

Martha Miceli Healy

*Early Childhood/ Preschool Special
Education Teacher
Newman Elementary School
Class of 1976*



Martha Miceli Healy has spent her lifetime in dedication to serving Needham. Needham is a better place to live for her efforts. As a teacher representative to the town-wide Permanent Public Building Committee for three years, she was responsible for the design and construction of, as well as ordering and setting up the instructional materials for the Early Childhood Center at Newman Elementary School. Her life's dream of finding a permanent home for Needham's integrated preschool program has come true. This dream of preschool began in elementary school for Martha.

At ten years old, Martha knew she wanted to be a teacher. At Needham High School, she was an avid athlete, competing in field hockey, gymnastics and track. Martha began her life of community service as a member of the Theta Kappa Chi organization and the Student Activities Council. Martha fondly remembers the positive influence of individuals such as Principal George Skinner, teachers Harriet Tippett, Bob Lockhart and Bob Evers, and coaches Jane Tuohy and Ollie Sparks. Martha feels that she left Needham High School a well-rounded individual with many skills that took her onto college and beyond.

Martha put those skills to work academically earning a B.S. Degree in Recreation from Ithaca College, a M.S. degree in Education from Wheelock College and a M.Ed. in Special Education from Fitchburg State College. Martha spent four years in New York City working as a recreational therapist at Rockefeller Hospital, and five more years as a recreational therapist at Franciscan Children's Hospital in Brighton, MA. Martha returned to Needham in 1984 and has been here since, now living with her husband Michael and their now fourteen year old son Tucker.

Martha has served Needham in so many capacities. Whether as a member of the board or Co-President of the Needham Education Foundation, or as an organizer of the Challenger Baseball Program for alternately-abled children, or as a teacher and mentor and advocate for three and four year olds, Martha's service to Needham is tireless. For her efforts in securing the permanent home for the NPS Integrated Preschool Program, she has received two Needham Public Schools Superintendent Awards.

The most important thing about the work that Martha has done over the years is that, as she states, she absolutely loves what she does. She greets each day as an opportunity to give back..

M.H.