Reflections from the Director’s Desk
Leisa Pollander, Executive Director

Remember, there’s no such thing as a small act of kindness.
Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.
- Scott Adams

And sometimes those ripples turn into waves, coming back to the shore of origin. Yesterday, I opened this note from the parent of two of our after-school elementary children, addressed to the staff of the SHCC:

“All of you gave my little family the nurturing and love that they needed during some of the toughest times of their little lives. Your consistency, patience and humor gave them a second ‘home’. We will all hold nothing but sweet memories of all of you and the wonderful times the kids had with you. Blessings to you all! You are the ones who change lives!!”

I truly believe that what goes around, comes around. Every day, I see the staff nurturing kids who need to know that someone cares about them, believes in them and is there for them. And every day, in some way, that caring comes back to us in innumerable ways. A child brings an apple – a flower – or a drawing - for the teacher. A parent sends a box of cookies for the kids and staff to share. A volunteer brings in some classroom supplies because she recognizes that the budget is tight. Everyone affiliated with the SHCC – board members, families, kids, staff, volunteers and donors – puts a little stamp on the Center, leaving an imprint that ripples out to our community. The ripple becomes a wave that makes all of us stronger. Thank you all for your efforts to make this a better place.

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for our 3rd annual Night Golf Tournament on August 15th at the Links at Lang Farm in Essex!

Please contact Casey at 862-6342 to learn about sponsorship and team opportunities!

www.saraholbrookcc.org
Community Partnerships—Spotlight on Jamie Hoffberger

Through a partnership with the University of Vermont’s Social Work Department, the Center welcomed senior student, Jamie Hoffberger, into our programs. Jamie interned from September 2007 to May 2008. Jamie lit up the Center with her energy, compassion, and eagerness to learn.

Reflecting on her time at the Center, Jamie wrote, “I came to Sara Holbrook as an intern, as a part of my social work undergraduate program at UVM. Being a part of the Sara Holbrook Center has been a blessing. I have spent my time working both in the preschool and the after school programs. I remember my first day picking up the children from Barnes Elementary School and walking them back to Sara Holbrook. I was terrified. I thought I could never learn all the children’s names. I never thought the bond I would have with these children would touch my life in so many ways. Each day at work the children amaze me by what they know and what they strive to learn. I feel truly blessed to have been able to spend my year working with all of the children and the amazing staff. I write this the day before the last day of my internship, and I sit here smiling, remembering all that has happened. From the cold long walks from Barnes to SHCC field trips, I felt proud to be a part of these children’s lives - I wish I could do this year all over again. I never knew I would care so deeply for all the children and families I have met throughout the year.

After a year of amazing work I am excited to jump into a social work career. My focus of social work has changed since working at the Center. I began my academic year wanting to focus solely on children. After this year, I have broadened my interests. I want to continue working with children, but also with families and work internationally to change policy. I have seen the hardships so many families have had coming into this country. I believe Sara Holbrook has taken on an important task to help refugee families integrate into the Burlington community.”

We will miss you, Jamie! Good luck with all your endeavors!
What We’ve Been Up To

The kids at the Center have been busy exploring the community this winter and spring, and enjoying special activities at the Center. Gift certificates and donations to our Experience Gift program raised over $3,500. This helped support an array of activities for the kids, giving them opportunities that they might not otherwise have. Thank you again for your support to help kids get out and about this winter and spring!

Over April and February breaks children in the after-school program had a chance to visit local parks, museums, and recreational facilities. During February break, thirty-six kids visited the Teddy Bear Factory in Shelburne, and were each able to take a home a bear. The after-schoolers were also visited by Children Gather Round, an inter-tribal women’s drumming circle. The kids danced, drummed, and learned traditional Native American songs and rhythms. Other activities included bowling at Champlain Lanes, ice-skating at Leddy Park Ice Arena, venturing to the Palace 9 Theater to watch “Horton Hears a Who”, making masks at the Fleming Museum, exploring Ethan Allen Homestead and playing bingo for prizes at the Center.

Middle-schoolers at the New North End Youth Center (NNEYC) had the opportunity to participate in a week long dog-sledding program this winter! Youth were trained in outdoor education, how to prepare the dog-sled, and how to take care of a team of dogs. Teens were also able to join in on the fun: Group activities included sledding, snowboarding, bowling at Champlain Lanes, watching movies at the Majestic Theater in Williston, cooking dinner at the Center, and visiting Pizza Putt for a round of mini-golf and some pies.

Pre-school Graduation: 9 little ones are moving on to kindergarten.
Full-Day Summer Camp will be offered again this summer, operating from Lawrence Barnes School.
6 weeks of Summer Camp begin June 23rd.
New Arrivals begins June 30th. This summer is the program’s 19th year!
Green Family Youth Adventure Camp: Teens will be exploring our Green Mountain State. Kayaking, mountain biking, swimming, and hiking are just some of the activities they will be enjoying this summer.
3rd Annual Night Golf Tournament: Friday, August 15th at the Links at Lang Farm in Essex.
Creating Connections: Visit our website to learn more about our mentoring program.
Cookbooks are in! Books are $13, so please call 862-6342 to get a SHCC Cookbook for yourself, family or friends.
Visit our new blog at the following site for updates, pictures and more: http://saraholbrookcenter.blogspot.com/.
A Festival of Cultures: Celebrating Diversity in Burlington & Beyond!

On April 5th, Burlington High School’s gymnasium was once again transformed into a one-stop global expedition to celebrate cultural diversity in Burlington and beyond. The Festival featured twelve performances from Brazilian percussion and ancient Japanese rhythms to African dance, a women’s acappella chorus and Vietnamese folk music. In addition to the music and ornate costumes, there were vendors selling ethnic items and foods, hands-on cultural demonstrations, art, activities for kids, henna art, face painting and a silent auction to support the Center. All proceeds helped to benefit the children’s programs at the Center!

Many, many thanks to everyone—performers, vendors, sponsors, advertisers, silent auction donors, volunteers, and community supporters—for making the third annual Festival of Cultures a success!

Thank you to the following sponsors that helped make the Festival possible:

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Spring is in the air! We all know what that means– spring cleaning! Do those jars of pennies keep piling up in your closet, garage, or basement? Do you have pennies scattered on the floor of your car, or hidden under your couch cushions? Don’t know what to do with all of those pesky pennies?!

Help the kids at the Sara Holbrook Center and the King Street Youth Center raise a million pennies! A group of kids from each site are working collaboratively to raise a million pennies or $10,000 ($5,000 for each site). All the money raised will go directly to the children’s programs at both Centers!

Throughout the spring and summer, you can drop-off your pennies at the Sara Holbrook or King Street. Other drop-off locations will be announced in early summer- updates will be posted on our website. Call 862-6342 for more information or to schedule a drop-off time.