

# Summer 2017

*every child deserves a childhood*



## Annual Science Fair Sparks Excitement

Families and friends gathered on campus for our Annual Science Fair and learned a few new scientific findings gleaned from our students' projects. Starting several months ago, each class focused on a specific science topic and worked together to following the scientific method: providing a question to be answered by an experiment, developing a hypothesis, conducting the experiment, collecting data, analyzing the results, and drawing the conclusion. Classroom teachers facilitated the projects and encouraged students to engage in each step along the way. Students were given criteria to follow at the start of each project and were judged and rewarded at the science fair based on their achievements.



A variety of scientific topics were explored that showcased the diversity of the students' interests, including:

- Bacterial growth
- Growth rate of plants and vegetables
- Testing whether a substance was a solid, liquid or both
- Creating the best mini-boat float
- Battery brand strength
- Testing alternative energy sources
- Cooking with solar ovens
- Animal reward behavior

The Annual Science Fair is one of the favorite recurring curriculum-based events on campus. The students enjoy the entire process including presenting their findings to loved ones. Families and friends are welcomed into our community and invited to help us celebrate our students' great science discoveries.



**TO SEE MORE** pictures of this year's Science Fair, visit here: [goo.gl/3JTT7G](http://goo.gl/3JTT7G)

## Robin Raycraft joins Leadership Team as new Director of Clinical and Compliance

As the newest addition to the management team on campus, Robin Raycraft brings over twenty years of experience working in mental healthcare throughout various organizations in New Hampshire. Her multi-faceted career includes a proficiency in clinical work with geriatrics, adults and adolescents in groups and individually. Additionally she served as the Administrator of Community Mental Health Services at the Bureau of Behavioral Health for the Department of Health and Human Services. In this leadership role, Robin will help create a more unified voice across the clinical and family services that Spaulding Youth Center provides.



Clinical services are an integral component of the intensive therapeutic setting on Spaulding campus. While on campus, Spaulding Youth Center students benefit from expert staff in the areas of Special Education, Behavioral Analysis, Behavioral Health, Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Nursing.

Comprised of Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs), Master's Level Clinicians, and Case Managing Family Workers, our Clinical Services team has expertise addressing a variety of childhood disorders, school problems, and family challenges. They work with children who have neurodevelopmental disorders such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), educational difficulties such as learning disabilities, and emotional challenges. Our approach includes evidence-based practices, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Trauma Informed Therapy, Applied Behavioral Analysis Therapy, Child Centered Play Therapy, Solution-Focused Therapy, Narrative Play Therapy, and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

**TO LEARN MORE** about our Clinical Services, please visit [goo.gl/sw3PCD](http://goo.gl/sw3PCD)

## SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON SPAULDING SPIRIT

In early 2017, a new peer-nominated recognition program was launched called The Spaulding Spirit Award. This program offers every Spaulding employee an opportunity to commend a co-worker for consistently doing a great job! At our quarterly staff meeting in April, our first Spaulding Spirit award winner Nicole Hilliker was recognized among her peers by CEO & President Susan Ryan. Here is a short excerpt of the wonderful nomination submitted by Cindy Foley RN:

*I was inspired to nominate her for this award because she is a person you will not forget. She takes great pride in working and assisting others without being asked. ... She shows she enjoys working at SYC and works a number of hours here. She is one unique person and really a great team member and I am proud to work with her at SYC!!!*

Please join us in congratulating Nicole for exemplifying the positive and collaborative environment here on campus.

**TO MEET MORE** of our incredible employees, please visit [goo.gl/lZxmvr](http://goo.gl/lZxmvr)



**Our Mission:** To leverage our professional expertise to help young people with autism or other developmental and/or behavioral challenges learn the academic and life skills needed to be successful in their homes, schools & communities. [spauldingyouthcenter.org](http://spauldingyouthcenter.org)



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## Making the World a Better Place

After graduating from Plymouth State University with a BS in Psychology, Melissa Brown was searching for her first professional position and submitting applications for interesting positions. She had never heard of Spaulding Youth Center, but knew she could help people as an aide in the classroom. Over ten years later, Melissa is still helping students and making their world (and ours) a better place.

During her nine years in the Spaulding School, Melissa enjoyed building relationships with the kids and celebrated their growth and learning. She learned an incredible amount about herself as well, overcoming her shyness and realizing her true capabilities.

She recently transitioned to the position of Family Worker supporting our Residential students. This position piqued her interest because she could extend her contribution beyond just day-to-day connections with the children. After all, there are so many other people affected when one of our students comes to Spaulding. As a Family Worker, Melissa serves as the point person in the center of it all, managing every aspect of the case from education, residential life, family, outside agencies,

mental health, behavior management, health services, and more. In her new role, she collaborates with the students, their families, and off-site resources to provide the maximum impact on the overall picture.



In fact, that is her favorite aspect about Spaulding: teamwork. "Working alongside people who you can depend on, who share the same ideals, and who are really good at what they do is what makes Spaulding Youth Center so spectacular. Knowing you all are all working together to do good in the world is beyond rewarding."

In her spare time, Melissa cherishes her 'happy-go-lucky' lifestyle with favorite activities including hanging out with friends and family, enjoying concerts, and hula hooping.

**TO MEET MORE** of our incredible Spaulding Youth Center employees, please visit [goo.gl/IZXmvr](http://goo.gl/IZXmvr)

## Summer Cycling Fun Has Arrived on Campus



The children on campus have more than the arrival of beautiful weather to celebrate. A few short weeks ago, Goodwill Industries of Northern New England's Recycled Cycles donated 22 refurbished bicycles for residential student and staff use. Each cottage received age-appropriate bicycles which enables our students and staff to schedule cooperative rides, which they could never do before.

The collection of bicycles was revealed to students with much excitement and a little

disbelief that these bikes were all for them. Students selected their favorite bikes from the collection and immediately completed multiple laps around the quad of the Spaulding Youth Center campus.

Since the generous donation, bicycles have been spotted nearly every day crisscrossing our campus. One thing is for sure: our students are excited for summer cycling fun!



**TO SEE ALL** the ways you can bring summer fun to campus, visit here: [goo.gl/nu3Qy9](http://goo.gl/nu3Qy9)

## DONATE TODAY IN THREE EASY WAYS



1. Donate online at [spauldingyouthcenter.org/give](http://spauldingyouthcenter.org/give)



2. Mail a donation to 72 Spaulding Road, Northfield, NH 03276



3. Contact the Foundation office at 603-286-7500



Thank you for supporting the children and youth of Spaulding Youth Center.

We appreciate your consideration to help children reach their greatest potential. To make a contribution to Spaulding Youth Center today: