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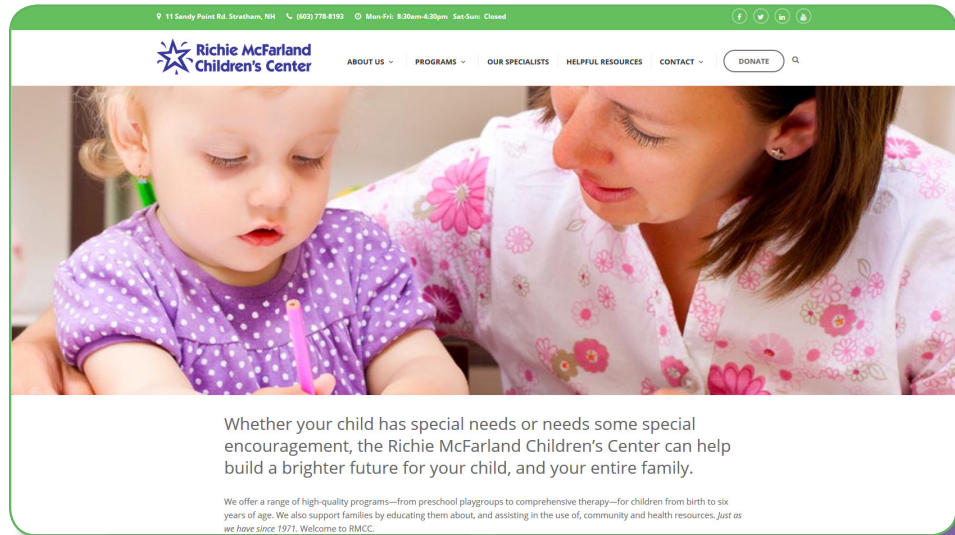
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Whether your child has special needs or needs some special encouragement, the Richie McFarland Children's Center can help build a brighter future for your child, and your entire family.

We offer a range of high-quality programs—from preschool playgroups to comprehensive therapy—for children from birth to six years of age. We also support families by educating them about, and assisting in the use of, community and health resources. Just as we have since 1971. Welcome to RMCC.

★ Let's Celebrate!

We are thrilled to announce that our newly-designed website is up and running! Please visit us at www.richiemcfarland.org.



We recognize and celebrate Nancy Keating's twenty-six years with RMCC. In her role as Occupational Therapist, Nancy served and supported countless families over the years and is responsible for setting hundreds of children on the road to success. As one parent described her, *"she is kind, warm, patient and truly selfless in nature. She provided our family with strength in helping us understand our daughter's needs and abilities and blessed us with the courage to expect great things from our little girl."* Nancy will be sorely missed by all the staff and each family fortunate enough to have received her care. Thank you, Nancy, for your compassionate service and your legacy of love.

★ Let's Learn!

Join hundreds of other parents and caregivers who love and work with individuals with autism in reading the highly acclaimed book titled, *Uniquely Human*, by Barry M. Prizant. Staff members at RMCC are currently reading this book together as part of their commitment to stay abreast of recent findings and maintain a comprehensive, compassionate understanding of all children and families receiving services. *"In the plethora of autism books, Uniquely Human stands alone as it holds the parents in highest of regard and honors the true experts those with autism themselves. It will be the first book I recommend to parents whose children are recently diagnosed, and it will be the last book that seasoned parents of adults with autism will need to read. Uniquely Human reminds us all of our humanity."* (Elaine Hall, parent, author, speaker, founder of *The Miracle Project*.)

★ Let's Understand!

As parents and caregivers of children with special needs, it's important to be armed with an understanding of where the funding for early intervention comes from and serve as advocates for maintaining federal and state support of this critical service. In the state of New Hampshire, ten Area Agencies that provide community based services for people with disabilities and/or acquired brain disorders receive state and federal dollars that are budgeted through the Bureau of Developmental Services. This funding is critical to the work of RMCC. The budget for New Hampshire supports and services is currently in the hands of the Senate and will be up for vote in May. Learn more at www.nh.gov/government/state



Let's Take Action!

You can be a part of ensuring the Senate is well informed of the benefits of early intervention. All it takes is a simple phone call. Below is an example of a message you can leave with your Senator.

Hello, my name is Mrs. Smith. I am a resident of (town) and I am one of your constituents. I am the parent/caregiver of a child who is receiving early intervention and encourage you to vote to approve an increase in the budget for the Bureau of Developmental Services. Your support of an increased budget is critical to the comprehensive care our children need and deserve. Thank you for your time and your service.

New Hampshire's State Senators for our Catchment Area:

John Reagan—District 17: Northwood, Nottingham, Raymond, Deerfield **(603-271-4063)**

Martha Fuller Clark—District 21: Portsmouth, Newington, Newmarket, Newfields **(603-271-3092)**

William Gannon—District 23: Fremont, Brentwood, Kingston, East Kingston, Epping, Exeter **(603-271-3091)**

Daniel Innis—District 24: South Hampton, Kensington, Hampton Falls, Seabrook, Hampton, North Hampton, Stratham, Greenland, Rye, New Castle **(603-271-3077)**



Let's Make a Difference!

We are grateful to announce that, to date, we have raised over \$32,000 through our annual appeal! With stagnant state funding and the future of federal funding uncertain, it is even more critical to secure the support of our community in meeting the needs of our children. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to consider making a donation to RMCC and investing in the lives of our smallest citizens. We thank you and invite you to spread the word and encourage others to be a part of building a strong community. **Deadline for this year's annual appeal is June 30th! To make your donation go to www.richiemcfarland.org/donate.**

*Consider underwriting the publication of this quarterly newsletter and have your company name and logo listed here!
For more information please contact Peggy Small Porter at 603-778-8193.*

Let's Friend and Fund Raise!

25 TH ANNUAL RICHIE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 12, 2017
Wentworth By The Sea Country Club

13 TH ANNUAL TOUCH-A-TRUCK



Saturday, September 23, 2017
Rain Date: Sunday, September 24, 2017
10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.
Pease International Tradeport
Portsmouth, NH

4 TH ANNUAL BOSTON BRUINS ALUMNI VS TEAM RICHIE



All-Star Benefit Hockey Game
Saturday, December 16, 2017
Details to come!

Stay up-to-date with what's happening at www.richiemcfarland.org.

The Richie McFarland Children's Center

11 Sandy Point Road
Stratham, NH 03885
603-778-8193

email us at info@richiemcfarland.org

Richie McFarland Children's Center is a 501c(3) non-profit corporation