



VICCC

The Messenger

Bringing the Community Together

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Valley Interfaith Child Care Center • P.O. Box 926, Blacksburg, VA 24063 • Winter 2008–2009

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Loving Kids Is the First Step

The heart of any child care center (beyond the kids!) is the staff. Dedicated, high quality child-care providers support children's social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development everyday. VICCC is fortunate to have many of the best providers in our classrooms, and site director Corrine Barton works hard to help them get better each day.

Loving kids is really important — especially if you're a child-care provider — and a lot of us do love kids. After all, they are adorable, say funny things, and have smiles that melt your heart. But, somewhere along the line, after realizing that this is a full-time commitment and that kids have minds (and bodies) of their own, it takes more than the "aren't they cute?" type of love to keep on being the best caregiver one can be.

As an undergrad in early childhood education, I realized that I certainly did enjoy cuteness, but beyond that I was, and am, truly fascinated by how kids develop and learn from day one. Just think about how intensely a baby will watch your face and mouth when you talk

to her — it is so clear that her mind is figuring out how in the world language works. The spoon she drops off the high chair again and again? "Look at the control I have over my world," or "Hey, a new way to get mom's attention!" or "Even though I can't see that spoon anymore, it know it still exists!"

The point here is that our VICCC teachers, aides, and assistants are privileged to be part of an amazing period in the lives of children. And we who work to make their efforts a reality are privileged as well. The unfolding of a human being is a wondrous event in which to participate.

Please consider making a donation so that we can continue to guide these small steps to school readiness. Thank you.

— Cathy Jacobs

Provider Recognition Day May 8, 2009

The Friday before Mother's Day is a day to recognize the importance of those who provide safety, loving, and learning that supports healthy development in children. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that only 18 out of 770 U.S. occupations earn lower than child-care workers. Roughly one-third leave each year due to low wages and few or no benefits. High turnover is not good for quality care and education, particularly for children in low-income homes.

VICPP to Meet May 3

The VICPP annual meeting will be held at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church on May 3 from 2– 5 p.m.

The theme is "Tough Times: the Impact on Virginia's Children." There will be a speaker and then 3 break-out sessions focused on:

- Access to Child care
- Unemployment Insurance
- Access to Health care

The business portion of the meeting is open to all. If you have ideas that need to be brought up during that portion, please send them to Mary Lough, VICPP-NRV secretary, by April 15. Or write Stephaniegilmo@gmail.com

This should be a very informative meeting. We hope you can come and bring a friend.

Recent email:

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news.

"The good news is: we have enough money to pay for our new building program.

"The bad news is: it's still out there in your pockets."

VICCC Needs Some of That Money, too!



From the Executive Director —

The babies and children are laughing and sleeping, running and weeping. It is spring, the time of new life in all of nature. It can be surprising and loud, smelly and proud. This work of early childhood is one of great labor and joy. Each new day is full of potential. Discoveries about the world and how it works fascinate young minds. Learning satiates the hunger to know. Innocence transforms the quotidian into the remarkable. Teachers research new ways to stimulate interest and engagement. Parents go to work. Children are taking baby steps toward getting ready to go to school.

Working at the early childhood end of life's spectrum means anticipation, possibility, tomorrows — for the children. This past year, within 6 months, the VICCC board lost two of its found-

Ben & Jerry's Tip Cow
In April & May, only in Blacksburg at the corner of Washington and Main, all tips will be donated to VICCC .
Please stop in for a delicious ice cream to lick and leave a nice tip for VICCC.

ing and most passionate members to untimely death. That is the other end of life's spectrum. We have grieved for the loss of these good people in the world, Freda Blecher and Derek Myers. I would like to stamp my feet and shake my fist to the heavens and say, "It's not fair!" and "Mine!" and "Stop it!" in the language of the children. Several board members and dear friends are dealing with the untimely loss of other loved ones. We all are still navigating the loss of April 16, 2007. I would like to gather husbands and wives and sons and daughters and mothers and fathers in my arms and rock them peacefully.

I can't see where our loved ones have

gone or why. I have a better idea of where the little ones in

our care will go and how. Every day of safety, loving, and learning puts their little feet on a path of promise. To them I turn my energy while my heart gives gratitude for the ones who helped make it happen and are no longer here to hold. Won't you join me in celebrating the people of tomorrow by supporting our work today? We need funding, volunteers and your skills. Bene e pace, Shalom, Bless you.

— Katy St. Marie

VICCC's Mission Statement

Valley Interfaith Child Care Center believes a society that values its own future must care for its youngest and most vulnerable members. Because cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development begins at birth, VICCC strives to make the earliest and most formative experiences of children's lives positive and rewarding. In cooperation with governments, local social service agencies, civic groups, businesses, academia, private individuals, and the special support of NRV faith communities, VICCC's goal is to create high-quality, affordable, educational, and nurturing care for very young children (ages 0-4) of income-eligible working families in the New River Valley.

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email: <viccc2@verizon.net> • <mchollim@vt.edu>
Editor: Mary Holliman

In Memory of —



Derek Myers
23 February 2009

- Bill Aiken
- Susan Anderson
- Charles Aull
- Patricia Ballard
- Darrell Bosch
- Evelyn Brown
- Diane and Dennis Catley
- Elaine and Moody Chin
- Carole Davis
- John and Martha Dillard
- Charles and Dorothy Domermuth
- Norman and Nancy Eiss
- Stephanie Gilmore
- Therese Grimes
- Maryann Harman-Walke
- Bill and Mary Lee Hendricks
- Mary Holliman
- Steve and Cathy Jacobs
- Paul and Christine Lancaster
- Roberta and James Littlefield
- Mary Lough
- Christy Mackie
- Lenwood McCoy
- Coreen Mett
- Ken Miller
- Dean and Sara Mook
- Nancy and Rick Parrish
- Robert and Joni Pienkowski
- Mary Powe
- Elizabeth Reagh
- Cosby Rodgers
- Dave and Jeanne Roper
- Larry and Allyne Schoff
- David Simmons
- Shirley Strother
- Bob and Emily Stuart
- Kenneth and Roseann Szmagaj
- James and Mildred Wiggert
- Dick and Sheila Winett
- Town of Blacksburg Employees



In Memory of — Freda Blecher

Debora Schneller
Michael & Jane Aronson
Jake & Linda Davis
Kazuo & Drusilli Gotow
Debbie Hix
Mary Holliman
Rebecca Riley
Dave and Jeanne Roper
Joseph and Shoshana Slawny
Ira & Irene Jacobs

Phyllis Albritton honors:

Gioia Infelise
Patrick Hudson
Shirleigh Marvin
Sarah Taub
Arnold and Sue Taub
Teresa Agnew
Jane Goette
In honor of Dr. Yonne Varese's
85th birthday

In honor of Phyllis Albritton:

Christine Brownlie

Two More Ways to Help Raise Funds

1. Food Lion Fundraiser

Register your MVP Card with the Lion Shop & Share program to help raise money for our organization. Go to the VICCC website (at the bottom of the home page) to register your MVP card. VICCC will receive a percentage of your purchases. OR Drop us an email (salkaher@verizon.net) with your name, phone number, and the 12-digit number on the back of your MVP card, and we will get you registered! Thank you!

2. Kroger Fundraiser

Kroger will donate 5% of every dollar spent on a VICCC Gift Card to VICCC classrooms.

Benefits of the Kroger Gift Card Program:

There is no cost to the participants. Everyone needs groceries. There is virtually no extra work involved.

Kroger Gift Cards are redeemable at any Kroger store nationwide.

VICCC plans to put the money toward projects that have a direct impact on our children — educated teachers, curriculum aids, developmental toys or projects, playground improvements, and equipment upgrades.

If you would like to receive a Kroger Gift Card, simply complete the form below and return it to VICCC, PO Box 926, Blacksburg, VA 24063, or drop it off at the center. Kroger is requiring a minimum deposit of \$5 per card, which you can use for your purchases. All you need to do is add money at the customer service desk of the store and use often!



Check out the new video on our website:

www.valleyinterfaithchildcarecenter.org

It was made by Sean Shannon who regularly does videos for real estate magnet Jeremy Hart. Sean's interest in photography was inspired by the beautiful landscapes of the western United States, especially the Grand Canyon and Sonoran Desert in Arizona. He specializes in capturing unique indoor and outdoor lighting qualities. His technique, along with a special eye for design, makes a house look like a home in his photographs. His website is < <http://nrvphotog.com/>>

VICCC Men Are the Best!

NRV Current's "Best of the New River Valley" section of *The Roanoke Times* named our own Greg Campbell and Jeremy Hart as two of the NRV's Best?

Greg was named "Best Lawyer" (for the second time), and Jeremy was named a Best Real Estate Agent. Also, our own Dave Roper was cited in a feature article in the real estate section, describing the progress of the solar greenhouse, which is moving along fast now.

Our VICCC men are the best — we know it, but so glad others do too.

News Tidbits

Susan Hensley, NRV artist, spent the morning in the green room recently, making origami butterflies with the children. She donated lots of art supplies for future projects. Thanks Susan!

Wish List: computer, Flat screen monitor, projector . . .

DONATIONS to
VICCC's Endowment Fund
should be made to
Community Foundation of the NRV
PO Box 6009,
Christiansburg, VA 24068

Name: _____ **Kroger**
Address: _____

Number of gift cards: _____ (\$5 per card)
Please attach a check made payable to VICCC.
Questions: Contact Katy Irene St. Marie, 540-558-8652
Thank you in advance for your participation!



VICCC
P. O. Box 926
Blacksburg, VA 24063

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Partial List of Donors, Spring 2009

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David Bernard
J. Patrick & Jacqueline E.
Bixler
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Community Center
Blacksburg Presbyterian
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Helen Christine Brownlie
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**VICCC's
Vision:**
Safety, Love, and Learning
for the
Very Young Children
of
Working Families