

## WOLFEBORO NEWS

# Children's Center participates in NH Gives

WOLFEBORO — The great people of the Granite State will once again rally to support more than 150 nonprofits from every corner of New Hampshire that are near and dear

to their hearts during the fifth annual NH Gives, an online giving event set to take place June 9-10.

The fundraising event is designed to bring the state together

as one community, raising as much money and awareness as possible for New Hampshire's nonprofits, says Kathleen Reardon, CEO of the New Hampshire Cen-

ter for Nonprofits. NHGives.org provides one, easy-to-use platform where citizens across the state can search causes they care about, donate securely, and make a

positive change while supporting others.

For 24 hours only, donations will be tallied to help nonprofits also compete for cash prizes with online leaderboards showing the progress. This fundraising event is coming at the right time for nonprofits like The Children's Center in Wolfboro, NH who is set to participate again this year for the third time in a row. With receiving more than \$3,000 during 2019's event, they are thankful for the opportunity to raise some much needed funding during this precarious time.

In March of this year, the Center, who provides childcare and early education for more than 150 children, temporarily closed their doors due to the unprecedented oncoming of COVID-19. The administrative team wasted no time in getting to work in restructuring their staffing model and programming and gaining a better understanding of their financial position. The team also took this time to apply to be an Emergency Child Care Program designated by NH Department of Health and Human Services. They were proud to receive their certification in April to serve and support the community's critical workforce for the duration of the stay-at-home order.

On April 27, the Center reopened for children of essential workers. Volunteer nurse or staff member greets all staff, parents, and children at the door daily for temperature checks and health screenings. All staff members are required to wear masks while in the building. And to adhere to social distancing guidelines, children or staff do not intermingle with anyone other than who is in their designated room. Rooms are also staffed by teams of two teachers so no one is ever alone. Preschool teacher,

Elizabeth Swett, noted at a recent standup staff meeting that this was greatly appreciated, "We're in this together and able to focus on the children's well-being as well as each other's."

"Our biggest challenge will be finding dollars to pay for staffing using the new model," declares

Nancy Jones, finance coordinator for the Children's Center. "We have fewer kids but proportionately more teachers so that everyone can social distance and take short breaks as needed." Even under these unstable times, The Children's Center continues to stay devoted to the children, families, and community. One example is how they remain committed to the children's nutrition as they continue to provide daily meals and snacks even though current headcount doesn't financially warrant this expenditure. Advocacy is not an option for nonprofits right now. It's a requirement. The long-term effects of COVID-19 are unknown and financial stability for the Children's Center and other nonprofits will rely heavily on their donors. An event like NH Gives allows them the chance to reach out and for the community to reach back. During such an impactful time, this is much more than just raising money for playground equipment. This is a time when every dollar will go toward simply keeping operations running at the Center so that they can continue to fulfill their mission. If you would like to donate on June 9-10, please go to [NHGives.org/organizations/wolfboro-area-childrens-center](https://NHGives.org/organizations/wolfboro-area-childrens-center).

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 cooperate 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 childcare services to the local community, visit The Center's Web site at [thechildrenscenternh.org](https://thechildrenscenternh.org) or call the Office at 569-1027.