



# Brooker Memorial HAPPENINGS

KEEPING OUR FRIENDS INFORMED

MAY 2016

## *From Brooker Dental...*

Dental staff and our families are excited to be settled into our new program space. We have seen more than 5000 patients since August and positive reviews abound! Patients love the openness, the bright and sunny waiting room and colorful treatment areas. Staff have renewed energy as we embrace new technology including digital x-rays and our long awaited panoramic X-ray machine. Nitrous oxide is helping patients

with special needs and those with anxiety during dental visits. We can now provide more comfortable treatment and refer out fewer patients for special care. We are transitioning to a "paperless" office and have begun scanning our more than 10,000 active patient charts. We are so appreciative to all who made this beautiful, modern facility a reality for our community!

## *From the Child Care Center...*

Two of our Early Learning and Child Care Center teachers attended training sessions on the CT Early Learning and Development Standards. These trainings were offered to Brooker staff through our partnership with Education Connection. The Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) were created by the CT Early Childhood Education Cabinet, and are designed as the foundation for supporting early learning. The standards provide a

basis for planning learning environments and individualized support based on each child's growth and development. Teachers who have attended the ELDS trainings will in turn provide information and support to their fellow teachers as we begin to incorporate the new standards into our curriculum. Thanks to the generosity of our community partners, we have new tools to use as we continue our mission to "prepare children for life-long success."

## *Brenda DiCarlo Elected to Brooker's Board*

Brooker Memorial announces the election of Brenda DiCarlo to its Board of Managers. An Accountant for more than 25 years, Brenda holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Central CT State University and an MBA from the University of CT. In 2007, Ms. DiCarlo formed her own company, Insurance Agency

Accounting and Bookkeeping (IAAB). Her company provides bookkeeping services for independent insurance agencies across the country. Brenda is a Certified Insurance Counselor and has been an adjunct instructor teaching Accounting at several of CT's community Colleges. She resides in Harwinton.

**Our  
Garden  
Our  
Children:**



**Growing  
Together**

Brooker Memorial's Early Learning and Child Care Center offers a hands-on approach to learning through its outdoor Little Green Thumbs garden. Young children are active learners, experiencing their world through their senses, physically active play, and from the adults around them. Our garden offers children the experience of gardening and growing healthy foods at an age when life-long habits and taste preferences develop. But nutrition education is only one form of learning that takes place in the garden. Science, math, art, language and literacy all grow in the garden! Whether counting seeds, plants or cherry tomatoes, early math skills begin by sorting, making comparisons of plants by group and naming each one. Experiencing new life through planting, nurturing and harvesting brings children a better understanding of the cycle of life. Our children learn how sunflowers provide seeds for neighborhood birds, how worms amend the soil, and about the need for sunlight and water for all life.

**The Brooker Memorial Mission is "To prepare children for life-long success through education, health services, family support and programs of excellence."**

## Brooker Hosts Seminar

Education Connection's Center for Children's Therapy held a seminar on sensory processing on Friday, May 6th at Brooker. Thirty five parents, educators, healthcare providers and community members attended the three hour program. The seminar was presented by

Kristen M. Powers, MS, OTR/L, a practicing occupational therapist for 25 years who currently serves as Coordinator of Rehabilitative Services at the Center for Independence in Glastonbury. She has lectured internationally on sensory motor issues.

## Leaving a Legacy

Brooker has recently received bequests from two caring and generous individuals. Harriet E. Kelm left a significant share of her Charitable Remainder Trust to Brooker in memory of her grandparents Edgar B. Newbury and Rebecca E. Newbury. Brooker was also the beneficiary of a generous bequest from the estate of Mary Elizabeth Rivera. This gift was made in memory of Mary

Elizabeth Rivera, Catherine Rivera and Edward J. Rivera. The Rivera's home was across the street from Brooker and for many years Betty and Catherine visited our weekly blood pressure clinic. The generosity of these donors will help Brooker continue to meet its mission of "preparing children for life-long success."

## Be a Garden Helper



Members of our newly formed Garden Committee have been working hard on spring clean-up and early planting in the Little Green Thumbs Children's Garden! We are seeking funds for a new fence behind the gardens at the railroad track and for specific plants needed this year. If you would like to be a "Garden Helper" by making a financial contribution, please return your tax-deductible donation in the envelope provided or mail it to Brooker Memorial, 157 Litchfield Street, Torrington, CT 06790. Anyone wishing to volunteer in the garden can contact Judy Hogan, Garden Committee chairperson at [judita.hogan15@gmail.com](mailto:judita.hogan15@gmail.com).

## Second Annual Bottles and Bites for Brooker

A wine, beer and food-tasting to benefit  
Children's Enrichment Programs at Brooker Memorial

Friday, August 12th

6pm-9pm

Torrington Elks

\$25 per person, \$30 at the door

Tickets available at the Brooker Child Care Center,  
the Berkshire Cafe, and Tony's Package Store.

For more information, call 860-489-5437

## Twitter, Blog, Facebook!

Brooker is seeking an experienced volunteer to help with our social media marketing. If interested, please contact Cathy Coyle at 860-489-1328 ext.100.

## Obesity Prevention

Brooker Memorial is a founding member of Fit Together, a local collaborative of agencies serving children and families for the purpose of promoting healthy living. This year, the Northwest CT YMCA, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (CHH) and the Center for Youth and Families ,

together with Brooker, designed a program to prevent childhood obesity. The 7 week pilot, funded by CHH, will be held at Brooker Memorial beginning in June. Groups of children and parents will engage in 90 minute weekly sessions on nutrition and exercise with a focus on social-

emotional factors that support wellness. Children 3-15 years old will be referred by their pediatricians. Parents will be charged a refundable fee. It is hoped that success of the pilot will lead to the course being offered again during the school year.