

Room to Grow news

SPRING 2009



DID YOU KNOW?

During the first three years of life, the amount of synaptic connections in a young child's brain doubles to approximately 1,000 trillion, more than the adult brain will ever have. The connections that survive beyond age three are directly determined by early individual experiences.

By pairing parenting support and information with developmentally appropriate toys, equipment, books, and other items, Room to Grow ensures that children have a safe and stimulating environment in which to discover, learn and grow.

(Source: Halfon N, Shulman E and Hochstein M. Brain Development in Early Childhood, in N Halfon, E Shulman and M Hochstein, eds., Building Community Systems for Young Children, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, 2001.)

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As Room to Grow expands, nearly doubling its program capacity, I am encouraged by the increasing emphasis on the importance of early childhood in our country. The extraordinary opportunity that exists within the first three years to change the life trajectory of a child is becoming better and more widely understood. Our community has embraced this belief. The number of phone and email inquiries we have received has risen dramatically in recent months as people respond with great

compassion and generosity to the growing need around us. We are truly inspired by the desire and commitment of so many individuals offering to help. This year we look forward to celebrating the arrival of hundreds of new babies. We are grateful for your continued support.

Saskia Epstein

Executive Director

Room to Grow, Boston

CLIENT SNAPSHOT: A Mother's Journey

A recent graduate of Room to Grow, Danielle was overwhelmed when she first learned she was pregnant with triplets. Josie, Arianna and Kyle arrived quickly and spent their first few weeks of life in the NICU. Danielle was relieved and comforted to find the support she needed at Room to Grow. In the first year, Danielle's conversations with her Room to Grow clinician focused on the emotional and practical demands of having preemies and how to manage and adjust to her new life. She faced great challenges and uncertainty, including her separation from the triplets' father, who then departed for a tour in Iraq when the children were not yet one. With time, Danielle grew accustomed to the wonderfully chaotic life of a parent of triplets and became expert at using the information, support and baby

items from Room to Grow to help make a better life for them all. As the triplets have grown, so has Danielle's confidence and skill as a parent. Josie, Arianna and Kyle are now three and getting ready for preschool. Danielle is excited to return to work and support her growing children with greater strength and stability, but with no less wonder.



RECENT HAPPENINGS

October 23 | 2008

Marblehead Supports Room to Grow!

On a beautiful fall day, the generous community of Marblehead came together to raise money and awareness for Room to Grow. An amazing thirty-three participating businesses and retailers donated 10% of their day's proceeds to Room to Grow.

November 15 | 2008

Room to Grow's Fall Gala

Room to Grow celebrated its first graduates and honored Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino at the Westin Boston Waterfront along with over 350 guests. The event raised nearly \$400,000 enabling Room to Grow to remain committed to

serving even more families in 2009.

December | 2008

A Season of Giving

Room to Grow families celebrated the holiday season with generous support from families, corporate and community supporters. Fidelity, Rugged Bear and SunLife Financial facilitated collection drives that outfitted nearly 200 babies and toddlers in warm winter clothing, coats and boots. Henry Bear's Park, Isis Maternity Stores, Magic Beans and Tadpole hosted retail events and special promotions to raise awareness and needed financial support. During the month of December, nearly 10,000 items were donated.



Uma Thurman and Mayor Thomas M. Menino at Room to Grow's Fall Gala.

JOIN US!

An Evening to Celebrate!

Room to Grow
Fall Gala
location and date, TBA

The evening will feature a silent and live auction, dinner and program.

To purchase tickets or learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact Phumelele Trasada at phumelele@roomtogrow.org

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DONOR AND VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



A volunteer organizes donations of baby clothing.

PricewaterhouseCoopers lends a hand to Room to Grow!

On November 19th, PricewaterhouseCoopers teamed up with Discovery Toys to host a Holiday Toy Sale at their Boston Headquarters. Employees purchased and donated developmental toys for the children served by Room to Grow. This generous support continued as employees volunteered their time sorting and organizing community donations. In honor of their dedicated employees, PricewaterhouseCoopers made a generous contribution to Room to Grow for the holiday season. We are grateful to PricewaterhouseCoopers and their wonderful employees for the many ways they have supported Room to Grow.

What We Need Now

Room to Grow is expanding to serve hundreds of additional families! Please help by organizing collection drives in your community, volunteering to sort donations of clothing, toys and books or by helping to fundraise and plan community events.

Join Room to Grow's email list!

Sign up at www.roomtogrow.org to receive email updates and details about events.