



The Dewey School

# ANNUAL REPORT

- 2022 / 2023 -



## Mission

The Dewey School offers early learning rooted in play and the exploration of nature.



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear friends of The Dewey School,

The Dewey School first opened its doors in the Summer of 2019. During the first school year, the complicated and demanding challenges of such a bold venture were dramatically intricated by a national epidemic and the closure and protocol hurdles that followed. Fortunately, due to the dedication of so many people who love what The Dewey School represents, the school was able to weather the storm and remain the brilliant nature-based beacon it had become. That said, despite federal ARPA funding, generous donations from the community, and a long waiting list of families anxious to join the Dewey community, going into 2022, the financial health of the school had deteriorated to a point where the school's future had come into question.

Once again, the Dewey School found itself faced with a hefty challenge, and once again, the Dewey community came together. Alexis Matthews-Cheney, a teacher at The Dewey School, stepped into the role of interim Director. The Board, and Alexis, did a fine job outlining several options to help improve the school's financial well-being, and worked together to implement those plans. As the 2022-2023 school year progressed, Alexis and her newly hired administrator, Sara Gow, worked tirelessly to streamline a multitude of processes and procedures, as well as identify areas where expenses could be trimmed. The result of all those efforts was the creation of a financially sound future and established procedures for operating the school in a sensible, practical manner.

Ahead of the 2023-2024 school year, it was an easy decision to invite Alexis to assume the role of our new Executive Director. Our teachers, Board members, and parents have all worked together and The Dewey School is in great shape as we look forward to what the future might hold. I want to pass along my sincere thanks to everyone, past and present, who have been involved with our school, including volunteers and donors. I am honored to be a part of such a special community.

James Marino  
Board Chair  
The Dewey School

# ABOUT US

The Dewey School, at the historic Canterbury Shaker Village, provides a dynamic, developmentally appropriate, early learning environment for children ages 3-6 years from September - June. Inspired, in part, by the philosophy of Loris Malaguzzi and the schools of Reggio Emilia, we view children as creative, competent, and capable. We believe that our school should be a reflection of our community, its values, and valuable connections that it has to offer our children. We believe in the spirit of the child; the inquisitive, joyous desire to experience the world around them. Aptly located, The Dewey School offers the possibility of a unique and reciprocating partnership between a museum/National Historic Landmark and a nature-based early learning environment. In keeping with the mission of the Canterbury Shaker Village, The Dewey School will provide a place for learning, reflection, and renewal of the human spirit.



## Board of Directors

James Marino, Chair

Cheryl Newcombe, Treasurer

Kelly Stonebraker, Secretary

Bill Tappan, Governance

Brian Bernard, Development  
Committee

Monica Busch, Development  
Committee

## Student Stats

Registered Children: 34

Avg. Daily Attendance: 22

Military C.A.R.E. Assistance Recipients: 1

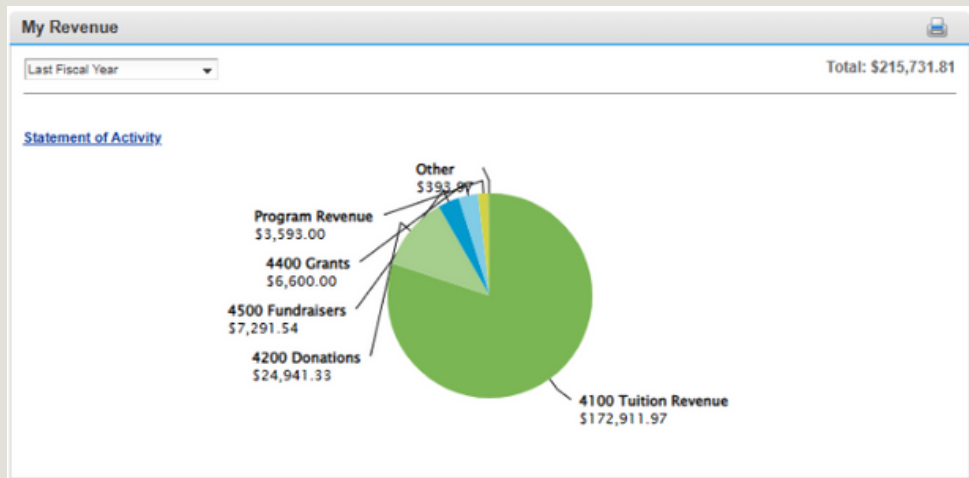
Financial Scholarship Recipients: 1

Towns of Residence: Belmont, Boscawen, Bow, Canterbury, Chichester,  
Concord, Gilmanton, Loudon, Pembroke

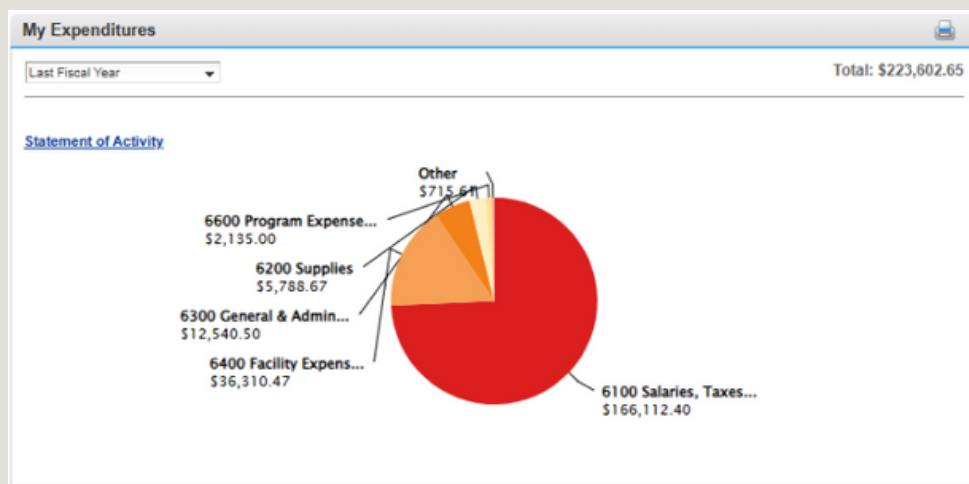
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



CDQI Grants made up approximately \$6,600 of total revenue in 2022/2023. These grants provided the ability to increase hourly pay for full time teachers in addition to retention bonuses, eliminating staff turnover and creating stability during uncertain times. An additional \$19,000 in revenue was from private donations (\$4000 of which was earmarked for teacher health and wellness) and \$10,000 from fundraising. Tuition fees remained the same for the 2022/2023 school year, however a revaluation was conducted to assess if tuition was in line with other early childhood development providers in the surrounding areas.



The Dewey School regularly evaluates where expenses and overhead can be reduced/minimized. Second to salaries, the facility at the Canterbury Shaker Village is the largest expense. However, this location is fundamental to the principles and practices of the school. We continue to seek out grants and funding that cover overhead. In 2022/2023 bookkeeping and payroll were brought in house through the creation of a part-time administrative assistant position, resulting in an annual savings of \$4500 and improved financial transparency.





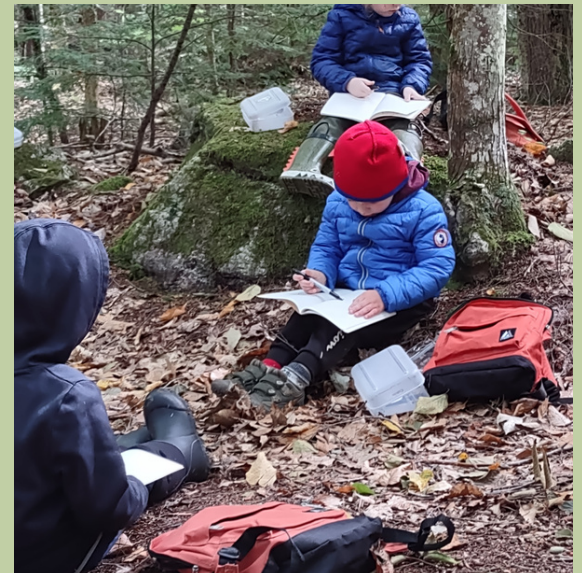
## Thank you to all of our Corporate Sponsors and Top Donors from 2022/23

Grappone Automotive Group	General Donation	\$	15,000.00
Amanda Osmer	General Donation	\$	4,400.00
William Tappan	Giving Tuesday 2022	\$	519.52
Grappone Group	NH Gives 2022	\$	500.00
Walter Beltramo	NH Gives 2022	\$	400.00
Matthews Equipment Co	Giving Tuesday 2022	\$	259.92
Pamela Cole	Giving Tuesday 2022	\$	259.92
Pamela Cole	NH Gives 2022	\$	250.00
Paul Hrycuna	NH Gives 2022	\$	250.00
Sara Blackman	NH Gives 2022	\$	200.00
Rebecca Plue	NH Gives 2022	\$	150.00
Sara Gow	NH Gives 2022	\$	150.00
Amanda Osmer	Giving Tuesday 2022	\$	104.15
Cindi Gow	Giving Tuesday 2022	\$	104.15
Gerri Harvey	Giving Tuesday 2022	\$	104.15
Mike & Janice Lakowicz	Giving Tuesday 2022	\$	104.15
Sara Gow	Giving Tuesday 2022	\$	100.70
Abhijit Nobis	NH Gives 2022	\$	100.00
Beverly Grappone	NH Gives 2022	\$	100.00
Brian Bernard	NH Gives 2022	\$	100.00
Donnalee Lozeau	NH Gives 2022	\$	100.00
Geraldine Harvey	NH Gives 2022	\$	100.00
Heidi Morley	NH Gives 2022	\$	100.00
James Valz	NH Gives 2022	\$	100.00
John Scheinman	NH Gives 2022	\$	100.00
Katlain Fountain	NH Gives 2022	\$	100.00
Monica Bush	NH Gives 2022	\$	100.00
Robert Barber	Giving Tuesday 2022	\$	100.00
Alea Minery	NH Gives 2022	\$	50.00
Lisa Ranfos	NH Gives 2022	\$	50.00
Sandra Turturro	Fairy Festival 2023	\$	50.00
Amanda Kaulbach	Fairy Festival 2023	\$	5.00



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Fundraising Events i.e. Giving Tuesday, NH Gives & Fairy Festival raised **\$4700**
- **96%** of ALL FUNDRAISING money goes toward programming and the expansion of the Visiting Artists programs.
- Parent Workshops with Dr. Pamela Herring ND, DHANP and ROOTS Therapeutic Services .
- Community Events including Scarecrow Soiree, Fairy Festival, Art Exhibition reinforced the Dewey Schools Community values.
- Professional Development Trainings, Project WILD.
- Increased enrollment and waitlist students.
- Reduced overhead and increased financial transparency.
- Approval to accept Military Fee Assistance.



“The Dewey School is a place where my daughter has thrived emotionally, physically, and cognitively over the past year and a half. The teachers are warm and care about each individual student as well as their family. They see each child through a strengths-based lens while being attuned to individual areas for growth. As a mom, The Dewey School feels nurturing, cozy, and safe for my kids. As a child psychologist, The Dewey School offers an enriching curriculum stemming far beyond cognitive growth, recognizing the need for body-based movement, connection to nature, and a focus on play throughout the early developmental years. The Dewey School is my top choice in preschools for my kids.” - Rebecca Plue





“The Dewey School was a wonderful experience for our son. Dewey consistently provided a safe positive learning culture through exploration and forming and asking good questions initiate self-learning. Being on the Shaker Village campus creates an experience unlike any other with fields, Meadows, ponds, animals and gardens to explore with clear rules and expectations from the teachers. I can't remember hearing a story about a single bad day while enrolled. Reggio based education works, and we couldn't be happier sending him, His experience has shaped our son's life and he still uses phrases and learning strategies to this day.” -Poirier Family







“The Dewey School has welcomed both of our children into its amazing world to grow and dream. It's remarkable to see an organization like this foster young minds with such passion and compassion. You know they are doing something right when your child can't wait to join their teachers and friends on the other side of the doorway without hesitation each morning. Although one of our children has moved on from Dewey they can't wait to revisit with excitement. If you're at all on the fence about nature-based learning it's worth exploring to see if your child is the right fit.” - Ben and Lauren Barr





## GOALS FOR 2023-2024

- Continued professional development for staff.
- Reinforce the Dewey Mission to be diverse and inclusive through the expansion of demographic and socioeconomic areas.
- Set and achieve the highest standards for early childhood education in an outdoor environment.
- Strengthen donor base with intention to strengthen sustainability.