



Fall 2009

VICCC's Messenger

Safety, Love, and Learning
for the Very Young Children of Working Families

Businesses • Faith Communities • Families • Teachers • Volunteers

Valley Interfaith Child Care Center • P.O. Box 926, Blacksburg, VA 24063

www.valleyinterfaithchildcarecenter.org • 540-558-8652

Board of Directors

Cathy Jacobs, Chair
Jeremy Hart, Vice Chair
Rochelle, Secretary
Andrew Stanaland, Treasurer
Jeanne Roper
H. Gregory Campbell, Jr.
Elizabeth Foster
David Roper
Ina Dunford
Natalie Hart
Mary Holliman
Rhoda Myers

Staff, Fall 2009

Executive Director

Linda Moody

Site Director

Carrie Clapper

Teachers

Kimberly Fickes
Jerin Hendricks
Natalie Aguirre
Christina Hylton

Center Aide

Valerie Crowder

Teacher's Aides

Brynn Ishler
Meredith Duncan
Liliane Sampson
Meghan Follo

Professional Development

Cosby Rogers
Karen Myers
Janet Sawyers

Volunteer Coordinator

Pat Boyle

Volunteer Committee Chair

Connie Cummings

Community Advisors

Darrell Bosch
Marie & Joe Paget, DDS
T.O. Williams
Connie Cummings
Brenda Roberts

New Executive Director Takes Helm, with Several New Staff Members in Classrooms

Our new executive director, Linda Moody, comes to us from Roanoke, where she has been active in church and non-profit activities, especially fundraising.

She has worked as director of development and program director of Children's Trust, as marketing and community relations coordinator of Sunwest Management Company, and marketing consultant at Warm Hearth Village, among other similar professional activities.

Linda has also been active in such organizations as the Roanoke Valley CASA, Miss Roanoke Valley (part of the Miss Virginia pageant), and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Linda has "hit the ground running" in her activities since joining VICCC in August, having called on, to get acquainted, several of VICCC's major donors and supporters. If you haven't yet met Linda, rest assured she'll be around soon!



Linda Moody, Executive Director

Staff members, who weren't featured in the last newsletter or who've been promoted from aide to teacher, include:

Kimberly Fickes, teacher in the Red Room (infants), started working at VICCC in April of this year. She's from Abilene, Texas, where she worked in her mother's child care center for four years. She and her husband, who's in the Air Force and stationed at Virginia Tech, are expecting their first child in February. Kimberly plans to be a stay-at-home mom; her hobbies are scrapbooking and photography.

Brynn Ishler, an aide in the Red Room, is a graduate of Virginia Tech in Civil Engineering from Frostburg, Maryland. Right now she's working while she decides whether to go back to school for an education degree or to look for an engineering job; she'd like eventually to be a high school math teacher. A baby sitter during her high school years, she really enjoys working with the kids at

VICCC. Her hobbies are reading, cooking, and running with her black lab.

Betty Bagire, a sub in the infant room, came to Blacksburg from Uganda with her husband, a Ph.D. candidate in Forestry at Virginia Tech, and her two sons: 4-year-old Daniel Mwesigwa and 1-year-old Curtis Tumwebazel, who attend VICCC part time. A teacher in Uganda, Betty got acquainted with the United States through the International Women's Group at the YMCA. Her hobbies are crocheting, piano, and learning from the school kids.

Meghan Follo, the aide in the Green Room (pre-school), is a senior at Virginia Tech in Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus on elementary education. She's a graduate of Thomas Dale High School in Chester, Va., and vice president for new member education of Sigma Kappa sorority. Her hobbies are reading, tennis, baking, and working out

continued on page 2



Linda Moody (left), VICCC's new Executive Director, and Carrie Clapper, VICCC's site director (who was profiled in the last newsletter), pose in front of the center on Heather Drive, Blacksburg.

From the Executive Director —

While getting to know the Board of Directors, Staff, and Committee Members during these last weeks, I have noticed one thing that is a common factor with everyone: Valley Interfaith Child Care Center (VICCC) is providing quality care and education to very young children. As our Vision Statement indicates —

Safety, Love and Learning for the very young children of working families —

I look forward to getting know each of you. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please give me a call or email. I would be delighted to come to your civic organizations, faith communities, workplaces or home to talk about VICCC.

Thanks so much for the support you have given Valley Interfaith Child Care Center. You can reach me either by telephone – 540-558-8652 or email – viccc2@verizon.net

— Linda M. Moody
Executive Director

New Staff Join VICCC, from page 1

at the gym. She works at VICCC on Fridays.

Liliane Sampson is also a senior at Virginia Tech in Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus on elementary education. She's been a substitute since last fall in the Yellow Room (2-year old) and is now the aide. From Herndon, Virginia, she's planning to go to graduate school for a Master's in early childhood education after graduation next spring. She's a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and vice president of the Student Virginia Education Association (SVEA). Her hobbies are cooking, reading, and volleyball — she's on the intramural team.

Meredith Duncan is a teacher's aide in the Purple Room for toddlers. She received a degree in psychology/human development last spring and is working as a research assistant in Virginia Tech's Child Study Center. Executive vice president of Alpha

Delta Pi sorority. From Greensboro, North Carolina, she's been coming to Virginia Tech football games since she was a small child, with her father, a VT graduate in Business.

Christina Hylton is the teacher in the Purple Room (toddlers). A graduate of Christiansburg High School and of Radford University, where she majored in English education, she's working on two master's degrees from Virginia Tech, in Instructional Technology and English. Teaching will be her career, but she hasn't yet decided whether it will be early childhood, grade school, or at the college level. Her hobbies are cooking, reading novels and poetry, writing poetry, and caring for her two pets, a German shepherd named Tyson and a cat named Hershey.

VICCC's Wish List
Diapers and Wipes, Baby Food
Art supplies:
construction paper, paint

From the VICCC Board Chair:

A special thank you to every person who has helped build better lives for VICCC children and their families. From mulch spreaders to board members, big donors to baby rockers, wall painters to fund raisers — each of you has been essential in making our beautiful center and the happy children who play there a reality. Please close your eyes at night knowing you have done a good thing for the world.

— Cathy Jacobs

Contributions
to
VICCC's Endowment Fund
at the
Community Foundation
may be sent to
P.O. Box 6009,
Christiansburg, VA 24068

VICCC's phone number: 540-558-8652

email address: viccc2@verizon.net

Published by Valley Interfaith Child Care Center (VICCC)

Website: <www.valleyinterfaithchildcarecenter.org> • Phone: 540-558-8652

Editor: Mary Holliman • <mchollim@vt.edu>

Volunteers — an Essential Element in VICCC’s Operations

Volunteer workers are essential to VICCC’s operations. They carry out many functions that are required for successful operation of the Center, from spreading mulch and mowing grass to serving lunch and rocking a baby to sleep.

The “King and Queen” of the volunteers, or perhaps the Founding Parents, **Dave and Jeanne Roper**, have been a part of VICCC since the first brainstorming meeting six years ago, when a few people from several faith communities met to discuss how best they could serve the community. They’ve been involved ever since, Jeanne organizing the board, serving as the first president of VICCC, and focusing on outreach: meeting with members of the community to talk about VICCC and the need for early childhood education, writing grant proposals, being a part of state-wide children’s advocacy groups including Governor Kaine’s Start Strong Council.

Dave has been one of the organizers of the physical facilities for the centers, starting with refurbishing part of the Head Start building in Christiansburg where VICCC got its start. Teams from several congregations of faith communities, including men from Blacksburg’s Presbyterian and Lutheran churches, refurbished the building – painting, repairing, spreading mulch in the playground, putting together a storage shed that was donated to Head Start when VICCC moved to the Good Shepherd church in Blacksburg. He helped set up the first Blacksburg VICCC center at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church and later helped close it.

Dave also organized the move when the Christiansburg center and the program at the Luther Memorial Lutheran Church were consolidated at the Good Shepherd church on Heather Drive in Blacksburg. The new center also needed cleaning, painting, and spreading of mulch, the last an on-going project because the playground needs to maintain a six-inch deep layer of

mulch, according to guidelines for the children’s safety.

The Ropers have a Christmas tradition they’d like to share. Instead of gifts of things they don’t really need or want, they give each other gifts appropriate for a three-year-old girl or boy, have fun opening them on Christmas morning, and then donate the gifts to VICCC.

Other volunteers have not been with VICCC as long, but are as dedicated. **Pat Boyle**, VICCC’s busy Volunteer Coordinator, has been “on the job” for just a few months, since April of this year, but she’s already accomplished a lot and has plans for much more.

Volunteer opportunities include many activities other than being in the classroom — for example, right now there’s a pile of mulch that needs spreading in the playground, and an inventory of all items in the classrooms is needed. Help is especially needed during lunch time and for getting the children down for naptime, from 11 a.m. until about 12:30 p.m., and again in the late afternoon when some children arrive at the center from kindergarten to wait for their parents to pick them up after work.

Inspired to work for VICCC because of her “passion for children, especially her own seven healthy grandchildren,” Pat has initiated several ways for people to contribute to VICCC’s mission.

This summer she established a monthly collection corner at St. Mary’s Church, where people can contribute items needed at the center. In August the three boxes asked for books, puzzles, and games — both used and new — suitable for children from 1 to 5. Items donated that were not appropriate for the center were given to the Women’s Resource

Center in Radford or to the YMCA. This month she is requesting items for the Infant Room, such as diapers and wipes.

Pat recently retired from Virginia Tech’s Dairy Science department, where she was a laboratory specialist. She feels many more people will be happy to volunteer once they learn of the opportunities and visit the center to “see how wonderful the children are and how much fun it is.” She is planning some orientation sessions for volunteers and welcomes newcomers.

A volunteer who is available nearly every day is **Andrea Lowe**, Center aide Valerie Crowder’s oldest daughter. A graduate of Christiansburg High School, and a student at New River Community College, Andrea “helps out with the kids, reads to them” and enjoys having them play with her chair. Andrea works at Wal-Mart and enjoys horses and swimming.

Cosby Rogers is a volunteer in a special group: while she’s gone through the procedure to become a registered volunteer, she is also a retired professor of early childhood education. As such, she has been working to help the staff become rated under QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System). She reports that the staff was evaluated under QRIS last year and earned a star rating of 3. Cosby says: “I’m impressed with the quality, sincerity and commitment of the staff at VICCC; they work as a team, supporting each other; I’m amazed at so much coherence.”

Cosby is a member of the Baha’i Faith, one of the smaller faith communities in the area that support VICCC. Cosby fills in where she sees a need; one day it might be helping spread mulch, on another it’s rocking a baby to sleep.

Two other volunteers with professional child-care qualifications are Janet Sawyers and Linda Beal. Other volunteers include Connie Cummings, Mary Scesney, and Susan Verbrugge, whom we’ll feature next issue.



Valley Interfaith Child Care Center
 P. O. Box 926
 Blacksburg, VA 24063

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Blacksburg, VA
 Permit No. 310

Partial List of Donors, Fall 2009

Alan and Arlene Bayer
 Blacksburg Jewish Community Center
 Christiansburg Presbyterian Church
 Linda and Albert Davis
 Paul Distler
 Joseph and Susan Donckers
 Dick and Ina Dunford
 Michael Eggleston
 Elizabeth Foster
 Edward and Carol Fox
 Sara Glesner
 Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren
 O.J. and K.K. Haff
 Ester and Eric Hallerman
 Alfred and Elizabeth Hammett
 Jeremy Hart
 Bradley and Marsha Hertel
 Deborah Hix
 Arthur and Barbara Keown
 William and Gail King
 C. Theodore and Nancy W. Koebel
 Nick and Leslie Kornblith
 Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
 A.J. and S.K. Morikawa
 Jane Janey Murley
 Rebecca and Anderson Norton
 Bruce and Christine Parker
 Pocahontas Press
 Howard and Cheryl Prince
 Martha Robeson
 Jeanne Roper
 Dave Roper
 Rowan Mountain, Inc.
 Richard W. Rusk
 Christopher Michael Shemes
 Nancy Smith
 Easley S. Smith
 Loreta Walker
 Bo and Lisa Webster
 James and Mildred Wiggert

“Thank You” Event Planned for October 8

Friends of and donors to the Valley Interfaith Child Care Center will be honored at a “Thank You” reception at the Center on Heather Drive on October 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. They will also have an opportunity to

meet VICCC’s new Executive Director, Linda Moody. Known as “Dessert under the Stars”, the second annual event is an expression of gratitude for the support of donors, including faith communities.

Research Shows Pre-schoolers Need More Physical Activity

A study of 539 children in 24 pre-schools found that 89 percent of the children’s day was characterized as sedentary. Other studies have shown that more than one-fourth of children ages 3 to 5 are at risk of becoming overweight. The same studies show that even outside play is more than half sedentary, and only 17 percent of outdoor activity can be characterized as moderate-to-vigorous physical activity. Thus pre-schoolers, like their older siblings, are at risk of overweight or obesity.— from *Roanoke Times*, 02/08/09

Donations to VICCC Are Always Welcome

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Mail to:

Valley Interfaith Child Care Center
 P. O. Box 926, Blacksburg, VA 24063

VICCC’s Vision:
 Safety, Love, and Learning for the Very Young Children of Working Families