



# Summer 2020

*every child deserves a childhood*



## Educational Excellence Beyond Accreditation

In early 2020, Spaulding staff completed final preparations for the Dept. of Education's Bureau of Special Education accreditation. Through this vigorous process which evaluates the educational excellence of special education programs and services, Spaulding Youth Center earned its third consecutive five-year program accreditation – an incredible accomplishment of which we are proud!



Following this good news, Spaulding faced the most complex challenge the world has seen in 100 years. When the COVID-19 pandemic closed school buildings across New Hampshire, the School at Spaulding developed a plan to deliver special education remotely. Because technology was already integrated with learning objectives, we were prepared to successfully transition to effective remote learning almost immediately.

Mya is an excellent example of successful remote learning. Mya's mother created dedicated educational space and a consistent schedule to guide each school day. This schedule includes digital conferencing with Mya's teachers and staff to provide occupational, physical and speech therapy. She enjoys story time, lunch and even library through digital solutions, and uses the Spaulding Remote Learning Helpdesk if technology support is needed. Although Mya misses interacting in person, Spaulding's technology infrastructure keeps her virtually connected until she can return to campus.



Through the past 150 years, Spaulding has adapted to evolving societal challenges to provide needed programs and services. The recent pandemic is just another example of how Spaulding will continue to support exceptional children and families toward a successful future.

**TO LEARN MORE** about the year-round, comprehensive special education services offered at Spaulding, please visit [SpauldingYouthCenter.org/academic](https://SpauldingYouthCenter.org/academic)

## Honoring Our Past While Celebrating Our Future

With a history spanning nearly 150 years, Spaulding Youth Center is one of the oldest organizations in the nation serving children in need. Established in 1871 and known as Spaulding Youth Center since 1958, our organization has dedicated our legacy to compassionate care for the children and families who need it most.



As we prepare for our upcoming 150th anniversary, we are reflecting on how our organization adapted through the years to respond effectively to critical issues affecting children across New Hampshire and beyond. Spaulding continuously develops programs, services and expertise in response to the changing needs of children and youth who need a place where they can learn, grow, play and heal.

In recent years, day student enrollments have increased as community schools recognize more children in need of intensely therapeutic support. Parents have also become more effective identifying indicators that their children require more help. While monitoring these evolving needs, we look forward to continuing to evaluate how we can best support these children and their families, both now and for many years to come.



**TO LEARN MORE** about our history, please visit [SpauldingYouthCenter.org/history](https://SpauldingYouthCenter.org/history)

## SPAULDING AT A GLANCE: An Insider Look at Human Resources

The Human Resources department is critical to every operation since this team manages the complete employee life cycle, including recruiting on-boarding, career development, training, and succession planning. In addition, they administer employee benefits, wellness programs, culture initiatives, payroll, employee appreciation, and more. Throughout the pandemic, their leadership and agility has been invaluable.



From L to R, Back Row: Lys Miller Drake, Darnelle Bjorck; Front Row: Laurie Dydo, Debbie Flanders, Cait McKay.

While it is impossible to include all that is so professionally and gracefully managed, below are a few accomplishments this small but mighty department achieves in one calendar year:

- 40+ trainings
- 58 orientation sessions
- 66 wellness activities
- 93 new hires
- 260 employees
- 455+ training hours
- 989 job applications
- 7,000 paychecks

After compassionately supporting staff for decades, Darnelle Bjorck and Debbie Flanders have recently retired from Spaulding. With a combined tenure of over 50 years, these ladies leave a lasting legacy in our campus history.

**TO LEARN MORE** about careers at Spaulding, please visit [SpauldingYouthCenter.org/careers](https://SpauldingYouthCenter.org/careers) for current openings, employee benefits as well as staff profiles to gain insight to our campus culture.



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603-286-7500



## Celebrating Our Front-Line Heroes

As the global crisis began to unfold, Spaulding Youth Center's executive leadership prepared a disaster response plan to protect the staff and children on our campus. As part of this planning, leadership discussed a variety of contingencies specifically related to our residential cottages and protocols to keep those on campus safe. When this proactive planning became a reality, Spaulding was prepared to support the needs of those children in our care.

As day students transitioned to remote learning and administrative staff transitioned to home offices, the children who remained on campus in our cottages were surrounded by our own front-line heroes. These residential team members left the safety of their homes each day to travel to campus and provide care and support for our students during the scariest of times. Even when coworkers were unable to work due to childcare or health concerns, these dedicated individuals volunteered for extra shifts and responsibilities to ensure our campus could continue on a home away from home for our kids. While donning masks and following strict healthcare protocols, our

residential staff provided care for the children's educational, recreational and emotional needs, as well as doing a tremendous job of providing consistency and normalcy on campus.

Throughout these past few months, these team members gracefully filled a critical need and supported our children and families when they needed them most. Our collective admiration will continue on as a testament of their devotion to those we serve.



**TO LEARN MORE** about our Residential program, please visit [SpauldingYouthCenter.org/residential](http://SpauldingYouthCenter.org/residential).

**Our Mission:** Supporting exceptional children and families toward a successful future. [SpauldingYouthCenter.org](http://SpauldingYouthCenter.org)

## Learning, Growing, Thriving

The past few months have challenged all of us in ways we never imagined. As a special education school, residential program, therapeutic service provider, and nonprofit, Spaulding Youth Center faced numerous complex challenges, many of which could have created an unrecoverable situation. However, our organization truly rallied – even adopting #SpauldingStrong as a battle cry – to ensure we could celebrate our resilience and fortitude in supporting our mission.



Our staff rose to the challenge both navigating these scary times and providing care and supporting our children and families. Our donors and corporate sponsors stepped up to ensure our organization and the critical programs

and services we provide will continue to be an option for the individuals who need us most. As always, we are extremely grateful for their generosity and their dedication to our organization, both of which is even more precious right now. Even amidst all of these successes, we are acutely aware that there is still so much more work to be done.

To help us honor the hard-fought successes and heart-warming joy from the past few months, visit [facebook.com/SpauldingYouthCenter](https://www.facebook.com/SpauldingYouthCenter) for a collection of these bright moments, including the TD Bank Tilton pizza party, Ben & Jerry's Meredith ice cream donation, campus spirit parades, and so much more. (Like our page while you are there!) Over the coming months, we will be putting the final touches on a few exciting developments and look forward to sharing more news about our bright future this fall. Until then, be safe and stay healthy.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE** to discuss creating a custom package to support your professional or personal giving goals, please call our development office at 603-286-8901 ext. 107.

## DONATE TODAY IN THREE EASY WAYS

We appreciate your consideration to help support extraordinary children and their families toward a successful future. Contributing to Spaulding Youth Center is as easy as 1-2-3:



1. Donate online at [SpauldingYouthCenter.org/give](http://SpauldingYouthCenter.org/give)



2. Mail a donation to 72 Spaulding Road Northfield, NH 03276



3. Contact the development office at 603-286-8901 ext. 107 or [donate@spauldingyouthcenter.org](mailto:donate@spauldingyouthcenter.org)



Thank you for supporting the children and families of Spaulding Youth Center.