

My Growing Tree

This program seeks every year to instill environmental ethics and stewardship in young children and to get them, from an early age, to understand and value the trees and forests in their own communities. After reading students a forest conservation story like Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax*, they start to understand that human beings have a profound effect on the environment around them simply as a direct result of their choices to use resources wisely, or not. At the end of the program, each student gets a free tree seedling to take home and plant. Every year the student tracks the growth of their seedling in correlation with their own growth in height on their birthday. I can't tell you how many people I've met that even after in some cases, several years have gone by, still remember the day they planted their 'my growing tree' seedling and are so proud to report on the generally impressive growth and form that the tree has taken over the years! In 2015, this program served 569 students in Bradford County through this great inter-agency partnership!