

It is said that,
“Every Cloud has a Silver Lining.”

Over the past year, our realities of a global pandemic surrounded our region as the ultimate “Cloud.” Through it all, the North Quabbin Community Coalition has continued to look forward, working closely with our networks and finding creative ways to connect people. This work has provided unique insights into the many silver linings of the North Quabbin through the cloud of 2020. At our annual meeting, the NQCC celebrated those silver linings and used the hope they provide to color all plans for the future.



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Like us on Facebook ~ nqcc.org
North Quabbin Woods: northquabbinwoods.org

NQCC

Silver Linings



**Working to improve the quality of life within
the North Quabbin region since 1984.**

Annual Report

FY 2021

www.nqcc.org



2020/2021 Spotlight Awards



*Colleen Gray Clyatt
Marvin and Ruth Black*



2021 Scholarship Recipients



*Loren Bennington
Quincey Drew
Adiranna Durand
Orinanna Newton
Abigail Henne
Morgan Lee McCarthy
Vitchara Si
Eli Spencer*



2021 Bridgebuilder Awards



*Orange Oil
Laura and Jason Robinson
Tom King, Eric Leichtweis, and Leon Richards (NQRC)
The O'Brien Family*



Dr. Rebecca J. Bialecki Youth Leadership Award



*Christopher Black
Danielle Swan
Alexandre Forte*



Board of Directors



Sandi Walters, President - Clinical and Support Options

Lynne Feldman, Vice President - LifePath

Steve Raymond, Treasurer - Community Representative

John Bruinsma - Community Representative

Nicole Guertin - Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Rev. Megan Leary - Central Congregational Church of Orange

Chief Craig Lundgren - Athol Police Department

Pat Moore - Community Representative

Sharon Tracy - Quabbin Mediation

Charlie Winters - Community Representative



Funding and Support



The North Quabbin Community Coalition is brought to you by the following Funders and YOUR support. Please become a member/donor today!

- Department of Children and Families Community Connections
- MA Department of Public Health
- Heywood Healthcare/Drug Free Communities
- Town of Athol
- Clinical and Support Options
- Family Nurturing Center of MA
- Franklin County Sheriff's Office
- Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and North Quabbin



Staff Activities & Memberships



Heather Bialecki-Canning

Executive Director

DCF Greenfield Area Office Board President ~ DTA Greenfield Area Office Advisory Board ~ NQ Enough Abuse Campaign Coordinator ~ NQ Patch Admin Team ~ Opioid Task Force Executive Council ~ Opioid Task Force Education and Awareness Working Group ~ Talking About Touching Training of Trainers ~ DCF Community Connections Statewide Team ~ Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin County & North Quabbin Board ~ Family Nurturing Center of MA Statewide Trainer ~ Nationally Recognized Trainer Consultant for Nurturing Programs ~ Quabbin Mediation Board Member ~ DPH MARCH Group ~ CTC Coordinating Council ~ CHIP ~ YAEC ~ ARFACT

Amanda Mankowsky

Youth & Families Engagement Coordinator

DFC Program Director

Communities That Care Parent Engagement Group ~ Nurturing Facilitator ~ My Life, My Choice Facilitator ~ YAEC ~ PAC ~ NQRC ~ Opioid Task Force Education & Prevention Co-Chair ~ ARRSD SEL ~ Change Agent Fellow ~ Task Force Facilitator ~ School/Community Partnership Coordinator ~ Mediator ~ ARFACT ~ Age Friendly Project ~ OTF Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Workgroup ~ CSEC Steering Committee Member ~ CAC ~ CHIP Age of First Use Workgroup ~ PEER Ambassador Host Site Supervisor ~ Youth Action Council ~ Parent Advisory Council ~ OTF Harm Reduction Member ~ Building a Resilient Community Workgroup Member

Sarah Collins

Drug Free Communities Coordinator

Regional School Health Task Force ~ CTC ~ Opioid Task Force Education & Prevention ~ Youth Action Council ~ YAEC ~ NQRC Liason ~ Parent Advisory Council ~ Opioid Task Force Human Trafficking & Sexual Exploitation Workgroup ~ Opioid Task Force Housing & Workforce Development Committee ~ Escape the Vape ~ Coalition for Racial Justice ~ Community Benefits Advisory Council ~ Franklin County Resource Network ~ Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance ~ ARFACT

Katrina Burton

Project Assistant

Receptionist ~ Web Developer ~ Graphic Designer ~ Database Coordinator ~ Newsletter Designer/Editor ~ Event Designer

NQCC Memberships

North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce Member ~ United Arc Business Member ~ Athol Bird and Nature Club Member ~ CADCA



24th Annual Barbara Corey Award



Each year, the North Quabbin Community Coalition presents the Barbara Corey Award to a North Quabbin resident. The award is named for the original coordinator in honor of her values and dedication to the region. The 2021 Barbara Corey Award recipient is Daniel Parsons.



Salute to Service Award



The North Quabbin Community Coalition proudly presents an annual Salute to Service Award to someone who has shown a track record of going above and beyond in dedicating their time and service to the community. This year's Salute to Service Award recipient is Benjamin Cluff.





Youth Action Council (YAC)



The YAC creates an opportunity for youth to use their voices to educate and promote healthy lifestyles for youth residing in the North Quabbin region, with a focus on prevention. Through the pandemic, members had to be creative with their approach as the world remained virtual, so they met monthly via Zoom, holding various themed meetings to keep them fun as well as productive. YAC continues to use their social media platform to share resources and participate in various events that were held by community partners. Members were instrumental in an end of the school year, “Safe Gatherings” campaign, where they were able to make videos and identify safe, substance free activities to celebrate milestones. Members participated in the “Building a Resilient Community” event that was hosted by the Opioid Task Force, where they were given the opportunity to express what resiliency means to them. They have been actively working to create a resource for youth in our community for vaping and have started the “Escape the Vape” group where youth can access vaping resources and support. YAC members are committed to identifying gaps for youth in our community and continue to use their voices to impact positive change.



Monthly Forums

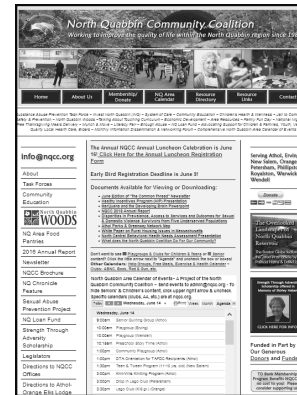


Every month, the NQCC hosts a forum, open to all, which focuses on topics of local interest or highlights a particular program servicing the region. This year’s forums included:

- September ...NQCC State of the North Quabbin
(a check-in on services in our region)
- October.....Healthy Me, Healthy NQ (System of Care Presentation)
- November....Legislative Roundtable
- December ...Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority
- JanuaryCommunity Health Center of Franklin County
- FebruaryNorth Quabbin Recovery Center, Loving Your Recovery
- March.....LifePath’s Age Friendly Project
- April.....Opioid Task Force & NQCC Presentation of
Young Adult Empowerment Collaborative Work
- MayEric Smith & Dave Small Presentation of Town of
Athol Conservation and Recreation Efforts



Social Media and Outreach



The NQCC’s web-based Resource Directory on our website (nqcc.org) continues to provide a comprehensive listing of resources in the North Quabbin, and is set up in a user friendly fashion by alphabetical listing and category

The NQCC can be found on Facebook, Instagram, and on the web.

The North Quabbin Woods website (northquabbinwoods.org) continues to provide visitors information on places to hike, get on the water, cross-country ski, etc. or on local artisans, farms, and produce, etc. Visitors can quickly access specific towns, recreational places, and activities. The NQCC office is contacted frequently by people from around the country seeking additional information after visiting the site.



The NQCC continues to produce its informative newsletter, “The Common Thread,” distributed monthly through email, social media, and USPS mail. It is also available for download online. The publication features regional announcements, articles, and events and everyone is encouraged to contribute.



Our FY21 Donors

July 2020—June 2021



Platinum Plus

Community Action Pioneer Valley
Foundation for Community Justice
Spectrum Plastics Group

Platinum

The Fred DiLibero Family**
Franklin County Sheriff's Office
InterRemedy Insurance Services**

Gold

Friends of the Opioid Task Force, Inc.
LifePath
LUK Inc.
MassHire Franklin/Hampshire Career Center
Diane Nassif
Kathy Reinig
Valuing Our Children

Silver

Franklin Regional Council of Governments
NQ Chamber & Visitors Center
Bruce Raulston Plumbing & Heating
Bonnie Stewart

Bronze

Athol Credit Union
Rebecca Bialecki
GAAMHA Inc.
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Ann Myers**

New England Learning Center for Women In Transition (NELCWIT)
Petersham Lions Club
South Athol United Methodist Church
Charlie Winters

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Dave Small**

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Ann & John Pelley**
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Carol Newton
Opioid Task Force
Orange Lions Club
Quabbin Mediation, Inc.
David Runyan

** In memory of Edgar Sykes

Thank You



North Quabbin Recovery Center



The North Quabbin Recovery Center (NQRC) provides a compassionate, safe space to offer peer support allowing multiple paths of recovery. NQRC celebrated three years of holding true to the Center's mission, having experiences filled with connection, support, inclusion, love, honest communication, and fun. Throughout the pandemic, the staff of volunteers, peer leaders, and allies had to continue to evaluate the needs of the community and how to be effective. NQRC adopted a hybrid model for their open hours, with volunteer support accessed in person or virtually. The Franklin County Sheriff's Office's ACT group, AA groups, and the Drug Court Alumni Group use the space for meetings. Peer leaders continued to support the Coalition by participating in community events such as Fourth Friday Events and Covid Clinics.



Parent Advisory Council (PAC)



The PAC is comprised of 14 diverse parents representing the North Quabbin region. They meet monthly and the pandemic proved the need for creative opportunities to increase parent leadership and participation. The PAC meets online and in hybrid models. This year members participated and assisted with Munch and Move and created the Gems of the North Quabbin Adventure to encourage visitation of the hidden gems in the region. There were 29 different landmarks, historic locations, and hiking trails to meet the abilities of all community members. It allowed them to showcase the great places here while emphasizing quality time with friends and family, leading to a true feeling of community connectedness. The PAC continues to be a voice for parents regarding substance use and how NQCC can best impact our community.



Thanksgiving Day Meals Delivery



The NQCC was very saddened to cancel it's annual Thanksgiving Day Meals Delivery program due to Covid-19 concerns. We look forward to Thanksgiving 2021 and our amazing partnerships with the Pioneer Jr. Women's Club, Athol Credit Union, Athol Orange Rotary Club, NQCC Board of Directors, Orange Elementary Schools, and the many other volunteers.



Children's Health and Wellness System of Care (CHWSOC)



The CHWSOC is a partnership with Clinical and Support Options that supports pathways for all to access Children's Behavioral Health services across the region. This group focuses on overall health and wellness, nutrition, food access, movement, and family connectedness. This year the Children's Health and Wellness System of Care was able to host a drive-through Munch and Move event through the month of March. Families were able to receive game bags with activities donated from CHWSOC members and food bags in a partnership with Quabbin Harvest. Families were then able to create their own family night. They posted pictures to NQCC's social media pages sharing all the creative and fun ways families celebrated together. In lieu of Family Fun Day, the task force was also able to support the "Getting to Gnome your Community Helpers" Scavenger Hunt. There were 46 community agencies and helpers that participated. This was an opportunity for families to explore the nine towns of the North Quabbin locating all the gnomes and getting to know where to go if you find that you may need help. This highly successful event has gnomes still prominently placed throughout the region! Many destinations not only decorated but also named their gnomes. This group continues to focus on building skills, resiliency, and the importance of selfcare.



INQ & North Quabbin Loan Fund



Invest North Quabbin (INQ) is a partnership consisting of the NQCC, the Town of Athol, the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce, and the Athol Credit Union, with support from Tiny Town Marketing. It aims to provide emergency financial support to individuals, families, and small businesses in the North Quabbin impacted by COVID-19. Also in response to the challenges imposed by the coronavirus and the resulting economic loss, the Athol Board of Selectmen allocated \$25,000 from the North Quabbin Revolving Loan Fund for a Rapid Response Fund to provide financial support to small businesses in the North Quabbin region that have been impacted by the pandemic. Financial support is in the form of micro-loans in the amount of \$500 to \$2,500 with a very competitive interest rate of 2.99% and re-payment terms of twelve to 24 months.



PART Task Force



The Prevention Addiction Recovery Treatment (PART) Task Force is a collaboration of over 50 members from diverse sectors of the North Quabbin Community. PART plays an important role in the Drug Free Communities Project, allowing the voices of professionals from both public safety and healthcare weigh in with NQCC's YAC and PAC to really steer the work of the project in a well-rounded approach. In 2020, National Night Out was postponed due to political unrest and safety concerns regarding Covid. Although the event was postponed, there was rich discussion highlighting what police community partnership looks like in the North Quabbin region. Through conversations during PART, it was identified that there was a lack of support to employers who employ individuals that have a substance use disorder. A sub-committee was formed to break down language addressing stigma that comes with substance use disorder. Along with language, resources that are available in the community were also provided to employers.



Scholarship Fund



Shirley Hebert

The passing of our beloved board member, Shirley Hebert, in 2012 led to the creation of The Shirley Hebert Strength through Adversity Scholarship Fund. The fund rewards high school seniors in the North Quabbin region who have experienced academic success, personal growth, and completed community service in the face of adversity.