

## In farewell

It is with sadness that I share my ending partnership with the Family Network Program that I helped start in 1998. The growth and development of the program from its inception has been very rewarding and satisfying for me, as I watch infants and toddlers growing up into individuals with great potential. The commitment to your children, your striving to become more effective parents has from the beginning been an inspiration to me, and I thank you for taking advantage of our events and activities. The support and advice from the many dedicated parent council members throughout provided me with the assurance that the needs of the families were being addressed as much as we possibly could within the ever diminishing state funding. The generous Kittredge Foundation funding (bi-yearly) since 2003 enabled us to continue existing and offer new programs and events, and the New Salem Academy, the local Cultural Council, and financial collaboration with Union #28 Community Partnerships for Children (CPC), all contributed to the richness of The Family Network Program.

The Department of Early Education and Care for FY 2010 strongly recommended that Family Network and CPC consolidate into one program which we are in the process of doing with the help of the newly formed Council (members from both councils). The only way to continue offering meaningful services to families and children in the future was to combine with CPC as the MFN State Budget has been reduced so drastically that it could not longer stand alone. Therefore, I leave the program into the capable hands of Gillian Budine, the coordinator for the newly consolidated program called "Community Network" for Children, Families and Providers living in Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell. Gillian helped me start the FN in 1998 and is currently the CPC Coordinator.

Please do not hesitate to contact her at [Budine@erving.com](mailto:Budine@erving.com) or 413-423-3180 for any question or concerns you may have.

I will be working until the end of June. Thank you for sharing your family with me. It has been a heart-filling experience, being the Family Network coordinator these past years, and has helped me grow as a person. I look forward to seeing your family in future happenings.