

durham  
*it's where*

**U**  
*live*



**“I see Growing Places parents all the time in Durham. It’s a great opportunity to connect with the community.”**

—Christa Ricker '09  
UNH Outdoor Education major  
Growing Places teacher aide

Several days a week, Christa Ricker spends time with the youngest “residents” of UNH’s Woodside Apartments: the two- to five-year-olds who attend the Growing Places preschool there. “It’s a different type of work-study job at UNH,” she says of her days spent pushing toy trains, reading picture books, supervising crafts projects, and chasing preschoolers around the playground. “It adds a lot of fun to my college experience.”

Cellissa Hoyt '83, executive director of the local nonprofit, calls students like Ricker “invaluable” to Growing Places, which operates five programs in Lee and Durham for children from six weeks to 14 years old. “UNH students bring so much richness to our program,” she says.

Hoyt got her start at Growing Places as an undergraduate, when she was a teacher aide at the Forest Park preschool (replaced several years ago by the Woodside site). And Ricker, a native of Lee, attended pre-kindergarten at the Forest Park site, making this job a true “growing place.”

**UNH students make a difference in the community.**

A partnership between the Durham community and the University of New Hampshire.

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