



# *Kids' Corner's Annual Report 2022-2023*

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## Executive Director's Message from Andrew Gentzow

The 2022-2023 program year was one of growth here at Kids' Corner. We expanded the after school rosters to pre-pandemic levels, and all of our full day programs were at capacity. We had children come from all the surrounding communities to our various programs, with the largest growth coming from Medford residents. Finally, we added two new lead teachers to help run the classrooms.



It is well documented that students fell behind academically during the pandemic, and everyone is aware of the toll that it took on mental health, especially at the middle school and high school level. Kids' Corner has seen its own share of issues among elementary aged children related to the pandemic. We have experienced a growing population of children who are reliant on technology, as well as children struggling with the need for instant gratification. There have been other social emotional impacts as well, including struggles with personal boundaries, lack of empathy, and playing cooperatively with others. The end result has been an increase in negative behaviors and peer conflicts.

During the past year, Kids' Corner staff have focused on building skills in children to combat these trends. Activities and curriculum were designed to help foster growth and utilize more peer resolution, and we spent additional time working through big feelings and negative behaviors. In addition, we modeled more empathy in our own actions and words. We even brought in a therapy dog to teach some of these skills. We will continue to expand our Social Emotional curriculum in the 2023-2024 program year.

I would like to add a quick shout out to Jeremy Rae for 20 years of service to the Kids' Corner Community. Thank you for all you do to make KC and the K-1 Room a wonderful place to be.

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## School Year Recap from Becky Will



We started the school year with optimism and excitement! Though we still hold a lot of our cleaning policies in place, this was the first time in a long time that we began the school year without masks. It was refreshing to see the kids faces and above all, their smiles as they began their year here at Kids' Corner.

During our first early release day in September, we had a fun, in-house theme day where the classroom hosted fun activities and games all based on the letter "P". The teachers led art activities featuring penguins, perler beads, painting, and pumpkin crafts. There were also games offered such as Pin the



Tail on the Pig, Pictionary and ping pong! For a snack, we all enjoyed pretzels, pickles and pink lemonade!

October was jam-packed with fun! We had three early release days in a row. For the first day, we had field trips booked. The K-1ers went pumpkin-picking and for a hayride at Brooksby Farm. The 2-3 room went to the Omni Theater at the Museum of Science and the 456ers went to do some cool indoor mini golf at Project: PUTT!

During the second early release day Andrew Silver, a fun magician, came to us for a very cool performance. The kids' had a blast and were inspired to try their own magic tricks at home.

On the final early release day, each classroom hosted their own Fall-o-ween Games! Teachers put together Halloween-inspired games and we give out fun prizes to the kids. It was so much fun!



October was a busy month for fundraising events. We hosted our Epic Night Out fundraiser at Woburn Country Club, and raised nearly \$10,000 , which helped us invest in replacing our aging fleet of student MacBooks, energy-efficient motion-sensor faucets, and a new water filling station! Thank you to those who joined us for the fun!

The following week, we hosted our **Halloween Movie on the Turf Fundraiser** and raised over **\$800** for our programs! Then towards the end of the month, we had our **Haunted House community service project**, and raised **\$271** for the **Woburn Council of Social Concern's Holiday Food Drive**.

In addition to all the fun above, we also enjoyed creating, editing and watching our annual **Halloween Shorts** together. **Halloween Shorts** are short, spooky movies that are entirely created, filmed and edited by the teachers and star the kids!



November came in with delightfully warm weather. We started our month with a full day, **Election Day** program. The entire program visited a gigantic indoor trampoline park called **FunCity Trampoline Park** in Salem, NH. We jumped on trampolines, zip-lined, rock-climbed, enjoyed the slides, ball pits and having a blast with our friends!

We also had a full day program on **Veterans Day**. The K-1 group took a field trip to **One Stop Fun**, which is a big indoor maze with slides and a gymnastics area! The 2nd-5th grade group played games and VR at **In The Game**.

Every November, we also host another community service project called **Coin Wars**. For two weeks, each class raises money for a different organization of their choice. There is a point system involved and a lot of friendly competition. Thank you to those who donated. The winner this year was the K-1 Room. All donations went to the **NFI Family Resource Center**.

As most Novembers go, we ended the month with our annual Italian Feast! This was the first time since 2019 that we gathered together for this event. We enjoyed baked ziti, salad, garlic bread and brownie sundaes!

Our Giving Tuesday fundraiser was incredibly successful this past year! Through Facebook and Paypal, we raised \$5730.18 for the program! Thank you immensely to all that participated!



December was full of so many awesome traditions at Kids' Corner! We enjoyed our Dreidel Tournament, cooking-decorating and gingerbread house-making! All the classrooms enjoyed Reindeer Games as well! The K-1ers made a video singing holiday carols and sent it to the residents at Mount Vernon House. The 456 Room had an epic holiday party with a ton of awesome

food. We also had a Celebrations Around the World Day where we learned about Taiwan's Lantern Festival, Kwanzaa and Midsomer.



January was a wonderful start to the New Year! Grades 2-6 started their Mini Courses this month. Teachers in the 2-3 Room and 456 Room offer up a small group activity, once a week, over the period of several weeks. The



offerings range from art activities, theater games, sports, baking and more!

The K-1ers started their Micro Courses this month. Teachers in the K-1 Room offered up small group activities for three days in a row. The offerings ranged from puppet-making, snow people art, comic book creating & Chinese New Year crafts!

We ended the month with an early release day and we had a special in house performance.

We moved and grooved to the beat of Drumatix, a performance group who played music, danced and wowed us with their beats!



February was full of fun at Kids' Corner! Our theme was the universe and we had an awesome theme day where we watched a few educational Bill Nye videos and had a tasty and yummy themed snack!



The 2-3ers hosted a community service project during February where they gathered supplies for the Lowell Humane Society. We collected food, toys, and other supplies to help support the animal shelter.

During February Vacation Week, The 2nd-7th grade group went ice skating at Icenter & snow tubing at McIntyre Ski Area. The K-1ers enjoyed running

through mazes, bouncing in bounce houses and running amok at Cedarland Amusement Center & Cowabunga's! On Friday, the entire program enjoyed the movie *The Amazing Maurice* and had pizza and ice cream at Chunky's Cinema.

March was jammed-packed with fun! We started the month out with a full day program on the professional development day. The whole program went to American Flatbread and enjoyed pizza and bowling together.

We also had our **PJ Bingo Night fundraiser** in March, and raised nearly **\$1,000**. All proceeds will go back to the program in the form of STEAM initiatives, professional development for our amazing teachers, and other curriculum enhancements.

Toward the middle of the month, we enjoyed three early release days in a row. We had Li Liu, an acrobatic performer, come and wow us with her skills. We also had a field trip to Roller Kingdom where we listened to music and roller skated with our friends! We finished the week off with a theme day all about colors! The kids' enjoyed special themed activities, games and snacks.

In April, we visited many amazing places! During our early release day, the whole program visited Polar Park, home of the minor league team, the Woo Sox.



During April Vacation, the K-1ers enjoyed field trips to The Ecotarium, Xtreme Craze and Franklin Park Zoo! The 2nd-6th grade group had a blast on their trips to Battleship Cove, Launch Trampoline Park and Fun World!



When we weren't traveling around, we were planning for our **40th Birthday Celebration** at Town Hall!

We were elated to see alumni, current families and staff who all help make Kids' Corner a wonderful place to grow, learn and play.

May brought up warmer weather and many amazing events and trips! We started the month with an early release day. The K-1 Room had an extraordinary time at the Boston Children's



Museum! The 2-3 Room explored and played at Robbins Park and our older friends in the 4-5-6 Room had the PERFECT day for a trip to Rockport where they explored and did some shopping.

The K-1ers also did a community service project in May where they gathered book donations to help out the Enka Fair Book Tent. In



addition, our 4-5-6ers baked up a storm for a bake sale and raised \$481.60 for Home For Little Wanderers. We are super proud of our kids! Thank you to everyone who participated in these very successful projects.



We ended the school year with a bang! Each classroom had their individual celebrations such as the K-1 WOW Awards, the 2-3 Graduation & the 456 Yearbook Party.

As a program, we enjoyed celebrating our annual events such as Fenway Day (The Teachers won this year), Carnival Day, Move Up Day and we ended our final days with a sweet visit from the

Frozen Hoagies truck!



It was an incredibly successful year in so many ways. Thanks to all who were a part of it! We are grateful for such wonderful families and such an amazing community.

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## Summer Director's Message from Mike Gaudreau



The Summer Program enjoyed another successful summer! We had a ton of rain, but we lucked out with the timing for the most part. We had a lot of returning staff from last year and three new staff members this summer. Additionally, we had a mix of high schoolers, college students and Kids' Corner teachers.

For summer enrichments, we brought in karate from Bay State Martial Arts, gymnastics, Top Secret Science, Winchester Music School, On the Mark archery, Kidstock and the Enchanted Dance Academy.

Some of our staff also put their talents to the test by offering amazing baking, art and sports enrichments.

Field trips are contingent on weather, but despite all the rain, we managed to get in all of all of our planned trips! The beach trips to Hampton and Crane were fantastic! We also went to Stage Fort Park in Gloucester and finally got back to the Southwick Zoo for the first time since 2019! Nelson







Beach Park in Plymouth and Castle Island in Boston gave us a nice mix of swimming, splash park and playground fun.

For special events, we had a lot of great acts stop by. Talewise was an incredible mix of story-telling and interactive science experiments. The Flying High Dogs made a return visit after 2 years. Bryson Lang, comedic juggler extraordinaire, dazzled us with his incredible skills! Dragon Foam made their first appearance and they were a smash hit! Last but not least was Animal Adventures, an annual favorite!

The Kona Ice truck/ice cream truck came by every Friday for a visit on cue! It was another fantastic summer in the books!





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## KC Xtreme 2023 Update from Lauren Bagley

KC Xtreme 2023 had another successful summer as well, full of travel and new experiences. We successfully navigated around hiccups in the schedule and rainy days.

KC Xtreme asks a lot from the adults involved, with long hours and very active trips. Our staff did a great job stepping up, and keeping our kids engaged.



Some of our trip highlights were our Boston trips (Codzilla, whale watching and exploring Faneuil Hall), kayaking, surfing, white water rafting, thrilling theme parks, indoor skydiving, and Rockport. We made the best of our rainy days by heading to arcades and bowling.

Overall, it was a great summer with our KC Xtreme group!

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# Giving Thanks

Here we share once more our gratitude for the support of our community over the program year: September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023.

## 2022-23 Fundraising Events

Epic Night Out!  
Halloween Movie Night  
Giving Tuesday  
Pajama Bingo Night

## Local Business Support

First of all, we want to thank Winchester Cooperative Bank for their generous sponsorship of Kids' Corner's 40th Birthday Community Celebration.

We also received generous event sponsorships for Epic Night Out, particularly from our Presenting Sponsor, John Moriarty & Associates, and other local businesses including The Pallotta Group RE, Janis Moriarty, D.M.D., Winchester Community Music School, Winchester Orthodontics, Ciao! Bow Wow, Winchester Cooperative Bank, Andersen Group Realty, and Professional Physical Therapy.

Many local businesses have generously donated gift cards and other items for both Epic Night Out and Pajama Bingo Night. The next time you stop in, please consider mentioning your appreciation!

Altitude Trampoline  
Bisou Nail Bar  
Bliss Confection Co  
Book Ends  
Cafe Nero



House of Hot Sauce  
Little Flippers Swim School  
Lucia Ristorante  
Mahoney's Garden Center  
MountainStrength CrossFit

Catch a Falling Star  
Ciao! Bow Wow  
Chick-fil-A  
China Sky  
Comella's  
D'Agostino's  
Fells Hardware  
Frozen Hoagies  
Gingerbread Construction  
Company  
Gloria's Pizza

Nourish Your Soul  
One2One BodyScapes  
Playa Bowls  
Revel  
Revolve Boutique  
Shear Perfection  
Starbucks  
StretchMed  
Sweet Surprise  
The Branch Olive Oil  
The FULLer Cup

Individual Giving \$250 and above

Amanda and Keith Berling  
Hansraj and Alice Bhukhmohan  
Dan and Gena Bronson  
Derek and Dorothy Chiang  
Briana Cummings and Joshua Forman  
Elizabeth and Christopher DiPierro  
Jeffrey and Meryl Forman  
Toni Frain and Kevin Wurl  
Stephen and Theresa Fromm  
Elaine Lee and Tim Barder  
Patricia Llana and Adrian LeBuffe  
Simone Patel  
Lauren and Jeff Schiller  
Jessica and Tom Stanton

Individual Giving \$500 and above

Brooke Bass  
Casandra and Steve Calawa  
John Coronella and Kathrine  
Rinard  
Jeroen den Boer and Barbara  
Roos  
Lindsay and Mike Donikian  
Alison and Andrew Harrall  
Hellas Karayannacos and Petros Boufounos  
Lauren and Michael Lee  
Michael and Amy Lovasco  
Sonya Rao and Samir Parikh  
Melissa and Gared Schneberger  
Shavawn and Christopher  
Waelsch  
Juliana Wong and Peter Kurunczi





 A Special Thank You!!!

Kids' Corner would like to send a big THANK YOU to Jane & Michael Walsh for their incredibly generous and inspiring 2022 year-end gift of \$10,000! They are proud grandparents to four Kids' Corner kids: Katherine (4th grade), Bridgette (2nd grade), Henry and George (Kindergarten) Lovasco. We are grateful for their generosity and enormous impact that their donation will have on our program.

All Giving

Bea Alamo

Andrew and Carrie Bartholomew

Brooke and Jeff Bass

Amanda and Keith Berling

Hansraj and Alice Bhukhmohan

Bill and Megan Blackwell

Danielle Bottari and Douglas  
Moore

Shannon Bromley and Ray  
Ashoori

Dan and Gena Bronson

Oksana and Jonathan Cacciola

Cassandra and Steve Calawa

Tyler and Nazira Carlage

Carly and Stephen Carney

Jing Chen and Min Wan

Derek and Dorothy Chiang

Jennifer Clark and Andrew  
McRiner

John Coronella and Kathrine  
Rinard

Briana Cummings and Joshua  
Forman

Divya and John Curtin

Katie and Peter Czerepak

Mahrya Dakubu

Brijal Dave and Siddharth Chhatpar

Jeroen den Boer and Barbara Roos

Mike Diblasi

Elizabeth and Christopher DiPierro

Lindsay and Mike Donikian

Erin Fogel and David Kaushansky

Jeffrey and Meryl Forman



Toni Frain and Kevin Wurl  
Stephen and Theresa Fromm  
Kibibi and Matthew Ganz  
Ivy Gao and Chris Chung  
Andrew Gentzow  
Emily and Manu Gosain  
Erik and Mary Ruth Hajen  
Alison and Andrew Harrall  
Laura and John Homich  
Martha and James Hoyt  
Susan Hsiong and Kevin Hsu  
Chia-Lin Huang  
Hellas Karayannacos and Petros  
Boufounos  
MaryKate Lynch and Tom Kelley  
Dr. Donna Kelly  
Walter and Adonia Kim  
Elaine Lee and Tim Border  
Lauren and Michael Lee  
Shannon Leigh  
Patricia Llana and Adrian LeBuffe  
Michael and Amy Lovasco  
Jason and Jillian Manekas  
Barbara and Patrick Matteson  
Karen and Mark McLean  
Katie and Steve Meinelt  
Elizabeth and Shaun Merrill  
Chirag Modi and Nishima Maini  
Amy Nguyen and Barry Pearson  
Tara and Michael O'Meara  
Bridget and Dan Parker  
Simone Patel  
Alison Pauly and Keith Nelson  
Jennifer and John Perry  
Parika Petaipimol and Christopher Aronis  
Erin Pittinger  
Elly and Matt Preotle  
Sonya Rao and Samir Parikh  
Erin Rodliff and Tony Crooks  
Kelly and Steve Sarandis  
Lauren and Jeff Schiller  
Melissa and Gared Schneberger  
Mary and Thomas Scott  
Leonard and Ina Shollo  
Jessica and Tom Stanton  
Alisa and Richard Stendardo  
Simran and Dennis Su  
Eric Sullivan and Katelyn Sullivan





Ryan and Emily Sutton  
Jeffrey Swanson and Kristyn Newhall  
Nadine Thorndycraft  
Maureen Toner and Michael Ryan  
Victoria and Steve Vargas  
Shavawn and Christopher Waelsch  
Jane and Michael Walsh  
Juliana Wong and Peter Kurunczi  
Ricky Wong and Helen Mui  
Leipawan Wongwajarachote and Edward Dalton  
Konstantinos Xynos and Theodora Pappa  
Andrea and Dan Zuniga

### Company Matching Gifts

Kids' Corner is grateful that many of our families took advantage of corporate matching and other employee giving programs, and directed over \$3,000 in additional funds to Kids' Corner over this past year.





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# Volunteers

Please join us in recognizing the dedication and great work of our Board and Task Force members.

## 2022-23 Board Members

Amy Walsh - Board President, VP Governance Committee  
Michael Lee - VP Fundraising & Development Committee  
Eric Sullivan - Treasurer  
Sonya Rao - Secretary  
Alice Bhukhmohan  
Casandra Calawa  
Alison Harrall  
Erik Molinaro  
Irina Puscasu

## 2022 Epic Night Out! Task Force

Gena Bronson  
Casandra Calawa  
Elina Karayannacos  
Theodora Pappa  
Erin Pittinger  
Jeff Schiller  
Gared Schneberger

## 2022 Halloween Movie Night Volunteers

Meryl Forman  
Joseph Tahnk

## Second Annual Pajama Bingo Night Task Force

Amanda Berling  
Ina Shollo

## 40th Birthday Celebration Task Force

Brooke Bass  
Jing Chen  
Chia-Lin (Elly) Huang  
Michael Lee  
Jessica Pulzetti  
Ina Shollo  
Jessica Stanton



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## Staff Spotlight

Jeremy Marshall and Sara Weaver both joined Kids' Corner recently as full time staff. We asked them to tell us about themselves, their background, and how they see Kids' Corner.

### Meet Jeremy Marshall: 2-3 Room Co-Lead Teacher

- I have been working with children since my early twenties. My good friend got me a job working at my old elementary school after school program when I moved back home after college! I've done a lot of babysitting and nannying as well as having worked for multiple child care programs.
- I love music and being outdoors. I played multiple instruments when I was younger and have been playing the drums since I was 12. I love to go hiking in New Hampshire and taking walks along the Charles River. Also, I'm a big Celtics and Red Sox fan and watch almost every game if I can.
- Having worked part-time in after school programs for a while, it was nice to see a full-time position with year round stability. Also, I wanted to work for a non-profit child care program.
- I have been pleasantly surprised by the emphasis that is put on giving the children a taste of the real world. Whether it's the multitude of field trips or the various community building events/activities that are held throughout the year, it is clear that these students are regularly being provided with memorable and important experiences.
- I've been performing and going to see live music since I was about 6. I've played in three different bands and used to go see at least one concert almost every week when I was in college. I think I've seen one of my favorite local bands play over 30 times! I'd love to own and operate my own small music venue later in life.





## Meet Sara Weaver: K-1 Room Co-Lead Teacher

- My previous job was working at a before-and-after school childcare program in my hometown, Bedford, where I worked for five years.
- I majored in English, specifically creative writing, and minored in psychology.
- For hobbies, I'm getting back into reading. I also love singing, dancing, listening to music, watching favorite TV shows, going to the Boston ballet with my friends when an intriguing show pops up, and playing video games with my friends.
- I love the potential at Kids' Corner to move up and be a co-leader of a room. As much as I like being a team player, I also want a chance to take on more responsibilities, and to enhance the skills and abilities I already have.
- I think the most surprising thing about Kids' Corner is how much fun we can pack into a day. We sometimes have a lot of different activities to prep and plan for and it's impressive how much we do within the time frame that we have.
- If it wasn't weird, I would own ten cats and hang out with them whenever I had free time. I would love to own at least two cats in the future, or be able to foster cats. My other feline goal is to train a kitten to sit in a cat backpack so we can go everywhere together.

