

The Vision

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Sophia's Hearth

FAMILY CENTER





A VISION OF STRENGTH

**A STRONG AND VIBRANT TREE
IS A GIFT FOR THE AGES.**

A TREE PROVIDES protection. It breathes out so that we can breathe in. It stands as a beacon in the landscape that can be recognized from afar.

Trees offer us images of ourselves — are we flexible? Can we bend but not break with the weight of the storm? Can we leaf out, again and again, with new vitality and hope for what will come?

A deciduous tree, be it oak, beech, or maple, is an experience of renewal. An evergreen, pine or hemlock, is an understanding of longevity.

It has long been wisely said that we plant a tree for the next generation. As we look back over these

fifteen years, it is clear that putting down roots for the next generation is what Sophia's Hearth is all about.

Sophia's Hearth is now well-rooted, and the soil around our roots is enriched with a community of caring donors, graduates and families — human relationships that move through the soil providing nourishment to our whole tree.

Our beautiful, purpose-built, sustain-



able home stands firm and strong, its trunk and branches supporting and sheltering each day our work with children, with families, with teachers. We know that it has been built to endure, to carry its purpose forward for many generations.



THE VISION CAMPAIGN THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

NEARLY TEN YEARS ago, Sophia's Hearth set out to accomplish what seemed nearly impossible. As we look back, we are filled with gratitude for all those who served, sacrificed, strived and dreamed of what could be possible as a new narrative in the world of the very young child.



Our blessings are immense. A circle of colleagues supports families and teachers-in-training each day in a beautiful building. The community of our donor-partners, our teacher-partners and our parent-partners have made all this possible.

As we look back, we can see that the narrative *is* changing. *You* have made possible that Sophia's Hearth is central to the new story that is being written.



- **There is a change in the way that the world sees very young children.** There is an emerging recognition for the dignity of infants and young children. Sophia's

Hearth has made this visible throughout New Hampshire and North America.

- **There is a new generation of early childhood teachers** throughout the world putting this dignity into practice for children and parents,

with ideas that Sophia's Hearth has developed over these years.

- **There is a geographical place—Sophia's Hearth Family Center**—that expresses the change; where one can observe this dignity every day in practical application.



- **This new narrative places the highest value on the well-being of the child and her process of becoming.**

We trust that you, our donor-partners, will join us to continue the new story that Sophia's Hearth is writing. As the following pages share, it is now time for a further step in our work.

SUSAN WEBER, Executive Director

HOW HAS SOPHIA'S HEARTH MADE A DIFFERENCE?

All around the world, Sophia's Hearth has served many other communities.

- We educate early childhood teachers from far and near in an internationally recognized program.
- We consult on early childhood initiatives from Keene to southeast Asia.

Locally, Sophia's Hearth has served families.

- We provide professional development and consulting to early childcare educators throughout the community in an effort to instill the basic tenets for creating a developmentally researched and respectful environment for children.
- We offer a full-time early education program (recognized as childcare) for

working parents' infants, toddlers and preschool children.

- We offer family programs: parent-infant groups, home visits before and after the birth of a new child and speakers on topics of parenting challenges.

Our work has helped parents struggling with postpartum depression, given parents courage to address their children's special needs, helped prevent probable child abuse and introduced new parenting possibilities.

We are creating a new generation of inspired, engaged early childhood teachers prepared to work from the riches of Waldorf early childhood education and the Pikler approach.

OUR IMPACT.

The impact of our early childhood education has increased exponentially, based on the years of childhood and number of teachers trained.

Childhood Impact

1,000 Years

Professional Teacher Education Impact

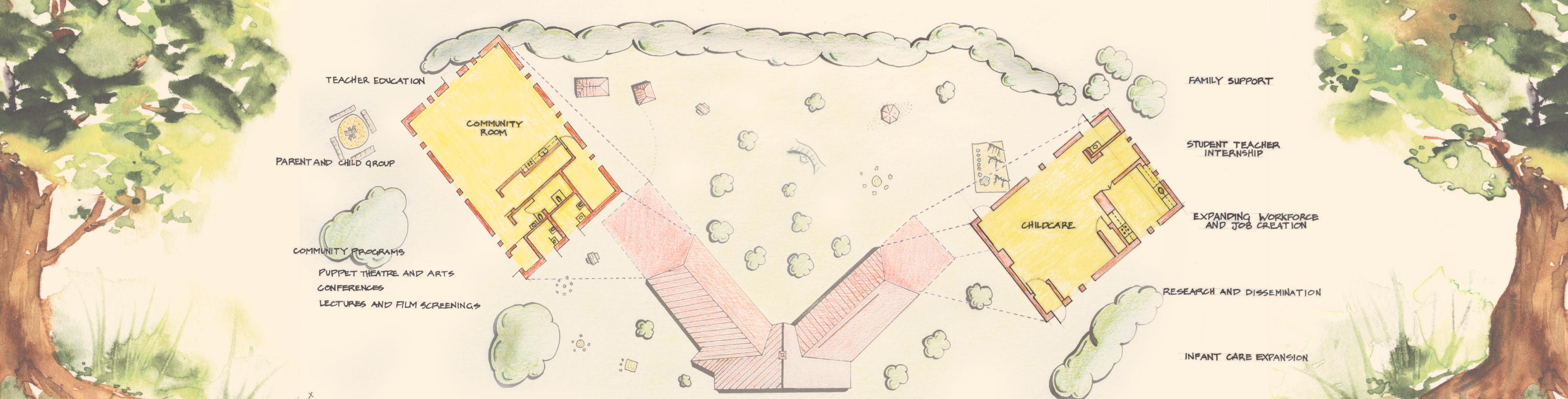
875 Teachers

National Teacher Education Impact

31 States

International Teacher Education Impact

9 Countries



TEACHER EDUCATION

COMMUNITY ROOM

PARENT AND CHILD GROUP

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

PUPPET THEATRE AND ARTS

CONFERENCES

LECTURES AND FILM SCREENINGS

FAMILY SUPPORT

STUDENT TEACHER INTERNSHIP

EXPANDING WORKFORCE AND JOB CREATION

RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION

INFANT CARE EXPANSION

CHILDCARE

**WHAT WILL YOUR GIFT MAKE POSSIBLE,
AS YOU JOIN US?**

WE EAGERLY LOOK TO the future and the new opportunities that your gift will create for Sophia's Hearth. Peek through the window to the future with us to see:

- Our teacher education students studying right here in our **new classroom**, observing and learning from our teachers at work on-site, studying children's growth and development within this unique, innovative Waldorf early childhood teacher education program.
- A **second new classroom**, for four additional infants and their families, radiating their gratitude for this wonderful care that their babies now receive. Our waiting list shrinks!
- Our **Longevity Fund**, manifesting the fruits of its economic resources, creating

a new level of sustainability for Sophia's Hearth. Our teachers can trust that they will be adequately compensated for their devotion to their vocation.

- The **Bridge Compensation Fund**, stabilizing teacher compensation in anticipation of the Longevity Fund's readiness for this task.
- **Scholarships** for teacher education students, supporting a new generation of early childhood teachers studying the vocation that makes their hearts sing.

How can you join the campaign?

Sophia's Hearth gratefully accepts gifts of cash, securities and irrevocable planned gifts. We are here to explore all avenues of giving with you. And of course, your gift may be pledged over time.

THE VISION.

Help us bring our vision of healthy childhood to life!

Let us set an example of what is not only possible, but deserved.

Scholarships for Professional Students

\$10,000

Bridge Compensation Fund

\$175,000

Building Expansion Fund

\$500,000

Longevity Fund Endowment

\$1,000,000



**A HEALTHY CHILDHOOD
RADIATES LIKE SUNSHINE.**

**THE EXPERIENCE OF SOPHIA'S HEARTH...
IN THEIR OWN WORDS**

It is such a joy to be with children. With many challenges and questions that come to me everyday, I am learning so much. My soul is enlivened and nurtured. I feel alive again!

TEACHER EDUCATION
PROGRAM GRADUATE

“
**I always leave
Sophia's Hearth full
of inspiration and
incredibly grateful for
the amazing work
you all do.**
”

*I have been coming here for almost three years!
I could write volumes about how helpful and
inspiring Sophia's Hearth has been to us.
I don't think there is any area of my parenting
not touched by Sophia's Hearth.*

“JOYFUL BEGINNINGS” PLAYGROUP PARTICIPANT

*I always leave Sophia's Hearth full of
inspiration and incredibly grateful for the
amazing work you all do.*

SATURDAY WORKSHOP ATTENDEE

*Being a new mom was
intense, and Sophia's
Hearth brought a time for
weekly check-ins, a
support network for
grounding and a place to
share in the new act of
watching and supporting
our new baby become the
person she was meant to be.*

PARENT & CHILD CLASS
ATTENDEE

*You are so mindful and truly strive to
understand each child. We are
sincerely grateful to have our girls in
your compassionate hands when we
cannot be with them.*

FULL TIME CHILDCARE
PROGRAM PARENT

**A GIFT FOR
THE NEXT GENERATIONS**

OUR DEDICATION is to foster local and international collaborations for early childhood awareness. Our preparation is for the next generation through thoughtful insights around the most important chapter of the human journey. Our social cause is to protect and maintain the formative years of early childhood for the preservation of humanity.

Sophia's Hearth holds the seed for the development of social change.

We illustrate what early childhood must be in order for the values we hold dear to grow and bear fruit. Only together, in our hearts, will we have the resources to nurture the value of early childhood and the possibility for total self development.

This is our gift for the generations to come.



THE VISION FOR SOPHIA'S HEARTH FAMILY CENTER

Our campaign goal is to raise \$1,685,000.

These funds will enlarge our facility, create the Longevity Fund endowment with bridge funding and establish scholarships for professional students.

Your support is urgently needed to meet this challenging goal.

For more information, please call Susan Weber, Executive Director: 603.357.3755

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Our name is taken from two ancient images.

The first is Sophia, which means wisdom. The second is the hearth, which has, throughout history, been a place of gathering, protection, warmth and sustenance for the family. In linking these two—wisdom and warmth—we offer our families inspiration in finding the warmth and wisdom that nurtures the heart.

Cover art, *Girl On a Swing*, by Laura Seib

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