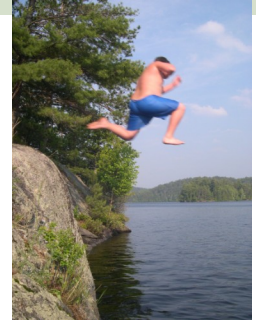


# LARAWAY YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

# LARAWAY... IT'S ABOUT THE KIDS



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### Board Members

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Greg Stefanski, *Executive Director*



March 2011

*Children thrive in a nurturing environment*

## Our Dream is Coming True!

As spring approaches, all kinds of good things are sprouting down on the farm. The barn rests on a sturdy new foundation, first and second floors of the addition are built, new classrooms are being framed and gardens are planned.

We are on target to move in June with summer programming to start in July.

As of press time, we raised \$25,000 towards our **2:1 Challenge Grant**, yielding \$50,000 from our anonymous donor. The donor issued a **Second 2:1 Challenge Grant**, offering another 2:1 match if we raise another \$25,000 by **July 1, 2011** to close out our Capital Campaign. Your ongoing support humbles and inspires us.

Please watch our website for details of our **Grand Opening and Harvest Celebration**, tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**. It's our way to thank the many individuals and organizations who are supporting our efforts to transform the farm into a place of learning, healing and personal growth for kids and families.

Interested in a **Hard Hat Tour**? Please contact me. I'd be happy to show you around.

Thank you for your interest and support. See you at the farm!

**Greg Stefanski, Executive Director**  
**(802) 635-2805 x 201**  
**GregS@Laraway.org**

## Polar Splash Fundraiser: Thank you for a Shivery Success

On **Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**, 100 fearless jumpers made a splash into the icy waters of **Lake Elmore** to raise much needed cash for Laraway's Capital campaign.

"Icy", "Freezing", "Fun" and "Amazing" were words expressed by youth, staff and community members who took the plunge.

Donors dug deeply into their pockets and purses resulting in \$15,760 raised.

**Tim Sargent**, President of the **Morrisville Rotary Club**, said: "It's a great way for our club to partner with a local agency to raise funds, promote awareness and build a strong relationship."

## Thank you to our individual and business supporters!

Laraway responds to the needs of at-risk kids and their families by offering innovative strength-based services thru alternative education, therapeutic foster care, and public school based support programs



Anonymous	Mary Paul Loomis	Boyden Farm
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John Gutman	Kermit & Hazel Spaulding	Price Chopper
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Jane Kennelly	Marion Taylor	Turtle Fur
Robert Kilkenny	Duncan & Nancy Tingle	Union Bank
Stanley & Christina Kluckowski	Jimmy & Heather Walters	VT National Guard
Julie Landry	Phil Wells	VT Community Foundation
Carrie Lambert	Lee & Sharon Weltman	Vermont Studio Center
Jennifer & Elm LaPoint	Alice Whiting	Wild Branch Mushrooms
Paul & Lori Ledak	Mark Woodward	WLVB
	David & Peggy Williams	Yankee Dollar

*We appreciate our supporters. If your name was omitted, please contact Katherine Stamper at (802) 635-2805 x 205*

## Laraway Youth Grant Program

*"I think having new sneakers will help me do all these things and more."*

Sequoia, age 13

Learning to ask for what we need to achieve our goals is an important life skill. **Sequoia** is a student who successfully tapped into the **Laraway Youth Grant Program** while preparing to transition to public school. He recognized that joining a sports team would ease his entry into a new school.

An excerpt from Sequoia's application appears below:

**I will feel more comfortable with sneakers that fit my feet, so I can perform better in basketball practices and at my games. I want to do my best in school, and I feel that having sneakers that fit right will help me with my performance and I won't have to wear my winter boots all the time. It hurts to run with the sneakers I have because I've outgrown them. I think having new sneakers will help me do all these things and more.**



**Laraway's Youth Grant Program** is a donor-supported initiative which provides a once a year chance for kids to apply for a \$50 grant to fund an experiential activity.

Applicants must put pen to paper, briefly explaining what they are requesting funds for and how they will grow from the experience. Applications are reviewed monthly by

**Laraway's Development Committee** which is comprised of foster care, educational, treatment and administrative staff

Since its inception in 2009, over sixty Laraway kids, ages 8 to 18, have successfully applied for and received a Laraway Youth Grant.

### A sampling of grants:

- \*Trumpet Rental
- \*DJ Lesson
- \*Ice Fishing Equipment
- \*Knitting Supplies
- \*Fishing Pole and License
- \*Basketball Camp
- \*Canvas for Painting
- \*Sewing Supplies
- \*Skateboard Equipment
- \*Snow Pants for Skiing
- \*Gardening Supplies
- \*Water Park Admission
- \*Amusement Park Admission

As this newsletter goes to print, **Sequoia** is at his public school working hard and navigating the basketball court in his spiffy new sneakers.

**Laraway's Youth Grant Program** allows kids to tap into opportunities to develop positive, life-enhancing skills. From sneakers to trumpet lessons to canvases for painting, it's a worthwhile investment.



Thank you for supporting  
Laraway's work in the  
community

**LARAWAY YOUTH &  
FAMILY SERVICES**

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Laraway is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to identifying and building on the strengths of children and youth with emotional, behavioral and mental health challenges, through alternative education and therapeutic foster care.

## MISSION

**Providing opportunities for children and families to recognize their individual strengths while supporting them to grow and contribute within our communities**

### Laraway Farm: Being Good Stewards of the Land

Cornelius Murphy was hired as Laraway's **Farm Steward** this month. He will draw upon extensive land use experience to guide design of outdoor teaching, healing and recreational spaces such as gardens and walking paths on our farm.

Careful stewardship of Laraway's 39 acres along the Lamoille river is a high priority as partnerships are forged with farmers and community members from business, educational and alternative energy fields.

We look forward to cultivating a welcoming green space that becomes a true community resource.

Laraway goes GREEN!

Prefer to receive this newsletter via email? Email [KatherineS@laraway.org](mailto:KatherineS@laraway.org), type GO GREEN in the subject line, and we'll take care of it. Thanks!