



*"The dandelion  
puts down **strong  
roots**, grows best  
beside others,  
and then **gently  
shares** its seeds  
so more may  
grow."*

- a thought from  
our founding  
families

*Come join us!*

Families interested in joining Creating  
Landscapes for Families, please contact:

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# Creating Landscapes for Families

*Fall 2013...*

*in the Community at the  
Unitarian Universalist Church*



Bringing families together  
in the community to focus  
on **positive possibilities.**

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

Families share a powerful connection with their community. To foster this connection, we believe:

- Participation in shared experiences helps people to feel understood and valued. A sense of belonging is crucial to a person's well-being.
- Families and community members deserve the opportunity to relax and enjoy each other's company.
- Inclusion is the cornerstone of community. We value diversity in its many forms, because we all have something to learn from each other.
- Activities should be driven by the needs and wants of the families. Creating Landscapes for Families is about *ownership* rather than *membership*.
- Grassroots organization is a powerful tool for change.
- Gathering spaces— indoors or out— can help us survive difficult times and bring us the deepest and simplest joys...

## OUR HISTORY

Creating Landscapes for Families began in the fall of 2009, when local families became interested in extending the summer Creating Landscapes program into the school year. During the 2009-2010 school year, activities followed the format of the summer program, but this changed as the families began to take ownership of the organization.

In the summer of 2010, Creating Landscapes for Families started the Community Garden at Ackerman Farm under the leadership of families and community members.

In the fall of 2011, the program moved to the Unitarian Universalist Church in Meadville and expanded its afterschool activities while designing a YEAR-ROUND program. Summer in the Community Garden—School Year in the Community at the UU church.

As Creating Landscapes for Families moves into the 2013-2014 school year, we look forward to continuing our growth by partnering with even more families—please join us! All are welcome!

## OUR TIME TOGETHER

**October 22, 2013—May 1, 2014**  
- Every Tuesday and Thursday Evening -

### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

- Working toward valorization -

**2:30 until 5:00pm**

Children receive help with homework; enjoy music, movement, and art activities while parents gather in the kitchen to plan & prepare a family-style dinner as they enjoy time together.

### **FAMILY-STYLE DINNER**

- Working toward grace -

**5:15 until 6:15pm**

Families gather around the table to share a meal and thoughts about the day. (There is no cost to participants although a free will donation jar is always close by—every penny matters)

### **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES**

- Working toward empowerment -

**6:15 until 7:15pm**

Guest speakers, classes, and programs from community partners offer opportunities for learning & joy.

### **WHOLE GROUP REFLECTION**

**7:15 until 7:30pm**

Plan our future together!

*Plans for Summer 2014 Community Garden have already begun...let's get through winter together and then move outdoors!*