



*e-newsletter*

June 2016



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## SUPPORT MANCHESTER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER ON NH GIVES DAY - JUNE 7, 2016

# NH GIVES

June 7, 2016

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Child Health Services  
Building Makeover!

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NH Gives Day is designed to raise awareness about New Hampshire nonprofits and inspire giving. NH Gives Day is a 24-hour online challenge to support our local nonprofits and to amplify the generosity of New Hampshire citizens.

# PROGRAM OFFERS ART LESSONS FOR CLIENTS OF SPECIAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS

The [Currier Museum Art Center](#) has been the site of some fabulous creations this spring by children of Special Medical Programs. A five-week program of multi-media art lessons has given the children opportunities to make clay bowls, design theme shoes, create pop-art prints, and produce other works of art.

The art students ages 7-11 are clients and siblings enrolled in Special Medical Programs through the Care-Based Coordination Program and the Nutrition, Feeding, and Swallowing Program.

The art lessons give kids with chronic health conditions a break from multiple doctor visits and the stress of their conditions to connect with other kids and take part in fun, fulfilling enrichment activities in the community.

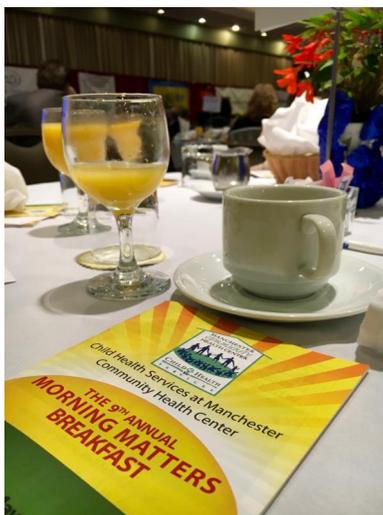


The "Artworks" program is called "Kicking Up Your Heels," and it was inspired by the Currier Museum's exhibition "Killer Heels: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe." The lessons focus on the pattern, texture, balance, and other elements of design found in shoes, and they feature artists such as Andy Warhol and Piet Mondrian.

Sponsorship by an anonymous corporate donor is making it possible for these children to attend the art lessons as well as upcoming programs this fall and winter at the Currier.

The Currier has a longstanding history of providing enrichment activities for the pediatric patients of Child Health Services, who might not otherwise be able to attend such activities.

## THE NINTH ANNUAL MORNING MATTERS BREAKFAST INFORMS, INSPIRES, AND GENERATES INCOME



John Clayton, executive director of the [Manchester Historic Association](#) and [Millyard Museum](#), was master of ceremonies.

About 300 community members attended the Morning Matters breakfast on May 17 to support exceptional medical care for 5,600 of Manchester's children as well as family support, transportation, interpretation, and other services of Child Health Services at MCHC.



Esperanza Rivera, caretaker of two boys with autism spectrum disorder, spoke with eloquence and heart about the care they receive from Child Health Services at MCHC.



[Emily Feinberg, ScD, CPNP](#), Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University was keynote speaker.



Dr. Gary Lindner of [Lindner Dental Associates](#) made an impassioned plea for support of the mission of Child Health Services at MCHC.



We are deeply grateful to Morning Matters Event Chairperson Judith Jolton for her nine years of volunteer leadership of the event.

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## PROJECT LAUNCH RECEIVES GRANT FROM HNH FOUNDATION WITH MANCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT AND YWCA NH

A partnership in Manchester is gearing up to provide a response team that can be deployed to serve children who have been exposed to violence. [Project LAUNCH](#) (Linking Action for Unmet Needs in Children's Health) at Manchester Community Health Center - in collaboration with the [Manchester Police Department](#) and [YWCA New Hampshire](#) - has received a \$150,000 grant over three years from the HNH Foundation to support an *Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team (ACERT)*. The project is set to begin in July of this year.

Gail M. Garceau, President of the [HNH Foundation](#) said, "We are pleased to partner with the Manchester Community Health Center with project LAUNCH ACERT. We value the work that will be done to establish a systemic approach to assist and support children exposed to trauma and that will build capacity in the community for a continuum of prevention and intervention strategies to address adverse childhood experiences."



Developers of the ACERT Project, from left to right: Project LAUNCH Local Program Director Lara Quiroga from Manchester Community Health Center; Jessica Sugrue, President of YWCA NH; Lt. Nicole Ledoux from Manchester Police Department; and Lt. Paul Thompson from Manchester Police Department.

As a first step, the MPD hired an [AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer](#) to serve as an advocate for children who have been exposed to violence. A consent form was developed so the advocate could request partnering agencies to reach out to the families directly, rather than expecting parents who are dealing with their own issues to seek out services. Although the strategy was successful since its inception in September 2015, the ACERT project was developed to create small teams of professionals that could provide support at the scene where children have been exposed to violence.

The ACERT response team will be made up of a police officer, a crisis services advocate, and a behavioral health professional. The team will be able to respond to incidents in which children have been exposed to violence as soon as the scenes have been secured by the police. Police officers at the scene will continue to offer the parents a consent form for the program. The team will assess the situation and determine next steps that could be taken for the child such as support groups, mental health counseling, early childhood education, or child-parent psychotherapy.



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## THE FINE PRINT

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