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UNH's Marriage and Family Therapy Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary

1,200 Families Served Over Past Decade

By [Sharon Keeler](#)
UNH News Bureau

November 20, 2000

DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire's Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) Program recently marked its 10th year anniversary at a celebration attended by faculty, staff, students, alumni, state legislators and members of the community.

The highlight of the day's event featured state Sen. Katherine Wheeler reading a proclamation from Gov. Jeanne Shaheen recognizing UNH's MFT program and declaring Nov. 1 as Family Therapy Awareness Day.

UNH's MFT program has been in operation since 1990. It offers training for graduate students interested in couples and family therapy. The Marriage and Family Therapy Center, located in Craft Cottage, provides a clinical setting where students, under faculty guidance, provide therapeutic services to families in the community who have minimal resources.

The Marriage and Family Therapy Center provided services to over 1,200 families in the last 10 years, and has trained over 50 therapists, most of whom are working with families and children in New Hampshire.

"Our program provides students with a unique educational experience," says Barbara Frankel, UNH associate professor of family studies and director of the MFT program. "They develop an impressive set of skills that take them from an academic and clinical setting into the professional world. It is truly one of the university's centers of excellence."

Helen Fitzgerald, one the program's first graduates who is now a therapist at the Warren Street Counseling Center in Concord, agrees.

"The effects of this program ripple out into the community, touching the many clients I, and other graduates, work with each day as we help people bring to their relationships something healthier and stronger,"

says Fitzgerald. "I am enriched and inspired by my clients, who are heroic and courageous in the face of their challenges. I thank this program for changing my life."

In addition to Frankel, MFT faculty and center supervisors include Larry Hansen, UNH associate professor of family studies and founder of the MFT program, Kristine Baber, UNH associate professor and chair of families studies, and counselors Mark Moses and Sergio Pirrotta.

For more information on UNH's Marriage and Family Therapy Center, call 603-862-2134.

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