

SOUTH HADLEY FAMILY CENTER CAREGIVER CONNECTION

October 28, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS:

*A wonderful time was had at the Community Halloween Party on Friday, October 23rd! **Thank you** to everyone who helped to make this such a great family celebration - and fundraiser! We raised over \$1200 in cash towards our annual goal of \$6500! A BIG HIGH FIVE to our dedicated volunteer committee - Nicole Gilbert Cote, Amanda Litz, Heather Lyons, and Jen Sabourin. And a SPECIAL THANK YOU to our generous sponsors - please see the list below - without their support we couldn't have had such a wonderful program!

*With Flu and Cold Season launched we want to take a moment to remind everyone about our **health policies**. The South Hadley Family Center is committed to providing a clean and healthy atmosphere for young children and their families. We ask that you please review the complete guidelines available in our Welcome Packet on our website (www.shfamilycenter.org) to help keep the Center an enjoyable, healthy place for us all. *You should not attend if:* anyone has had any fever, vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours, anyone has an uncontrolled or continuous cough, or a large amount of nasal drainage. If there is any doubt about whether a person is contagious, please consult a physician.

The state continues to recommend that all children and caregivers wash their hands BEFORE & AFTER playgroup. There are hand sanitizers at the check-in cart - and both bathrooms have stepstools available.

Finally - please use the dirty toy bins (one now located in each room) and/ or use a bleach wipe immediately if a child dirties or sticks a toy in their mouth - please don't wait till clean up time!

***LEAF IT TO US** is a fall fundraiser. Get some exercise, fresh air, and raise money for the Family Center by raking the yards of neighbors, families, and friends. Rake one yard or 10. Its your choice! You can charge \$20/ hour and \$15/ subsequent hours. You rake and bag. They provide bags and arrange pickup. Once you ask your friends, neighbors, and family use the flyer to confirm with your customers. Write your name and number at the bottom of the flyer with the date and give it to your customer. If they need a receipt, record the total amount paid on the flyer after the work is completed. Bring your donations collected the next time you visit the Family Center! Good luck & happy raking!

***Kudos to Judith Dyjach** for sharing her expertise in filing our Form PC and 990EZ! We truly appreciate her guidance and support!

***Snack** - room 3 continues to be available as a snack space! Please don't hesitate to bring a snack for your child to enjoy and recharge with!

*The **South Hadley Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP)**, formerly of Criterion-Heritage, has merged with the Ware area PCHP of the Hampshire Educational Collaborative. State budget cuts have made it impossible to run two separate programs, and this was the best way to preserve PCHP services in South Hadley. The Collaborative has hired an experienced PCHP Home Visitor to work with South Hadley families.

PCHP is a free, two-year, early literacy home visiting program for children ages 16 months through 3 years. The program's goal is to lay a strong foundation for lifelong learning by building young children's vocabulary and verbal skills through reading and imaginative play. The PCHP Home Visitor brings free educational books and toys for families to keep and gives parents tips on how to use them to extend and enhance their child's learning.

There are many categories of eligibility for this program. We encourage parents or guardians who are interested in learning more to contact Lin Notzelman, the PCHP Coordinator, at 413-967-8127 or Carolyn Mazel at 1-800-519-1882 x102. Kristin also has written materials and application forms available at the family center and can put parents in touch with someone who can answer their questions. We especially hope to hear from families who have completed the first year of the program and wish to re-enroll for the second year. Please help spread the word about this valuable resource for South Hadley families. Thanks!

NOVEMBER OVERVIEW:

- * Visit with Child Development Specialist - Debbie Roth-Howe on Tues. Nov 3rd and Thurs. Nov. 12th
- * We're waiting to confirm a field trip to the Fire Department - details to follow!
- * Ongoing craft and sensory activities are planned - pop in to room 3 to see what is new!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- * We need folks to assist in promoting the Family Center and our special events! Would you like to draft calendar listings, make flyers, and write the occasional press release? Work at your own pace on your own or with others. A great resume opportunity! please contact Kelly or Kristin.
- * We are looking for someone to help gather outreach contact information for our local media outlets, local faith communities, & flyer posting locations. If you have a computer and would be willing to briefly research/ explore and type up a reference list please contact Kelly or Kristin.
- * We are seeking a volunteer to assist in creating a local childcare/preschool binder - includes contacting each local childcare provider and preschool to invite them to submit a flyer, then gathering them in a binder. Please contact Kelly or Kristin.
- * Next Caregiver Clean-Up Night: Monday, November 2, 2009 at 7-8pm - Come spend an hour with other parents and caregivers to make our space sparkle! Bring a friend! Cleaning supply donations would be welcome - for example paper towels, sponges,

clorox wipes, simple green, etc. Please sign up on the wall by the check-in to take your turn scrubbing!

- * Next PAC Meeting: Tuesday, November 17 from 7-9pm - Each month the Parent Advisory Council, a governing volunteer team of parents/caregivers, meets to plan programs and discuss ways to make the SHFC the best it can be. As a volunteer driven organization your involvement and ideas are key to our continued success. If you are interested in getting more involved (or just learning about how the Center operates) this is a great meeting to sit in on - all are welcome! For more information ask Kristin or any Parent Volunteer.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE:

- * Donations as of 10/27: \$1665.37 (Goal for the year: \$6500)

- * FOR SALE: Small brown Sears Coldspot Mini Fridge - approximately 19.5"wx18"dx16.5"h. Works well and is clean - one mark on top. Now that we've reduced our space we can't fit it! Know anyone who could use it? Asking \$25 or best offer. Pictures available.

- * When you next stop in to these businesses please offer them a BIG THANK YOU for their support of the Family Center Halloween Party! A complete list, including links for our platinum sponsors, will be included on our website soon.

PLATINUM - \$250

Aeration Technologies - <http://www.Aertec.com>

Thompson's Gymnastics - <http://www.funwithus.com>

GOLD - \$100

Easthampton Savings Bank

Veryl's Automotive Services

SILVER - \$50

Johnny's Bar & Grill

Quenneville's Sons Roofing

BRONZE - \$25

Chap de Laines Furniture

Sweet Peas Tailors

Wagz to Whiskerz

GIFT CARDS & SILENT AUCTION ITEM DONORS

Adelfia Restaurant & Banquet Facility- a \$20 gift card

Big Y- a \$20 gift card

Dave's Natural Garden- a bale of hay and 2 large boxes of Macintosh apples

Family Pizza- 1 family-size pizza

Friendly's Ice Cream- 100 kids cone certificates

Jania's Imported Polish Pottery- wonderful items for the raffle including Halloween decorations, jewelry, a make-up bag, and decorative candles
The Odyssey Bookshop- a \$20 gift card, plus stickers & Halloween tattoos
Seven Eleven- a \$25 gift card
Tailgate Picnic- (2) \$20 gift cards

WISH LIST: Would you like to make a donation of items we frequently use - ideas include...

- * Clorox-type Wipes
- * Hand Sanitizing Wipes
- * Hand Sanitizing Pump Gel
- * Clorox Anywhere Spray
- * Liquid hand soap
- * Ream of White Copy/ Printer Paper
- * Computer Toner
- * Book of Stamps
- * Box of #10 Envelopes
- * Paper Towels
- * Box of Tissues
- * Vacuum Cleaner Bags
- * Clear Scotch Tape
- * Clear Packing Tape
- * Blue Painters Masking Tape
- * 2-Drawer File Cabinet

COMMUNITY RESOURCES/ EVENTS:

*Buttery Brook Friends Disbanding? This support group for our Town Park is in jeopardy of disbanding. Formed over 8 years ago, its mission has been to bring in to the Park activities, programs and events which in turn help support the Park. Big Rig Day, Santa Land, Summer Concerts, Cruise Nights, Summer Children Programs, and much more have been undertaken by a core of dedicated volunteers. As with all organizations, new volunteers are needed to replace those that have retired. Anyone interested in keeping this vital organization "alive" is strongly encouraged to contact friendsofbutterybrook@yahoo.com or visit the website at: butterybrookpark.org. Your involvement can be as little or as much as you want.

*Baby Einstein Refunds Available: The Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood's ongoing campaign to stop false and deceptive marketing of baby videos has had success. They've persuaded the Walt Disney Company to offer [a full refund to anyone who purchased a Baby Einstein DVD in the last five years](#). The refund is only available for a limited time. Their 2006 Federal Trade Commission complaint forced Disney to stop claiming that Baby Einstein videos were educational for infants, but until now the company made no move to compensate parents who purchased them. Now parents who purchased Baby Einstein DVDs, mistakenly believing the videos would make their

babies smarter, can recoup their money. (Taken from and edited down due to space limitations from their recent email.)

*It's a Grand Re-Opening Celebration at The Gorse Children's Center. Join us in celebrating the educational and enriching environment offered to children, families, and Mount Holyoke College students! Friday, November 13, 2009 from 5:30-7:30pm. Visit our newly renovated facilities! Meet some of our expert teachers serving children from infancy through kindergarten in both part-time and full day programs. Enjoy Storytelling by John Porcino! Horse and Wagon rides outdoors! Craft activities, cider and donuts.... The Gorse Children's Center, 27 Morgan Street South Hadley MA 01075, 413-533-9819, gorse@brighthorizons.com, www.brighthorizons.com/gorse

*Have something to share? Send it along and we'll include it in our next newsletter!

EVERYDAY REMINDERS:

- * We are open for the year: Monday-Thursday from 9:30-11:30am.
- * We follow the South Hadley school calendar... when they are closed - we are closed, when they are delayed - we are closed.
- * EVERYONE (including returning caregivers and families) is asked to complete a Caregiver Registration Form at their first visit. There is a sign-in sheet by the door. Please sign in each time you visit - all this information is used to support our grant funding. The registration form is attached for your convenience. Thank you for your support!
- * Tuesdays = Babies First Year Day... babies are welcome every day but Tuesdays are a wonderful opportunity to connect with other caregivers of infants and babies - all ages are also welcome!
- * Wednesdays = Provider Day... a great way to meet local childcare providers - all are also welcome!
- * The Monthly Calendar is posted in Room 1 and offers a look ahead to special events, fund raising activities, and upcoming field trips.
- * The state continues to recommend that all children and caregivers wash their hands BEFORE & AFTER playgroup. There are hand sanitizers at the check-in cart - and both bathrooms have stepstools available.
- * Please feel free to bring your own healthy snack & beverage to eat in room 3. Of special note - we are now a NUT-FREE zone! Our intention is to limit the risk to children with allergies - thank you for your cooperation! Kristin has a great handout of snack ideas....
- * The Center is a non-profit organization and a \$2 donation is suggested per visit. Monthly or annual contributions are also welcome - let us know if you would like a receipt for your records, all gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law! Any donation you, your family, or your business/ employer can make is needed and will be appreciated! (Please know that ALL are welcome and no one will be turned away if they are unable to make a donation.)

ATTACHMENTS:

- * Leaf It To Us - customer confirmation flyer