

Our Evening's Program

Thursday, December 2, 2010, Office of the Governor

- 5:30 Event Begins
- 5:45 **Jackie Cowell**, Early Learning NH, announces the Early Learning NH 2010 Champions
- 6:00 **Mary Jane Wallner**, Majority Leader of the NH House of Representatives
- 6:05 **Tom Raffio**, Northeast Delta Dental CEO and Early Learning NH Board Member
- 6:10 **Commissioner Nicholas Toumpas**
NH Department of Health & Human Services
- 6:15 **Commissioner George Copadis**
NH Department of Labor
- 6:20 Introduction of the three recipients of the annual Excellence in Child Care Award
- 7:00 Event concludes

Our Honorees
2010



Joann Eaves

Rochester

Excellence in
Child Care
Awards



Toni Ellsworth

Keene



Shelby Laudani

Pembroke



Joann Eaves

Rochester Child Care Center ♦ Rochester, NH

Joann has a natural love for children that can be easily recognized as soon as you enter her classroom. She greets all children with enthusiasm and has a way of making them feel welcome and at ease.

Joann is super friendly and enthusiastic. Every parent and child gets a loud personalized welcome in the morning. She is like your first cup of coffee – always wakes you up and gives you a giggle.

I have never seen her give up on a child. She believes that every child can be a successful learner. During this past year Joann has embraced the Creative Curriculum, her teaching style is inclusive and her unconditional positive regard reaches all children.

Joann makes sure each parent is greeted, listened to, respected, and included.

She constantly inspires me and those around her to be better teachers and to make a difference no matter how small it might be.

Toni Ellsworth

Rise... for baby and family ♦ Keene, NH

Toni has dedicated her professional and personal life to improving the quality and affordability of early learning and child care. She has been an amazingly strong and effective advocate for improved access to high quality and affordable child care for decades. Not only has Toni been an effective advocate and educator, she has been a long-time leader at an organization that works closely with families of developmentally challenged children.

Working closely with city government and leading task force convened by the mayor to look at problems families were having in finding high quality and affordable child care showed innovation.

For decades she has been a strong voice in our community for high quality and affordable child care.

Toni was instrumental in developing Child First, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and developing child care providers, helping them to become licensed, assisting families in finding high quality and affordable child care, advocating for children, working with business leaders to support child care centers and collaborating with the local Chamber of Commerce to develop "off-shift" child care for evening and night workers.

Shelby Laudani

Little Visions Child Care ♦ Pembroke, NH

Our caregiver, Mrs. Laudani, has been instrumental to not only our community but also to the field of childhood education. She's been active in child care workshops, volunteering for Easter Seals, an advocate for our young children and so much more.

Shelby is caring, devoted, adaptive, nurturing, responsive, and above all, patient and passionate about what she does. She has definitely made a difference in my son's life.

Shelby is incredibly sensitive to the fact that every child's situation is different and manages to keep everything equal between the kids.

As a parent, it's wonderful to have such a great level of confidence with where your child spends his day while you're striving to pay the bills, knowing he's getting the care and attention he deserves.

The flexibility, affordability, and support Little Visions has offered to our family truly have been a blessing for us.



Leadership & Partnership Champions

Awarded for your demonstrated belief that the future prosperity of the Granite State rests on our collective ability to steward the next generation who will live, work and lead in our state.

Your outstanding leadership on behalf of our youngest citizens includes your vital involvement in establishing the NH Early Childhood Advisory Council, a public/private partnership with a shared vision that “All New Hampshire children and their families are healthy, learning, and thriving now and in the future.”

Governor John Lynch
Maggie Bishop
Dague Clark

Katja Fox
Christen Lavers
Patrick McGowan

Commissioner Nicholas Toumpas
House Majority Leader Mary Jane Wallner

NH Early Childhood Advisory Council Steering Committee Champions:

Charna Aversa, *Interagency Coordinating Council*

Ruth Littlefield, *NH Dept. of Education*

Heather Brown, *NH Head Start State Parent Advisory Council*

Julie McConnell, *NH Child Care Advisory Council*

Patricia Cantor, *NH Child Care Advisory Council*

Debra Nelson, *NH Dept. of Health & Human Svs*

Deirdre Dunn, *NH Dept. of Health & Human Svs*

Gerry Santilli, *NH Head Start Directors Association*

Christina Durkee, *NH Dept. of Education*

Jackie Sparks, *Interagency Coordinating Council*

Toni Ellsworth, *Interagency Coordinating Council*

Carolyn Stiles, *NH Dept. of Health & Human Svs*

Patricia Ewen, *NH Dept. of Education*

Patricia Tilley, *NH Dept. of Health & Human Svs*

Barbara Hemingway, *Concord School District*

Ellen Wheatley, *NH Dept. of Health & Human Svs*

Michelle Lewis, *Interagency Coordinating Council*

Fostering Innovation Champions

Awarded for fostering innovation and inspiring leadership within and among the early learning community so that New Hampshire’s children can get a great start. Your support, your work, and your example are an inspiration to us all.

Thank you for your demonstrated understanding that the future prosperity of the Granite State rests on our collective ability to steward the next generation who will live, work and lead in our state.

Child Care Licensing Unit
Thomas Raffio and Northeast Delta Dental
United Way of the Greater Seacoast

The Benefits of Early Learning

As we look for ways to keep New Hampshire prosperous, we need to think of the connection between child development and economic development. Child development is the foundation for community and economic development because capable children are the bedrock of a prosperous and sustainable Granite State.

The early years of life matter because early experiences affect the architecture of the maturing brain. Children begin learning as soon as they are born, and their brains are built from the bottom up. Scientists now know that the interactive influences of genes and experience shape the developing brain. Children's hearts and minds are molded by the relationships and environments they experience. The active ingredient is the "serve and return" relationships with their parents and other caregivers in their family or community.

When we give our youngest citizens a stimulating environment with plenty of opportunities to explore and discover and interact positively with others, we lay a strong foundation for their future learning. Good quality child care, Head Start and preschool programs provide this strong foundation and give children the tools they need to succeed in school and in life. We all benefit when we give children the right start.



earlylearningnh.org

Early Learning NH is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that all New Hampshire children have the opportunity to reach their full potential by:

- ✓ raising awareness about the importance of the early years;
- ✓ building public / private partnerships;
- ✓ championing sound policy; and
- ✓ supporting early childhood education, including child care, Head Start, preschool through elementary school, early childhood professionals and, above all, the children and families they serve.