

## **Janet Jacaruso**

Hi, my name is Janet Jacaruso. I have been at Scooter School since 1988. Actually, I have grown up at Scooter. My mom (Sally O'Connor) started Scooter School when I was three years old and I was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> graduating class-our class pictures were in black & white.

I have always wanted to be a preschool teacher (either that or a jockey-and for obvious reasons that didn't come to fruition) having grown up in this environment. When I attended Cheshire High School I would take the bus to Cheshire Country Day School (which was located on Schoolhouse Road) and work each day with either the infants, toddlers or preschoolers.

After high school, I went to New Hampshire (I love to ski so I worked at Loon Mountain for free skiing) and after 4 years graduated from Plymouth State University as a certified teacher. I was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, which is an honor society for educators. During college, I student taught in both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade and discovered I really prefer preschool age.

When I returned to Cheshire, my mom wanted me to work at Scooter for a year to help "re-pay" college expenses. I have been here ever since.

After teaching for six years, my mom gave me more responsibilities as a co- director. In 1994, the same year I got married, she appointed me director. I have to say I love my job-I always say that I never have to grow up and part of me doesn't.

My husband John, owner of Johnny's Farm Market and JD's Driving Range, and I live in Cheshire with our sons JD and Justin.

My hope that the legacy my mother gave to me can continue to provide children with a joyful preschool experience in a developmentally appropriate setting.