



Hudson Community Daycare Opens New Location

By: Mary Pat Finnegan

On October 22, 2007 Hudson Community Daycare (HCD) opened the doors of its newly renovated facility to welcome students and their parents. The bright, gaily decorated classrooms offer more space and improved amenities for the children ages 2-7 that attend the daycare.

Located on a quiet residential street, kitty-corner from the Hudson Public library, it is ideally situated for neighborhood nature walks, as well as walks to the library or the fire station or any downtown destination.

Through the support of Catholic Charities, which had an office in downtown Hudson at the time, the original Hudson Community Daycare opened in 1969, in the basement of the Episcopal Church (the current home of the S.O.S. players). They soon outgrew that space and moved two doors down into a quaint building that had been a church. Though the floors sloped and the only bathroom was on the lower level, enrollment and the stellar reputation of the daycare grew. Director Linda Groom began working at HCD in 1973 and remembers that at the time attitudes about daycare as babysitting were slowly changing. Linda remarked that, "Today parents are more savvy about what they want -- they expect more from a child care center, and that's good."

Like Linda, all of the lead teachers at HCD have four-year teaching degrees. Many beloved area teachers got their start at HCD, including Betsy Palesh and Natalie Thorson. Teacher Donna Burt has been with HCD for 27 years, Anne Lowe 17 years. Having teachers that are not only skilled but also warm, loving and caring is key to the continued success of HCD. When asked about what besides the teachers makes HCD special, Linda was quick to point out, "Our first priority is to give a warm, loving environment, where they (the children) feel secure. From there they have the confidence to explore all the other activities we can offer them."

This is no ordinary daycare; its very existence speaks volumes about the commitment of Catholic Charities to youth and families. Catholic Charities was instrumental in starting the Hudson Community Daycare in 1969 and they have been a strong financial supporter ever since. The core values taught at HCD mirror Catholic social teaching: recognition of human dignity; respect for each other; reaching out to and supporting each other. In that spirit, Linda stressed that from the moment they enter, children are acknowledged, greeted and made to feel valuable.

"We want them to realize how special they are."

Though the building underwent a complete makeover, it was once a private residence that was home to Sr. Bernadette, Sr. Yvonne and Sr. Marie. For that reason, the staff considers the building blessed!

Hudson Community Daycare is open M-F, 6:15 a.m. – 5:45 p.m. They have a full kitchen and serve both breakfast and lunch. They welcome children of all denominations, ages 2-7. For more information on Hudson Community Daycare, call 386-5912.

