

BRIDGES OF SUPPORT



PCCs Make a Difference: Kenny's Story

BY ANGELA KELLEY, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Kenny Levakis is a single dad of two boys, Ashton, 6, and Aaron, 11. Today, Kenny and his children live in an apartment in Springfield and their needs are met, but the road to this point hasn't been easy. Kenny faced many obstacles in recent years, including homelessness. He said that connecting with Vermont's parent child centers was a turning point in his life.

Several years ago, Kenny reached out to The Family Place in Hartford, VT, which is one of fifteen parent child centers in the state. He received tons of support at a time when he didn't have a support system. The Family Place connected him with many supportive services, including housing resources. Kenny and his children were able to establish housing in Springfield last year, but this meant they would be relocating to a new service region within the parent child center network. The Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) was happy to welcome Kenny's family to the area and become a part of their story.

Kenny has found the parent child center's programs incredibly helpful. He's grateful to have received child care financial assistance so his boys could go to summer camp; concrete supports, like food, when needed; home visits from the family support workers; haircuts for his boys for back to school; help finding transportation when needed; and his favorite - the parent education program! (Continued on page 5)



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"I know I can call SAPCC anytime for support. It is so nice to have that resource and have someone to talk to. I think everyone that works there really cares and really wants to help."

-KENNY, DAD OF TWO



Fit 'n Fun Duck Run a Rainy Success!

BY JO ROBBINS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

What began as a rainy July 17th, cleared just in time to watch the 633 tiny rubber ducks race down the Black River for the SAPCC & Edgar May Health & Recreation Center co-organized 2021 Fit 'n Fun Duck Run. Winners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place all went home with cash prizes. Last place won a gift certificate for free swimming lessons at the EMHRC.

New this year, sponsored by McGee's of Springfield, was the “Decorate-a-Duck” contest. Local businesses and individuals decorated large rubber ducks for fun and a chance to win \$100! It was a huge success with 24 entries; three of which became winners in the business only, fittest, and people's choice categories.

There are a lot of people we would like to acknowledge and thank - our vendors, sponsors, and amazing volunteers (more info on back page). We appreciate the coordinated effort it took to make this event a success and can't wait to do it again next year. All funds raised go toward continued development of family programming through the Springfield Area Parent Child Center and The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center.



Upcoming Events

Playgroup @ The Commons
EVERY MONDAY 10-11:30AM

Mindful Parenting:
A virtual parenting class
THURSDAYS, AUG 26 - SEPT 9
10 - 11AM

Circle of Security Parenting Class
WEDNESDAYS, SEPT 15 - NOV 3
10:30AM-12:00PM

Upcoming Closings

Labor Day
SEPT 6

Afternoon Staff Meeting
SEPT 17 @NOON

Afternoon Staff Meeting
OCT 15 @NOON

Afternoon Staff Meeting
NOV 19 @NOON

Thanksgiving Break
NOV 25-26



Meet SAPCC's New Mental Health Clinician, Dominique Rondeau

BY JO ROBBINS, ADMIN ASSISTANT

Dominique Rondeau recently filled a new position at SAPCC as the Mental Health Clinician. She will be providing mental health services to families accessing our programs and services, including Learning Together participants once the program is back up and running.

Dominique is no stranger to SAPCC, having worked in the CIS (Children's Integrated Services) program as a Clinician through HCRS for the past two years. Before that, Dominique worked at Waypoint in Lebanon, NH as its Intensive Family Based Services Clinician.

She said what she most loves about her job is “seeing how many lives are changed on a daily basis thanks to all of the incredible programs here at SAPCC.”

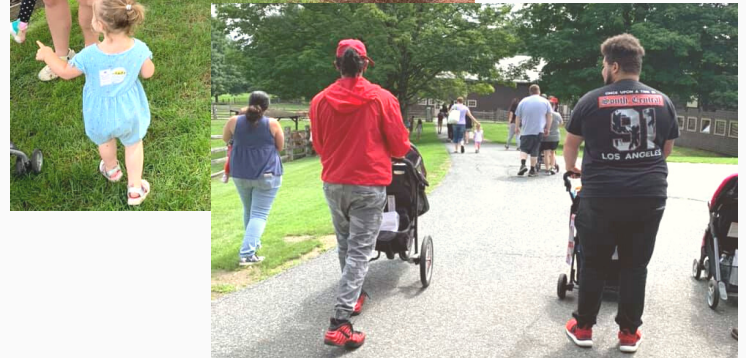
Dominique recalls a memorable moment when the mom of a child she was working with pulled her aside and thanked her for “...connecting with her child in such a way that no one else had ever been able to.” “Realizing it’s more than enough to simply be present and make the individual you are working with feel heard and seen.”

Playgroup Hits the Road

BY JO ROBBINS, ADMIN ASSISTANT

During the month of July, PCC Specialist, Kayla Bapp, and Program Director, Stacey Sanderson, facilitated a Traveling Playgroup. Over the course of the month, they visited four different locations in surrounding communities: VINS Nature Museum, Billings Farm, Grafton Nature Museum, and Plymouth State Park. The goal was to build bridges of support for families and make connections with local organizations.

When they first decided to do this type of playgroup, they only anticipated that 5-7 families would join. Nineteen families showed up for these fun outings! This "traveling playgroup" was nothing short of a success. They laughed, swam, tie-dyed, learned and built friendships. Ms. Kayla said “We hope you all had an amazing summer! We can’t wait to do it again!”



SAPCC Traveling Playgroup families enjoy time together during their trips, July, 2021



The Learning Together Program is Coming Back, Fall 2022

BY MARGOT HOLMES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Springfield Area Parent Child Center is very excited to be bringing back the Learning Together Program, a once vibrant program for the greater Springfield region.

Learning Together is a research-based parenting and life skills program designed to help young parents address barriers to self-sufficiency so they are better able to care for themselves and their children. The program provides participants with a host of supports to help them reach their goals, including:

- Education to help finish high school or attend college or training programs.
- Worksites and seminars to help develop and enhance job readiness skills.
- Parenting, wellness, and life skills classes to improve the skills and experience participants need to care for themselves and their children.
- Access to counseling, crisis support, and case management to address emotional and environmental barriers to self-sufficiency and effective parenting.
- On-site childcare and meals to remove barriers to participation.
- Opportunities to interact with other young parents to help them learn to build a supportive network of friends.

Families involved in the Learning Together program may face challenges such as poverty and past experiences of trauma but everyone can work to create a better future for themselves and their children. At SAPCC we believe that parenting is both beautiful and challenging and that every parent deserves support so their family can thrive.



Visit www.sapcc-vt.org and click on our donate button to make a charitable contribution to SAPCC today. SAPCC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible.



Some of the Learning Together participants harvest from the garden they grew, 2013.



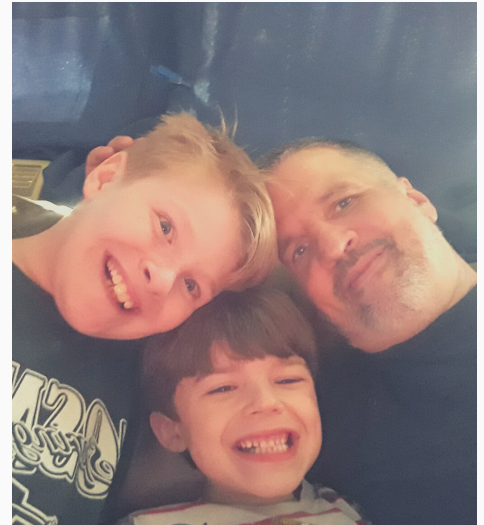
The class of 2016 Learning Together participants celebrate their accomplishments with their children.



Kenny's Story, Continued

"Any parent out there who is raising children should take these classes. It is a safe place to share struggles and triumphs. They are free and I really like taking them. I've learned a lot over the past year and acquired skills as a parent. My boys' mom is not part of their lives and being able to navigate the trauma from all that with the support of such wonderful people at SAPCC has been amazing."

Kenny's goals for the next year are to continue working on making a better life for his family, become more involved in the community and get his children into extracurricular activities. Kenny says that the isolation that comes with moving to a new community during a pandemic has been a challenge, but thanks to the support he's received from SAPCC, he feels like he is finally able to build a life for himself and his children and that the future is bright!



SAPCC Participant, Kenny Levakis, with his two sons Aaron and Ashton.

For more information about our parenting classes, please call, email or visit us on the web to view our calendar of upcoming events!



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Our Community Says...

"...I appreciate all of your staff's support throughout all of these years!"

"Thank you for the awesome memories this summer! We loved all the trips and hope you do this program every year!"

"I took this parenting class because it was court ordered, but I will definitely be taking more... it's a whole learning experience!"

"Thank you for finding a solution to our issue, we appreciate it so much!"

Thank you, everyone!



Springfield Area Parent Child Center
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Thank you to our Fit 'n Fun Duck Run 2021 Sponsors: McGee Chrysler Jeep Dodge of Springfield, Willow Farm Pet, Claremont Savings Bank, Vermont Packinghouse, LLC, Parker Hill Farm & Boutique Campground, Sherwin Art Glass, Springfield Food Co-op, The Vermont Butcher Shop, Wisdom River Designs, Fox Run Golf Club, Halladay's Harvest Barn, The Copper Fox, The Vermont Country Store, The Pointe At Castle Hill Resort and Spa, KJs Place

AND our awesome vendors: JC's Market & Deli, Talking is Teaching in Springfield, The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center, The SPACE, Springfield Town Library, Felicity Haselton

Bridges of Support - Fall Newsletter of SAPCC