



NEWTON CHILD CARE COMMISSION & FUND

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Who Are We Serving: An Interview with a Scholarship Recipient

By Jenny Gamson, Executive Director

As I encounter people in the Newton community, I am often asked, “what do we do” at the Newton Child Care Commission & Fund. The answer, “that we are charged with the task of addressing the child care needs of Newton families,” is a general reply. But the specifics are what make the work meaningful. Newton is a large and diverse community. Our residents have a range of economic, emotional and logistical needs that we are striving to address. To make this more “real,” I wanted to hear directly from a family that has used our programs. What follows are some questions and answers from this endeavor. Please note that some of the details from about the respondent have been changed to protect her privacy.

Q: What NCCC program or programs have you utilized?

A: I have utilized the Single Parent Support Group and Scholarship funds for many years. The NCCC has been a huge help with money, support, forums for information and community building. A real source for an infusion of personal affirmation and resource and referral for services.

Q: Can you tell me about yourself and your family situation?

A: I am a single mom of two. My children are wonderful people, in great part due to the support services of their school, after school and camp programs. The work I do in my professional life as a therapist at programs for needy, low-income families in crisis has given me great perspective and gratefulness for the resources of a community like Newton. Being a single parent in a community like Newton also has its stressors. Having less and asking for help is difficult and challenging for any independent, self-supporting adult. I am hard working, proud and committed to providing a full quality life for my children.

Q: As a single parent, what are some of the challenges of living in Newton? Has your involvement with the NCCC helped to address some of these challenges?

A: The affluent members of the community are so prevalent and numerous that it is often most difficult not to feel judged or separated by income level, status, class or access to the opportunities that money affords you. The NCCC has offered a forum for folks in similar circumstances to sit, listen, share and put a face and story to our “single parent” status and have our commonality not highlight us, but unite us.

Single Parent Group Series

We will be kicking off the Single Parent Group Series with a social event on October 24 from 6:30 – 8:00 at Newton Community Service Center, located at 492 Waltham Street in West Newton. Child care and dinner will be provided and we will have a discussion of possible topics for the coming school year. Flyers have been sent to past attendees, but any interested single parents are welcome! Through the generous support of the Rebecca Pomroy Foundation, we are able to offer this program free of charge.

Rebecca Pomroy Foundation Funds Single Parent Groups and Scholarship Support

We are pleased to announce that the Rebecca Pomroy Foundation has notified us that we have once again been approved for a \$2,000 grant for our Single Parent Support Group series for 2007-08. Additionally, this year, the Pomroy Foundation awarded us \$2,000 for our scholarship pool. The single parent population represents nearly 75% of our scholarship lottery applications and we are delighted to be able to continue to offer these families support. For more information on the workshop series, see the box above. Thank you again to the Pomroy Foundation for their generosity!



**Board of Aldermen Member
Leslie Burg
joins the
Newton Child Care Commission**



This past spring, Board of Aldermen member Leslie Burg became the aldermanic representative to the Newton Child Care Commission. Dr. Burg holds a PhD in Reading and Learning disabilities from Boston University and has held a position of faculty member and Professor Emeritus at Northeastern University for 33 years. She has consulted to numerous school systems,

social service and educational agencies and parent groups. A Newton resident for 37 years, she has one grown son who is a graduate of Newton North High School. Leslie, who is running for re-election on November 6 as Ward 3 At-Large Alderman, is a huge asset to the Newton Child Care Commission. Her knowledge of the field of education, her commitment to families and children in Newton and her contacts in the community make her a wonderful addition. Welcome, Leslie!

CPR/First Aid Training

Once again, Newton-Wellesley Hospital is offering CPR/First Aid Classes to the child care community and community at large. The cost is \$40 for CPR and \$50 for Basic First Aid, with a \$15 discount available to qualified participants.

For specific dates and locations, please call our office at

Newton Child Care Commission

617-332-6723

or

Newton-Wellesley Hospital/Wellness Center

617-243-6566.

**Child Care Commission Website
Gets a 2007 Update**

One of the many activities undertaken by staff this past summer involved updating the Newton Child Care Commission website. Initially created with funding by a grant from Newton2000, the website was ready for a "facelift" that reflects changes in technology, trends in fundraising and giving as well as making it more user friendly.

We are thrilled with the results and encourage our supporters to check out the changes. Our provider lists have been updated and many now include email addresses. Users should now experience increased speed and ease of navigation. Finally, we have added an on-line giving option through www.justgive.org. Our supporters are encouraged to check out the changes, including the donation button! Our website address is www.newtonchildcare.org.



Many thanks to Dave Backer and Alyce Kaprow of The New Studio in Newtonville for their hours of work on this project. Their flexibility and attention to detail really shows!

**Perpetual Benevolent Fund
Awards Grant for Scholarship Fund**

Thank you to the Perpetual Benevolent Fund of Newton for awarding the Newton Child Care Fund \$8,000 in support of our Scholarship Lottery Program. The Perpetual Benevolent Fund awards grants such as this to charitable organizations whose purpose it is to relieve the financial burden of individuals and families in crisis. With nearly twice as many income-eligible families as money available in our Scholarship Lottery pool, the NCCC is extraordinarily grateful for this valuable support.



We greatly appreciate your support !

