



Soup-A-Bowl: A Recipe for Families

Belknap County Convocation on Children and Families

January 24, 2006

Soup-A-Bowl: A Recipe for Families Multi-Event Convocation Honors Children and Families in Belknap County

LACONIA: “Soup-A-Bowl: A Recipe for Families”, was the theme for the third annual Belknap County Convocation on Children and Families held on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at the Winnepesaukee Exposition Center in Lakeport. Sponsored by 14 organizations and agencies throughout Belknap County, this multi-event conference honored children and families in Belknap County and was attended by families and youth 10 years and older, and others interested in the well being of families in Belknap County.

The 2006 “Soup-A-Bowl” featured delicious soups and stews served in soup bowls created by youth throughout Belknap County as part of their school-related art projects. These soup bowls were on display in the dining hall the dinner hour.

The Convocation began at 3:30pm with interactive displays and exhibits from more than 60 agencies and organizations providing services for children and families in Belknap County. Other Convocation activities continued between 4:30-6pm with the annual business meetings of four agencies and organizations in the Lakes Region and a 5pm performance by the Winnisquam Regional Middle School Show Choir.



School children from around Belknap County made the soup bowls as part of their school art classes in the months preceding the Convocation.

A catered buffet dinner of soups and stews, served by Patrick’s began the dinner hour and program. Five teens - Mayghen Elliott and Maria Bauer from Prospect Mountain High School in Alton; Michael Worsman from Interlakes High School in Meredith; and Dan Fernandez-Phelps and Danielle Hurshman from Laconia High School and the Teen Center of the Lakes Region - facilitated the program through the dinner hour. These youth presented the first Belknap County Champion Awards to eleven County residents for their outstanding contributions on behalf of

children and families. Honorees include Barbara Belmont, Joan Cormier, Jim and Arlene Fortier, Umija and Rasim Gusinac, Armand Maheux, Carol Pierce, Bob Selig, Peggy Selig, and Karen Thurston.

The Hon Willard Martin, Special Justice at the Laconia District Court, presented the prestigious Annette P Schmitt UnSung Hero Award to David Tryon, a county resident who has worked tirelessly behind-the-scenes to promote the well-being of children and families in Belknap County. The evening concluded with a keynote presentation from Judge Edwin Kelly, Administrative Judge of the NH District Court. Judge Kelly who is both the Judge of the Plymouth District Court and Administrative Judge of the NH District Courts, is also the first Administrative Judge of the Judicial Branch Family Division, the component of the Court system that hears all matters relating to families.

Youth played a major role in the preparation and presentation of this year's Convocation on Children and Families. In addition to making the colorful soup bowls for this event, youth took prominent roles at this Convocation as guides, registration assistants, performers, co-facilitators, and dinner hour emcees. The dining area at the Expo Center was decorated with hanging mobiles made by children from the Lakes

Region Child Care Services and The Friends Program.

The meal, catered by Patrick's Pub included a choice of beef chili,

chicken stew, or vegetarian minestrone, along with salad, bread, beverage and a dessert buffet.



Katie McKerley (R) of The Friends Program, the Coordinator of the Soup Bowl Project, and one of the many youth partners display two of the more than 200 colorful bowls made by County youth.

30 –

PHOTO GALLERY FOLLOWS





Students from around Belknap County made more than 200 soup bowls for this Convocation.



Attendees enjoy the dinner hour under decorations made by children from the Lakes Region Child Care Services.



One of the numerous exhibits in a Showcase of County service providers the CoRe program offers teens alternative activities during their non-school hours.

Judge Edwin W. Kelly,
 Administrative Judge of NH District
 Courts, was the keynote speaker.
(See this website:

Workers with smiles at the
 Convocation Registration Table:
 (L-R) Trisha Burton, Tammy Emery,
 Mary Ellen Boudman





Some of the youth who were emcees during the dinner hour and awards presentations.



Those visiting the Exhibitor Showcase played a Scavenger Hunt, looking for clues hidden among the displays.



The Exhibitor Showcase provided many opportunities to learn about agencies and organizations that serve children and families in Belknap County while meeting and talking with others.



“Walking the Line” was a favorite activity at the Exhibitor Showcase. Those who donned these glasses and tried to walk the line learned quickly what it is like to drive safely after consuming alcoholic beverages.



Members of the Show Choir at Winnisquam Regional Middle School who performed at the Convocation spend lots of time rehearsing!