



SPAULDING
ACADEMY & FAMILY SERVICES

SUMMER 2022

Our Mission: Supporting exceptional children and families toward a successful future.

WE'RE BRINGING EVERYONE TO THE PLAYGROUND!

It's almost time for everyone to play in one of New England's largest adaptive playgrounds at Spaulding Academy & Family Services! The development process for this unique playground, which will be located behind the Lambert building, is nearing completion and equipment installation is in the planning stages.

The playground will be an impressive 10,308 square feet and will feature a wide variety of carefully selected adaptive and accessible equipment that will help children develop balance and motor skills, while enjoying social time with friends. Many of the features are sensory-friendly and all were chosen for their benefits to children of every ability.

"As Spaulding Academy & Family Services is always keenly tuned to the needs of each of our children, our team recognized that some were unable to play outdoors with dignity and inclusion," explains Todd Emmons, CEO & President, Spaulding Academy & Family Services. "This adaptive playground has been a true labor of love for our staff. We are beyond thrilled to unveil it to the children and provide them a lifetime of happy memories of play with their friends."

The playground will have wheelchair-friendly poured rubber surfacing and sun protection shades to provide strategic coverage for children with light and heat sensitivities. Examples of the special equipment selected from Miracle Recreation include wheelchair swings, a sensory environment, and an inclusive glider that is wheelchair-accessible and can accommodate 10 children at once.

Spaulding Academy & Family Services has partnered with Pettinelli & Associates to plan and install the adaptive playground. The blueprint is complete, and the team is working to expedite delivery of the equipment to campus.



TO VIEW additional details about this special playground and to follow its progress, visit SpauldingServices.org/play



- 1** Momentum Corridor
- 2** Bongo Bridge Climber
- 3** Inclusive Whirl
- 4** Physics New Moon
- 5** Interactivity Panel
- 6** Alta Glide Inclusive Glider
- 7** Accelerator Swing
- 8** Safety Surfacing and Shades
- 9** Balance Time
- 10** Wheelchair Swings

ONLINE DONATIONS to support this project are welcome at SpauldingServices.org/give.

To sponsor one of the adaptive playground components, please contact Todd Emmons at TEmmons@SpauldingServices.org or 603-286-8901 ext. 106.

SUMMER 2022 *every child deserves a childhood*

USING NATURE TO EDUCATE

Thanks to the innovation of Brittany Rozen, RDN, LD of the Health Services team and the partnership of Spaulding Academy Special Education and Life Science Teacher Evan Barden, the children of Spaulding Academy & Family Services have a new outdoor experiential learning opportunity on campus. A 30 by 40 square foot teaching garden features bell peppers, hot peppers, carrots, corn, cucumbers, green beans, lettuce, pumpkins, squash, snap peas, tomatoes, basil, and edible flowers, including sunflowers.

"Evan and I created this as a way for students to physically connect with their education by growing and harvesting a variety of fruits and vegetables," Brittany says. "We discuss science, history, and nutrition as we work in the garden and plan to further align our lessons with Academy classroom curriculums. In addition, the garden offers mini field trips right on campus and provides a break from technology."

Along with integrating education across subjects, the garden provides a sensory-friendly, hands-on opportunity to learn where food comes from, how to grow food, and to taste new, freshly picked produce. Brittany is working with Dining Services to plan to bake garden-grown sunflower seeds with the children at season's end.

In addition to the garden, two chicken coops have been brought to campus: one by the Community Center and another by Wednesday House. Both coops have 12 chicks for the children to help feed and watch them grow. They will eventually help gather eggs and use them for food preparation on campus.



TO SEE MORE pictures about this hands-on campus addition, use this QR code:



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Cindy Kurahara Leads Colleagues and Families with Care

It's been nearly nine years since Cindy Kurahara, MSW, LICSW, left retirement to directly support families and staff of the Spaulding Academy & Family Services Community Based Programs. With years of experience working in foster care and adoption at Casey Family Services, she originally joined the team part-time as a Family Aide. However, a family she assisted made such a personal impact that she decided to become a case manager. As the program developed further, she assumed the position of clinical supervisor, mentoring staff and reviewing required program documentation.

The community and in-home based program coordinates family care and support in partnership with New Hampshire's Division for Children Youth and Families (DCYF) and other area family services. Along with Director of Community Based Programs Nicole Babineau, MS, Cindy leads staff development efforts by supervising the work of clinicians, case managers, and family aides - as well as social work and mental health interns from regional colleges.



"We offer an important resource to the community, state agencies, and families who need child protection, support, and help to get their lives together - and see if they can parent their kids again safely and successfully," Cindy explains. "Every case is different, and we work with children and families in every circumstance. When children are unable to reunite with their families, we support foster families who decide to adopt and help everyone make that transition."

TO LEARN MORE about the amazing Spaulding staff members visit SpauldingServices.org/family

DONATE TODAY IN THREE EASY WAYS

We appreciate your consideration in helping to support extraordinary children and their families toward a successful future. Contributing to Spaulding Academy & Family Services is as easy as 1-2-3:



1. Donate online at SpauldingServices.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@SpauldingServices.org



Thank you for supporting the children and families of Spaulding Academy & Family Services

Spaulding Academy & Family Services is a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and we are grateful to our many donors and sponsors who support our mission. If you would like to discuss creating a custom package to support your professional or personal giving goals, please contact Todd Emmons at 603-286-8901 ext. 106.

SPAULDING ACADEMY: Garrett Lavallee Named Principal and Director of Special Education



Spaulding Academy & Family Services is pleased to announce its promotion of Garrett Lavallee, MEd, to Principal and Director of Special Education.

"Garrett's unique combination of technical expertise and deep compassion for his students will serve him well in this role," Todd Emmons, CEO & President, Spaulding Academy & Family Services. "He has dedicated his career

to improving the lives of every student on campus and considers Spaulding Academy an extension of his family. The Board of Directors and leadership staff share my excitement in partnering with him to shape the future of Spaulding Academy."

TO LEARN MORE about Garrett, his credentials and his promotion, use this QR code:



Creativity and Excitement for Learning on Display at 2022 Science Fair



In May, Spaulding Academy & Family Services held its first in-person Spaulding Academy Science Fair in two years. It brought families, friends, and community partners to campus to experience student science projects. Serving as guest judges were New Hampshire Department of Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut; Ron Magoon, President and CEO of Franklin Savings Bank; Dan Kaplan, Director of Information Technology, Associated Grocers of New England; and Tilton-Northfield

Fire Department Firefighters Timothy Ames, Tyler Bannister, Travis Gosine, and Theodore Partingt.

The Science Fair is a school wide, experiential learning event that allows students of all abilities and ages to explore scientific concepts using the scientific method. Project themes included chemical reactions, fossils, heat exchange, and the ocean floor.



TO VIEW LOCAL news coverage of this special event, use this QR code

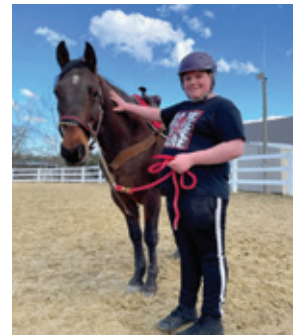
RESIDENTIAL: Wednesday House Kids Stay Connected

Since Wednesday House opened in February of 2021, the Community Residential Program team has consistently provided opportunities to keep its children connected to activities that enrich their personal growth. Currently, there are 9 kids living at Wednesday House ranging in age from 8 to 16 who were referred from the New Hampshire Division for Children Youth and Families (DCYF) due to significant adverse childhood experiences and complex trauma. They typically can be educated in their community schools while healing, learning to feel safe, and acquiring healthy coping and life skills at Wednesday House.

Depending on their interests, these resilient children participate in activities at their home schools including drama club, track, and summer school programs, or extracurricular activities like therapeutic equine therapy and dance. The Community Residential Program team works directly with

each child's DCYF case manager to identify activities that would be most enjoyable. Some are available on campus, including a garden planned specifically for Wednesday House and caring for chicks in the nearby chicken coop.

"We work hard to give kids as normal a childhood as possible," says Walter Hall, Community Residential Program Manager. "We also look for ways to have our children give back - including volunteer clean ups of the Winnepesaukee River Trail - in order to instill a sense of community."



FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Residential program, visit SpauldingServices.org/residential.

COMMUNITY BASED: Foster Family Appreciation Event a Heartwarming Success



In honor of May being National Foster Care Month, the Spaulding Academy & Family Services Community Based team held a Foster Family Appreciation event on May 21. This event brought foster families and their foster children - some of whom have been adopted - together for a fun celebration.

They shared a garden planting activity, games (including a giant Connect Four and an oversized ring toss), food, and companionship.

"The children liked meeting other kids in the same

circumstances," says Nicole Babineau, MS, Community Based Programs Director. "I heard a child who was recently adopted tell another child still in foster care, 'There's a family out there for you. I know you'll find your family.'"

Next year, the Community Based Programs team hopes to return to its pre-pandemic Foster Family Appreciation event style by hosting a large-scale event on campus with other agencies, including DCYF.

TO LEARN MORE about becoming a foster parent, use this QR code:

