



*The Children's Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.*

## Early Intervention and Family Support ~ Programs and Services for Central Maine

### Jolene, Jolene, Jolene...

There are moments every day at the Children's Center when a child's smile, laugh, or personality brightens someone's day. It is all three of these traits, and countless others, that make Ms. Jolene shine brighter than the sun.

Like most children who first enter a pre-school environment, Jolene's goals included following classroom routine and directions, attending to teacher directed activities, sitting at circle, self-care tasks, parallel play, fine and gross motor tasks, and all aspects of expressive communication with adults and peers.

With a collaborative team of the Growing Buds classroom teachers and aides, Individual Specially Designed Instruction (ISDI) services, and therapists,



Jolene's progress over the past year has marveled all who have worked with her. With Jolene's efforts to improve her skills, we've been able to enhance her strengths,

academic knowledge, and social interactions.

Through patience and consistency of care from her two aides, Monica and Megan, Jolene now knows all her ABC's, shapes, colors, animals, and can count up to 5. She can follow directions with minimal prompting and with the use of a visual schedule. She absolutely LOVES circle time, and any group activity. Jolene is always the first one to groove whenever she hears music and singing! She also loves her friends and is the most patient student in the class when it comes to sharing and waiting her turn.

Jolene also receives Speech and Occupational therapy services at the center from a team of direct and caring  
*(continued on page 2)*

#### Of note:

- Graduation & Family Carnival Night Tuesday, August 20; 4:30-7 pm
- Come visit our table at the Kennebec Chamber of Commerce B2B Expo at the Armory on October 9th.
- We'll be kicking off our internal United Way campaign in September. Remember, you can designate your own workplace giving to be allocated to the Children's Center. (Thanks to all of you who already do that!)
- The Autism Resource Conference will be held October 12. Go to [www.maineautism.com](http://www.maineautism.com) for more information

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### Where are they now?



Aidan after his very first kids' "Fun Run"

Aidan was featured in this newsletter in the Summer of 2010, when he was four years old. Now in a public school, his teacher says he fully meets or exceeds the standards set for all students. Aidan loves school - especially music and art. When the school year was coming to a close, his mom reports, he was actually quite sad. In his daily routine there is

nothing that impacts his functioning that would stop his participation or require intervention. Occasionally, a new food may slow him briefly, but its not a big deal. He's taken karate class independently for a year. With his family's constant support, Aidan is happy, social and involved. He's now as independent as any other child his age: the sky's the limit!

*Story by Jennifer McKendry*



# Jolene! (from page 1)

individuals. In terms of fine and gross motor skills, she can now write her first name independently and plows through obstacle courses! She has also made significant gains in her speech not only through articulation, but also through communication with the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), signing, and verbalization!

Jolene's sweetness and loving demeanor not only brings vibrant color to the classroom, but also to the lives around her. We're all extremely proud of her and lucky to have her as a part of the family at the Children's Center. Keep shinin', Jo Jo!

*Story by Carmon Parker*



# A visit from Pineland Suzuki



Friends from the Pineland Suzuki School came to visit and share their skills with the children here at the Center. They were a big hit! Thank you Pineland!

# Technical Name/ Amazing Program!

"School Based 28" - The name of this program doesn't enlighten the unversed in just what it might be - but just a few minutes of watching what this program is, in action, and you will be smiling and your heart brimming over. This is a state-reimbursed program that makes it possible for a child with significant needs and challenges to attend a child care program with the one-to-one

assistance of a Behavioral Health Professional (BHP). Here at the inclusive Children's Center, the children are interacting with their same-age peers, in the least restrictive, natural environment. The BHP assists the child to attain living skills, social development and play. What does that all mean? See our "Friends" photo, on page 3.

*"Section 28 makes it possible for children with significant special needs to get the opportunity to attend child care."*

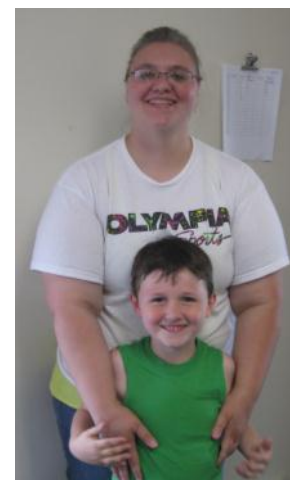
# Skowhegan Update from Elisa Sousa

Greetings from Skowhegan! What is new in Skowhegan? We have re-arranged our office space to offer a more aesthetic appeal for families and children. We are also working on new signage for the building. We are also keeping busy with serving families in the Skowhegan area through our Targeted Case Management services. Meet Drake with his mom, Heather. They are both new to the Children's Center where Drake has been receiving Targeted Case Management services

from our Skowhegan location. Drake and Heather enjoy playing outside together, playing Frisbee, riding bikes, and swimming. When asked about their experience with the Children's Center, Heather said, "The services have been very helpful." Drake said, "I like it when you help me with appointments."

If you are in the area, please stop by to say "hi!"

*~ Elisa is the new coordinator for our Skowhegan office.*



Drake with his mom, Heather.



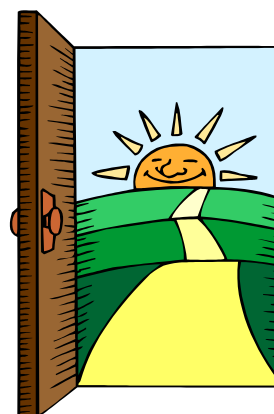
## From the Board: Patsy Crockett

I am so honored to be the new President of the Board of Directors here at the Children's Center. Having served on the Board for the past 5 years, I have developed a deep appreciation for the "everyday" miracles that happen here!

I am pleased to announce that Lisa Brackett, a Children's Center employee for over 35 years, and previously the Finance Director, has stepped in as our Acting Executive Director. Lisa is very

familiar with this role, having served in this position several times before. The Center is in good hands, between Lisa's depth of experience and the dedication of Lisa and the support of the entire Leadership Team at the Center.

This is an exciting period of growth and opportunity for the Center, and we are so glad to have you, our supporters, as such a major part of our progress and successes.



*We are looking forward to the upcoming opportunities!*

*Patsy Garside Crockett*

## Introducing Board Member: Bev Daggett

I think at least twenty years have passed since I was on the Board of the Children's Center...and it is quite a different place now. There are still knowledgeable and capable staff, busy and active children; but a lot more programs as well as an expanded physical facility and expansive playground. Back then we were just starting to talk about incorporating typically developing children and changing the name to the Children's Center, but now, it's been done.

I was particularly impressed to learn

about new programs such as the one to meet the needs of children with mental illness.

While talking with several Board members after my first meeting, I remarked at the difficulty for a child moving from a day care where he was known and loved to the Children's Center and was told, he would be very loved here as well. I'm sure he would be and I'm looking forward to being a part of this very caring and competent family.



*"The Children's Center is a great beginning for children!"*

*~ Bev Daggett*

## Volunteer Spotlight: the "Garden Ladies"

Several times a year, we get a visit from our good friends at the Kennebec Valley Garden Club's Garden Therapy Committee. Previously, they set up a sensory garden for the children, in one of our raised bed gardens, and now they maintain our beautiful butterfly garden for us.

This year we were pleased to welcome Nancy Voisine, Jane Rau, Molly Wickwire, and Wanda Hendrickson to freshen up this special place in the playground for the children.



*As you can see from the photo, the children love to get down in the dirt and help out!*



**Friends riding bikes together.**

# Children's Center

## Early Intervention & Family Support

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### Board of Directors:

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Beverly Daggett

At the Children's Center, we provide a nurturing, inclusive environment for young children of all abilities.

We have innovative, effective programs that allow children to thrive, while focusing on strengthening families and encouraging caring relationships.

We offer center based programs and therapies as well as community support services.

*Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Barron; Contributors: Carmon Parker (cover story); Nash Saunders, Bethany Bourgault (photos)*

## Scenes from Summer at the Center

