



Press Release

From: Granby Early Childhood Council, Chairperson, Janet Ford  
May 12, 2008

The Granby Early Childhood Council (GECC) has been fortunate to have many valuable members whose efforts have made possible the advancement of the GECC's work to ensure that "all children arrive at school healthy and socially and emotionally prepared for academic success and life-long learning." Two such members are Gary Ebersole and John Kroninger. In a recent interview with Gary and John I asked them to share a bit about themselves, how long they have lived in Granby and where was home before moving here.

Gary moved to Granby 3 years ago this coming July from Baltimore MD where he lived with his wife Jodi and two daughters Austin 14 and Cali 9. When Gary, and his family decided to move to Granby, Gary sold his graphic design and advertising art business he had worked with for 18 years and moved here where he re-incorporated his business, SoleSource Solutions, [www.SoleSourceSolutions.com](http://www.SoleSourceSolutions.com). Gary told me his work primarily deals with corporate identity, advertising art, graphic design and the exhibit industry. Gary's home office allows more flexibility and time with the family.

I asked Gary how he came to know about the GECC. He said he read a piece in the Drummer, submitted by Joan Rogers, our Graustein Memorial Fund Coordinator, asking for logo design selections. Gary was invited to attend the monthly GECC meeting so he could become more familiar with its purpose and from that point forward Gary has become an active member and enjoys his participation in the councils work, encouraging others to also become involved.

John has lived in Granby for less than a year moving here from NJ with his wife Stacey and two sons, Noah 4 and Tyler 2 1/2. With her job here, Stacey is able to spend more time with the family and this is a priority for both of them. John has made the choice to be a stay-at-home dad and uses his 10 years of experience and background in computer programming and consulting to assist organizations such as the GECC. In response to the same question as to how he became aware of the GECC, John told me that Doreen Hoddinott a member of the council and Owner/Director of Small World Learning Center, where John's son Noah attends preschool, suggested that he might be able to help in developing the GECC web site. John began attending our monthly meetings, met Gary and the two began to work together.

I asked Gary and John to identify what the most important element to understand about the GECC was before they could work on their respective projects. Gary said he first needed to sit down with members of the Communication Committee as well as Joan Rogers and myself to gain insight into our short and long-term goals. Having done that on several occasions he began the process of developing several logos then submitting them to the collaborative for selection. Developing the brochure came soon after, working with the Communication Committee to synthesize both message and audience. The finished brochure features artwork from Granby children and is now being distributed to the libraries, early care facilities, preschools, town boards, various community organizations etc. in limited numbers until we have an opportunity to evaluate feedback.

In John's experience he needed to know that our primary audience would most likely be parents, early care providers, preschool educators and teachers. With input from each of those entities John was able to construct a user friendly, web presence that provides information regarding not only the council but also early care and preschool opportunities, schedules for upcoming parent and professional development classes, opportunities for involvement, links and more. The GECC website is now up and running at [www.granbyecc.org](http://www.granbyecc.org). A web site is

not static and John will continue to make additions as time goes on. One such addition may be a “Take Action” section where local issues that impact young children and families will be highlighted with an opportunity to address those issues by emailing the appropriate party. With John and Gary, as well as other members of the council, we were able to integrate both projects to create a variable Power-Point presentation to further the purpose of the GECC.

It is clear to all who have worked with Gary and John just how valuable their contributions of time and talent have been. The GECC and our entire community are fortunate to have caring individuals such as these. It matters not whether you have lived in Granby for 42 years as I have or if this is your first year here in town, each of us have gifts to share and the GECC welcomes all who are interested in the well-being of all children to do as Gary and John have. Please come the first Monday of each month from 6-8PM at the YMCA community room to learn more and visit our website at [www.granbyecc.org](http://www.granbyecc.org).

The logo, brochure and web site allow us to share with our community the valuable work being done by the Granby Early Childhood Council through The Discovery Grant from the Graustein Memorial Fund. As one of 53 Discovery communities in the state of Ct. we have been afforded a rare opportunity to further both knowledge and understanding of the importance of recognizing the needs of children from pre-birth to age 5 as well as the needs of their families. I will leave you with one final statistic: Eighty five percent (85%) of a person’s intellect, personality and social skills are developed by age 5, whereas ninety five percent (95%) of public investment in education occurs after age 5 when crucial learning years have passed. The Granby Early Childhood Council thanks both Gary and John for their immeasurable contributions and we look forward to continuing our work with their help.

Janet Ford  
GECC Chairperson

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