



BRIGETTE CAMERON

IN THE LYME LIGHT OCTOBER, 2021



"I think that we're often good at identifying problems, but I guess it helps me to feel like I am being a part of the solution ... I felt it was helpful to do something to try and support the kind of community that I want to live in." A driving force with the Lyme School PTO since 2017, she takes the initiative to collaboratively problem solve; creates opportunities for fun, community building, and fundraising; and maintains a practical and warm, "can do" attitude. **Brigette Cameron is In the Lyme Light.**

Brigette has been actively involved with CommunityCare of Lyme, introducing activities and events that have been new in Lyme, leaning into ways to gather with different groups of people, and simply joining in. CCL launched Breakfast Cafés at the suggestion of an older, single neighbor who longed for a morning meal with friends. Brigette saw the "Breakfast Now Open" sign, after dropping off her older children at school, and stopped in with her young ones. The next month, she had spread the word to other young families, and the breakfasts became a lovely intergenerational gathering.

Alongside CCL's Back-to-School Potluck, Brigette created a Kids Clothing Swap & Shop, to help meet the needs of *all* Lyme's families, by ensuring that children have affordable, high-quality clothes – winter clothing in particular – for the school year to come. During the Jingle & Mingle holiday party, she coordinated a Kids' Gift Shop, securing and displaying donated treasures as a child-friendly shop, including a wrapping team. For a few coins, kids were able to choose gifts for the whole family. While children shopped, other family members enjoyed the music, snacks and other activities at the party.

After more than a year of disruption, Brigette shared CCL's eagerness to bring people together. She helped make the connections and coordinate teams to hold the second Lyme Fest music event – a major fundraiser for the Lyme School artist in residence program – the afternoon of the Lyme Health & Wellness Fair, which the PTO also promoted to families. It made for a truly special, full day in Lyme.

When asked what inspires her to be so involved with the PTO and also to reach beyond the Lyme School community, Brigette reflected, "I think that it's really in gratitude for all the community has given to me and my family. There's just this culture of kindness, and I find it really inspiring." Also, she says, "Volunteering is a nice way to meet new people, especially if you're a bit shy. It's a nice way to be working toward a common goal."

Brigette is interested in exploring more ways the PTO and CommunityCare of Lyme can identify needs and create collaborative, supportive programs to uplift everyone. We are too! If you have an idea or suggestion for an activity, event, or program, please reach out to Brigette or the CCL team. To learn more about the PTO, join a meeting! *The PTO page on the Lyme School Website shows monthly meeting times.* Or ask Brigette. And while you're at it, join CCL in thanking her for all she does!

Our Mission To build on Lyme's heritage as a warm, welcoming and service-oriented community, by building partnerships, embracing new ideas, and designing systems that improve our individual and collective sense of well-being, as we help transform health and healthcare in our town and beyond.

