



VCTF GRANTS LIST 2022

The Vermont Children's Trust Foundation mission is to promote the well-being of children and families in Vermont by raising funds for community-based prevention programs that serve children aged birth to 18.

VCTF funds are granted to programs that meet the following State of Vermont outcomes:

- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential.

The programs supported by VCTF work to prevent physical and emotional abuse, substance abuse, school failure and violence, and help ensure that every child in Vermont has a fair chance for success. Examples of programs include:

After-school and out-of-school programs, Preschool programs, Literacy initiatives, Music, Arts, Theater, Outdoor adventures, Parenting education, Mentoring programs, and Substance abuse prevention programs

We believe each child deserves the chance to realize his or her innate potential; to grow up in a nurturing environment with opportunities that feed the body, mind and soul; to have a meaningful connection to the community in which they live; and to be protected from harm. We know that engaged, healthy and educated children grow into self-reliant, contributing adults. Taking care of our children now ensures a stronger future for Vermont.

VCTF funds prevention programs for children and families throughout Vermont. Our focus continues to be supporting the grassroots, direct service organizations who provide primary prevention programs based on community need. From isolated rural communities to small city neighborhoods, VCTF provides seed money in every county of the state to help incubate new programs serving children and families.

The following is a list of descriptions of the programs who were awarded Vermont Children's Trust Foundation grants in fiscal year 2022.

For grant information contact the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation:
(802) 951-8604 or info@vtchildrenstrust.org

VCTF Grant Summary 2022

VCTF Grant Awards

Number of Grants	57
\$ Amount of Grants	\$493,565

Programs by County

VCTF funds programs throughout the state based on community need. The following shows the number of programs funded in each county for 2022. Some programs operate in more than one county.

County	# of Grants
Addison	14
Bennington	13
Caledonia	15
Chittenden	18
Essex	6
Franklin	10
Grand Isle	7
Lamoille	7
Orange	10
Orleans	13
Rutland	15
Washington	17
Windham	13
Windsor	16

Programs by Targeted Outcomes

Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential -	41
Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported -	16

VCTF Grant Award List 2022

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Locations</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Est. # Served</u>
Addison Central Teens & Friends Inc	\$10,000	Addison	A	145
Arts Bus	\$10,000	Orange, Washington, Windsor	A	3,230
Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro	\$8,000	Windham	A	206
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes	\$10,000	Addison	A	70
Cabot Public Library	\$10,000	Caledonia, Washington	A	99
Capstone Community Action	\$10,000	Washington	A	132
Changing Perspectives	\$14,450	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor, Statewide	A	3,075
Connecting Youth/Champlain Valley School District	\$14,450	Chittenden	A	90
DREAM Program	\$7,225	Caledonia, Orleans	A	35
Encore After School and Summer Program	\$10,000	Orleans	A	93
Everybody Wins! Vermont	\$11,987	Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windsor	A	1,188
Family Place	\$8,670	Windham	B	410
Fletcher Memorial Library	\$339	Rutland Windsor	A	86
Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile	\$11,921	Franklin	B	200
Future Genius Inc	\$10,000	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor	A	320
Girls on the Run Vermont	\$5,419	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor, Statewide	A	2,640
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$5,238	Washington	B	129
Highgate Library and Community Center	\$8,000	Franklin	A	30
Janet S. Munt Family Room	\$10,000	Chittenden	B	54

King Street Center	\$10,000	Chittenden	A	64
Kingdom County Productions	\$5,000	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor	A	27
Lamoille Family Center	\$10,000	Caledonia, Lamoille, Orleans	A	108
Lawrence Memorial Library	\$5,500	Addison	B	50
Mentor Connector	\$10,000	Rutland	A	105
Milton After School Kids (MASK)	\$9,994	Chittenden	A	60
Milton Community Youth Coalition	\$10,000	Chittenden	A	55
MINT	\$10,000	Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Windsor	A	1,815
MoonRise Therapeutics	\$7,920	Windsor	B	51
Moretown Memorial Library	\$1,000	Washington	B	119
Mountain Communities Supporting Education - The Collaborative	\$10,000	Bennington, Windham, Windsor	A	776
New England Youth Theatre	\$5,000	Windham	A	262
NFI Vermont, Inc.	\$10,000	Bennington, Washington, Windham, Windsor	A	0
Northeast Kingdom Community Action	\$10,000	Caledonia	A	195
Northeast Kingdom Preschool and Daycare	\$14,147	Caledonia	B	154
One Planet Program, White River Valley SU	\$7,056	Windsor	A	105
Outright Vermont	\$14,450	Addison, Chittenden, Orleans, Rutland, Statewide	A	224
Outright Vermont	\$10,000	Rutland	B	135
Paran Recreations	\$5,000	Bennington	A	75
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont	\$10,000	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor	B	70
Richford Health Center Inc.	\$11,313	Franklin	A	160
River Gallery School of Art	\$10,000	Windham	A	182
Rural ARTS Collaborative dba WonderArts	\$5,000	Caledonia, Orleans	A	1,057
Rutland County Parent Child Center	\$10,000	Rutland	A	16

Safer Society Foundation	\$7,225	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor, Statewide	A	22
Sara Holbrook Community Center	\$10,000	Chittenden	A	142
Southwestern Vermont Medical Center	\$8,000	Bennington	A	160
St. Johnsbury School District	\$2,000	Caledonia	A	70
Steps to End Domestic Violence	\$10,000	Chittenden	B	124
Sunrise Family Resource Center	\$10,000	Bennington	B	71
University of Vermont Extension 4-H	\$10,000	Orleans	B	135
Upper Valley Haven	\$10,000	Orange, Washington, Windsor	A	95
Vermont Family Network	\$10,000	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor	A	1,015
Vermont Farmers Food Center	\$1,450	Rutland	B	377
Very Merry Theatre	\$10,000	Addison, Chittenden, Grand Isle	A	80
Waitsfield Children's Center	\$2,000	Washington	A	24
Waterbury Public Library	\$5,680	Washington	B	480
Winooski Family Center	\$10,131	Chittenden	B	102
57 Programs	Total Awards	\$493,565	Est. # Served	20,994

Outcomes Reference Key:

- A) Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential
- B) Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported

VCTF Grantees Fiscal Year 2022

(Alphabetical Order)

Addison Central Teens & Friends Inc

\$10,000.00

ACTivating Youth Innovation

Addison Central Teens (ACT) provides teens ages 12-18 with healthy meals, adult mentorship, and low-to-no-cost recreation and life skills programs, while connecting them with the necessary resources to help them thrive. We are committed to creating a space where all youth are heard, feel safe, and have autonomy, especially those most marginalized. We are open year-round for services ranging from after-school drop-in hours to summer camp. ACT is expanding their flagship drop-in program to give teens agency and a chance to innovate in the wake of the pandemic through STEAM-based workshops, community service, and civic engagement opportunities. Teens will be empowered to create a community where they feel valued and want to live.

Arts Bus

\$10,000.00

EVER AFTER KIDS in NEVER NEVER LANDS

After a decade of service, The Arts Bus mission of “empowering joy & authentic self-expression through the arts” finds Vermont’s favorite green bus at the crossroads of limited public art education resources and ever-increasing costs of raising children. The EVER AFTER KIDS Program is based on acceptance of two systemic facts: 1) there will FOREVER be children in AFTER care programs; and 2) quality art education will ALWAYS be limited in school budgets. Through this program, The Arts Bus bridges the opportunity gap by offering programs free of charge to children who otherwise have no other quality art education outside of public schools, working in creative partnerships with libraries, towns, schools, art centers & after-care providers.

Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro

\$8,000.00

Children’s Farm & Forest After Care Program

The Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro is expanding our Children’s Farm & Forest After Care Program in partnership with Brattleboro’s Retreat Farm. This program brings groups of young people to the Retreat Farm where they learn about flora, fauna, and ecosystems through structured activities. Participants enjoy a schedule of seasonally-appropriate learning guided by outdoor educators and child development specialists. Our planned expansion includes the following new program components:

- 1) Opportunities for High School students to join the staff team and receive both stipends and work experience
- 2) A more robust shuttle service making the program accessible to students at area schools
- 3) More skills-based workshops with guest educators

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes

\$10,000.00

Roots & Wings

Roots & Wings aims to be the staple program of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes. The primary pillars of the Roots & Wings program are community outreach, character development and good citizenship. Elementary students will work towards becoming Peer Leaders, middle school students towards Club Leaders, and high school students towards Community Leaders. As a member progresses through each stage, new opportunities become available and additional requirements are added. Pillars will offer increased opportunities for recognition, achievement, and community visibility that will foster stronger, more engaged citizens. We will build strong Roots here in the community so that youth will develop the Wings needed to support great futures.

Cabot Public Library**\$10,000.00****Base Camp!**

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has kept Cabot's youth out of the library, they will return in the coming year. With disproportionate numbers of trauma-impacted youth, the Library is a key partner in engaging youth in program activities to help them recover from isolation and re-engage with their community and extra-curricular connections. The Cabot Public Library will serve as a Base Camp of sorts—a place for after school crafts, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities, game clubs, book discussions and outdoor adventures, from which middle school children and teens can gain skills before their challenging climb to adulthood. VCTF resources will help to stabilize and grow accessible and equitable Library programming.

Capstone Community Action**\$10,000.00****Building Resilience in Children and Families**

Capstone Community Action's Head Start program operates under the core tenet that family and child outcomes improve when families are given opportunities to make positive changes and children learn strategies to support their social-emotional well-being. In our 2020 program year, 80% of all enrolled children experienced one or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) or traumatic events. In 2020, there was a 4% increase in the category of household and/or family member with depression or mental illness. After successfully implementing our resiliency-building program in our 3 preschool classrooms at our Lamoille County Early Learning Center, we are implementing this program at our center in Barre.

Changing Perspectives**\$14,450.00****Expanding Disability Awareness in Vermont Schools**

Changing Perspectives engages preK-12 students in open dialogue and real-world experiences to promote disability awareness and foster inclusive communities. We accomplish our mission through a combination of curricular materials and educator professional development opportunities. About 20% of Vermont students receive school-based support for a disability through an IEP or 504 plan. Changing Perspectives assists educators in proactively addressing awareness of disability as another dimension of diversity in their schools. In doing so, our programs support schools in fostering social-emotional competence among all learners.

Connecting Youth/Champlain Valley School District**\$14,450.00****Connecting Youth Mentoring (CYM)**

Connecting Youth has a long history of providing high quality mentoring in one of the largest school districts in the state. Serving 180 students grades 5-12 in Champlain Valley SD (CVSD), our outcomes exceed expectations annually and our staff are frequently sought to provide technical assistance & professional development for other programs. In 2017 we launched a community based high school program that alleviated pressure on other local community based programs and more importantly allowed us to apply our expertise in a new way to better meet students' needs. As we enter the 2020 school year we are prepared to increase the FTE committed to the high school from 0.5 - 1.0, effectively doubling the size as envisioned in our original 5yr roll-out plan.

DREAM Program**\$7,225.00****Growing DREAMs: DREAM Expansion to the Northeast Kingdom**

DREAM is working to reach some of the most underserved children in Vermont, those living in the Northeast Kingdom (NEK). We are currently engaged in a feasibility study, exploring a variation to our model that will train high school students to mentor younger youth living in low-income housing. Our model will maintain the high-quality DREAM mentor experience while also expanding our mentor pool to reach children in the NEK, an area that has proven difficult to reach, with little easy access to college student mentors. We are working to carry our study forward into implementation, including developing a service-learning curriculum for high school students and piloting the new model at a high school in the NEK.

Encore After School and Summer Program**\$10,000.00****North Country Supervisory Union Encore After School and Summer Program**

The NCSU Encore After School and Summer Program at Newport City Elementary School provides a snack, recess, help with homework and one hour activity meant to spark interest in youth from 3:00-5:00 daily. For a number of reasons, issues with student behavior have accelerated over the past several years, and it is clear that a supportive, restorative, and preemptive approach must be organized to keep children in the program feeling safe and engaged. A student support and social emotional learning position is being developed. This person will receive important training, like restorative practices, share their learning and model for other Encore staff, and create a safe, pre-emptive space for students to decompress and connect.

Everybody Wins! Vermont**\$11,987.00****Everybody Wins! Vermont**

Everybody Wins! Vermont is the state's largest mentoring organization, with over 600 adult volunteers reading one-on-one weekly with children in 22 schools statewide. Mentor pairs meet during lunch time at the school to share books and literacy activities and to build positive relationships. Our Power Lunch program exposes children to topics and discussions they might not have otherwise, enhances children's self-esteem, and expands their possibilities for academic and life success. Research shows that children who enjoy reading and are surrounded by books at a young age gain an edge in school and life. Everybody Wins! mentors help make sure that more children have that opportunity.

Family Place**\$8,670.00****Parent Education Services and Playgroups**

The Family Place seeks to meet the growing request from families and other community partners for more parent education opportunities and playgroups, through additional and more diverse program offerings. We fulfill a need to provide strength-based parenting education services, so that all parents – including those considered the most vulnerable or high-risk – acquire skills to strengthen their families. Research shows providing supports at the earliest opportunity can make a difference in the strength and health of families and a child's foundation for future learning.

Fletcher Memorial Library**\$339.00****Fletcher Memorial Library Children's Sensory Path**

The Fletcher Memorial Youth Library in Ludlow, VT. provides programming and services for children ages 0-18 and their caregivers. Due to restrictions caused by Covid-19, our library is not open to the public. In hopes of being able to offer a unique way to play and learn while visiting the library grounds, we are purchasing the materials to create an outdoor sensory path and additional tools to support outdoor programming.

Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile**\$11,921.00****Story Enchantment All Year**

Story Enchantment All Year (SEAY) addresses the need for high-quality childcare by delivering professional development opportunities for the early childcare workforce by extending our visits and targeting content for child care professionals. With each bookmobile visit, SEAY provides book/material loans for everyone, free professional development, and story times with evidence-based extension activities for children 0-5. By focusing on social-emotional skill development, SEAY builds trauma-informed services that will reduce the impacts of adverse childhood experiences and increase kindergarten readiness in social and emotional learning.

Future Genius Inc**\$10,000.00****Eco Genius Environmental Studies Program for Ages 10-14**

Future Genius, Inc. provides high-quality, affordable summer enrichment programs that explore 21st century sustainability education and stewardship. Through exploration of the U.N. Global Goals for Sustainable Development, Future Genius activates middle school youth, regardless of family income or background, to become agents of change—future leaders and problem-solvers—energized to transform the planet. Our innovative STEM programs are designed to boost academic achievement, foster social and emotional well-being, and create civic responsibility for a sustainable future. With a focus on personal development, Future Genius builds confidence and initiates exciting ideas for making a difference.

Girls on the Run Vermont**\$5,419.00****Girls on the Run and Heart & Sole**

Girls on the Run Vermont is an independent and statewide after-school program for 3rd-8th grade Vermont girls that focuses on whole health -- physical, emotional, and social. We serve more than 2,600 girls at over 150 sites in the state and are working hard to ensure that every girl has access to our high-quality after school program. But there is a lot more to be done. Annually, we serve over 2,700 girls between the ages of 8 and 13. While that may seem like a large number, it represents only 20% of Vermont females in this age group. Girls on the Run Vermont is creating more team sites, training more volunteer coaches, and continuing to offer critical financial assistance to every girl that participates.

Good Beginnings of Central Vermont**\$5,238.00****Expansion of Parent/Caregiver Support Groups**

Good Beginnings parent/caregiver circles bring families together to support each other in the unique-but-shared experience of parenting an infant. Anyone caring for an infant is welcome. Each circle is a welcoming, judgment-free space where new parents and caregivers can speak openly and honestly about the challenges and triumphs of the parenting experience, gain support, and build community. Weekend and weekday options help connect new moms and dads alike to a network of peer support that can make the difference during the first few months. Each circle is facilitated by a local parent with support from Good Beginnings staff. Food, drink, and age-appropriate children's activities and/or child care are provided.

Highgate Library and Community Center**\$8,000.00****Teen Time**

The Highgate Library and Community Center is building a program dedicated to teens, ranging from age 12 through 19. This program, called "Teen Time" will take place once a week and provide the teens within our community a fun, educational after school program either in-person or virtually. "Teen Time" will focus on a different theme from week to week with a focus on STEAM, gaming, and craft projects. This program will provide teens an outlet for their creativity and will bring them together to form a greater sense of community and peer connection. It will give teens a fun social club after school that is focused on their educational, social, and emotional advancement.

Janet S. Munt Family Room**\$10,000.00****Healthy Families from the Start**

Healthy Families from the Start provides prenatal and postpartum support outside of the traditional social services sector for new parents who are assessed as at risk by local health care providers. This program provides new parents with online and home-based groups, visits, and education from pregnancy through the first 12 weeks postpartum. Both birthing and non-birthing parents receive wrap around care that seamlessly transitions into existing Family Room playgroups and programs as children age. Thanks to our partnership with the Association of Africans Living in Vermont, the majority of families served include former refugees, asylees, and immigrants.

King Street Center**\$10,000.00****King Street Center Academic and Career Initiative**

King Street Center is starting a new Academic & Career Initiative, to ensure all youth aging up through our programs are successful and supported as they pursue their chosen post-secondary academic and career path. We know that students in our community seek a higher level of access, experience, and education as they navigate their personal journey through high school and beyond. As King Street Center's primary population are youth born to New American families, living with low-income, we are determined to be that resource for these motivated teens and their families.

Kingdom County Productions**\$5,000.00****Listen Up Project**

Kingdom County Productions in collaboration with Centerpoint will produce the Listen up Project: an original musical based on the lives of Vermont teens. The Listen Up Project is an ambitious original musical based on 8 months of interviews, workshops, and listening sessions with more than 800 teens across Vermont. From the vast and diverse stories gathered over this time, a script was written with teens, youth were engaged in the song-writing process and the musical was created. In August the show will tour across the state with 9 live outdoor performances. In the fall live streaming of the musical will be available to schools and the public.

Lamoille Family Center**\$10,000.00****Live Your Why - Passport Edition**

Live Your Why: Passport Edition is a dynamic series of programs to help middle-school students and their parent/caregivers to connect with the community and build resilience and social connections. Healthy Lamoille Valley, a program of the Lamoille Family Center, works with a coalition of community partners to provide education and prevention efforts against teen substance misuse. Kids feeling welcome and valued by their community is a factor that helps reduce these problems. Data shows that middle schoolers in the Lamoille Valley don't feel valued or connected in their community, and these programs will help improve their feeling of connection.

Lawrence Memorial Library**\$5,500.00****Begin Together: A Parent/Caregiver & Infant Workshop Series**

The Lawrence Memorial Library's Begin Together program is a series of 8-week workshops to support new parents/caregivers and infants, offered once in the Fall 2021 and again in the Winter 2022. These workshops are designed to encourage families to engage in age-appropriate activities through singing, games, and movement with a focus on support by professionals in the fields of infant massage, parenting/child development, family literacy, and postpartum healing/yoga. Additionally, parents and caregivers will be invited to learn and understand their child's development and become confident in their supporting roles. These workshops will develop community connections that will support and nurture families for years to come.

Mentor Connector**\$10,000.00****Positive Action Group Program _ Year 2**

The Mentor Connector is expanding our Positive Action group mentoring program to serve 35 additional vulnerable youth with bi-weekly social-emotional skill-building tools and resources. The Positive Action Group Mentoring Program is one such program that utilizes two evidence-based interventions (group curriculum and one-on-one mentoring) as a multi-layered approach to enhance outcomes and provide sustainable, long-term support to youth. Bi-monthly meetings are established to 1) provide a platform for youth to discuss and learn tools to reduce stress, enhance refusal skills, and improve prosocial behavior and 2) an engaging group activity to expose youth to new activities and connect youth with each other.

Milton After School Kids (MASK)**\$9,994.00****Sparks of STEAM Building Skills for the Future**

Sparks of STEAM Building Skills for the Future will give your child an educational experience that is not only inline with their interests, but also will help to further their social emotional and life skills. With the experiences they gain, they increase their confidence in their abilities, strengthen their problem-solving skills, collaboration skills, logical thinking, as well as deepen their innate curiosity, while inspiring their artistic ability. Sparks of STEAM Building Skills for the Future introduces students to scientific and engineering practices, cross-cutting concepts, and disciplinary core ideas as outlined in the Next Generation Science Standards, as well as creative arts, technology, and mathematics.

Milton Community Youth Coalition**\$10,000.00****Milton Community Youth Coalition**

The Milton Community Youth Coalition is a prevention based organization serving the youth and families of Milton. At the core of our youth empowerment initiatives is our youth mentoring program, Milton Mentors. As we emerge from the pandemic, we believe youth mentorship has a critical role to play in supporting youth, fostering resilience and creating the social connections imperative for healthy youth and adolescent development. We are promoting greater access to youth mentorship in Milton through expansion of our community based program and peer based E-Mentoring programming and the addition of new E-Mentoring and STEM based programming opportunities for youth and adult volunteers.

MINT**\$10,000.00****The MINT Family and Kids Makerspace**

The MINT is a makerspace for anyone who likes to make things. Our makerspace is open to kids of all ages, but kids and families have special tool and space needs that our adult-sized space is not set up to serve. The new MINT Kids and Family Makerspace will provide access to a special set of tools and equipment designed to be easy to learn and use by families. Programming will allow multi-generational family groups to spend time together making things. Kids will learn how to solve problems and gain the satisfaction that comes from making something useful with their own hands.

MoonRise Therapeutics**\$7,920.00****Strengthening Families at MoonRise Therapeutics**

MoonRise Therapeutics (MRT) is a farm-based nonprofit dedicated to healing emotional and psychological trauma and promoting mental health in the Upper Valley of Vermont. MRT brings together children, families, and adults in need with highly skilled clinical professionals and a herd of well-loved horses. This practice of integrating horses into mental health work creates a uniquely effective setting for healing and growth. As a member of Mt. Ascutney Hospital's Strengthening Families workgroup, MRT requests funding for regional programs to support their Circle of Security trainings and Play Groups. Circle of Security enhances caregivers' social connection, resulting in stronger, more secure attachments for children and families.

Moretown Memorial Library**\$1,000.00****Library of Outdoor Games & Exploration**

As one of the few remaining places with free access to information and resources, rural libraries have evolved beyond lending books to becoming true community centers. With close proximity to our town's recreation fields, tennis courts and nature trail, the Moretown library will extend our commitment to the community outside of our walls by providing a collection of outdoor games, sports equipment and nature exploration kits available for anyone to borrow. This will especially help marginalized families spend time in a community space creating social connections with friends and neighbors. Being outside together also enhances the overall well being of children and caregivers, promoting healthy choices and positive family bonding.

Mountain Communities Supporting Education - The Collaborative**\$10,000.00****The Collaborative's Refuse To Use Program**

The Collaborative's Refuse to Use Program is a community & school based series of educational substance misuse & asset building events for students in grades 6-12. This programming is available in 8 area schools, as well as to home schoolers. Students engage in lessons about health risks associated with substance misuse. Students learn asset building skills such as resilience, connection, & refusal skills. Students take 5 substance misuse & asset building classes and in turn receive a season pass from a local community recreation partner. This program intends to address the physical, mental, & social well-being of our youth through providing vetted programs, showcasing community involvement & delivering a season pass as a healthy alternatives.

New England Youth Theatre**\$5,000.00****Expanding NEYT's Leadership-In-Training Program**

NEYT is a non-profit theatre serving students ages 6-19, year-round. In 2019 NEYT piloted its Leader-In-Training (LIT) program, giving participants training as well as opportunities for teaching and leadership. Under the guidance of the Education Director, LITs work alongside directors and teachers, embedded in the programs that serve our younger students. In addition to gaining skills in teaching, leadership, communication, and organization, LITs build deep relationships with each other, younger students, and staff, while strengthening our entire NEYT community. LITs are selected through an application and interview process. Each LIT receives a stipend and a certificate of leadership training upon completion of the program.

NFI Vermont, Inc.**\$10,000.00****NFI Vermont - Trauma-Informed Schools Program**

The Trauma-Informed Schools Program (TISP) is a resilience-focused consultation and training program helping schools become better equipped to address the impact of trauma and adversity and increase resilience and healing. TISP recognizes the impact of stress and trauma is disproportionate and is therefore designed as part of other equity and social-emotional initiatives. Operating successfully since 2010, TISP is committed to efficacy and improvement. NFI will create a committee to design an updated curriculum, fully integrated between mental health and educational best practices, and facilitate implementation across Vermont.

Northeast Kingdom Community Action**\$10,000.00****Youth Food Education and Community Engagement Program**

Northeast Community Action (NEKCA) is a community based organization which provides holistic services designed to address the root causes and effects of poverty throughout the Northeast Kingdom. Through a partnership with Arlington high school in St. Johnsbury, NEKCA's Youth Food Education and Community Engagement Program provides at-risk youth with innovative culinary education led by renowned local chefs and offers youth the opportunity to provide meal distribution to families in need in the community. The program provides youth with skills that they can utilize in a professional environment while promoting meaningful community engagement.

Northeast Kingdom Preschool and Daycare**\$14,147.00**

Families First Advocacy, Building Community, Cultivating Citizenship

Families First is an innovative and exciting program based in rural Vermont that supports local children and families. The guiding principles of Families First will be Advocacy, Building Community and Cultivating Citizenship. The goal is to develop and support the whole family. This program will provide families with therapeutic support, connections with local resources and community agencies, education in the area of child development, provision of practical strategies and exploration of educational and employment opportunities in our region. This program will be based out of a not for profit childcare center located in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. Families First will support and nurture families in and around this region.

One Planet Program, White River Valley SU**\$7,056.00**

One Planet Program

Over the past three years, we have developed a robust STEM program in our eight programs. As a next step, we are implementing a dynamic robotics program. Robotics provide rich grounds for the development of valuable transferable skills, like problem-solving, critical thinking, communication and 21st century skills. By its nature, the study of robotics inherently incorporates all four pillars of STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, making it a truly dynamic and multi-disciplined learning opportunity. Robotics also allows scaffolding in learning--through a variety of techniques, students can move progressively toward deeper understanding and, ultimately, greater independence in the learning process.

Outright Vermont**\$14,450.00**

Expanding Friday Night Groups for LGBTQ youth to Rural Vermont!

Friday Night Group is Outright Vermont's (ORVT's) signature social-support program—meeting every Friday in Burlington since 1989! Today, groups in Burlington, Montpelier, Morrisville, and Brattleboro offer a drop-in space that celebrates who LGBTQ+ youth are. Groups enable youth to be themselves, connect with peers about shared joys and challenges, and engage with LGBTQ+-identified adults who model healthy behaviors and ensure that group is safe and supportive. Youth choose topics and lead conversations, while facilitators uphold youth generated rules that govern group, provide support, and referrals. ORVT established a strategic priority to increase access for rural LGBTQ+ youth; Friday night group can expand statewide!

Outright Vermont**\$10,000.00**

Priority Area Strategy: Rutland

Outright Vermont has always been a statewide organization, though not all regions need the same level of acute attention. In an effort to concentrate on those areas most in need of support and transformation, Outright is excited to engage a new and robust strategy: targeted regional prevention and intervention. By identifying areas of priority, and coordinating multi-faceted outreach and engagement, our hope is to build a supportive base of partners, adults, and youth leaders who can lead the charge in their own communities. This strategic approach will allow us to maximize impact in the areas where it is most needed. We are excited to pilot these efforts in Rutland County.

Paran Recreations**\$5,000.00****Camperships for Low Income Youth**

Paran Recreations is dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of rural children from low income families. We are developing year-round outdoor and environmental education programs for our surrounding community focusing on youth populations. Despite the fact that we live in the midst of natural beauty, many low income youth and adults in our community are becoming more and more disconnected from nature. The purpose of our project is to engage youth and adults in their immediate natural world and to inspire learning and stewardship. To better serve the community, we will offer scholarships to families in need to ensure our camps are accessible for all.

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont**\$10,000.00****Nurturing Program for Families in Substance Use Recovery**

Many of the people enrolling in our parenting programs in recent times struggle with addiction as well as the effects of trauma and adverse childhood experiences (75-80%). With so many parents and caregivers presenting with substance use issues, we will offer Nurturing Parenting Programs for Families in Substance Use Recovery targeted at families with young children. This is an evidence-based parenting and life skills training program which we will offer to parents with young children who are in recovery. Studies over the years show that the program is very effective at preventing child abuse, improving family functioning and parental resilience, and helping provide benefits in the realm of socio-emotional functioning in children.

Richford Health Center Inc.**\$11,313.00****Swanton Notch Daycamp**

Notch has successfully run summer daycamps for over 25 years currently offering a six week program attended by nearly 200 children in Richford and a newly added two week camp in Swanton this program has steadily grown and expanded to meet the needs of Swanton and the surrounding communities. Our goal is provide free high quality, enriching activities to our rural impoverished service areas as well as providing access to free nutritious breakfast and lunch daily. Expansion of our existing programming from two weeks to four weeks in addition to our successful partnership with Swanton Recreation and area 21C funded programs would help bridge the summer food insecurity gap, address summer learning loss, and build community connections.

River Gallery School of Art**\$10,000.00****Children's Year-Round Art Program**

River Gallery School is a 45 year old community art program located in Brattleboro, Vermont that holds the core belief that each person has artistic and creative capacities which, when nurtured, will lead to unique and valuable expression. We are expanding our Children's Art Program which serves 3 to 18 year olds and offers an individualized approach to painting, drawing, and sculpture, in an environment where we nurture each child's free imagination, while supplying technical support where needed.

Rural ARTS Collaborative dba WonderArts**\$5,000.00****Expanding Enrichment In School & After School**

Through in-school and after school enrichment classes, WonderArts provides direct programming to over 500 children in a tiny corner of Vermont's rural Northeast Kingdom. We support the physical, social, and emotional development of local youth by offering outlets for self-expression, exposure to new activities, and opportunities for development of creative skill sets. In an area where resources are limited, WonderArts collaborates with schools, community organizations, and local teaching artists to create meaningful experiences and guide our children and young people in achieving their true potential. RAC will continue building vibrant, safe, and resilient communities around our valued youth and their families.

Rutland County Parent Child Center**\$10,000.00****Rutland County Parent Child Center**

Rutland County Parent Child Center helps people transform their lives and remove barriers that perpetuate poverty through dynamic, whole-family programming. We integrate education and childcare, case management, family support, service coordination and material supports. The Saplings K-3 Afterschool Program will deliver grade-level-and-above literacy in a research-based therapeutic learning environment to children from low-income families. Saplings will integrate academic performance, social-emotional development and physical activity. Saplings will focus on children who have experienced trauma and on outcomes, such as enhancing executive functioning skills, that help remedy problems arising from adverse childhood experiences.

Safer Society Foundation**\$7,225.00****New Circle Mentoring**

New Circle provides one-on-one mentoring services to Vermont children from primary school through high school who have one or more parent/s who are incarcerated or who have a history of incarceration. Mentors are carefully recruited, trained, and matched with mentees, and each match is supervised by a Clinical Director, a retired school counselor with decades of experience. This is a long-term program, with a three-to-five-year minimum commitment by both mentors and mentees. New Circle's goal is to support these children academically, psychologically, and emotionally so they can be successful in school and graduate from high school ready to pursue higher education or career training.

Sara Holbrook Community Center**\$10,000.00****Youth Adventure Program**

Founded in 1937 in Burlington, Sara Holbrook Community Center was created to support the needs of local children, youth, and families. We recognize the need for more high-quality, affordable youth experiences among the students and families we serve, so we are growing our Teen Center's Youth Adventure Program (YAP) program by 240% in program days and 226% in youth served by expanding this formerly 6-week summer program to be a year-round offering for youth 6th-12th grade. High-quality out-of-school programs enable family members to be employed, create a safe space for young people, allow academic support, limit high-risk behaviors and promote positive social-emotional and physical health all of which are essential for those we serve.

Southwestern Vermont Medical Center**\$8,000.00****Full STEAM Ahead Bennington**

Full STEAM Ahead Bennington will deliver 3 STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activity kits to youth (4th-5th grade). Area youth struggle with academic achievement compared to Vermont peers. The STEAM kits will encourage learning beyond school with activities designed for best-practice science and art experiences. Students will learn something, build something, and create art. Participants will gain transferable skills via engaging learning experiences. Materials will be developed in collaboration with local businesses and community organizations. The kits will be complemented by live/video programming led by diverse local professionals who will coach the youth through the activities and serve as career inspiration.

St. Johnsbury School District**\$2,000.00****St. Johnsbury School District**

The St. Johnsbury School serves more than 600 students in grades PreK-8, 62% of whom receive free and reduced lunch. Each year approximately 70 students transition from our public school preschool, community child care centers, and their homes to our 4 kindergarten classrooms. Many of these students come to school without sturdy backpacks, and few with basic school supplies. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we know that the financial impact on families will be greater than ever during the 2021-2022 school year. We will give every student in the "Class of 2034" kindergarten a quality backpack filled with school supplies which will help children to have a successful entry into their first year of elementary school.

Steps to End Domestic Violence**\$10,000.00****Steps to End Domestic Violence Children's Program**

Children who are exposed to domestic violence (DV) may experience lasting physical, mental and emotional damage, including difficulties with attachment, regressive behavior, anxiety and depression, poor school performance, developmental delays, physical and psychosomatic health problems, aggression and other conduct problems. Parents who have experienced intimate partner violence are much more likely to be able to provide their children emotional security and encourage their development if they receive trauma informed services and treatment. Our Children and Youth Program will offer supportive playgroups and 1:1 mentoring with the children of our service users; and parenting education and support groups for non-abusing parents.

Sunrise Family Resource Center**\$10,000.00****Sunrise Family Resource Center**

As Bennington County's only Parent Child Center, Sunrise Family Resource Center has been serving families in our community for over fifty years. Our mission is to connect families with community resources, provide educational experiences, and build relationships that promote independence and resilience. Sunrise is excited to offer a monthly "Making Meals and Memories" program. Once a month, Sunrise will invite families to participate in a planned event where they will help prepare a meal to enjoy together, while partaking in creative and age-appropriate activities. Sunrise aims to encourage parents/caregivers to engage with their children and nurture their relationships, while cultivating valuable life skills.

University of Vermont Extension 4-H**\$10,000.00****PROSPER at Derby School**

PROSPER is an evidence based partnership model that facilitates the delivery of two evidence based programs that build strong families and help youth avoid risky behaviors. UVM Extension, Derby School, North Country Middle School and community partners will come together to implement strategies and programs that support needs identified in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey data by building protective factors through a strengths based approach. We will continue building the project that was disrupted by COVID. This site adds to others in the NEK implementing the PROSPER model supporting youth and families in having the skills they need to thrive.

Upper Valley Haven**\$10,000.00****Upper Valley Haven Children's Program**

The Upper Valley Haven's Children's Services Program (CSP) provides critical support to children who are or who have ever been homeless. Since 1980, the Haven has served tens of thousands of individuals & families who are struggling with homelessness and poverty through access to food, shelter, educational programming, & service coordination. As part of our mission to break the cycle of poverty, our CSP offers the community's most vulnerable children, with high ACES scores, educational & developmental opportunities. This support is critical for the children we serve, who are suffering disproportionately from the social, educational, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic & who have all suffered the trauma of homelessness.

Vermont Family Network**\$10,000.00****Puppets in Education's Anxiety/Worry and Bullying Prevention/Kindness Programs**

Vermont Family Network (VFN) empowers and supports all Vermont families of children with special needs. Puppets in Education (PiE) was a stand-alone nonprofit until 2017, when it merged with VFN. Using life-sized puppets, PiE teaches children how to keep themselves safe and healthy and to appreciate each other's differences through educational programs for pre-K-8 students and their adults. Our programs model effective leadership and problem-solving skills and demonstrate respect and inclusion in all communities. For over 40 years, PiE has reached 10,000 children annually in Vermont schools. We promote empathy and kindness while educating students about strategies that break the cycles of abuse, bullying and harassment.

Vermont Farmers Food Center**\$1,450.00****Farm Based Experiential Learning**

Vermont Farmers Food Center's Farm Based Experiential Learning (VFFC FaBEL) program serves children ages 2 and up. The programs take place in our educational greenhouse, which serves the dual purpose of providing an educational backdrop for programs and of growing produce for various food security programs. The programs are custom tailored to fit the needs of children enrolled. Engagement in our hands-on programs allows for students to take ownership of their own health, learn about nature, eco-systems, science, nutrition, community engagement and emotional well-being through a healthy connection with soil, plants, and their peers. The programs require equipment such as hand tools, wheel barrows, hoses, watering cans, seed trays, and more

Very Merry Theatre**\$10,000.00**

Very Merry Theatre Teen Youth Advisory Council

Very Merry Theatre is establishing a teen youth council to engage in the following diversity and equity activities:

- a.) Gather feedback from youth in our community about new programming interests with an eye on multi-cultural offerings and organize and sponsor at least three new workshops or events in response to that feedback;
- b.) Facilitate conversations with youth in the community and community partners to explore ways that VMT can further our commitment to creating a safe space that is anti-racist, inclusive of youth with disabilities and honors gender identity and expression.

Waitsfield Children's Center**\$2,000.00**

The Waitsfield Children's Center

The Waitsfield Children's Center provides a play based curriculum that is developmentally stimulating, and provide endless hands-on learning opportunities. We are a non-profit licensed center based childcare program, providing daily care for children age's birth through preschool. Regularly incorporate nature, art, music, movement, science, early math, pre-reading, and pre-writing skills into our play based activities. We are creating a mud kitchen on our playground, incorporating it to our new gardens, providing an opportunity for children to develop their fine motor skills outside, in an area that is often focused on gross motor skills.

Waterbury Public Library**\$5,680.00**

Supporting Kids in Tough Times: Resources for Families

The Waterbury Public Library will support healthy social-emotional development in young children in our community. We will do this by:

- * Purchasing topical children's and parenting books to the library's collection
- * Adding pre-loaded educational tablets that focus on social-emotional learning to our lending collection for the first time
- * Providing a keep-forever book to 235 +/- local children in preschool and Kindergarten.
- * Hosting 2 parenting/caregiver workshops on positive social-emotional development in young children

Winooski Family Center**\$10,131.00**

Winooski Family Center Program

Through weekly playgroups, parent workshops and summer community based activities, the Winooski Family Center will offer caregivers and children, birth through five years of age the opportunity to participate in learning activities that are child-centered, developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive. While drawing from the Early Multi-Tiered System of Support's (Pyramid Model) Positive Solutions for Families evidence based practice model, the facilitator will offer a curriculum to support parental resilience and social connections as well as Strengthening Families Protective Factors to increase family stability and children's ability to learn.