

WOLFEBORO NEWS

Children's Center affirms World Health Organization selection

WOLFEBORO — The World Health Organization (WHO) designated 2020 as the International Year of the Nurse. During such a critical year where our world has depended on the hard work, thoughtfulness, and commitment of all healthcare professionals, it only seems appropriate to acknowledge the role of these courageous frontline workers. This pandemic has put a spotlight on nurses and revealed their irreplaceable work within our communities and healthcare systems. So many are indebted to them.

The Children's Center in Wolfeboro has one special nurse to thank for donating hundreds of hours of her free time to serve our local community and help the Center be a safer place for its children, their families, and the staff during COVID-19. Annie Gillespie, Board of Directors member for the Center and registered nurse, stepped up in April 2020 to volunteer her time greeting staff, parents, and children at the front door daily for tempera-

ture checks and health screenings.

Gillespie lovingly and willingly arrived every weekday morning in time for the 6:30 – 8:30 a.m. "crowd." She welcomed families with kindness and patience as children and caregivers adjusted to the new norm of this added safety check. And she managed her new role for more than seven months! Seven months of early mornings, covered in her own personal protective equipment during a pandemic, to voluntarily help The Children's Center provide an imperative service for working families.

As time moved on, the need to recognize and defend against infectious diseases became more apparent to The Children's Center as "our new normal." Leadership realized that temperature checks were a permanent part of their health guidelines. And while Gillespie's commitment seemed undying, it was time to embrace the available technical innovation out there and invest in a thermo scanner, with



COURTESY

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facial technology that provides reliable surface temperature readings in just three seconds. A Facebook fundraiser raised nearly half the

funds needed for the Pre-Entry Orion Scanner purchase.

The long-term effects of COVID-19 are unknown, but the stability

of the Center will remain strong thanks to community donors, our volunteer board of directors

and trustees, and special, dedicated supporters like registered nurse, Annie Gillespie. Thank you, Annie, today and every day!

The Children's Center has been serving the needs of children from ages six weeks to 12 years old since 1974. Its mission is to enhance the well-being of families in our community by meeting their needs through comprehensive, affordable, high quality childcare and early education, and to collaborate with other agencies serving the needs of children. By working to provide each child and every family with the resources they need to thrive, The Children's Center remains a pillar in the community for past, present, and future generations. To learn more about The Children's center or how to support them in their pursuit to provide early education and childcare services to the local community, visit the Center's website at thechildrenscenternh.org.