

# Director's Report



## 4th Quarter 2005

*"Promoting Community Justice in Belknap County so that children and families can live with dignity and respect."*

### **LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE!**

The Citizens Council welcomes [Emily Clement](#) of Laconia as its newest member. Emily is the Director of Christian Education for the Congregational Church of Laconia and brings a wealth of professional and life experiences to the Council. Her work with local youth will provide an important perspective to our work. Please join us in welcoming Emily to the Council.

Other applicants representing all of the communities of Belknap County are still being sought and we encourage interested individuals to contact us or attend any of our Council meetings on the third Friday of each month to meet other members. Call us at 528-3185 or visit our web site at [www.bccj.org](http://www.bccj.org). Make a New Year's resolution to serve the youth and families of our County. Join our group of dedicated council members in making Belknap County a safe community where children and families live with dignity and respect.

### **COUNCIL VISITS COMMUNITY VENUES**

During the past quarter, the council held meetings at [Prospect Mountain High School and Winnisquam Regional Middle School](#). Students who participated in last summer's [Community Youth Mapping](#) were introduced by CoRe Outreach Coordinator, Shannon Swett. The students shared their experiences of mapping, spoke about [C.O.O.L.](#), the local rendition of SADD, and later toured our members around their beautiful school facility. These young people are impressive and enthusiastic and we thank them for their leadership in their school and community.

Council member [Kevin Washburn](#) hosted our meeting at Winnisquam with [Dave Tryon](#) serving as guest speaker. Dave volunteers his time to local anti-smoking and -drug campaigns within the schools and communities of Sanbornton, Tilton and Northfield. David spoke of his efforts in promoting chem-free alternatives for youth through the YNOT and other initiatives throughout the year. Dave recently sponsored a drug awareness information session for the community with over 60 youth, parents and professionals attending. The Council thanked Dave, Shannon and PMHS youth for their wonderful presentations.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH & DISCUSSIONS ON YOUTH AND FAMILY ISSUES**

The Council continues to promote community justice throughout the county. During this reporting period, the Council presented to the St. Joseph Parish in Belmont, the Public Defenders Office in Laconia; once as an orientation to the Council and Community Justice and again to discuss community participants in the Drug Court proceedings. We attended and spoke at a Drug Awareness session at the Pines Community Center, a community forum conducted by Dave Tryon of the Chem-Free and YNOT programs of Winnisquam Regional School District.

The Council was represented at the [Laconia Area Community Land Trust](#) and [Genesis](#) Annual Meetings. We sponsored an exhibit highlighting the Community Youth Mapping project conducted by CoRe, at the [Chamber of Commerce Business Showcase](#). The Council has facilitated a weekly [Parent Support Group](#) at [Inter-Lakes High School](#) for the past two months. We participated in the [Reclaiming Futures](#) site visitation by the National Program Office of the University of Portland and participated in a number of conference calls, as a member of the Community Fellowship of the [Robert Wood Johnson](#) Reclaiming Futures effort.

With [Child and Family Services](#) and [Genesis Behavioral Health](#), we made a presentation to the School Administrators of Inter-Lakes School District relative to the [Adolescent Treatment Initiative](#) (ATI). Additionally, the ATI conducted two training sessions relative to program outcomes, and screening and motivational interviewing techniques. One of the key benefits of participating in the ATI is the exposure we get to leading experts in the field of adolescent substance abuse. We acknowledge the fine work of [Shari Landry](#) and [Jay Bachelor](#) of Child and Family Services of NH, and [Ray Barrett](#) of Genesis Behavioral Health for coordinating their services and addressing this long-standing need in our county. We further thank [New Futures](#) and the [NH Charitable Foundation](#) for making the funds and leadership available to this essential project.

The Council supported, in part, a recent Leadership Training presented by the [New Hampshire Task Force on Women and Addictions](#). Through the important work of the [Niki Miller](#) and the Task Force, this important training was provided to over a dozen emerging leaders in women addiction issues.

Council representation at regularly scheduled meetings included the following: [Human Relations Committee](#) (Laconia), [Safe Schools' Coalition](#) (Winnisquam Regional High School), [CoRe Coalition and Advisory Committee](#) (Belknap County), [Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health](#), and others.

Through the efforts of Council member [Ruth Castonguay](#), the Belknap County Chapter of [Friends of Recovery/New Hampshire](#) has gotten off to a great start. Eight local people attended the FOR/NH Annual Meeting and [Susan Flanders](#) and [Phyllis MacDonald](#) were elected to the state Board of Directors. Congratulations Sue and Phyllis and thanks for your leadership!

Council member [Dick Wallace](#) and Alan Robichaud were invited to participate on an interview panel for Prospect Mountain High School Principal, [Russ Holden](#)'s candidacy for High School Principal of the Year. We congratulate Russ for being runner-up in this year's competition and knowing how appropriate his candidacy was, the competition was really tough. We are extremely fortunate to have the educational leadership we have in Belknap County. In addition to Russ, we acknowledge the fine achievements of Shaker Regional School District's [Michael Cozort](#) and [Emily Spear](#) for their respective awards of Superintendent and Elementary School Principal of the Year! We are very proud to be working with all of our schools throughout the county and appreciate all they do all year long for our children and families. We look forward to continuing to work with them on key issues affecting children, youth and families.

#### **FRANKLIN DISTRICT COURT WELCOMNES NEW JUDGE**

We welcome [Ned Gordon](#) as the newly appointed juvenile court judge for the [Franklin District Court](#). On November 30, the Council provided Judge Gordon an orientation to the principles of Community Justice, and an overview of the Citizens Council. With his many years of legal and legislative leadership, we are extremely pleased to have Judge Gordon sitting on the bench where youth from Sanbornton and Tilton are seen for juvenile offenses. Welcome Your Honor!

#### **NEW JUVENILE JUSTICE RESOURCE DIRECTORY IN THE MAKING**

With remaining resources from the [Belknap County Family Mediation Program](#), the County will see the development of the [Juvenile Justice Resource Directory](#), hopefully by this spring. Working closely with the [Youth Services Bureau](#), the Council has requested information from providers of services to juveniles and families for inclusion in the directory. These directories will be distributed to all providers, Office of the Public Defender, courts, schools and libraries throughout Belknap County. Providers who have not yet sent in their information for inclusion in the directory are requested to do so as soon as possible. Contact [Deb LaFlamme](#) at the Youth Services Bureau 524-9457.

#### **RESTITUTION FUND BREAKS NEW GROUND ~ ALREADY TAPPED FOR SUPPORT**

To the credit of [Jim Sawyer](#) and [Tom Swett](#), City Prosecutor and Juvenile Prosecutor respectively of the City of Laconia, Belknap County now has a [Victims' Restitution Fund](#). Working with the [Juvenile Justice Advisory Council](#) and members of the Citizens Council, a process has been developed to allow designated agencies to apply for restitution settlement on behalf of victims of juvenile crimes. Special restitution requirements need to be met but we now have a means of responding more appropriately to victims who might otherwise wait an inordinate amount of time to receive recompense for damaged or stolen property.

We would like to recognize the efforts of [Jim Sawyer](#), [Tom Swett](#), [Lisa-Marie Sposta](#) (Youth Services Bureau) and [Gil Schohan](#) (Citizens Council) in making this process a reality for victims. To date, two requests have been made to the restitution fund.

#### **PARENTS AS LEADERS IN SOCIETY (PALS)**

We are extremely pleased at how PALS is proceeding in Belknap County. Having graduated nine parents from last year's leadership series, we are privileged to welcome 19 parents to our roster this year. At this writing, we have completed two sessions. Harvard lecturer, [Julie Wilson](#) presented at the opening conference with the topic "*What Works and How Will We Know*". Julie shared a pathways model on how communities can assure successful outcomes for children and families. Session two provided exposure to the challenges of youth through the perspective of local Guidance Counselors and a session on role models presented by local education and program directors. We extend our appreciation to the NH Children's Trust Fund for providing us with second year funding; to UpStream and the United Way for serving as fiscal agent and providing organizational support; to last year's graduates, [Kathy Calvin](#) and [Bernadette Haines](#) for providing the logistical supports needed to make such a project successful and to the following presenters who give up their Saturdays to provide expertise to the series. They are: *Session 1:* [Julie Wilson](#) (Harvard University); *Session 2:* [Beth Zimmer](#) (Gilford School District), [Marilyn St. Cyr](#) (Prospect Mountain High School); [Mark Dotter](#) (Winnisquam Regional School District), [Ralph Dixon](#) (Belmont High School), [Bob Champlin](#) (Laconia School District), [Jim Doremus](#) (The Friends Program) and [Thom Linehan](#) (UNH Cooperative Extension Services). Belknap County is grateful and extremely fortunate to have such dedicated professionals working with our children and families. We appreciate their efforts all year long!

#### **CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

*Underage Drinking Series* ~ We apologize for the omission of [Sue Caldon](#)'s name from the last Quarterly Report. Sue contributed a great deal to the presentation of Session 2 of the Underage Drinking series. Our apologies Sue.

Session 3 was conducted in October at the [Prospect Mountain High School](#). Co-sponsored by [C.O.O.L.](#), a stellar panel presented on *Societal Pressures*. Panelists included [Jen Gagnon](#), Chair of the Youth Services Bureau Board of Directors), [Tori O'Hara](#) (Plymouth State University), [Karen Blass](#) (UNH Cooperative Extension) and [Mayghen Elliott](#) and [Maria Bauer](#) (Prospect Mountain High School). Session 4 was held at [Belmont High School](#) on November 25. The topic for the session was Underage Drinking and Public Safety. Panelists included Chief [Tom Oetinger](#) (Laconia Police Department), Investigator [Nicholas Houhoulis](#) (NH Liquor Commission) and Deputy Chief [Paul Dean](#) (UNH Police Department). The session was well-attended by over 60 youth, families, school officials and members of the community. The Council would like to recognize Principal [Marcia Hayward](#) for sponsoring this session. Session 5 of the Underage Drinking Series, Health Impact, will be conducted at the [Winnisquam High School](#) Cafetorium on January 30 at 6:00 PM.

*Nacki Loeb School of Communication* ~ The Center for Civic Engagement was proud to host the [Nacki Loeb School of Communication](#) for a session on the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment. Held on October 5, 2005, this session drew a distinguished panel of media experts along with State Attorney General, [Kelly Ayotte](#). The session was moderated by former Attorney General [Phillip McLaughlin](#). The forum was developed by [Linda Frawley](#), Executive Director of the Nacki Loeb School of Communication and [Don Morrissey](#), Interim President of the New Hampshire Community Technical College.

#### **GO ASK ALICE...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!**

On November 4, 2005 the [Inter-Lakes School District Drama Department](#) performed *Go Ask Alice*, a play depicting the use and consequences of teen abuse of alcohol and other drugs. This fine performance was not only well-acted but the presentation by youth of reasons they have chosen a chem-free life-style was inspiring. Promoting the essence of CoRe's work in prevention, these young people are to be congratulated for leadership among their peers. The Council thanks [Renee Rockwell](#), [Shannon Swett](#), and the entire CoRe organization for their persistence in addressing the ongoing alcohol and other drug use issues of our Belknap County youth.

## **ON THE HORIZON**

With the [Adolescent Treatment Initiative](#) well underway in Belknap County, we are beginning to discuss ways that local physicians, beginning with pediatricians, can play a greater role in screening youth for alcohol and drug use. Conversations are underway with LRGH through [Dr. Rick Wilson](#) and [Tom Clairmont](#), CEO to develop strategies for engaging physicians in this important work.

A [Victims' Rights Week](#) is being planned for April '06. As part of the ongoing work of the Council's Balanced and Restorative Justice Work Group and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, victims of juvenile crimes will share center stage in this community justice initiative. Deputy County Attorney, [Wayne Coull](#), will provide a session on Internet Victimization as part of this observation week. Stay tuned or get involved. Call the Council for more information on this venture.

## **ON THE WEB**

Check for further updates on Council activities on our web site at [www.bccj.org](http://www.bccj.org). Recently completed is a copy of my report of having attended the Kennedy School of Government's State and Local Executives program in June, 2005 and links to several other helpful sites. [Judy Buswell](#) and [David Stamps](#) do an amazing job of keeping our web site current. There you will find postings of Council meeting summaries and its various initiatives.

## **Council Budget**

The 2006 Council budget negotiations are well-underway. In continuing its partnership and agreement with the [Schmitt Fund](#), the Council is requesting 75% of its funding from the County and 25% from the Schmitt Fund in this year's budget. We appreciate the tremendous support given us by the [County Commissioners](#) and the [Convention members](#). Belknap County continues to lead by example, innovation, and concern for its citizens. We especially thank [Judge "Bud" Martin](#) for his steadfast support over the years, making the Citizens Council a reality in Belknap County.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

[Convocation on Children and Families](#) (1/24/06) – If you have not yet registered for the Annual Convocation, you don't want to miss this one! We have increased to level and ways local youth will participate in this year's event. [Judge Edwin Kelly](#) of the Administrative Office of District, Drug, and Family Courts, will be our keynote presenter. Call the Council today or download a registration form from our web site at [www.bccj.org](http://www.bccj.org).

[New Futures – Community Leadership Institute](#) (2/14/05) – This one-day training on Adolescent Underage Alcohol problems is offered free of charge and will be held on February 14, 2006 at the Belknap Mill. To register, call New Futures at (603) 431-1770 or visit their web site at [www.new-futures.org](http://www.new-futures.org).

The Citizens Council welcomes everyone's participation in all of our efforts. We invite you to call or stop in to find out how your skills, talents, and interests can help to promote Belknap County as a safe place where children and families can live with dignity and respect!

## **WORDS TO LIVE BY**

“Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.”

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Respectfully,

*Alan Robichaud*

Executive Director