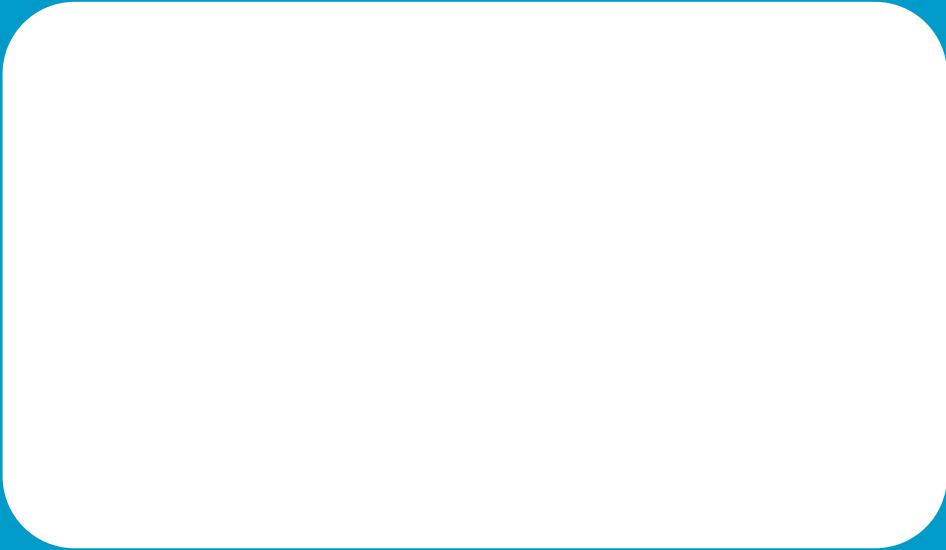




Springfield Day Nursery
947 Main Street
Springfield, Massachusetts 01103



5 stories

with happy endings... thanks to you.

SPRINGFIELD DAY NURSERY | 2006 ANNUAL APPEAL

Once in a lifetime, we get the chance to make a real difference in someone's story. Thanks to the many compassionate friends of Springfield Day Nursery, we are making a difference in hundreds of stories every day. Every day a child is able to come to an engaging and nurturing environment rather than home to an empty house. Every day, an unemployed single mother finds her way into the working world. A student, who thought there was no future, is accepted into college. An abused woman finds support and solace, a safe place to bring her children, and a way out for herself. Springfield Day Nursery has been providing care for children and their families since 1883. Our mission today is much as it was then, to tailor our services to match the needs of the community. In the year 2006, early education and childcare are still at the core of our programs, but we offer the community so much more. We serve a number of at-risk populations through collaboration

with other agencies. We work with the Department of Transitional Assistance to help people fulfill their public service obligations in a meaningful way. We provide early education and childcare to several immigrant communities through our collaboration with churches and synagogues. We provide child services for mothers who live in homeless shelters while they search for employment or undergo job training. Through a contract with the Department of Social Services, we provide a sanctuary for children who have been victimized or who are at risk of sexual or physical abuse. We recently piloted a successful program that provides early education and care to the children of incarcerated parents. We work with teen parents, abused spouses, immigrant victims of civil war, and just about every other underserved community in the greater Springfield area. The following pages tell just a few of the stories that have happy endings, thanks to you.



Our Story It's a story we all know. Children who receive early childhood education and care are much less likely to “fall through the cracks” and suffer future adversity. Early childhood education programs significantly lower the risk of social crimes and violence, future drug use, smoking, teen parenthood, and school drop outs*. Springfield Day Nursery also provides six elementary school-based programs where children are involved in both play time and learning time activities like reading, writing, arts and crafts, science and math exploration, computer training and practical games for learning life-skills. Today, we are trying to raise additional funds to renovate the 2nd and 3rd floors at our King Street Children's Center so that we can serve even more children in a neighborhood plagued by violence and poverty. Every child's story deserves a happy ending. We hope these five stories will inspire you to be part of one more.

*National data

In Springfield alone, 893 children are on waiting lists to access affordable early education and care.

Donna's Story Six years ago, new mom Donna Naglieri-Langlois' husband suddenly walked out on her and their two young daughters. She had no job. No money. No hope. But Donna's sister-in-law immediately thought of Springfield Day Nursery. Since Donna had a teaching background, she was able to start subbing at a SDN school. It didn't take long for Donna to become a full time teacher, and today she is the special needs coordinator for Longmeadow Public Schools. Donna's daughters Ashley and Taylor, both students at Sumner Avenue School, attend pre-school and after-school programs through SDN. "Springfield Day Nursery saved my life six years ago, and continues to be a blessing to me every day. If it weren't for the wonderful Kids Stop after-school program and the Faith Church drop off in the morning, I couldn't work. This way I never have to worry. I know they are in the best, most loving hands all day long."

Children are of much greater risk of being the victim of violent crime after the school day. (US DOE)





Fallon's Story Fallon Barnes came to Springfield Day Nursery through the Department of Transitional Assistance. She was placed with us as a volunteer in our kitchen helping the staff create wholesome meals and snacks for the children. After just six months, Fallon felt the desire and the confidence to work more directly with the kids. She started substitute teaching in the toddler and pre-school group, and fell in love with the children and the job. Today, Fallon holds a full time paid teaching position in our Main Street School. She has left the welfare system behind. Every year, more women find themselves, their independence and long-term self-sufficiency with the support of Springfield Day Nursery. "I was always treated with dignity and respect. The people who work for Springfield Day Nursery are all very caring and understanding. Every one of them is committed to serving the needs of other people."

Despite their employment, nearly 88% of Springfield Day Nursery families live at or below poverty level.

Antonio's Story When Antonio's mother was sentenced to two years in prison for a petty crime, it may as well have been a life sentence as far as its impact on four-year-old Antonio. Only allowed to see his mother for a limited time every other weekend, Antonio needed more time with attentive adults in a compassionate, nurturing and learning environment. Being a bright little boy, he wanted to go to school. Thanks to a generous block grant from the City of Springfield, Antonio is now enrolled and thriving in our King Street Children's Center. He benefits from a warm relationship with his teachers and playmates and enjoys stories at naptime, hugs after a fall, and a smile for a job well done. Simple things every child deserves. So far, through our collaboration with the Correctional Center, six children whose mothers are incarcerated have been freed. Free to grow, free to learn, free to develop and play with friends in the company of loving adults.

85% of all women incarcerated at the women's prison in Ludlow have children.





Tamar's story Expecting her third child, Tamar was in physical and emotional pain sustained at the hands of her abuser. She knew she had to escape her situation if she and her unborn son were to survive. Just a few months into her pregnancy, her abuser put her “to the streets.” Despite a restraining order, she lived in constant fear of her attacker. Shortly after the birth of her son, alone and in need of a real sense of security, Tamar found her way to the YWCA's Domestic Violence shelter. There, among the many other supports she received, Tamar was referred to Springfield Day Nursery. Without quality early education and care for her young son, Tamar would not have been able to access the GED and job training classes she needed to make her dream of financial and emotional stability come true. “I will not rest until I have brought my children to a safe home of our own.” An ending she could not have imagined just a few years ago.

Nearly one-third of American women report being victims of domestic abuse at some point in their lives.

Every day, every dollar makes a difference. Your generous gifts enable Springfield Day Nursery to operate fifty-two weeks a year, from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Because of you, our children are served healthy breakfasts, lunches and snacks every day. Thanks to you, we provide early education and care to children three weeks and older as well as school age programs for children up to age eleven. Thanks to you, our children are learning for life. Here are some of the ways you help: \$100 buys supplemental teaching tools like children's storybooks, audiotapes, and creative learning materials. \$500 covers the cost of van transportation during the winter months for a child with asthma or other respiratory ailments. \$1,000 subsidizes the cost of early education and care for the child of working parents whose only alternative is welfare. Once in a lifetime, we get the chance to make a real difference in someone's story. **Here is your chance.**

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

\$1,000 \$500 \$100 \$75 \$50

Other. Any size contribution will help. Amount \$ _____

I would like to volunteer my time.

I would like to talk to the children or mothers about my profession.

I have equipment, supplies, or ideas for discounted procurement.

My business may be able to train a mother seeking employment.

NAME _____

DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Please make check payable and return this form to:

Springfield Day Nursery

947 Main Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01103