

FALL 2020

Vermont Children's Trust Foundation

BUILDING RESILIENCE • CREATING OPPORTUNITY

DONATE ONLINE: WWW.VTCHILDRENSTRUST.ORG 888-475-KIDS (5437)



Honoring our Resilient Organizations

What a year! The Vermont Children's Trust Foundation proudly funded over \$423,000 to 43 programs in 2020. When we funded these programs we envisioned busy camps, thriving children's programming, live theater productions and mentoring pairs bonding and connecting. When COVID-19 emerged in March, our grantees had very little time to adjust to the many new restrictions imposed upon them. We were astounded by their ability to immediately pivot. Fueled by love for the children and families they serve, these organizations understood how necessary it was to persevere and remain connected with families. And, through their creativity and

dedication, we are proud to note that we are seeing busy camps, thriving children's programming, live theater productions and mentoring pairs safely bonding and connecting. Here are just a few examples of the tremendous work being done by our grantees.

The Arts Bus was created to provide equity, proximity and access to art education, and what emerged was a rolling mobile art studio, theater, library & creative learning center for ALL of Vermont's children wherever and wherever they are! As a creative response to the pandemic, in April 2020 The Arts Bus launched Kits4Kids, a program to deliver FREE arts and craft kit care

packages to the hands, hearts & homes of children in Central Vermont. Now in its 10th year, Vermont's beloved green bus has driven thousands of miles to empower children to find joy and authentic self-expression through the arts.

Very Merry Theatre teaching artists banded together and made a speedy transition to offering remote programming. "We believed that it was critically important to offer both low cost as well as free programming to keep young people engaged in creativity and we were so inspired by all of the amazing ways they expressed themselves via Zoom in our remote theatrical creations!" Very Merry Theatre spent countless hours planning for the reopening of in-person programming through their summer camps at their Charlotte Barn, Vergennes and 20 Allen Street sites. Teen counselors and teaching artists were a source of inspiration as they reimagined much adored theatre games in physically distanced configurations.

(Continued on Back Cover)



OUR MISSION

The Vermont Children's Trust Foundation promotes the well-being of children and families in Vermont by raising funds for community-based prevention programs.

See Polar Express info inside ➡



Supporting Programs for Vermont Children

Proudly Presented by ...



The Polar Express 2020- Keeping the spirit alive!!

As many of you have heard, the Polar Express will be heading down a different track this year. We are packaging up the Polar Express experience, which will be delivered by post to our donors and sponsors this December.

Those who donate \$100 or more by October 25th will receive a package that contains everything needed to hold a Polar Express event at home: bells, golden tickets, chocolates, a note from Santa, and a link to an original video of The Polar Express story book reading.

\$150+ donors will receive those items, plus a signed copy of the Van Allsburg picture book and a Polar Express ornament.

All \$100+ donors will be put on the advanced ticket list for Polar Express 2021.

Put on some comfortable jammies, pour some hot cocoa and create a special night enjoying the Polar Express story reading from your home!

We are grateful for our generous sponsors who enable us to bring this Polar Express experience to you.

Thank you for keeping the magic alive!



WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND LOOK FORWARD TO RIDING THE TRAIN WITH ALL OF YOU IN 2021!

2020 Awards

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont Executive Director Kimberley Diamond, receives the LYNNE VON TRAPP AWARD for exemplary leadership in a prevention program for children.

This award is given annually by the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation in honor of Lynne von Trapp, founding benefactor, board member and first Executive Director of the Foundation.

The 2020 SALLY FOX AWARD has been awarded to Milton Community Youth Coalition.

The award is in honor of Sally Fox, who worked as an attorney and director of the Vermont Disabilities Law Project of Vermont Legal Aid before being elected in 1986 to the Vermont House of Representatives from the town of Essex.

2021 Grantees by County

Addison

Addison Central Teens & Friends, Inc.
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Mary Johnson Children's Center
Very Merry Theatre

Bennington

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

Caledonia

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont
DREAM Program
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Northeast Kingdom Preschool and Childcare
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
Wonder & Wisdom dba WonderArts

Chittenden

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont
Connecting Youth/Champlain
Valley School District
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Milton Community Youth Coalition
Thrive After School and Summer Program
Very Merry Theatre
Winooski Family Center

Essex

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont

Franklin

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

Lamoille

Bishop John A. Marshall School

Orange

Chandler Center for the Arts
Creative Lives, Inc.
Everybody Wins! Vermont
The Arts Bus

Orleans

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont
DREAM Program
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Wonder & Wisdom dba WonderArts

Rutland

Everybody Wins! Vermont
The Mentor Connector

Washington

Chandler Center for the Arts
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
The Arts Bus

Windham

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont
Building a Positive Community (BAPC)
Family Place
Youth Services, Inc.

Windsor

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont
Chandler Center for the Arts
Creative Lives, Inc.
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont
One Planet Program, White River Valley SU
The Arts Bus
Windsor County Partners

Statewide

Changing Perspectives
Girls on the Run Vermont
Hopecam, Inc.
Outright Vermont
Safer Society Foundation
Vermont Family Network
Vermont Humanities Council

VCTF Dollhouse Auction



Can you imagine the awe that a child will feel seeing this hand-made, one-of-a-kind dollhouse for the first time? Just in time for the holidays, this intricate replica of Abraham Lincoln's family home will be auctioned to benefit the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation. To bid on this priceless gift, crafted and donated by Linda LaBerge, visit our website at www.vtchildrenstrust.org

(Resilient Organizations Continued)

Vermont Humanities Council

This summer, students from Richford Jr. Sr. High School and Berkshire Elementary School participated in the virtual camp called "Photos for Change". While practicing literacy and communication skills, campers explored the power of photography to capture history and to influence change. They also learned photography techniques and tips from professional photographers to help improve their skills. Each camper received five free books, art

supplies, and a Humanities Camp 2020 T-shirt. In between live virtual sessions, students read books for discussion and took photos. Two interactive guest speakers, one virtual field trip, a presentation to families, and an exhibit at the local library rounded off the experience.

This letter from a camper's mother demonstrates one of the many ways that this experience impacted at-risk youth.

"[My son] has been so excited and so proud of his photography skills! I have

been taking him out and showing him how to use the telephoto lens to his advantage and he has really taken some phenomenal photos. And ... I FIND THAT HE READS ALL ABOUT THE BUGS HE DISCOVERS! Your camp has opened up more than opportunities for learning, but also opportunities for excitement and a whole new avenue for bonding with my son! He has learned so much. It is nice to see him so excited and yet, so focused. Who would have guessed that photography would teach focus far beyond the lens?"

Thank You to All of Our 2020 DONORS!

Our grantees have been able to rise up and provide support to our children due to the generosity of our donors. Through you, Vermont is a better place for our children to live, grow and learn. Please visit our growing list of big-hearted supporters on our website. Our donors recognize that healthy, educated and nurtured children are more likely to realize their promise as they mature. Join us in thanking them for believing in the work of VCTF.

2021 Grants

Income Sources for Programs

Federal Grant-JJDP*	\$31,102	9%
State Appropriation	\$23,205	7%
Donations from Donors on State Tax Returns - Line 23C	\$41,795	12%
VCT Foundation Contribution	\$248,775	72%
Total Funds for Grants	\$344,877	100%

35 Programs Funded
(see grants list)

*JJDP=Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention



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