



## Ellen Lambert Murphy Memorial Community Center

### The Ellen Lambert Murphy Memorial Community Center Annual Report FY 2008-09

The E.L.M.M. Community Center would like to thank the taxpayers and voters of Winchester and Ashuelot for their continued support of subsidizing recreation and activity for the youth of Winchester and Ashuelot.

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Summer Camp 2008 hosted 60 campers in grades K\_8<sup>th</sup>. The Kid's Club, campers in grades K-4, participated in a traditional day camp at the community center. Daily activities included archery, trips to Winchester's Town Beach 4 days a week, intro to kayaking at Steve and Mary Johnson's pond, tennis, soccer, trail walking, treasure hunts, rainy day movies, arts and crafts and of course, bowling. The Adventure Crew, a program designed for 5<sup>th</sup>\_8<sup>th</sup> grade youth looking variety, adventure and independence, were on the road or offsite much of the day and sometimes, even overnight. These youth were able to incorporate their favorite activity, kayaking, with two conservation projects; a two-week study on Winchester's Forest Lake Bats and another two weeks working with the Loon Preservation Committee to enhance N.H.'s loon population. During the 2008-09 school vacation weeks, the E.L.M.M.C.C. hosted "mini camps" pack filled with great field trips and entertainment.

Summer Camp and vacation camps are offered at as low a cost as possible in efforts to support the parents of Winchester and Ashuelot. The town appropriation allocated to the E.L.M.M.C.C. offered the parents of nearly 200 youth great programming for half the cost. Those same parents were able to continue to work knowing their children were having fun, safe and cared for by 23 E.L.M.M.C.C. vacation week volunteers and 15 summer camp staff.

Summer Hoops and Beach Volleyball are a favorite among older youth, grade 9 and up, and adults during the summer months of June and July with a combined total registration of 52 Winchester and Ashuelot residents.

The long running programs of intramural Fall Soccer and Tri County Baseball kept 65 boys and girls in grades K\_5<sup>th</sup> busy for 6 months during the past year. In addition, during the winter months of 2008, (45) 1st\_6<sup>th</sup> graders participated in a 12-week basketball skills program, (9) 6<sup>th</sup>\_8<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed two 6-week soft tip dart league, and (12) K\_5<sup>th</sup> graders participated in a competitive 12-week youth bowling league. Many thanks to Winchester's A.C.C.E.S.S. program for funding our new "kiddie" bumper guards in the candlepin bowling alley.

This year the center welcomes Cub Scout Pack #340 back to Winchester. For nearly a decade the pack searched for strong leadership to guide the boys of Winchester and Ashuelot through the Cub Scout traditions of handicraft and citizenship. Thank you Kerry O'Connell, Dan Cushing, Nicole Donandio and Chad Favereau for your hard work and organizational skills. Building strong children helps to build a stronger community.

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