



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 14, 2018

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH: Over the past month, NHFAPA has had several requests by relative caregivers to provide some type of financial support. While the requests were determined to not fall into the scope of support currently offered by NHFAPA through the mini-grant program funded through Mattress Firm funds, the requests have raised questions about the definition of “member” and the population served by NHFAPA. In New Hampshire, grandparents and relatives may apply to become foster parents, entitling them to the same level of support through DCYF and in certain cases ISO child placing agencies. When not licensed foster parents, relatives may apply for “relative payee” funds. New Hampshire notoriously underfunds and lacks supports for relative caregivers. Many states’ foster and adoptive parent associations recognize “kith and kin” caregivers as bona-fide caregivers entitled to the same level of support as non-relative caregivers. The subcommittee rewriting the bylaws is seeking guidance from the full board about the definition of member for incorporation in the next iteration of the bylaws.

CLIF GRANT UPDATE: Jen Lamontagne shared the contact information of an individual connected with the Berlin library in efforts to coordinate a foster family literacy event in the North Country. We were awarded the children at-risk grant which includes funds for a special event and \$2,000 in free books for a library. The intent is to hold the event some time in late October or early November to comply with the requirements of the grant.

GUIDESTAR: During this reporting period, it was brought to our attention that a resource worker from Concord DO was sharing the NHFAPA tax ID number. A for-profit company donated backpacks with school supplies to the District Office for the purposes of distribution to children in foster care. The tax id number that was shared was incorrect, and the company donating the researched NHFAPA on a website known as, “GuideStar.” This is public website that tracts data and information on nonprofits, including copies of all tax related forms (create an account at www.guidestar.org). The primary purpose of GuideStar is to provide donors and philanthropists information about the financial workings of a nonprofit to aid in decisions about donations and grants.

The company that researched NHFAPA was quick to point out that the organization does not have a Form 990 published on GuideStar, which is problematic for donor and funders. A Form 990 is the nonprofit corporate equivalent of a Form 1040 for an individual. It reports income and expenses and demonstrates the scope of work being completed by the nonprofit.

NHFAPA has not filed a Form 990 in many years, and this is perfectly acceptable with the IRS as the organization does not meet the financial threshold (we haven’t had enough income to require a Form 990). Without a Form 990 or at least some sort of financial statement, NHFAPA will not be in position to secure any substantial grant monies because by and large all grant requests must include this documentation. The lack of financial statements/Form 990 prohibited NHFAPA from registering the NH Nonprofit mini-grant portal, meaning we are unable to apply for grant funding from that source.

Completing a Form 990 is typically the task of an accountant as it's far more complex than a personal income tax form. Form 990s are due annually to the IRS by May 15th and many nonprofits have their accountant prepare financial statements by conducting financial audits. Such an audit can be expensive, ranging from a few thousand dollars to more than \$10,000 if the financials are complex. With the current budget of NHFAPA, a Form 990 would be the best place to start to increase the opportunities to secure diverse funding.

STAKEHOLDERS- GOLF TOURNAMENT: The 2nd Annual Golf Tournament, "Send a Foster Kid to Camp" was held on Monday, July 16th at Lochmere Country Club in Tilton. Golfers in attendance decreased by nearly 30% over the previous year, with 41 golfers attending. Raffle prizes were plentiful, and many participants remarked on the quantity and caliber of prizes being better than the average tournament. Linda Deneau spear-headed the event again this year, and this year a Gold Level Sponsor, Mount Prospect, paid \$5,000 to support the event.

Linda attempted to garner support from the individuals at Lochmere to secure additional golfers but was unsuccessful. Members of the golf tournament committee were equally unsuccessful at enticing participants. Part of the struggle was the delay in having printed material available. Mattress Firm had originally agreed to send teams, donate a queen size mattress set, and advertise the event in their New Hampshire stores. They repeatedly requested posters, which were not available until mid-June. The delay was due to DCYF utilizing the State's printer and depended on another state employee to do the graphic design. Questions were generated about whether the date and time worked for golfers and if another golf course might be more helpful in promoting the event.

As this is an opportunity to be a signature event for NHFAPA, it would be advantageous to become more involved in the event and, in a sense, take it over and out of DCYF's hands. Linda Deneau agrees and recognizes the challenges with having DCYF involved in such a fundraising event. NHFAPA should consider assuming the lead role for next year's event and begin planning by researching various golf courses and selecting a location before the end of the year. A "Golf Tournament" committee could be formed and perhaps look to the general membership for volunteers.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: During the golf tournament, a representative from Red Arrow Diner approached NHFAPA regarding the opportunity to connect with state-wide businesses to receive funds through the legalized KENO gaming in New Hampshire. According to this individual, businesses "adopt" various nonprofits to be the recipients of proceeds from KENO games. Our understanding is the business submits the "charity" to the State of New Hampshire as the beneficiary of the gaming through a certain period of time, the proceeds are collected and then distributed to the nonprofit with no out-of-pocket costs to the nonprofit. This practice is legal and recognized by many nonprofits as a method to secure discretionary (unrestricted) funds. The board would need to review all the details and decide whether this would be an appropriate method to raise additional funds.

ADOPTION EXCHANGE: Eileen Mullen and Karen Savage will be joining us at our meeting to discuss the new Granite State Adoption Resource Exchange portal. This resource was created in partnership with Adoptive Families for Children Foundation and provides support for families adopting children from the foster care system. Children awaiting a forever family will be featured on the website as will episodes of WMUR's, "Home at Last." Board members can take a look at the website at <https://birdeasepro.com/adoptnh/>. NHFAPA has been asked to include this link on the NHFAPA website.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbie Gaudette

Executive Director

New Hampshire Foster and Adoptive Parent Association