



**Richie McFarland
Children's Center**

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Team RMCC.

The answer to "What now?"

Because working together creates amazing results.

child



family



therapist



community



hope.



Bonnie Staniewicz
President
Board of Directors



Peggy Small-Porter
Executive Director

If I had to choose one word that best describes the gift families receive through RMCC services, it would be hope. Parents and caregivers walk into our center with fear and leave with peace of mind. They come in with questions and leave with the assurance that they are not alone in finding the answers. They often come in disheartened by their child's diagnosis or delay and overwhelmed by the many challenges ahead. They leave with a comprehensive plan on how to move forward and the education they need to be confident in the provision of the best care for their child.

RMCC's mission is truly **transformative**, for the child, the child's family, the service providers who play and learn with them, and the community. Success, however, requires the combined effort and commitment of the entire team with each member capitalizing on their strengths and fulfilling important responsibilities.

The strength of **RMCC** and the therapists is **educating** parents and caregivers on developmental milestones, encouraging healthy connections between parent and child, and empowering them to ask questions and advocate for their child. Parallel to this effort is ongoing community outreach so referral sources know we are here to help.

The strength of the **parents and caregivers** is their intimate **knowledge of their child** and their responsibility is the critical task of implementing the strategies modeled by the therapist between visits. The strength of the **community** is the **foundational support** of various social services that balance outlying stressors on families (i.e., unexpected medical bills, the need to balance work with medical and therapy appointments).

Forty-seven years strong, we know we can't go it alone. We depend on allocations from each town's social service budget, corporate sponsorships from our fundraising events and individual donations to our annual appeal from community members who believe in our youngest citizens.

Team RMCC remains expertly skilled and confident in the provision of care for our most vulnerable citizens. For those who have been a part of our team in the past, we thank you for your continued support. For those just learning of our mission, welcome aboard. Let's work together to answer the "what now" and change lives for the better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Staniewicz".

Bonnie Staniewicz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peggy Small-Porter".

Peggy Small-Porter

family.

The first time Tricia held baby Clover in her arms, it was not the picture-perfect moment grandmothers dream about. Clover was in withdrawal from heroin, opioids and several other drugs, her tiny body shaking uncontrollably from the exposure. The questions surrounding Clover's health and future were many, while the answers were few and uncertain at best. Tricia knew one thing for sure—Clover's mother was sick, caught deep in the throes of addiction, and would not be able to care for her newborn. And until Clover's father (Tricia's son) was able to maintain his own sobriety, she would have to provide a safe and secure home for the baby. It was the beginning of a journey this brave "me me" never would have believed she would travel. Tricia was fearful, alone, and left with one question: What now? The nurses at the NICU connected Tricia with the Richie McFarland Children's Center and, as Tricia describes it, "All my 'What nows?' were answered."



Special thanks to Tricia (me me) for the photographs of Clover.

therapist.

“Clover was just so fragile. When Tricia asked me if she was going to be ok, I honestly didn’t know. I was very concerned about her neurological stability.” Tracy, an Occupational Therapist at RMCC for the past eighteen years, first met Clover when she was about two months old. Even after moving through initial withdrawal, Clover’s body continued to shake.

“There were just so many moving parts,” describes Tracy. “There was a little girl who needed immediate consultation with a neurologist as well as a detailed plan for early intervention services. There was a loving grandmother who needed extensive education and guidance on how to best help Clover. State agencies needed information and recommendations on this child. And all the while, Clover’s parents were not able to put the needs of their baby first.” During Tracy’s first visit with Clover, she not only evaluated Clover’s needs, she also listened to each of Tricia’s fears and concerns. Her weekly visits provided critical education, referrals to community resources and whatever guidance was necessary to help Tricia build the healthy, stable environment Clover needed.

The impact of the support is clear in the tears Tricia sheds when referring to Tracy as “family.”



child.

After Tracy brought in a feeding and swallowing specialist to evaluate Clover's eating, Clover was found to have a tongue tie as well as both an upper and lower lip tie. This prevented her from creating the appropriate suction needed to eat. Most of the formula would spill out the sides of Clover's mouth, creating the loss of precious nutrients and calories.

The simple laser procedure Clover needed to correct this was complicated by the search for a provider that would accept Medicaid. Tracy helped Tricia find a physician to perform the procedure which made an immediate difference in Clover's eating and will also prevent any roadblocks to proper speech development.

At fifteen-months-old, one would be hard pressed to look at Clover and conclude she was born addicted. Today Clover is walking, beginning to use words, developing strength as she joyfully plays with her toys and absorbs the world around her in the way all one-year-olds should. As Tricia gratefully accounts, "all of

Clover's major accomplishments have been with her RMCC family."



community.

Tricia is amazed at the support she has received from her surrounding community. From food stamps for formula and diapers to her multiple trips to Operation Blessing in search of clothing and toys for Clover, Tricia is so grateful to have been educated by Tracy and the RMCC staff on available community resources.

Financial support from the community is critical to RMCC delivering the expert care our tiny citizens need and deserve. Whether it is a local business sponsoring an event, a business hosting one of RMCC's purple piggy friends to collect change, or the hundreds of families and individual donors who contribute to our annual appeal, we depend heavily on the community to support our work. In turn, we give back to the community each and every day by supporting the growth of healthy children. "It's my prayer every day that there are donations to RMCC", says Tricia.

During the course of our short visit and conversation, Tricia was brought to tears several times with gratitude for her connection to RMCC—the support, education and empowerment she has received from Tracy, the peace of mind knowing she is not alone as a caregiver, the excitement she feels when seeing Clover's progress and, perhaps most of all, the gift of that little thing called

hope.



Financial Overview

RMCC ended fiscal 2018 with positive net income and cash flow (*final figures pending audit findings*). RMCC has managed its resources judiciously while investing in the future.

The organization received approximately 56% of its revenue through the state early supports and services contract. This funding is continually at risk, as available funds need to be stretched

to meet the increase in numbers of children needing services. However, with significant advocacy efforts this past year, there has been recognition at the state level that the current funding structure is insufficient to meet the needs of children, families and the programs that serve them. Our agency will continue to support initiatives to advocate for adequate resources.

We anticipate the trend towards high deductible health plans will continue to grow, expanding the gap between the cost to deliver RMCC's services and our insurance reimbursement. We will continue to invest in our ability to successfully recoup every cent possible.

The organization continues to see significant inflation in employee medical benefits, as well as general operating expenses. Although we have instituted slight salary increases over the past two years, the current salary scale is just over 65% of market comparisons. This has made it difficult to attract and retain employees, although all vacancies have been filled at this time.

RMCC continues to analyze how to deliver quality services to our clients as financial pressures grow. These pressures will continue to increase the organization's reliance on outside fundraising. The board and management of RMCC see the challenges ahead for the organization and are actively preparing RMCC for the future.

Operating Revenue

State and Federal Funds	\$649,455.00
Private Insurance and Service Fees	\$204,284.00
Fundraising Events/Contributions	\$184,200.00
Town Allocations	\$77,360.00
Grants	\$10,780.00
Miscellaneous	\$3,665.00
Change in beneficial interest	\$17,030.00
	\$1,146,774.00

Operating Expenses

Programs and Services	\$844,558.00
Management and General	\$74,006.00
Fundraising	\$76,349.00
	\$994,913.00

Thank you 2017-2018 Major Donors

All's Automotive Service Center	National Wrecker
Angelo Montrone	NCAB
Bangor Savings Bank	NH Development Corporation
Convenient MD	Ocean Gaming
Daystar Technologies	Ocean Properties, LTD
D.F. Richard Energy	Olive Higgins Prouty Foundation
Donald and Miriam Shumway	Palmer and Sicard, Inc
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Exeter Area New Car Dealers Assoc.	Seacoast Rotary
Exeter Hospital	Staffing Sense
Fantasy Fireworks, Inc	The Bauman Family Foundation Inc.
Gary & Marie Stevens	The Fabulous Find
Heather Clark	The Rowley Agency
James S. Fishbein, DDS	Thomas McGovern & Helen Crowe
Jeff Fox	United Way of Greater Seacoast
Karen and Jeff Mountjoy	Unutil
Knights of Columbus, Council 2179	Vigilant Capital Management
Liberty Mutual Insurance	Waddell & Reed
Living Innovations	
Louis Clarizio, DDS	
Mills Family Charitable Foundation	

We appreciate our volunteers

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**Richie McFarland
Children's Center**

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