

# *UNCLE HILDE'S SURPLUS LUMBER* PROVIDES GRANT FOR SPAULDING YOUTH CENTER'S OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM CHALLENGE COURSE



*Jason Sterner (left) EChO Program Coordinator at Spaulding Youth Center accepts a \$2,500 check from Mark Hildebrand, Owner of Uncle Hilde's Surplus Lumber in Tilton.*

(Tilton, NH) *Uncle Hilde's Surplus Lumber*, a new business which recently opened its doors at 542 W. Main Street, Tilton, has donated \$2,500 to Spaulding Youth Center's EChO (Experiential Challenges Outdoors) Program. The grant will be used to build and install new challenge course elements for Spaulding Youth Center's on-campus ropes course. Youth and school groups also will be able to take advantage of the challenge course through EChO's community outreach program, Ropes, Rocks and Rims.

*Uncle Hilde's Surplus Lumber* owner Mark Hildebrand said, "When we decided to open a discount lumber store in Tilton, we made a decision to invest in the community. My partners and I have a special interest in helping disadvantaged kids, and Spaulding Youth Center is an organization we are proud to support. This donation is in keeping with our philosophy of giving back to the community."

Accepting the donation on behalf of Spaulding Youth Center, Jason Sterner, EChO Program Coordinator added, "Whether a child has autism, a neurological impairment, or a behavioral disorder, we can always find a way for a youngster to succeed on the challenge course. The challenge course elements build a sense of confidence and teamwork, values which will last a lifetime. If you have ever watched a group of kids hoist their classmate aloft on the "swing-shot" and seen the look of wonder on the swinging child, then you immediately become an avid fan of using a challenge course for youngsters of all ages, interests and abilities. One great thing about

this donation from *Uncle's Hilde's* is that these additional elements not only enable us to offer more activities to Spaulding Youth Center students, but also enables us to expand our offerings to school and community groups through our Ropes, Rocks and Rims Outreach Program. Frankly, we would not have been able to add these exciting new elements without this generous grant."

Spaulding Youth Center's Ropes, Rocks and Rims Outreach Program has welcomed several youth groups to campus in the past three years, among them are Danbury Community Center, Project Xtra, The Pines Community Center, The Wilhauer School Outward Bound Program, and Genesis Behavioral Health. Spaulding Youth Center's mission is dedicated to improving and enriching the lives of children, youth and families through educational and therapeutic programs that foster the promise of becoming responsible citizens in society. Spaulding Youth Center's history extends over 136 years with its origins in the NH Orphans' Home, Daniel Webster Home and Golden Rule Farm. In 1958, these entities merged to become Spaulding Youth Center at its present 600 acre site in Northfield. Today, SYC offers therapeutic, residential, educational, and foster care services to boys with emotional and behavioral challenges; youth with autism or neurological impairments; and children in need of foster care. For more information about signing up for a Ropes, Rocks and Rims session, contact Jason Sterner, EChO Program Coordinator, 603-286-8901, ext. 312, or [jsterner@SpauldingYouthCenter.org](mailto:jsterner@SpauldingYouthCenter.org), or visit our Web site: [www.SpauldingYouthCenter.org](http://www.SpauldingYouthCenter.org).