

KIDS' CORNER ANNUAL REPORT



2018-2019

2019 Summer Program update

The 2019 Summer Program was simply FANTASTIC! Mother Nature was on our side for the big field trips, which included Cranes Beach, Spectacle Island, Davis Farmland, Southwick Zoo and Castle Island. Enrichments ranged from Top Secret Science and Kidstock! to Horseback Riding lessons and Einstein's Workshop. Several of the talented staff also ran enrichments. New addition Matt Roberts, the Magician was AMAZING! Every Friday was special snack day, which rotated between the ice cream truck, Kona Ice, and Spadafora Slush. Treadwell's Ice Cream came on the last Friday for a special end of summer treat. The High Flying Frisbee Dogs paid us a visit, and the trip to Coco Keys was wet and wild!

Also this past summer, we welcomed six Winchester High School volunteers to our program. The volunteers were previous Kids' Corner students who wanted to give back to the program, and gain experience working with children. They volunteered 8 hours a day, and followed their assigned classroom throughout the day. They helped organize the daily activities, spent lots of time engaging with the children, and did a great job serving as role models. They were all a wonderful help to the staff, and the children absolutely adored them. The volunteers gained valuable experience shadowing our seasoned teachers!



Spotlight on new full-timer Hannah Hollmann!

Hi! My name is Hannah. I am 28 years old, and I began working at Kids' Corner in the fall of 2017. I am originally from San Diego, CA and have lived in six different states. I am the first woman in my family to graduate college. I earned my BA in English and a Global Leadership Certificate at Washington State University in 2013.

I transitioned to childcare after 10 years in customer service, and began working with children at the YMCA in Portland, ME. I love to engage with kids creatively and want to encourage the best in each child, no matter what their interests may be. I am very excited to be a full-time lead teacher in the 2-3 Room.



STEAM Curriculum Updates

Over the last year, Kids' Corner has enhanced our curriculum with a variety of STEAM components. We have added a new digging area and raised garden bed in our outdoor space, as an opportunity for the children to explore the natural world around them.

We have also purchased a variety of manipulatives and STEAM kits to assist the teachers in purposefully including STEAM concepts in our everyday play. For project time, we have added a set of 8 Lego WeDo kits that encourage students to explore engineering concepts. We have also added wood ramps and other items in the K-1 Room so that students can explore science concept such as gravity & velocity, as well as engineering principles.



Summer Family Fun Night August 22, 2019

This summer we had our First Annual Summer Family Fun Night community event. We had great weather, great food, and great entertainment, and on top of an excellent turn out of KC families, we welcomed non-KC families who saw our flyers and came to check out the program. Kids were thrilled with the ice cream truck, and parents appreciated the opportunity to catch up with other families. The community loved this event so much many stayed well past 7:30, until nearly 9PM!



Spotlight on new part timer Daphne So!

My name is Daphne. I am a senior at Winchester High School and a part-time teacher at Kids' Corner. I attended Kids' Corner as a student for three years from 2007 to 2010 before moving abroad. My family returned to Winchester during my freshman year of high school and I began volunteering at KC two days a week.

I have spent the last two years working as a part-time floating teacher working primarily in the K-1 Room. I have also worked as a KC Xtreme staff member for the past two summers, where I have developed stronger peer leadership skills.

KC Charitable Activity

Kids' Corner donates to a range of local community service and charitable giving activities. Total giving for FY19 came to over \$2,500, of which more than \$2,000 was generated purely by the kids' efforts. By comparison, we gave away about \$2200 the previous year, including \$1800 from the kids, and \$1700 the year before, with \$1400 from the kids. This year's recipients include:

- Merrimack Valley Relief Fund for gas explosion in September 2018 (Full Program)
- Haunted House fundraiser for Woburn Council for Social Concern holiday food drive (Teacher organized)
- K-1 Room performed a holiday concert for the residents of the Mt Vernon House
- 2-3 Room donated Coin Wars and Rock Video proceeds to Comfort Zone Camp
- K-1 Room Coin Wars proceeds donated to California Fires relief fund
- 4-5-6 Room focused on helping children who are less fortunate, donating Coin Wars proceeds to Bridge Over Troubled Waters, and a bake sale (everything baked at KC) for Home for Little Wanderers.



Key Indicator Committees

The Key Indicator Committees are charged with implementing our 5-year strategic plan. The committees consist of Board Members and parent volunteers who focus on the following areas: Space, Enrollment Growth, Human Resources, Community Engagement, and Finance.

There has been a lot of progress made on the committee level including the development and execution of a staff satisfaction survey; envisioning a larger, accessible space ensuring a secure, long term future for Kids' Corner; establishing a channel of communication with wait-listed families; increasing the number of full-time teachers; and setting up a budget that meets the needs of the current Kids' Corner community while looking towards the future.

We are always looking for new volunteers to share their expertise and passions. Please reach out if you are interested.

2019 Epic Night Out, and upcoming events

Our third annual Epic Night Out, on Saturday, April 7, 2019, lived up to its name once again. We had an incredibly fun night, and with the help of our community, raised \$15,000—again well exceeding our previous year's total! If you missed this one, then you will want to make sure that you can join us next time.

The proceeds of this event support new programming and faculty development, and help Kids' Corner continue its tradition of fostering a creative and innovative learning environment for its students. Kids' Corner extends a heartfelt thank you to all of our parents, alumni and teachers, and each of the local businesses who give so much to our community, and whose support as sponsors and donors made it a huge success.

Look out for notices of upcoming events, including the all-new Pajama-Bingo Night in Spring 2020, with pizza and dancing for you and your kids, and 2020 Epic Night Out in October.

