



nonotuck forever

a campaign for our school's future

The Nonotuck Community School provides year-round education to children ages 15 months to five years. For the past 39 years, full-time working parents have relied on the school to educate their children locally.

A school like ours is an important part of Northampton and serves our community's significant need for affordable year-round childcare to enable families to live and work here.

Buying Our Building

Nonotuck has reached a major crossroads: after a decade of leasing our current space from Northampton we need to buy our building. The City recently informed us they could no longer lease us our building and they intend to sell. We secured one final lease, ending July 2019, with no option to renew. With strict requirements for a childcare facility and limited time, moving to a new space is not an option. The choice is to buy our building or close our doors.

How

Our goal is to raise \$50,000 towards down payment and closing costs by June 1st, 2017 so we can purchase our building from the City. The parent community of Nonotuck has worked to ensure the building is in good condition, and ongoing maintenance and loan payments will be able to be covered by the Nonotuck Community School's operating budget. We've already made a big investment: Ten years ago when Nonotuck Community School first approached the City with an offer to lease the building, it was boarded up and needed significant work. The City decided to lease the building and worked with us to renovate it to serve as a childcare center. Co-op families provided architectural consultation and physical labor and the Nonotuck Community School contributed over \$100,000 via a municipal bond (paid over five years time) towards the renovation. We continued to invest over the next ten years, especially in parent co-op sweat equity.

You may have seen us around the neighborhood: clambering across your lawn to try to make friends with your chickens, or jumping in mud puddles. You may have seen us heading into the woods, parading proudly down the street with Halloween costumes, or scrambling down the riverbank to learn about crayfish. During the past four decades, the school has given over a thousand kids the chance to make friends, get muddy, and learn to love our world and the community we share.



Northampton cannot afford to lose the Nonotuck Community School:

Year Round

Nonotuck Community School serves families year-round, and children remain in their class with the same teachers for a full year.

Nonprofit

Our school is organized as a charitable nonprofit, to help put the focus where it rightfully belongs: on the children, teachers, and families.

Nonotuck doesn't strive to turn a profit, and this supports good teacher wages, and tuition that works for families, while maintaining excellent child-to-teacher ratios.

Full Day

Nonotuck Community School is one of only a handful of childcare centers in the city that offer full-day care.

Accessible

Our location in Bay State Village is perfect for an accessible, walkable, bikeable community school. Many kids arrive and leave school in bike seats and trailers, in strollers and on foot. Our research shows that a comparable location elsewhere in Northampton would be well outside our financial capacity.

Unionized

Nonotuck Community School is also a key local employer as the only childcare center in Northampton whose teachers are unionized, and we offer competitive wages and generous benefits.

Respected

Nonotuck Community School children graduate capable, ready, and eager to learn. The school is known for consistently sending well-prepared children to kindergarten, and setting them up for success throughout their primary and secondary education.



“Nonotuck’s emphasis on social/emotional learning, curiosity and creativity forms the perfect foundation for children to enter kindergarten.”

Barbara Black

Early Childhood Coordinator Northampton Public Schools
Northampton/Hadley CFCE

How You Can Help

Make a Gift or Pledge - Talk with us about how your gift could be structured to work best for you. For example monthly giving might enable you to have the greatest impact. Recognition opportunities are available, and Nonotuck Community School is a 501c3 charitable nonprofit organization, so gifts are tax-deductible. You can make a donation via the school’s website or by mailing a check to the office with “Capital Campaign” in the memo line. Please contact the school with any questions, or email Alice Rich Lewis at vp@nonotuck.org.

Tell Your Friends - The clock is ticking for Nonotuck Community School. Help us beat the clock by sharing links to information about the Nonotuck Forever campaign on Twitter or your Facebook page, invite someone to come to a fundraising event, or simply talk to your local friends about what’s happening here.

A small gift from the Northampton community to the Nonotuck Forever campaign will create a permanent home for the Nonotuck Community School, paying dividends for decades to come in the benefit to our community’s working parents and children.