

# THE PROVIDER

New Jersey Family Child Care Providers' Association  
"Professionals at the Heart of Child Care"

March 2009

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR INCOMING PRESIDENT... (Jan. 17,2009) – MICHELLE S. MELGAREJO

Good morning, my name is Michelle Melgarejo, the new incoming President of the NJFCCPA. I am looking forward to working with Tan Coelho over the next couple of years and learning from her expertise; as the former NJFCCPA President. It will be an honor to take over this position and it is going to be hard to fill Tan's BIG shoes!! Tan has done so much for the NJFCCPA. I have learned so much from her in such a short time. I am looking forward to attending meetings, and being an advocate for our association. As the new voice of the NJFCCPA. I will continue working as diligently as Tan has for NJFCCPA.

I would like to take a moment to thank Tan for all of her patience, time and Mentorship. As well as thanking all of you, as family child care providers and NJFCCPA members. Remember, the greater our numbers, the stronger our voice!!

Michelle S. Melgarejo  
Incoming President

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT (1-17-09) - TAN COELHO



It's remarkable to stand in front of you all and realize that I've had the honor of being president of NJFCCPA for four years. It has been a great experience working with our Board members. I read recently a quote by John Corzine who said: "Together we tried to strike a balance between the challenges we faced and the optimism of better days ahead." I think we succeeded in that balance. For this last message as your president, I'm going to talk about how we can build on our past accomplishments for the future.

Raising awareness is important. The community needs to know about family child care providers. New Jersey actually has a Provider Appreciation Day. It's the Friday before

Mother's day- which is very appropriate. Tina Foley and I came up with the idea of putting out a press release to our local papers, reminding them of this day. We got some great press coverage, even a feature story on me. All I was doing was my job - nothing special - but many people don't even know what family child care means and this is a chance to change that impression. I'd encourage all of you to go to the website and see the press release and send it out to your local papers. We need to be our own goodwill ambassadors.

Another significant change has been the work that Tina and I did on reducing the cost of liability insurance. We have Mazey Reed & Brey to thank for their cooperation. As I told them "We may have a Cadillac of a policy, but not everyone can afford a Cadillac". We now have an affordable liability insurance rate. I sincerely hope that all providers avail of this insurance. It is risky to run our business without insurance.

One of the most important things I've realized doing this work is the necessity of partnerships of all kinds. Research shows that providers that network with their peers, stay in business longer and have a lesser "burn out" rate." All partnerships strengthen us- individually and as an association.

So a few years ago, I approached the Resource and Referral Agencies to partner with us. After all, our goals are the same-to provide high quality care to the children of New Jersey. All 21 Counties signed the Partnership Agreement and I am confident this partnership will stay strong.

One of the biggest and brightest steps we took was partnering with many like minded organizations for an annual affordable family child care conference. A big thanks to our partners who donated funds to make this possible: Professional Impact NJ, NJACCRA- New Jersey Association of Child Care Referral Agency, FCCONJ- Family Child Care Organization of NJ and NJFCCPA's sister association - EAFCC, Educational Association of Family Child Care, Inc.

That first year of the conference, Jeff Johnson, the Keynote Speaker was really amazed to see how so many groups had pooled their resources together. He used to carry our conference catalog to other state conferences as an example of how a successful partnership and outreach effort.

We're getting ready for our third conference this year. Every year, it has become a more remarkable event, more successful with higher attendance. I am sure this will continue to

increase. Look for the brochure to arrive from your R&R in March.

The date is April 4 at the Crowne Plaza off the Turnpike, Exit 8A. There'll be vendors, great workshops with certificates awarded, and many door prizes. And when I say many, I mean, MANY...a lot, tons, heaps...

And the final feather in our caps is becoming an affiliate of NAFCC. To be part of the national association of family childcare providers is to strengthen our position both state-wise and nationally. You now have a chance to be a member of NAFCC which is doing wonderful advocacy on our behalf. At their conferences, you meet providers from all over the country. Every time, I attend, it's an eye opener. This year, their conference is in Baltimore in June. Go to the website: [www.NAFCC.org](http://www.NAFCC.org) for more information. By the way, if you become a member of both NJFCCPA and NAFCC, you get a discount on the total membership fee.

These two terms have been hard work that I've enjoyed. I love what I do and I give my best to all my efforts. I've spoken many times before about the joys of leadership - and I'll say it again. When you become a leader in one part of your life, it transfers to all parts of your life. When you take up a cause and give your best effort to it, it gives back to you. Leadership is not just about leading - it's about giving and sharing. Very often, we don't know what we're capable of - but others around us recognize our potential. This is what happened when Tina nominated me for President for the first time.

And I am sure this is what will happen for Michelle Melgarejo whom I have nominated for the next president of NJFCCPA. I have full confidence in her. So thank you - for listening, for helping, for working together.



January 17, 2009 Board Meeting



### NJFCCPA Somerset County Chapter

Somerset County is off and running! A new year, a fresh start, a different point of view. Looking Ahead: January meeting of the overall chapter goals for the upcoming year and craft exchange. March 7th Pediatric CPR/First Aid Certification Course.

Lets look at the year's end and review meetings that were held: END OF SUMMER SIZZLE: What can't be accomplished over horsdevoirs and dessert? A wonderful way to wrap up the summer and plan for fall. HAUNTED HAPPENINGS: A call upon our members to help out and have some spooky, kooky fun. We discussed and decorated our plastic products for the upcoming Somerville Street Fair. Ghoulishly good desserts were served!

SOMERVILLE STREET FAIR: This is something everyone should come and enjoy! Bi-annually we participate in the fair by setting up a NJFCCPA booth. With the help of county members we decorate personalized plastic children's products and raise funds. We promote public awareness of Family Child Care and Promote the NJFCCPA . Whether Spring or Fall we all have a ball!!!! Come and visit us at the fair!!!!

CHRISTMAS CHEER: We brought abundance! We exchanged grab bag gifts and were tempted by tasty treats. Networking and Holly Jolly fun was had by all!

In closing we will continue to reach out to our members via phone or email. As county representatives we welcome and encourage you to join us in our future endeavors. We are only at our best when we can come together as one to achieve our common goals.

Submitted by Co-Representative, Somerset County NJFCCPA  
Michelle Misiura



Sommerville Street Fair

## NJFCCPA –SUSSEX COUNTY CHAPTER



Since our last county report, the Sussex Chapter has been very busy.

This past October we held a Fall Festival Fundraiser at Heaven Hill Farms in Vernon. Many families from several area providers participated. All had great fun, but best of all we promoted the NJFCCPA and earned funds for our chapter.

In November we held our monthly meeting. We exchanged craft ideas for the upcoming holidays. Lots of new ideas we shared by several providers. We also made plans for our holiday party, shared online websites for craft ideas and business resources and discussed our Winter Festival plans for December. We also discussed the upcoming NAFCC conference in June and the Developmental Milestones meeting.

In December we held our Holiday Party at Michelle's home. We had our annual gift exchange and lots of fun!! It was great to see some new faces and familiar ones as well.

The Sussex County Chapter has also been busy learning all that we can about the NJFCCPA, since many of our providers are filling open positions on the board! Michelle Melgarejo has become President of the NJFCCPA. We also have Jackie Schmitt as our Membership chairperson, Lisa Brunell is our Newsletter Editor, and Georgina Marchese is Treasurer. So, in addition to our regular meetings we have been busy with NJFCCPA business.

As NJFCCPA board members we plan on continuing and expanding the successes of NJFCCPA. As members of the Sussex County Chapter we look forward to the years ahead and the growth of NJFCCPA.

## KIDS IN THE KITCHEN



### Irish Soda Bread



#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 1/2 cups buttermilk or plain yogurt
- 3/4 cup raisins
- 2 eggs

**Directions:**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Combine dry ingredients.
3. Mix eggs and buttermilk. Add to the dry ingredients. Add raisins and mix.
4. Pour dough onto lightly floured board and knead 10 times (fun for the kids!).
5. Shape into a round loaf, adding flour if necessary.
6. Place in a lightly greased pan.
7. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 1 hour or until the bottom of the loaf sounds hollow when tapped.



Aren't these daffodils pretty? Welcome spring (or St. David's Day) with this pretty bunch of handmade daffodils. An easy craft for kids of all ages.

You will need:

Egg box  
Orange paint  
Yellow cardstock paper  
Glue  
Green drinking straws  
Sticky tape

Instructions:

Paint the bottom of an egg box orange. Leave to dry.  
Cut out 6 flower shapes from yellow card stock paper.  
Cut the egg box into the individual compartments, gluing the to the center of the flower shapes as the trumpet.  
Tape a green straw to the back of each daffodil.

(Craft and photo courtesy of Activityvillage.co.uk)



# Community...

As Family Child Care Providers, we are responsible for exposing and instilling a variety of things in the children in our care. One important focus for the children in my care at TotSpot Family Childcare, is that of community. We have been participating in the following programs and we are hoping to participate more in the community. We are only a very small group, but we are hopeful that by spreading the word, everyone reading this will participate.

The Educational Warehouse, and educational chain we are probably all familiar with, has a crayon Recycling program going on. They are collecting used, unusable and broken crayons, which will be recycled into new crayons. This is another way to get your program in the "green".

Another program we are participating in is Color A Smile. The following is an excerpt from the Color A Smile website. We feel it is a great way to help (in a small way) the elders in our community.

If you have been involved in your community and would like to share, please send your ideas to [Scnjfccpa@yahoo.com](mailto:Scnjfccpa@yahoo.com) . The subject line should read [NJFCCPA NEWLETTER](#). Thank you!

Lisa Brunell  
TotSpot Family Childcare, LLC

## **A non-profit organization spreading smiles with cheerful drawings.**

**Color A Smile** collects crayon drawings from school children. Every month we distribute these drawings to Nursing Homes, Meals on Wheels Programs, and Individuals all across the country. Our goal is to make people smile!

### **Teachers, Scout Leaders, Parents, Children**

[Click here if you would like to color drawings for Color A Smile](#)

### **Senior Citizens, Nursing Home Residents, Individuals Needing a Smile**

[Click here if you know someone that would benefit from receiving our 'masterpieces'](#).

P O Box 1516, Morristown, NJ 07962-1516

A non-profit organization spreading smiles with cheerful drawings.

Phone 973-540-9222



Saturday, April 4, 2009

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference for Family Child Care Providers

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Monroe-Jamesburg

390 Forsgate Drive

Jamesburg, NJ 08831

Please look for information at the Conference on Advertising your business on the NJFCCPA website! Please look for a link for template examples.

The NJFCCPA is updating our website, and it will be up and running soon.