

Birchtree Community Newsletter



Jessica Guilbeault creates a hairstyle for a client during the a fundraiser hosted by Arvidson Photography.

Community Support

Jessica Squier

On February 8, women and girls from the Seacoast experienced a fashion photo shoot while supporting The Birchtree Center.

Professional photographer Lisa Arvidson was inspired to organize the fundraiser after learning how many local families living with autism were struggling to get the services their children

needed. “Programs like the ones at Birchtree can really make a difference,” she said, “and I wanted to help these families while offering our guests a fun day of beauty.”

Arvidson found willing collaborators in Kristen Gauthier, the co-owner of The Pink Sapphire, a beauty and skincare boutique with stores in Portsmouth and Bedford, and hair stylist Jessica Guilbeault of Hair Colour Concepts salon in Portsmouth. At the event, each guest received a custom make-up application by Gauthier and a hairstyle of her choice created by Guilbeault. Then guests stepped in front of Arvidson’s lens for a twenty-minute photo shoot.

The event attracted participants of all ages—from kindergartners to recent brides to grandmothers—and raised over \$500.

Many generous individuals have contributed to The Birchtree Center this winter. Friends of board member Glicka Kaplan chose to celebrate her birthday by making donations to Birchtree.

In November, a Birchtree parent teamed up with family and friends to raise \$500 during a fundraising yardsale. The Biddeford Eagles provided complimentary use of their facility for the event.

Cider Hill Farm, Federal Savings Bank, Hair Colour Concepts, Hannaford Supermarkets, Liberty Mutual Group, the Portsmouth Health Food Center, and the Gulf stations in Newington and Portsmouth have also made generous contributions this winter.

In January, we received a \$9,800 grant from the N. H. Charitable Foundation - Piscataqua Region to support strategic planning. In April, we received a \$1,250 grant from the Guild at Portsmouth Regional Hospital for our *Student Nutrition Enhancement Program*.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed this year! Without your support, The Birchtree Center could not offer the full range of services children and youth with autism need to prepare for full and productive adulthoods.

I want to support The Birchtree Center!

Name(s) as I/we would like to appear in all acknowledgements: _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____ Telephone _____ Email _____

My/our total gift will be \$ _____, to be paid by check (enclosed) by credit card at birchtreecenter.org.

My/our gift will be matched by (company/foundation): _____

I/we would like to make a stock gift. Please contact me/us. The matching gift form: is enclosed will be forwarded.

I/we wish to remain anonymous. I have included The Birchtree Center in my estate planning.

I do NOT wish to receive The Birchtree Center’s newsletter or information about upcoming events.

Your privacy is important; we will not sell, share, or rent your contact information. The Birchtree Center is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization (EIN 02-0520364); contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. *Thanks for your support!*