

## Community Partnerships Keep Students Learning Long After the Final Bell

When the doors of the Milton Elementary School auditorium open at 4:00 p.m., the excitement of the kids who come trooping in in a mix of shorts and winter coats is matched by the anticipation of the adults who are about to lead their afterschool activities. “Today we’re going to start with Act II, the scene where the villagers are very excited to be in the presence of the king!” says Mark Stanzilis, a Cape Henlopen School District paraprofessional with a background in theater and music. The students are rapt, scripts in hand, eyes on their director, ready to take their place in the drama.

Stanzilis is part of a team offering afterschool programming at Friends at Milton Elementary (FAME) on Wednesdays. With him are CBH AmeriCorps service members Libby Hobson and Paul Seyfert, as well as volunteers from Milton Arts Guild. The collaboration is a new and promising model that connects children and families to a network of community partners and resources.

For the next 90 minutes, these students will learn not just lines and technique, but also the skills of collaboration and the sense of purpose that comes from being a part of something larger than oneself. You can feel the kids getting it:

a sense of energy building among them as the lines pass from one to another. When Stanzilis works with the crew, it’s like he’s imparting a secret knowledge as he shows them how to integrate sound, music, and lights to make the play come alive. “It’s not just the actors who make the show,” he assures them. “It’s everyone who plays a part in it.”

What these students are creating is the combination of teamwork, openness, practice, and perseverance. “It’s about camaraderie,” Stanzilis says as the students are transitioning to their next activity. “It’s about learning to work together and discovering how it comes together in the end. That’s the big goal.”

**Down the hall in the art room,** CBH AmeriCorps service members Libby Hobson and Paul Seyfert help the kids make props and scenery. “The thing



about clay is that you have to keep it moving,” Hobson cautions in what could double as a good prescription for life in general. “If you let it sit, it will dry out and get stiff.”

The students get to work, laughing when the clay gets too floppy and they have to start over. “I’ve never seen a perfect carrot,” Seyfert reassures one student who is less than satisfied with her first attempt. Clay is a terrific medium for teaching children that there’s no shame in starting again;

*continued on page 2*



**CBH MISSION STATEMENT** The mission of Children’s Beach House is to improve the lives of children, youth, families, and communities by helping them to identify, understand and utilize their own strengths, talents, and resources.

## FOUNDERS' CIRCLE

Mike & Sherry Hogan  
Chad & Elyse Moore  
Michael Paese & Blake Kimbrough  
Thomas Sheridan & Vincent Walsh  
Trudie Thompson &  
the Mildred & Ray Thompson Fund

## BEACON SOCIETY

Nick & Stephanie Adams  
Tjark & Ann Bateman  
Steven & Leisa Berlin  
Doug & Ellen Brinkley  
Daniel Bucci  
Samuel & Mariah Calagione  
Ellison Carey  
Richard & Lynne Carpenter  
William & Marilyn Carpenter  
Susan A. Cassidy  
William & Ann Clair  
Martin & Eileen Clark  
Scott & Kim Connell  
Robert Cogorno & Jeffrey Nelson  
Sean & Jennifer Costello  
Jim & Mary Culley  
Michael & Susan Damiano  
Channing Daniel & Bill Gluth  
Linda & Bart Delaney  
Timothy Dillingham & Donald Corin  
Jonathan & Nancy Ellsworth  
Steven Elmendorf  
Alexandra Ergon  
Don Elsey & Carolyn Smith  
Jim & Karen Falk  
Joseph Filipek & Larry Richardson  
Robert & Linda Fischer  
William Flanagan  
Richard Garrett & Miguel Deleon  
Henry & Susan Gomez  
Lorri & David Grayson  
James Harden & Richard Gottwald  
Lynn Herrick & Rodney Sharp, III  
Rex & Haley Holstein  
Lucinda Issei  
Thomas Jamison & Don Wainwright  
Sallie Jones  
Russell Koerwer & Stephen Schreiber  
Roger Kramer  
Linda & John Kurpuweit  
Robert Land  
Ann Lingo  
John & Carol Lingo  
William & Janice Lingo  
Patricia Burton Loew  
Kim Mason & Sandra Humphrey  
Tom & Jamie McDonald  
Joseph & Carol McGrath  
Susan Moore McJunkin  
Neil and Ellen Meltzer  
Brian & Kathi Mengel  
Brenda Mitchell  
Robert & Beverley Myers  
John Newton & Mowry Spencer  
Anthony Orman  
Richard Perry, Jr.  
Jay Raksin  
Barry Redmond & Janet Reeves  
Dr. & Mrs. Anis Saliba  
John & Michele Schultz  
Shae Searl  
Joseph & Judy Setting  
Daniel Smith & Lorraine Voles  
The Soukup Family  
John & Sharon Stanton  
Pete & Kathy Stoehr  
Dave & Becca Svec  
David Szumski & James Carfagno  
Virginia Terzano  
John Thurman & Joseph Wendolowski  
John & Patrice Tosi  
Shaun & Erica Tull

2

## Community Partnerships, continued from page 1

each new attempt bears the wisdom and the literal fingerprints of the previous.


In the cafeteria, another group of students gathers around watercolors and paper. Their task is to create a pop art-style portrait of their favorite Squishmallow character, based on a model on a smart board at the front of the room. In this activity, students learn to balance vision and flexibility, to go beyond imitation and to put their own personal style into their work.



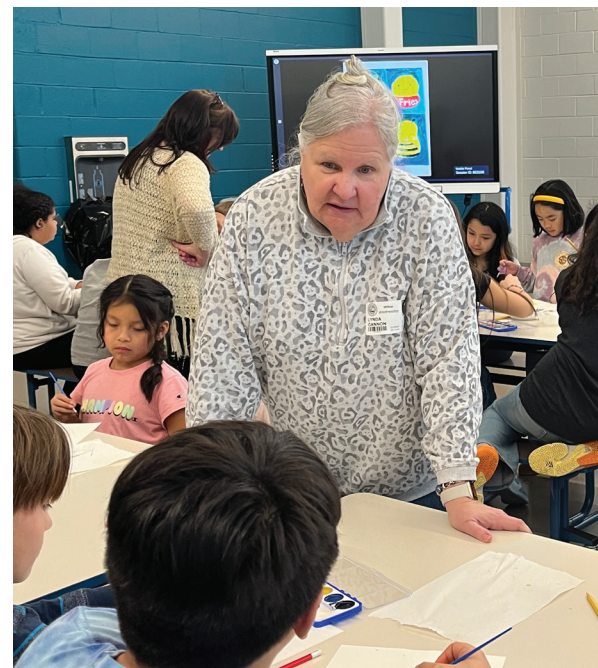
“Your final challenge is this...” Milton Arts Guild Vice President Lynda Rae Gannon says from the front of the room. “If somebody said they wanted to create a Squishmallow character that looked just like you, what would it look like? Paint your Squishmallow selfie!” The buzz crescendos as the ultimate lesson becomes clear: That all artistic expression, including imitating the models of those before us, is about self-expression. We are the final product of all the work of our lives. Every “mistake” is an opportunity for learning; every “imperfection” is just a variation that reflects our individuality. The goal, in this afterschool program and beyond, is not to produce something that is “perfect,” but to create something delightful and original, and to build meaningful relationships along the way.

On April 24, FAME will host its student showcase, where all this work — the portraits and the props and the performance — will be on display for parents and the community to see.

What the public won't see, but may perhaps feel if they're attuned to it, is the joy and vision and friendships behind the final products. This is the work that Children's Beach House believes in and excels at. The success of this community collaboration model has revealed the potential for expanded impact, and so CBH has applied for two 21st Century Community Learning Center (CLCC) grants that will fund FAME, as well as the new EmpowerED Milton Futures afterschool program across town at H. O. Brittingham Elementary School, for the 2024-2025 school year. “Dependable afterschool and summer programming is an essential part of positive outcomes for children, families, and communities,” says CBH Executive Director Rich Garrett. “The children of Milton are at the heart of how we show up as an organization here and across the state. We can't wait to realize the next phase of this partnership!”

CBH's 21st CCLC grant application is available for public review at 1800 Bay Avenue in Lewes. Interested parties may request to read it by calling 302-645-9184. 

JOIN THE WORK  
WITH A DONATION:  
[cbbhinc.org/Milton](https://cbbhinc.org/Milton)





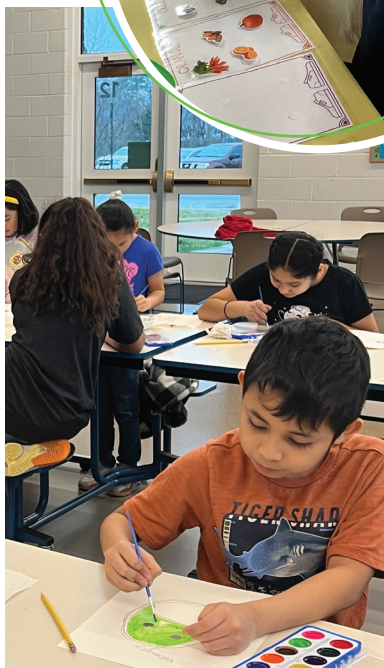
# A Love of Reading Leads to a Lifetime of Learning

By 5:30 p.m. on most Tuesdays, the Beach House is quieting down as a few families pick up the remaining students from the Child Development Center. But at 5:30 last Tuesday, things were just picking up, as CDC teachers, students, and family members prepared for the Beach House's first Family Literacy Night. The event was offered as part of a recent grant award from the Delaware Stars for Early Success program. The goal, says CDC head teacher Kenna Chanoux, was to provide each child with a copy of every featured book, along with activities that would reinforce the learning and the joy of reading.

Even before children learn how to combine letters into words and sentences, parents can kindle a love of reading. "Reading aloud with young children can enrich parent-child interactions and relationships," advises the American Academy of Pediatrics, "which enhances children's social-emotional development while building brain circuits to prepare children to learn language and early literacy skills."

As part of the Literacy Night, preschool students, along with their siblings and parents, interacted with storyboards designed to bring the stories they'd read to life. Community partners, including Read Aloud Delaware and Lewes Public Library, offered games, crafts, and information about other opportunities to keep kids excited about reading. The collaboration is an example of the Beach House's commitment to children, families, and communities, with the understanding that the health of each depends upon the strength of all.

**CBH's next community event will be the Safety Education Enrichment for Kids (SEEK) event at Lewes Elementary School, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 23. Expect fun and information from partners like the YMCA, 4-H, La Red Health Center, and local law enforcement, as well as excellent food truck options, entertainment, and an Easter egg hunt!**



## CHILDREN'S BEACH HOUSE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thomas F. Sheridan  
*President*

Mary M. Culley, Esq.  
*Vice President*

Mike J. Hogan  
*Treasurer*

Paula S. Janssen  
*Secretary*

Ellison M. Carey  
Hon. William C. Carpenter  
Karen B. Falk  
Linda M. Fischer  
Alexis Gahagan  
Sarah I. Gore  
Lorrie H. Grayson  
Jean T. Hitchens  
Ilona E. Holland, Ed. D.  
Mark R. Hutton  
D. Preston Lee, Jr.  
Thomas P. McDonald  
Constance Marshall Miller  
Elyse F. Moore  
Bernadette Polinski  
John Schultz, Esq.  
Stacy Shamburger  
David A. White, Esq.

**HURRY!**  
Space is limited!



**charity GOLF EVENT**  
to benefit Children's Beach House



**just do it for our kids!**

**Monday  
May 20, 2024**

at The Peninsula on the Indian River Bay  
32981 Peninsula Esplanade, Millsboro, DE

Scan the QR code or visit [cbhinc.org/golf](http://cbhinc.org/golf) to register or become a Sponsor!



# Children's Beach House



Children · Families · Communities

1800 Bay Avenue | Lewes, DE. 19958

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
NEWARK DE  
PERMIT # 109

## From the Executive Director

When people talk about Children's Beach House, they often focus (rightly) on the ways we make safe spaces for all kinds of kids to find themselves and their way in the world. Or they focus on how we help families to identify, hone, and leverage their own strengths to reach the goals they set for themselves. But what sometimes gets left out is how CBH shows up as partners with the community itself. We believe that strong communities aren't just a byproduct of healthy kids and families; we believe strong communities *contribute* to healthy kids and families. In our spring newsletter, you'll read how CBH is showing up in schools and parks and more, alongside volunteers and teachers and artists and anyone else who wants to be part of our — *all of our* — success. We hope you'll consider joining us in some capacity. (You'll find an opportunity inside!) We all have so much to share.



With gratitude,

Richard T. Garrett  
Executive Director

4

Visit us on  
our website:



Visit us on  
Facebook:



**Children's Beach House honors the memories of the following people whose families and friends made gifts to support our work in their names:**

Kay Burkhardt	Rosemary E. Metzger
Peter E. Carter	Fred Neumann
Mary N. Galbraith	Rita Petrie
Dr. Gregory Greene	Marion T. Pucci
Mary Helms	Ernie Sando
Mee Mee & Pop Pop Hendrick	Donna Shank
Jerry Ingley	Edith Sittig
Joseph C. Kelly	Harold L. Springer III
Derrick O. Lingo	Phillip J. Stephenson
Gail W. McDermott	Watson W. Wise

**Children's Beach House gratefully acknowledges gifts to support our work made in honor of:**

Brandie  
Ellison Carey  
CBH children & staff 1978-1986  
CBH's 2023 Superstars in Business award  
Lauren Cooksey & Matt Meyer's wedding  
Adam & Lily DePasquale  
Alice Goetz  
Carl Grimm  
Tom Jamison & Don Wainwright  
Dominic Pandolfino  
Thomas H. Price, IV  
John & Michele Schultz 2024 Beachapalooza  
Ellen Shannon  
Dr. Henry Stroud  
Logan Styer-Connors