fundraising efforts? Growing Places is committed to an excellent faculty and a diverse curriculum. Family tuition only pays for a percentage of what is needed every year to keep Growing Places operations going. The rest comes from the support of foundation and individuals.

Running for Growing Places is good for you and good for your children, having the double effect of enhancing the programs we work so hard to bring to children every year.

This year we will raise money to help teachers with their classroom wishes in two categories: outdoor play and artful expression. Each runner will be able to look through the category of teacher wishes and pick the area they are interested in supporting.

We will help you raise money. Going Paces runners will have the opportunity to participate in several group fundraisers! You will also be able to set up your own online fundraising page!

We would like to invite you to one of two information sessions! Both at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 30 at the home of Alyson Mueller,

Thursday June 7 at the home of Katy Lilly.

Child care will be provided!

More information will follow! Call Sue if you would like to talk about the race: 868-1335!

Newsletter

Sponsors



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Dassie Ramsay,
Vice President
Kathy Watts, Treasurer
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Madiha Farag
Chris Regan
Katy Lilly
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Written by Sue Chase

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



Building a Simple Family Garden

Gardening can seem like magic to children... planting, watering, weeding, harvesting and eating their own creations. And, its ok to get dirty! Starting a backyard garden takes some planning, but with a few simple steps and tips, anyone can grow delicious, nutritious veggies this summer. Here are a few points to get you started:

Pick a place in your yard. Almost all vegetables need about 6 hours of sunlight, so pick a sunny spot.

Clear the ground/improve the soil. Remove the grass that is covering the plot that you have chosen and dig up the soil with a gardening fork or rototiller. Another tip is to cover the plot with newspaper or a tarp for several days. It will kill the grass and weeds and prep it for you. Then, mix in about 1 inch of organic compost into the soil. You can buy compost at a gardening store. You can also mix in decayed leaves, grass clippings or food scraps (vegetable or fruit) from your kitchen.

Raised beds are also a great way to get started. They are easy to construct (or buy) with either wood or rocks. Here is some additional information: http://eartheasy.com/grow_raised_beds.htm

Choose your plants. Starter plants are the easiest way to start (as opposed to seeds). Choose some herbs like basil, rosemary, oregano, parsley, sage & thyme, if you like to cook. Some great veggies to start with are lettuce, spinach, chard, tomatoes, peas, cucumbers, zucchini, eggplant and peppers.

Feed your plants. Vegetable plants need good nourishment. Choose an organic fertilizer, which you can buy at any garden store. Give them plenty of water, and lots of sunshine.

Don't worry if your garden doesn't look as you had hoped. Just like anything, you learn as you go. And, your soil gets better and better each year.

There are many resources to help with your gardening questions and needs, but the best resource is a good gardening center, or local farmer.

Some more fun thoughts about gardening with your kids:

- Get them excited! Kids love to help, and involving them with growing their own food can be a magical experience!
- Build their self-esteem by giving them their own place in the garden that belongs to just them. They'll feel good about their accomplishments.
- Gardening involves all of the senses! Enjoy each one to the fullest. Fresh vegetables are naturally bright, sweet, fragrant, crunchy and delicious.
- Set values now about healthy eating throughout their lives. Teach your children that food comes from the earth, not from the grocery store.
- Visit local farms – farmers love to show you their crops. You'll be surprised at how much you learn.
- Connect with your family. Garden, cook and eat together.



Most importantly, Have Fun!

Written by Laura Price and Eric Archery

Growing Places

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Early Care, Education, and Youth Recreation

56 Pinkham Road, Lee, NH 03861

603-868-1335

www.growingplacesnh.org

A nonprofit agency

Growing Places is now enrolling for Camp

Cowabunga and Bridge Camp!

Both camps are based at Moharimet Elementary School. Camp Cowabunga is for children ages 5-7 and Bridge Camp for children ages 8-12. We offer weekly enriching themes, team building activities, swimming at the UNH outdoor pool three days a week, fun Wednesday field trips, and special guests throughout the summer. Growing Places is well known for experienced highly qualified staff, and a low counselor-to-child ratio. Growing Places also offers children and families flexible schedule options and multiple child discounts for full time children. Your child will have a fantastic, creative, and safe summer with us! For more details or to register contact Sarah Matheson at 868-1335, or sarahmatheson@growingplacesnh.org.

New At Moharimet Elementary Next September: Before School Care!

This year we are launching a new program, the Our Time **Before** School Program. The program will run from 7:15 a.m. until the children are dismissed to their classrooms at 8:40 a.m. The Before School Program will provide a fun, caring place for the children to start their day as well as breakfast each morning. It will offers similar activities of the after school program. We hope to get enough enrollment to start this great program in September. If you register for this program, you will be notified by the end of June as to whether or not enrollment will support this program. For more information call Sarah Matheson at 86/-1335!



Friends studying the largest duck at Quackfest.

