

A Farewell to Nancy Macalaster

Nancy began her journey 10 years ago with the Grapevine as a facilitator for the Better Beginnings programs, in addition to supporting families through home based visiting. In that time Nancy has connected with hundreds of families, and has formed deep rooted relationships with not only children, but parents and various members of their circles and community. She reflected upon her decades of work in early childhood development and her time at the Grapevine saying, "It's all about the relationships. What I've loved most about this work is the families, and getting to see these children grow into substantial adults is inspiring." After dedicating over 60 years to a career in early childhood development, working with various organizations in differing capacities, Nancy is retiring. Nancy you will be greatly missed!



SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

PARENTS OF TEENS! Are you amazed at how different things are nowadays? This time can feel challenging as you try to stay connected to your teen when their natural instinct is to separate from you. Join us at 7pm for these monthly topics via Zoom: Dec. 14- Social Media; Jan. 11- Substance Use; Feb. 8- Body Image.

FREE TAX PREPARATION- IRS-certified tax preparer Larry Schwartz is providing free tax preparation at The Grapevine this tax season. All returns will be filed electronically. Call The Grapevine now to schedule your appointment as slots fill quickly.

SNOW FAMILIES PLAYDAY- Saturday Feb.11, 10 to Noon. A morning of indoor and outdoor activities. Join local author Susie Spikol from the Harris Center for a reading from her new book *The Animal Adventurers Guide* and search for animal life around the Grapevine! Afterwards check out the Tuttle Library's chili cookoff!

POSITIVE SOLUTIONS FOR FAMILIES- A six week parenting program for those with children ages birth to 5. Learn ways to encourage positive behavior, use praise and encouragement, set up daily routines, understand the reason behind behaviors, make the most of play time. Program starts Wednesday March 8, 7 to 8:30pm via Zoom.

ONGOING PROGRAMS & OTHER RESOURCES:

DADS CAMPFIRE- Join local dad Rick Edmunds for dads time by the campfire! Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Bring a chair and warm beverage and we will provide the pizza!

BEN PRATT COMMUNITY WOOD BANK, TOOL LENDING SHED, KINSHIP & RELATIVE CAREGIVER SUPPORT, BETTER BEGINNINGS PARENT/CHILD & BABY GROUPS, STAY & PLAY, HILLSBOROUGH PLAYGROUPS, HOME VISITING SUPPORT & ONE-TO-ONE PARENT SUPPORT, PLUS OUR AVENUE A TEEN CENTER PROGRAMS.

Staff Spotlight: Paula Coombs



Hillsborough Program Coordinator and Learning Vine Preschool

Paula joined the Grapevine as a parent in 2006 with her first son. Paula began as a volunteer and later joined the staff working in the Better Beginnings program. It was during that time that she and co-worker Amy Doyle saw a need for an offsite parent/caregiver child playgroup in Hillsborough. "Amy and I wanted to start a program in Hillsborough, because this is our hometown community and it was important to us. We could see a need that wasn't being met." With community input, the Hillsborough Playgroup began in 2016 and continues to meet twice per week. The group gives children the opportunity to socialize and play, while parents and caregivers get time to connect with one another and relax. Paula also works with Amy in the Learning Vine Preschool, where nature meets the classroom in this outdoor based program. Paula shares, "Getting to know both the parent and the child provides a different view into the family. I'm lucky to have equal love for both parts of my job."

THE ANNUAL ONLINE AUCTION RAISED OVER \$7,000. A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL DONORS & BIDDERS

To register or for more information on programs, call us at 603.588.2620 or email us at info@grapevinenh.org

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