

Spring 2023 Edition

#### Top stories in this newsletter



"It's not about what it is, it's about what it can become." -Dr.Seuss, The Lorax



**Executive Director's Desk** 

**Community Outreach** 

**Fun & Learning** 

#### **RCP Mission**

Robbins Children's Programs provides quality, affordable child care to families in local communities. The agency is committed to creating an environment where children can develop age appropriate cognitive, social, physical and emotional skills. Robbins Children's Programs partners with local families to help their children learn and grow into healthy, happy, successful members of society.

#### From the Executive Director's Desk

In 2023, we are focusing on the organization's future. Much of my efforts will be centered around increasing our overall enrollment back to its pre-pandemic levels in March of 2020, just after I started in this position. Numerous obstacles over the past several years related to the pandemic have impacted enrollment. Families reluctant to send their children back to group care for fear of illness, increased number of professionals working from home and not needing child care and a shortage of qualified staff to care for the children have been temporary roadblocks that, thankfully, we are turning the corner on. In recent months, we have seen an increase in the number of families looking for care as families return to the workplace. We are confident that this trend will continue. We have hired several highly qualified staff and we continue to go above and beyond with our COVID protocols to keep the children and staff healthy.

Our focus on enrollment resulted in the establishment of an Enrollment Committee who has developed several new innovative ways to reach out to prospective families in need of care and is working on both short term and long-term solutions to enrollment and retaining children once in care.

We are currently in "grant season". We have sent out several funding requests in the first quarter and plan on sending several more in the second quarter of 2023. Grant funding is the backbone of our organization's ability to continually enhance the quality of our programs. We are fortunate to be awarded the Lloyd G. Balfour Grant for 2022-2023, which will allow us to make major improvements to our preschool playgrounds. Development of the play areas will include a new bike track and bikes, outdoor playhouse, clubhouse climber, balance beams, music panels and many other gross motor games/toys/equipment to further improve the quality of outside learning opportunities for the children. Our goal is to have these amazing playground updates completed by summer 2023 thanks to our partnership with Sensata Corporation's Day of Caring.

RCP will be conducting a Community Connections Resource Fair on June 7, 2023. Our goal is to build a "wrap around" model of care by bringing together some of the area's community providers. Bringing the many community resources together will allow the organizations and agencies attending to learn about each other's programs, have a greater understanding of their services and develop future partnerships to support a family's emerging needs. We understand that many families have more complex needs to support the overall growth and development of their child. While RCP does offer many on site services that other centers do not, such as a full-time Social Service Coordinator, a charitable fund to assist with emergency family needs, a variety of tuition subsides and transportation, there are other social services that we don't have the capacity to support such as mental health, WIC, food assistance, fuel assistance and public school. The goal of this resource fair is to become partner agencies with other social service programs working together to support the family as a whole which allows for a better overall outcome for each member of the family.

Janice Chabot Executive Director Robbins Children's Programs



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Robbins Children's Programs \* 803 North Main Street \* Attleboro, MA 02703 Serving Children & Families from Attleboro, North Attleboro, Mansfield, Plainville, Norton & Rehoboth



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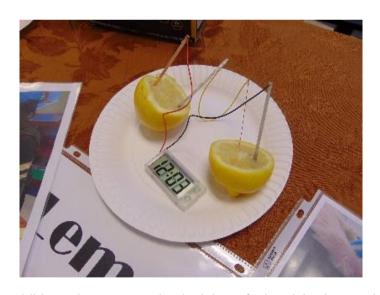
#### S T E A M Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math

Here at Robbins STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) is an integral part of our ongoing curriculum, and every class participates in a variety of projects, experiments, and experiences that help keep their brains engaged.

We have had a long-standing relationship with the Southeastern Massachusetts STEM Network. RCP Program Coordinator, Debra Garvin, has been an integral part of that network and in bringing STEAM curriculum to Robbins Children's Programs over the years, developing the agency as a leader in preschool STEAM curriculum.

During STEM week the children in the school age classrooms took part in a Science Fair. They followed the steps of the Scientific Method to create different science experiments. They followed STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) concepts and methodology when creating their science experiments. The younger school age classrooms used Kibo a coding robot. Friends in Lee's pond focused on engineering and applied different concepts when creating their experiments. Examples include a pinball machine, made their own drum sets, and mummified hot dogs. A group of school age girls made a video of Females in History for our "See yourself in STEM".





The children demonstrated principles of electricity by producing a simple electric circuit with only a few electrodes, couple of wires and a lemon, in place of a battery. Once the children connected the copper and zinc electrodes to the lemon, they triggered a chemical reaction between the metals and citric acid, which produced a small electric current, strong enough to power a small digital clock.



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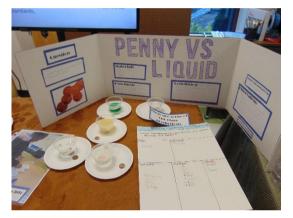
#### **STEM WEEK SCIENCE FAIR (continued)**

























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#### RCP Kids 2023 Community Outreach Project

RCP Kids are reaching out to support the community by conducting their 2023 **Dish It Up** food drive during the month of July.

Watch for the Drop Off Box in your child's room.

\* \* Grow your Donation \*\*

Take advantage of this exciting chance to have your generosity matched!

The Robbins Charitable Fund will donate \$1 for every item donated until we reach our goal of \$2000.00.

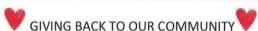
#### 2000 items=\$2000.00

Funds raised through this matching effort will be used to purchase and donate additional food, health care items and other day-to-day essentials.

Thank You for your support of this wonderful service project conducted by the school age children.

#### 2022 Donation to the Murry Church Food Pantry









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#### **NAEYC Accreditation**

Robbins Children's Programs has achieved a new five-year term of accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Congratulations to the administration, teaching staff, and families of Robbins Children's Program, Inc. for earning this mark of quality.





#### https://www.naeyc.org/

Accredited by





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#### **NAEYC** Week of the Young Child

Family Friday

Donuts with a grown-up!











NAEYC Week of the Young Child- Artsy Thursday

Henry Matisse inspired art from our friends in Butterfly Way.









Jackson Pollock Splatter Art inspired friends in our Star Circle classroom.













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#### **2023 EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS**



#### ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR

803 North Main Street, Attleboro, MA Saturday, December 2, 2023 10am-1pm

Elves Café
Baked Goods
Kid's General Store
Fantastic Raffles

# Children's Activities & Entertainment Open to All

Proceeds to benefit the RCP Charitable Fund activities.



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### Terri Lynn Nuts & Chocolates

**RCPKIDS.TERRILYNN.COM** 

### Help Us Reach Our Fundraising Goal!

Every purchase of premium nuts, gournet confections an









# COOKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Delicious recipes from family & friends of the agency

GET YOUR COPY FOR ONLY \$10



venmo





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#### Thank You to Our Donors and Supporters

- Alan Smith CPAs PC
- Balfour Foundation
- Bristol County Savings Bank
- Department of Early Childhood Education and Care (EEC)
- Engineered Materials Solutions (EMS)
- Environmental Strategies & Management (ES&M)
- Family Network Attleboro Public Schools
- Massachusetts Department of Education and Children
- Project Connect
- RCP Board of Directors
- Robbins Family
- Rotary Club of Attleboro
- Sensata Technologies
- Southeast STEM Network
- Starkweather & Shepley Insurance
- United Way Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley







NATIONAL INFORMAL STEM EDUCATION NETWORK Regional STEM Networks | Mass.gov





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### How Can You Show Your Support for the Children, Families and Agency?

Donations to Robbins Children's programs may be made in the following ways:

- Send a Check made payable to: Robbins Children's Programs, 803 North Main Street, Attleboro, MA 02703. Attn: Executive Director
- **On-Line Donation**: Click on the **Donate Now** website link https://go.thryv.com/site/w6iz1zcycigdh0jm/make-payment?action=z3lgr73ikztqqujp

In the **FOR** field enter the word **Donation** and continue with the additional information needed to process the donation.

- Attend an event such as Stand Up for Families held every May. (see poster in the newsletter)
- Donate an item(s) on our website WISH LIST. (List below)
- Discuss with us how you can make an everlasting impact on the children and families through an endowment or directed donation. Contact the Executive Director at 508-226-0282 x107 or Email: executivedirector@robbinsCP.org

Please visit our Website to learn more: www.RobbinsCP.org

Like us on Facebook at Robbins Children's Programs
Instagram – Robbinschildrensprograms803

Thank You for all your support!



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### Robbins Children's Programs Wish List

Please share our Wish List with Friends, Family, Co-workers and Company Representatives.

#### **Agency Needs**

#### **Program Needs**

New Refrigerators (2)	Fence Netting for School Age Playground
Gas Cards for Transportation Vans	Outdoor Gross Motor Games
used to transport children to/from schools &	
home	
Walmart/Target/ Stop & Shop/Shaw's/Market	Basketballs/Footballs/Soccer Balls
Basket/Big Y Gift Cards Target Gift Cards to support Staff & Families	
Support Stan & Families	
Pencils & Highlighters	Board games/playing cards
Storage Containers	Arts and Craft Supplies
(small, medium and large)	Preschool & School Age
Dunkin Donuts Gift Cards	Passes to Capron Park Zoo
	Passes to Roger Williams Zoo
	Sunscreen
	Extra clothing for children sizes 2T-10/12
	Socks and underwear always needed
	Pool Pass Sponsorship
	Children's Workshop Sponsorship
	Kid's Cooking; STEM; Art; Rhythm Room
	Field Trip Sponsorship
	Oak Knoll; WWI Park; Mini Golf
	National Programs Sponsorships
	Lights On After School & STEM Week

Please Contact Cheryl Brennan at 508-226-0282 x 102

- or -

Email: <a href="mailto:enrollment@robbinscp.org">enrollment@robbinscp.org</a> to discuss helping with the Wish List.