

"Love is one of the most important gifts that you can ever give a child. Love is what shows a child that you care. I personally didn't get the love I needed in my home, so I went elsewhere ... I don't want that for my kids so I show them all the love I have." S., current Julie's participant



2016 Spring Update and Summer Outlook

See how you can help Julie's this summer.



Announcing Camp Julie's!

Our annual summer camp begins in July and runs for 6 weeks for our families and we need your help!

As we begin our summer session we ask for help funding summer opportunities for our families here. Please consider contributing to a trip to the swan boats, a ride on the carousel, ice cream cones, a rainy day trip to the movies or a museum, a sunny day trip to one of the Harbor Islands, a South Boston Farmer's Market experience, even items like sunscreen, bubbles, chalk, water shoes and sun hats for the children. *For so many of us, these are everyday excursions and items, but they can be unattainable for our marginalized families without your help.*

According to a study published by Johns Hopkins University, *over the summer, low income youth lose more than two months in reading achievement, despite the fact that middle class peers make slight gains.* At Julie's, consistently,

year after year, children who graduate from our Montessori program enter first grade reading above grade level according to the Scholastic School Readiness Test. We have seen that children who graduate from our program are frequently the first in the family to graduate high school, with many going on to college and a more secure future. Since 1974, we have been able to make positive changes for families in Boston, as the first rung on the ladder for many families who had nowhere else to turn.

We thank you for your support and generosity. Have a healthy and happy summer.



[Donate to Camp Julie's!](#)

Montessori meets Mayor Walsh!

Julie's Montessori kids and their teachers traveled to M Street Park for the Mayor's Coffee Hour. The kids got lots of high fives from the Mayor of Boston and their photos in local papers!



Here's what Adult and Children's Services have been up to this Spring!

- *Big Apple Circus donated tickets and 40 women and children were able to enjoy a day out!*
- *2 women were accepted to Bunker Hill Community College and will start in the fall.*
- *Cooking Matters helps families to shop for and cook healthy meals on a budget, as part of Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign. Julie's adult learners participated twice in May as part of our Life Skills Curriculum.*
- *The Read and Rise program provides families with hands-on strategies for building literacy at home, reinforces the fact that parents are their child's first and most important teacher, and builds text-rich environments at home by providing take-home books and other parent resources for families who participate in the program. The program was here 3 times in April and May.*
- *6 children are graduating from Montessori this Spring and moving on to the First Grade in the fall.*
- *The children are watching their caterpillars transform into butterflies. Currently they are in the chrysalis form in their "Butterfly Bungalow" in Montessori. The butterfly release is tentatively scheduled for May 23rd, depending on weather and the butterflies, of course!*
- *Adult learners went on a retreat to Cohasset for a day of reflection by the sea.*
- *3 women from Julie's had photography displayed at an art show at Emmanuel College. A current intern at Julie's from Emmanuel gave the women disposable cameras to capture their view of the world, the end results were quite moving! We will be displaying the photos at Julie's in the future.*
- *Our long awaited quilt project as envisioned by Sr. Louise many years ago is underway! Thank you to artists Kathy Bitetti and Susan Thompson for taking on this project! This program is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, administrated by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture.*
- *Our friends from Liberty Mutual's Serve with Liberty spent a day here getting our grounds ready for Camp Julie's. They cleaned and planted our garden. We are grateful for their efforts!*
- *Women at Julie's published "The Write Stuff" - the literary journal of Julie's Program Members. This was our 124th volume! Women wrote about Mom Moments, What Our Children Need, and Hard Work Pays Off. See below for examples of our adult learners' writing skills!*



"The Write Stuff" Volume 124

"The moment I learned that being a mother is harder and more wonderful than it seems, I still realize I wouldn't change anything about it for the whole world ... watching you grow day by day helps me grow into the mother you deserve."

B., current participant



"The first moment I held you in my arms, I cried for joy. It was a different emotion, like my heart was sinking in love. I just was so thankful that you were so healthy and beautiful and that everything was ok. It was amazing." P., current participant

"I feel like self-esteem is the most important tool for children as well as my own child based on my self-esteem experiences. I had a lot of issues with my image and learning disability. I've come a long way and learned to cope with those issues. I never want her to feel the way I've felt so I give my daughter positive affirmations daily to remind her how beautiful, amazing and smart she is in hopes that she will always keep that in mind." J., current participant

"Children need to feel accomplished, to feel like they just won the Super Bowl, and all it takes is a few words of praise to recognize them. Giving praise not only puts a smile on your child's face, but yours as well, especially once you see your child light up with excitement when praised." B., current participant

"Growing up is hard, and I want my children to enjoy their childhood as much as possible and not to be afraid to make mistakes and learn from them. Our children look up to us and feed off our energy and teachings. I want to make sure that both my energy and my teaching is positive so that they will have the best experience they can have." Y., current participant

" Since I went back to school ... I feel like I have become a better mom. I think it's good for my daughter to see me working hard at school ... I have started to become more organized, punctual, less bored ... C., current participant

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