

FALL 2023

Vermont Children's Trust Foundation

BUILDING RESILIENCE • CREATING OPPORTUNITY

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It starts with puddles. Splashing becomes swimming - and sometimes, sailing. For 12-year-old Tasneem Mohamed, learning how to sail at the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center has brought joy, confidence and friendship.

It was Mona, Tasneem's mother, who first suggested sailing lessons. Coming to the U.S. from Egypt, says Mona, she wanted Tasneem to have the experience of learning how to feel comfortable in the water. As for Tasneem, "I thought it might be fun," she says. That confident, can-do spirit brought her to Lake Cham-



The Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center is one of many local organizations supported by the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation that enlighten, educate and encourage our youths to grow and flourish.

plain four summers ago, and since then, she has learned the basics of sailing - and in the process become a more confident, capable person.

As she learned how to rig a boat and what to do when your centerboard doesn't work, she also made friends from near and far, from California to Ontario to Montpelier. Together they became familiar with the many different components of a sailboat and how to use them, from the tiller to the mainstay.

Training on Lake Champlain with a
(Continued 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.



The Polar Express

❖ December 9 and 10, 2023 ❖

THE POLAR EXPRESS ROLLS ON!! We are looking forward to bringing the 21st annual Polar Express Train Ride to Burlington. We have parents, who once rode the train as children, now bringing their own little ones to experience the magic of the Polar Express. We love that this has become a multi-generational event! We are grateful for the hundreds of volunteers and many, many generous supporters who help us create the magical experience of boarding a train in Burlington and arriving at the North Pole.



Thank you
for keeping
the magic alive!

In our 21st year of the Polar Express, the love rolls on. While bringing holiday joy to thousands, we hope to raise \$180,000 for children's prevention programs across Vermont.

A Whole Hearted Thank You!

We simply could not fund all of these outstanding programs without YOU. Our magnificent and faithful donors allow us to fund these important programs that help our children grow, build self-confidence, connect with peers and find their purpose. Thank you! Please see a full list of our individual donors on our website www.vtchildrenstrust.org/donors

2023 Awards

LYNNE Von TRAPP AWARD

Encore Afterschool and Summer Program's Program Coordinator, Elizabeth Chambers, 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. "What an honor. I love what I do and feel grateful to be part of a team that is dedicated to supporting each other, and more importantly, the kids in the NEK. Thank you for the recognition, and for years of supporting Encore with high-impact projects!" – Elizabeth Chambers

SALLY FOX AWARD

The 2023 Sally Fox Award has been awarded to King Street Center and the Afterschool Excellence & Summer Camp Support program. 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. At King Street Center, children practice building their social-emotional skills, try new physical activities, and strengthen their academic skills daily. This is accomplished through strong staff, tutors, & community partners as well as close ties and communication with parents and the school district. In addition to this intensive academic support, every day at King Street Center includes warm meals, tinkering, art, cooking, and loads of fun gym games – all of which contribute to the overall success of a child.

2023 Grantees by County

Addison County

Addison Northwest School District
Arts Bus
Bristol Hub
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Lawrence Memorial Library
Partners In Adventure, Inc.
Rainbow Riding LTD
Starksboro Cooperative Preschool
Teen Center

Bennington County

Lake Paran Recreations
Rainbow Riding LTD
Sunrise Family Resource Center

Caledonia County

Arts Bus
Everybody Wins! Vermont
NEK Community Growth Center
Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.
Northeast Kingdom Youth Services

Chittenden County

Child Care Resource
Community Sailing Center
Dad Guild
Essex CHIPS, Inc.
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Green Mountain Mobile Therapy Inc,
Janet S. Munt Family Room
King Street Center
Milton Town School District
NFI VT Family Center
ONE Arts
Partners In Adventure, Inc.
Robin's Nest Children's Center
UVM Health Network - Home Health and
Hospice
Very Merry Theatre

Essex County Grants

Encore After School and Summer Program
Northeast Kingdom Youth Services
Town of Brighton

Franklin County

Dad Guild
Enosburgh Public Library
Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile
Highgate Library and Community Center
Partners In Adventure, Inc.
Saint Albans Museum, Inc.
Village of Enosburg Falls

Grand Isle County

Food for Thought
Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile
Partners In Adventure, Inc.
UVM Health Network - Home Health and
Hospice

Lamoille County

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont
Lamoille Restorative Center

Orange County

Arts Bus
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont
Blue Mountain Union School
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Finding Our Stride
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont
Maple Leaf Children's Center Inc
Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary
Second Growth, Inc.

Orleans County

Dad Guild
Encore After School and Summer Program
Everybody Wins! Vermont

Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.

Rutland County

Arts Bus
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Rainbow Riding LTD
Vermont Family Network
Windsor Central Supervisory Union

Washington County

Arts Bus
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont
Cabot Community Association
Dad Guild
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont
Mad River Mentoring
Partners In Adventure, Inc.
Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary
Vermont Family Network

Windham County

Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro
Kids in the Country
New England Youth Theatre
Youth Services, Inc

Windsor County

Arts Bus
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Finding Our Stride
MoonRise Therapeutics
Rainbow Riding LTD
Second Growth, Inc.
Springfield Area Parent Child Center
Windsor Central Supervisory Union
Youth Services, Inc

Statewide

Outright Vermont
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont



VTCF Awards \$50,000 Grant to the Arts Bus

For the first time in our organization's history, we have awarded a \$50,000 grant to fund an impactful project serving kids across Vermont. The Arts Bus has been rolling across Vermont bringing art supplies and art education to children living in our most rural areas for over a decade. The 1994 International Diesel is iconic and creates a rolling makerspace everywhere it goes. However, with summer tires, no heat (or A/C), and limited interior light without connecting to an electrical source, the bus is not an all-weather vehicle. At 28' long and nearly 10' tall, it requires a special driving talent and can only be driven 5-6 months of the year on paved and moderate grade roads. The Arts Bus needs a new way to reach our children, all year round. VCTF is proud to provide the funding needed to buy a new vehicle. Genny Albert, Executive Director of the Arts Bus is grateful. "After a decade of rolling thru Vermont to empower children through the arts, The Arts Bus has proven the best way to bridge the opportunity gap is to drive over it! With this amazing grant, we'll build capacity with the perfect vehicle for year-round and expanded service to reach even more of Vermont's young artists to unlock their creative potential—and we are simply thrilled by what Vermont Children's Trust Foundation has made possible for years to come!" Join our e-mail list and visit our website to be the first to hear of new grant opportunities offered by VCTF in the weeks and months ahead.

team of peers is fun, says Tasneem, and the teachers are extremely supportive. "They help you whenever they can tell that you're scared or not sure what to do," she says. They make learning even basic skills such as knot-tying fun. She especially liked the exercise of practicing tying a sailing knot behind your back (try it- it's not easy). Most important, they're right there whenever you need them.

But make no mistake - sailing safely is serious business, and the sailors are taught how to handle both the practicalities and the unexpected. The hardest skill she's had to learn so far, says Tasneem, is how to sail a boat without a rudder. "You have to figure out how to use the jib, sail and main sail to steer. It can be really

frustrating and confusing." But, as with all of her training, the counselors are right there to lend a hand as needed.

And the best part? Going fast. "You don't need a strong wind," she says. "I just love it."

While she's not ready to say she wants to make sailing her life's career, Tasneem hopes to be a junior instructor when she turns 16. And her mother approves. As the youngest of five and the only girl among her siblings, "she's always been responsible," says Mona.

"But she's become even more so, with added confidence, because of her experiences at the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center."

And most important, she's having fun.

2024 Grants Funded

Income Sources for Programs

| | | |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| State Appropriation | \$100,000 | 17% |
| Donations from Donors on State Tax Returns - Line 23C | \$60,000 | 10% |
| VCT Foundation Contribution | \$440,195 | 73% |
| Total Funds for Grants | \$600,195 | 100% |

59 Programs Funded (see grants list)

THANK YOU to all the generous corporations and companies who invest in our programs throughout the year.



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