



SUMMER 2023

every child deserves a childhood

SPAULDING'S SPECTACULAR NEW ADAPTIVE PLAYGROUND IS OPEN!

We did it! On Friday, June 23rd, with beautiful weather and picturesque scenery, we celebrated the grand opening of our new 10,308 square foot adaptive playground - one of the largest in New England!

The idea for an inclusive playground initially emerged in the fall of 2021 after we began accepting medically intensive students to the Spaulding Academy & Family Services campus. Soon after these new students arrived, we realized some of our kids could only partially participate on our playgrounds or had to watch from the sidelines. That's when we started to explore the idea of building an adaptive playground on our campus for all kids to use.



Since that time, we determinedly faced challenges such as weather delays and supply chain issues to persevere and achieve this spectacular goal.

The unbridled joy on each child's face was worth every conquered challenge! Everyone will remember them racing down the hill from behind Lambert Building, shrieking with excitement as they explored the playground's features while our intrepid staff followed close behind.

The Inclusive Whirl quickly became a fast favorite - a flush-to-the-ground, multi-person spinner designed for direct accessibility. This feature can fit two wheelchairs and also offers a seat for caregivers or other children. Can you recall the exhilaration you felt spinning on a ride like this as a kid?

Another popular choice was the Accelerator Swing. This fun feature allows multiple kids to share the fun and freedom of a group ride through the air on a large disc seat mounted on a frame. The uniquely designed Avalanche Inclusive Slide lets kids access the slide from the ground and use side rails to pull themselves up to their desired locations. Thanks to the inclusive Wheelchair Swings, all children can experience the excitement of swinging while enjoying the added safety adaptations.

Spaulding's President & CEO, Todd Emmons shares, "The unforgettable take-away for me, and likely most of the attendees, was the wide-eyed excitement and the humungous smiles on all the faces of all the children on the playground."

We've gained another step on the way to provide every one of our children the opportunity to experience a childhood full of joyful play and just enjoy being a kid.

FOR MORE info
about our adaptive
playground use
this QR code



EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING FOR OUR ENHANCED CAFETERIA

Our new cafeteria is almost complete! Soon, everyone can start to enjoy our communal-style seating and share meals and spend time as a Spaulding family. Plus, our speech and language pathologists look forward to new treatment spaces and private offices. It's an exciting time!



TO SEE A
progression of
the Academy
expansion, use
this QR code:



OUR MISSION: Supporting exceptional children and families toward a successful future.

SUMMER 2023 *every child deserves a childhood*

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Lara Woytowich

Serendipity played a role in bringing Lara Woytowich, our amazing Controller, to Spaulding Academy & Family Services. Lara joined our family as a Senior Staff Accountant in 2017, becoming the second person for our newly-formed finance team. With 11 years as an accountant at a nonprofit, Lara was moving from upstate New York to New Hampshire when she saw our job opening. It seemed like a perfect fit, and it turned out to be the first and only application she submitted!

"I value working for an organization that is mission-driven and family-oriented," she shares. "Although I may not be on the front lines, I hope I can make a difference indirectly."

Lara's role mostly keeps her behind the scenes managing our day-to-day finance and accounting functions (including smooth monthly close outs, preparing financial statements, and managing the yearly audit process), but she always lends a hand wherever possible. She's become our reliable go-to problem solver, even supporting our donor database and financial software needs, and oversees tasks others may shy away from.

Most recently, she's enjoyed seeing the adaptive playground come to life, and especially seeing the kids having fun playing on it.

Away from work, Lara has a few favorite things she enjoys: attending live music events, traveling to explore new places, and cats - she loves cats and has two furry friends at home!



TO LEARN MORE
about the extraordinary
individuals who are part
of the Spaulding Family,
use this QR code:



FRESH ART IS UNFOLDING ACROSS CAMPUS

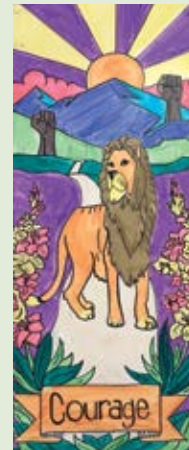
Keep an eye out for four crosswalk murals popping up across the Spaulding Academy & Family Services campus. Art teacher Robyn Allen worked with the kids to create compelling images that represent the four Choose Love pillars. For instance, **Courage** will be depicted by a big and mighty lion! Robyn designed the murals and will paint them once school construction wraps up.

Inspired by the beautiful, ground-reaching leaves of a willow tree, our Spaulding Tree will grow on the spacious wall across from the front desk. Each student, regardless of height or accessibility, will literally 'leave their mark' by adding a personalized leaf on the tree - creating an eternal sense of community and lasting memories!

As the campus art hub, the Howe Building is under consideration for renovation. The updates would include carpets, finishings, and new storage cabinets to support student autonomy and responsibility as well as more open space for improved accessibility and movement.

And lastly, we're super excited about our Tactile Caterpillar Mural planned for completion this fall. Our kids will help pick a variety of different textures to include for this touch-tastic wall mural. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting installation!

Mural sketches by Robyn Allen



TO SEE MORE Spaulding art and music photos,
use this QR code:



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
CConstant@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 Courtney Constant at 603-286-8901 ext. 107.

SPAULDING ACADEMY: Outdoor Adventures Are Heating Up

Spaulding Academy's Experiential Challenges Outdoors (EChO) program continues to create more opportunities for kids to revel in the outdoors!

The arrival of five full-suspension mountain bikes and four paddleboards offer additional skill development paths for our students. The new bikes allow skilled older kids to further develop their riding, jumping, and stunt skills on dirt trails. The new paddleboards are more efficient for smaller students to maneuver and earn confidence more quickly.

In August, we'll be constructing two small mountain bike flow trails which will be 100-150 yards long. The dirt tracks will feature rollers, berms, and small tabletop jumps -- enabling kids to learn, practice, and continue to hone their skills for real mountain biking trail adventures.

The fall promises further excitement with a wheelchair-accessible treehouse! A spacious octagon-shaped deck will provide a high vantage point for hanging out or small classroom use. The ramp area will also have a climbing wall, cargo net, and other natural playground elements such as musical instruments and kitchen elements for even more fun and learning!



TO SEE MORE Spaulding EChO photos, use this QR code:

RESIDENTIAL: Spaulding's First-Ever Prom!

Spearheaded by our Activities Committee, this extraordinary event aimed to give our teens a taste of a quintessential youth experience: prom!

In an effort to support inclusivity, all of the teenagers on campus were invited to attend, and invitations were also extended to public-school peers.

Thanks to generous donations, we were able to provide an end-to-end magical evening for our prom attendees. Dresses and suits were donated for special event attire and a classy Cadillac provided rides around campus! Volunteers from staff and families decorated our community center, prepared a delicious buffet, and took on roles of DJs, hairstylists, makeup artists, and more. Our devoted staff even embraced the spirit of prom by dressing up for the occasion and joining in the grand celebration.

We're especially proud of Lambert cottage manager and activities leader Salena Durette, who led the committee in creating this spectacular event. Each attendee now has a treasure-trove of memories and pictures from this uplifting and positive event.



TO SEE MORE residential prom photos, use this QR code:

COMMUNITY BASED: Foster Families Celebrated at Block Party

On May 6th, Spaulding Academy & Family Services celebrated foster families by hosting a Caregiver Block Party in collaboration with NH's Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). Attended by 300 kids and families, this joyful event showcased existing foster families in NH and sought to inspire new foster volunteers.

Festivities included face painting, a petting zoo, various program supports, and delicious BBQ. The event provided an excellent opportunity to reconnect in person after a few years of virtual events.

Spaulding Academy & Family Services and Granite State College are collaborating on a curriculum with specialized training tracks for existing foster families, ensuring tailored support to meet each family's specific needs.



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