

10 YEARS

Keene Housing KIDS COLLABORATIVE

Building a Foundation for Successful Adulthood



We're thrilled to introduce our 2025 Board Officers—a dynamic team dedicated to helping kids in our community build bright futures!

Chair: **Joanna Zambella**,
Owner, JZ Consulting Agency
Vice Chair: **Ben White**,
Assistant Superintendent, SAU29
Treasurer: **Saira Bacon**,
Co-Owner, Bacon & Alexander
Secretary: **Amy White**,
Director of Administration, Keene Housing

These incredible leaders bring passion, expertise, and a shared commitment to creating opportunities for kids to learn, grow, and thrive. Join us in welcoming and thanking them for their service!



We also welcomed five new Board Members to Keene Housing Kids Collaborative! Each of them brings unique expertise, passion, and dedication to our mission of helping kids in housing overcome opportunity gaps and build brighter futures.

Please join us in welcoming:

Patrick Dolenc:
Professor of Economics, Keene State College
Jillian Exel:
Realtor, BH&G The Masiello Group
Cheryl Belair:
President, The Insurance Source
Mick Blume:
Director of Development & Community Impact,
Keene Family YMCA
Amy Wright:
Director of Administration, Keene Housing

BUILDING FUTURES FAMILY NETWORK

Keene Housing Kids Collaborative

Introducing the Building Futures Family Network

We are excited to launch the Building Futures Family Network, a new initiative designed to elevate the voices of parents and guardians in shaping the programs and opportunities we provide for their children. Families are at the heart of everything we do at Keene Housing Kids Collaborative, and this network ensures that their experiences, insights, and needs directly inform our work. By gathering quarterly, parents and guardians from across Keene Housing properties, Southwestern Community Services properties, and Housing Choice Voucher households will have a dedicated space to share their perspectives, offer feedback, and help guide our efforts. This initiative strengthens our commitment to collaboration, ensuring that the families we serve are not just participants but true partners in building brighter futures for their children.

Here is what one of our parents shared about this opportunity: "I am really passionate about the ways in which programs like KHKC can positively influence the lives of children living in lower income households. I have already seen the positive impact on my own child. I am also well acquainted with the barriers of access for many families due to my own experiences and those that I have had in both my current and previous jobs. I am really excited about the idea of being a voice for families and the children being served. And I love planning and collaboration."

TERESA STARKEY TUTORING

AFTER SCHOOL READING PROGRAM

FOR AGES 5 - 8

Small group and one-to-one reading support led by a certified reading and writing specialist

Join us at North and Gilsum Street Family Activity Center every Tuesday and Wednesday, January 7 through March 19, from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Program Includes:

- Snacks
- Skills-Based Support
- Games and Activities

Space limited to 18 children
Minimum of 5 students to hold program.

email: info@khkc.org for more information or call 603.352.0109

SCAN QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION FORM

FREE TO KIDS COLLABORATIVE FAMILIES



Community Partner Spotlight: Teresa Starkey Afterschool Reading Program

Bridging the Literacy Gap: A New Reading Program for Young Learners

At the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative, we know that reading proficiency by third grade is a critical milestone for long-term academic success. Yet, for many of the children we serve, transportation challenges and limited access to high-quality literacy support make this goal harder to achieve.

That's why we have partnered with Teresa Starkey to launch a new After-School Reading Program, bringing expert literacy instruction directly to where kids live. With small group sessions, this initiative ensures our youngest learners get the personalized support they need to build strong reading foundations—without the barrier of transportation.

Meet Teresa Starkey: A Passionate Educator with 40 Years of Experience

We are incredibly fortunate to have Teresa Starkey leading this program. With over four decades of experience working with students of all ages, Teresa is a certified elementary educator and a reading and writing specialist. Her approach is rooted in creating a supportive and encouraging space where children can grow in confidence and skill. "My goal is to meet each child where they are and help them unlock the joy and power of reading. By building a strong foundation early, we are opening doors to lifelong learning," says Teresa.

Why This Program Matters

The ability to read at grade level by third grade is a key predictor of future academic success, and yet, many children in low-income households fall behind due to fewer early learning opportunities. Through this program, students will:

- ☐ Strengthen phonics and decoding skills
- ☐ Build fluency and comprehension
- ☐ Develop confidence and a love for reading
- ☐ Gain critical thinking and writing skills

Recently Jen Ward and Mackinley visited Teresa Starkey's After School Reading Program! They read *Willow the Therapy Dog* and *Murray's Miraculous Mission*, and we discussed how to prepare for a visit from a therapy dog. Our kiddos read a book to Mac and then I read two books - about dogs, of course! We were so glad that Mac and Jen could visit us and we hope to have them visit us more in the future.

How did you like this email?



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