

The News



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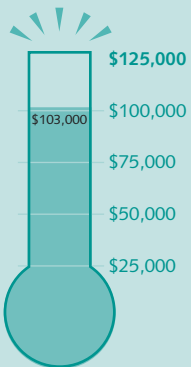
Summer 2010

Did You know?



Online Giving is now available for our **Help Us Build a Special PlaySpace** and for general fund donations to the Friends. Please click the PlaySpace Logo and "Donate Now" buttons at www.nsedu.org for more information.

Raised to Date



Member Districts:

Beverly, Danvers, Gloucester, Hamilton-Wenham Regional, Lynn, Lynnfield, Manchester/Essex Regional, Marblehead, Masconomet Regional, Nahant, North Reading, Peabody, Reading, Rockport, Salem, Swampscott, Tri-Town Elementary Union, Triton School Union

\$20,000 "rolls in" for new PlaySpace

The pledges rolled in for the new PlaySpace at the Kevin O'Grady School (KOG) as more than 100 participants came out for the first ever **Walk & Roll** fundraiser on Saturday, May 15th. Thanks to the generosity of KOG families and staff, who walked and pledged, nearly \$20,000 was raised to "Build a Special PlaySpace."

Added to an incredible \$50,000 grant from Danversbank, \$2,500 from the Piccolo Family Charitable Foundation, \$1,750 from Northeast Health Foundation (Beverly Hospital), \$500 from the Beverly Rotary and scores of donations from private individuals, funds raised for the PlaySpace have broken the \$100,000 mark!

Numerous grants are still under consideration, so the campaign should easily meet its goal this fall of raising \$125,000 for the first PlaySpace. In fact, the campaign will likely have funds left over to kickoff the effort for the second PlaySpace, track and basketball courts, which will cost \$175,000.

As for the event, it was a beautiful, spring day as KOG families and staff walked or rolled around the building 10 times for a total of two miles. They walked and rolled to the beat of lively music provided by Radio Disney/1260AM.

There were lots of fun games, including Disney trivia run by Radio Disney and a mini carnival organized by PTO President Eva Quinlan and her crew of volunteers.

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"Ryan and Erica on the roll" and "Katelyn and her son enjoying every moment!"



A Story of Transformation

Alyssa Dedrick is not your typical 22 year old. In her adolescence she was a recreational world champion figure skater, a phenomenal



Alyssa Dedrick

starting catcher for her softball team, a track and field runner in several different events, and even the captain of her hockey cheer-leading squad in high school. She was also a jazz concert

pianist that was given the opportunity to attend Berklee College of Music's summer performance program at the age of 16. No one, not even herself, would have ever believed that she would grow to be addicted to heroin by her third year in high school. Alyssa states, "I remember drinking for the first time before a middle school dance as a sixth grade student. I thought that alcohol allowed me to be myself. My nerves were non existent and I felt like I was on top of the world. Most of my friends were able to stop drinking due to social circumstances or consequences that they had faced for their behavior. I simply wanted more."

Alyssa's addiction grew to include a host of other drugs including oxycontin which then led her to shooting heroin at 16. Her depiction of that first time experience is horrifying, "The first time that I shot heroin, I was 45 minutes away from home with my boyfriend and drug dealer. I overdosed in the backseat and stopped breathing. They drove me back to my home town, and took me to a wooded area. They brought my lifeless body into the woods and were planning on leaving me

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Celebrate Our Future 2010 – Road to Recovery



In the months prior to my retirement this June, I've been frequently asked what I'm most proud of accomplishing at the Consortium. While there have been many things we've achieved over the past

eight years, I believe the biggest has been moving the work of the Consortium out of the shadows.

The Consortium has always done excellent work, but now we are not only proud of what we do, but have aggressively told the community what we do and how they can help us achieve our goals.

Originally formed as a partnership of six communities helping to implement the mandate of a special education law, the Consortium is now made up of eighteen cities and towns providing high quality special services to over four hundred students and is the cutting edge of developing new programs to meet the changing needs of our school districts.

We now proudly share through our newsletter, website, and a variety of other means, information about our programs and the needs and successes of our students, families, and staff.

We now stand tall in the light celebrating our work and our mission. Thank you all for making our steps from the shadows so successful and helping us achieve our goals. In July, it is with great honor, we welcome Colleen Dolan as the new Executive Director of NEC. She will be a welcomed addition to the Consortium.

Next year the Consortium will be celebrating its 35th anniversary. With your support, we will continue to shine and make a difference in the lives of so many. Thank you for your help and the opportunity to be part of such a great organization.

Robert Gass, Executive Director

Once again, the Grand Ballroom and foyers at the Crowne Plaza Boston North Shore (formerly the Sheraton Ferncroft) were filled with energetic guests, auction items and tons of excitement as the **Friends of Northshore Education Consortium** held their third annual **Celebrate our Future** event! On April 29th, over 330 guests enjoyed a celebratory evening that helped raise \$35,000 for the various special needs programs of the Consortium and for the PlaySpace, an initiative to build a playground that is designed to reach all of our students, whether able-bodied or with physical disabilities.

Part of the **Celebrate Our Future** event is recognizing key individuals or businesses that have significantly contributed to the growth of the Consortium and presenting them with a Community Partner award. This year, five key individuals were recognized and given the Community Partner Award: Former Lieutenant Governor, **Kerry Healey**, Dept. of Public Health/Bureau of Substance Abuse Director, **Michael Botticelli**, State Senator **Steven Tolman**, Former Salem Superintendent, **Dr. Herb Levine**, and retiring Beverly Superintendent, **Dr. James Hayes**. The theme of this year's event was "**Road to Recovery**,"



Kevin Noyes of Danversbank presenting PlaySpace check to Bob Gass

highlighting our very own Northshore Recovery High School (NSRHS).

The program was launched in 2006, thanks to a 2.5 million dollar five year grant from the Department of Public Health and each our five 2010 Community Partners.

The evening was emceed by returning NPR host Robin Young and our live auction was run by Senator Bruce Tarr. During the evening's program, guests heard from Michelle Lipinski, Director of NSRHS, Paul Kusiak, parent of NSRHS

alumnus and tireless supporter of the program and Alyssa Dedrick, 2006 NSRHS graduate. Plus, **Danversbank** presented a check for **\$50,000** to NEC Executive Director, Bob Gass, for the **PlaySpace initiative boosting funds raised to over \$100,000!**

It was a memorable evening featuring the efforts of many in creating a program that has touched the lives of so many young people and their families on the North Shore.

\$20,000 "rolls in" for new PlaySpace continued from page 1

Grand prizes were awarded to the top fundraisers, including:

- Museum of Science Premier Family Membership to KOG student **Kayla** who raised **\$1,950**.
- A \$100 Gourmet Gift Basket from Shubie's of Marblehead to staff member **Peter Morgan** who raised **\$1,025** (and turned in a lot more money after the event).
- Le Grand David Magic Theater tickets, posters and souvenir programs to KOG student **Christopher** who raised **\$1,000**.

KOG teacher Sandra Busa raised a whopping **\$1,905**, but turned down a prize. She did win one of the raffle prizes, though, as did **KOG student Patrick** who raised **\$750**. Everyone who turned in pledge sheets got a chance to win raffle prizes.

The **Walk & Roll** promises to be an annual rite of spring at the Kevin O'Grady School. So plan to join the fun in May 2011 for the second annual **Walk & Roll**. All funds will go to build the PlaySpace for the older students.

~ Article submitted by Deborah Gardner Walker

Embark goes beyond

This past school year, the **Embark Program** piloted a new initiative, the Division of Continuing Education. Motivated by parents of Embark graduates, the program offered classes to students over the age of 22, which the students referred to as “The Graduate Program.” Their parents in addition to some of the graduates themselves initially requested a way to continue their education and keep up with the skills they had attained over their academic career. This past year four classes were held after Embark’s regular school day. During the fall of 2009, **Janis Collamore** taught Money Management and **Michelle Liming** taught Technology 1, while students participated in Geography with Janis as the instructor and Technology 2 with Michelle during the spring 2010 semester.

Students’ comments were quite positive. Feedback was prompted by an evaluation form distributed at the end of the semester. Every category on the evaluation received high ratings. One of the students reported, *“I had fun in the Technology class. I learned how to produce a slide show with the photographs taken on school trips. I would like to take Geography and Cooking next year.”* Another student stated, *“I really enjoyed the Money Management class where I understood the importance of savings in addition to check writing. I would like to take Cooking, Geography, and Consumerism in the future.”* For this student’s evaluation, she rated the staff “5” (5 is the highest rating)!

The staff and potential Division of Continuing Education students are already looking forward to more classes starting in September 2010.

~ Article submitted by Patrice Grande, Director of Embark

The Consortium reaches out to another population of students with a very special need...

After nearly two years of research, development and preparation, the Northshore Education Consortium, in partnership with Lynn Public Schools and Endicott College will launch a three-week summer residential program to challenge high-achieving middle-school students. This program was created in response to a need identified by NEC member districts. The North Shore does not have public summer programs for middle school students that are academically gifted.



On July 12th, 36 high achieving middle schools students from Lynn will gather at Endicott College

to pilot the **Learning and Leadership Program (LLP)**. All participants will have completed the seventh or eighth grade, been nominated by their school principals and have an interest in studying and

potentially pursuing careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) areas and in the visual and performing arts.

The Learning and Leadership Program pilot is designed as a pre-college experience and over the course of the program, students will devote over 75 hours to in-depth learning and project-based collaborative study. STEM classes, visual and performing arts classes and leadership workshops will provide for a well-balanced experience.

This year, all students will be on full scholarship. Funding for the program has been made possible by donations from Eastern Bank, The Lynn Teacher’s Union, General Electric, Lynn Business Ed Foundation among others.

In subsequent years up to 150 students will be involved in the program and will include students from all of the Consortium’s member school districts.

~ Article submitted by Janice Lisiak, Director of Learning & Leadership Program

A Story of Transformation

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there to die. These were people that I thought cared about me. A woman saw them carrying me into the woods and called 9-1-1. I was revived with two shots of narcan after being pronounced dead. This is the first time that recovery seemed necessary in order for me to survive.”

Through a series of life changing events, Alyssa then ended up on the doorstep of the Northshore Recovery High School (NSRHS). With amazing persistence and unconditional support, Alyssa graduated from NSRHS and is now in her fourth year of recovery. **“Sobriety doesn’t just mean putting down drugs. Sobriety means changing the way I act, think, and feel. Sobriety means changing the way I live,”**

a profound statement from Alyssa, now working at NSRHS helping other students uncover the person deep inside locked in all the pain and confusion of addiction.

In addition to working at NSRHS and taking classes at North Shore Community College, Alyssa has been working at the new Family Center located at the Kevin O’Grady School. She assists Family Center Director, Marian Myers with various library responsibilities from researching topics, gathering resources for families to sitting with parents for support as needed. She is also preparing to transfer in the fall to her first choice college, Clark University, to study Psychology.

Alyssa’s story is one of grace and amazing determination. She is an example of an individual who made a decision to accept the help offered to her with the support of many. Marian Myers says is best, “Alyssa comes to work each day with a smile and enthusiasm that is rare to see. Her work ethic is excellent but more importantly is the passion she brings with her each day, the passion to make a difference in this world that was once so hard for her. She is truly an inspiration.” **Thank you, Alyssa, for simply being who you are...**

~ Article written from an interview with Alyssa and selections from her autobiography



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You Can Help!

Your gift to the Northshore Education Consortium is invaluable to our students and it directly impacts our ability to grow in meeting the needs of a very special population of students. If you would like to learn more about giving opportunities, please call Jeffrey Shwom, Assistant to the Director for Development Activities at 978.232.9755 ext. 1251

Robert L. Gass
Executive Director

Jeffrey Shwom
Newsletter Editor

Graphic Touch
Graphic Design

Friends of Northshore Education Consortium

The Tower Foundation: A Continuing Relationship



As one of our greatest supporters, the **Tower Foundation**, has finished its two year commitment

of **\$88,000** for professional development needs at our Kevin O'Grady School and has made another strong commitment supporting the Consortium. This past December, the Tower Foundation awarded the Consortium a **\$48,500** grant in phase one of a two phase project to conduct a technological needs assessment and evaluation for all programs. CELT (the Center for Educational Leadership and Technology) began their in-depth evaluation and submitted their final technology review in May.

Also, we want to extend a thank you to our **Consortium Community** for all of its support. As always, the Development Office is available for a visit. Please contact Jeffrey Shwom at jshwom@nsedu.org to schedule an appointment. **Have a wonderful summer!**

Art on the Hill



For the fourth year in a row, **NEC students** proudly displayed their works of art throughout the halls of the Kevin O'Grady School for **Art on the Hill**. The Beverly Guild of Artists returned to judge the event and the Café was open for ice cream sundaes! The theme this year was **"Your favorite movie"** and students and classrooms took their art work to a whole new level! The highlight of the evening each year is always watching the expressions of parents, friends and family who come to admire the spectacular displays of creativity. Their looks are of sheer amazement! One parent said it best... **"Simply unbelievable!"**

2009-2010 Honor Roll of Donors

Printer's Proof

In the fall of 2008, NEC launched the Circle of Trusted Partners Gift Club, an initiative to enhance the Consortium's fundraising capacity. This endeavor has now been woven into the fabric of ways our community friends can support programming for our students.



Please note that while each giving level is named after a Consortium program, giving at any level goes to benefit all students of the Consortium.

What you are reading is the "printer's proof" of *all* our donors reflecting contributions from this fiscal year **July 1, 2009 through May 1, 2010**.

If your name does not appear here, our records do not indicate a contribution from you as yet, but you still have until June 30th to be added to our list.

To old friends and new we encourage you to join the individuals and companies listed on this page by becoming a **Honor Roll donor**. Please know that every contribution makes a difference in the lives of the students we serve.

For this Printer's Proof, all donor names are listed alphabetically only; giving levels will be reflected in the actual Honor Roll of Donors which will be included in the Fall 2010 Newsletter.

Please now check to see:

1. If your name is spelled correctly.
2. If there are any discrepancies, please inform the NEC Development Office by using the enclosed envelope or please call or email Jeffrey Shwom at 978.232.9755 x 1251 or jshwom@nsedu.org.
3. If your name does not appear, a return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Please take special note that all gifts must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2010 in order to be received and credited in the current fiscal year.

Circle of Trusted Partners Gift Club

This coming fall, a special reception will be held to acknowledge our Circle of Trusted Partners gift club members at the Recovery, Academy and O'Grady Levels and a plaque on our lobby wall will be updated and unveiled as a visible way to thank those donors individually.

Invitations to follow for our fall reception recognizing those in our Circle of Trust Partners 2009-2010 at the Recovery, Academy and O'Grady Level.

Printer's Proof of all donors July 1, 2009 – May 1, 2010

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2009-2010 Honor Roll of Donors

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