



BUILDING RESILIENCE • CREATING OPPORTUNITY

## VCTF GRANTS LIST 2024

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 2025.

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

# VCTF Grant Summary 2024

## VCTF Grant Awards

<b>Number of Grants</b>	70
<b>\$ Amount of Grants</b>	\$603,672

## 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 2024 . Some programs operate in more than one county.

<b>County</b>	<b># of Grants</b>
Addison	13
Bennington	5
Caledonia	6
Chittenden	18
Essex	3
Franklin	7
Grand Isle	4
Lamoille	3
Orange	10
Orleans	5
Rutland	8
Washington	12
Windham	4
Windsor	10

## Programs by Targeted Outcomes

Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential -	45
Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported -	25

## VCTF Grant Award List 2024

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Locations</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Est. # Served</u>
Addison Northwest School District	\$15,000	Addison		125
Arlington Area Childcare Inc	\$1,000	Bennington		28
Arts Bus	\$10,000	Addison, Caledonia, Orange, Rutland, Washington, Windsor		4,435
Arts Bus	\$50,000	Addison, Caledonia, Orange, Rutland, Washington, Windsor		0
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont	\$10,000	Lamoille, Orange, Washington		120
Blue Mountain Union School	\$1,980	Orange		40
Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro	\$5,018	Windham		107
Bristol Hub	\$2,000	Addison		86
Cabot Community Association	\$2,000	Washington		37
Child Care Resource	\$15,000	Chittenden		1,400
Community Sailing Center	\$4,000	Chittenden		40
Dad Guild	\$11,000	Chittenden, Franklin, Orleans, Washington		431
Encore After School and Summer Program	\$10,544	Essex, Orleans		42
Enosburgh Public Library	\$9,880	Franklin		112
Essex CHIPS, Inc.	\$7,625	Chittenden		250
Everybody Wins! Vermont	\$15,000	Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windsor		600
Finding Our Stride	\$5,000	Orange, Windsor		115
Food for Thought	\$10,000	Grand Isle		188
Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile	\$15,000	Franklin, Grand Isle		194
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$7,250	Lamoille, Orange, Washington		211
Green Mountain Mobile Therapy Inc,	\$2,000	Chittenden		188
Green Mountain Mobile Therapy Inc,	\$1,969	Chittenden		160
Henry Sheldon Museum	\$2,000	Addison		1,060
Highgate Library and Community Center	\$1,883	Franklin		887
Janet S. Munt Family Room	\$10,000	Chittenden		457
Kids in the Country	\$1,417	Windham		14
King Street Center	\$10,000	Chittenden		144

Lake Paran Recreations	\$5,000	Bennington	122
Lamoille Restorative Center	\$2,000	Lamoille	250
Lawrence Memorial Library	\$8,000	Addison	84
Little School	\$1,750	Windsor	44
Living Tree Alliance	\$954	Washington	455
Mad River Mentoring	\$15,000	Washington	40
Maple Leaf Childrens Center Inc	\$1,369	Orange	18
Milton Town School District	\$10,000	Chittenden	40
MoonRise Therapeutics	\$15,000	Windsor	189
NEK Community Growth Center	\$10,000	Caledonia	295
New England Youth Theatre	\$10,000	Windham	243
NFI VT family center	\$10,000	Chittenden	20
Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.	\$1,980	Caledonia, Orleans	70
Northeast Kingdom Youth Services	\$10,000	Caledonia, Essex	60
ONE Arts	\$10,000	Chittenden	20
ONE Arts Inc	\$2,000	Chittenden	70
Orleans Central Early Childhood Program	\$1,993	Orleans	60
Outright Vermont	\$15,000	Statewide	103
Outright Vermont	\$50,000		0
Partners In Adventure, Inc.	\$2,000	Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Washington	120
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont	\$15,000	Statewide	1,200
Reinbow Riding LTD	\$4,126	Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Windsor	32
Robin's Nest Children's Center	\$9,900	Chittenden	86
Rutland County Community Justice Center at BROCC Community Action	\$2,000	Rutland	28
Rutland County Parent Child Center	\$2,000	Rutland	373
Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary	\$5,000	Orange, Washington	36
Saint Albans Museum, Inc.	\$15,000	Franklin	587
Second Growth, Inc.	\$15,000	Orange, Windsor	122
Shelburne Nursery School, Inc.	\$1,320	Chittenden	22
Slate Valley Union School District	\$1,875	Rutland	525
Springfield Area Parent Child Center	\$10,000	Windsor	200
Starksboro Cooperative Preschool	\$472	Addison	92



## VCTF Grantees Fiscal Year 2024

(Alphabetical Order)

### **Addison Northwest School District**

**\$15,000.00**

Addison Northwest School District

Strong, supportive, and dynamic middle level education is imperative for students in some of their most vulnerable educational years. Research shows how Middle Level learners have unique, developmental needs in order to truly thrive. In response to real-time need, Addison Northwest School District has been working towards the expansion of our middle school! Vergennes Union Middle School, will begin as a 7-8th grade middle school in 2023, and move into a 6-8th grade middle school for SY 24. Our vision, built in partnership with educators, families, and students, is clear: a middle school that prioritizes student psychological well-being, school culture, and real-world driven learning experiences.

### **Arlington Area Childcare Inc**

**\$1,000.00**

Arlington Area Childcare Inc,

We are requesting this because this wasn't built into our current budget and is essential for meeting our licensing compliance, as many of our teachers are working on their career ladder certificates in ECE through CCV.

### **Arts Bus**

**\$10,000.00**

Ever After Kids - GROWing & GOing

The Arts Bus Ever After Kids Program is GROWing & GOing! What we piloted in 2019 with partner OnePlanet & VCTF's grant has grown to an award-winning, efficient, year-round art enrichment & empowerment program-not just for kids, but for care providers, families, art educators, schools, libraries & communities. The research-supported, needs-based program is based on 2 systemic facts: 1) there will FOREVER be children at-risk in AFTER care programs; and 2) quality art education will ALWAYS be sacrificed from school budgets. It was a steep learning curve to roll out this program just before a pandemic, but that inspired initiatives for art kits & supplies to remote areas in every weather, which together makes magic for heaps of ever after kids!

### **Arts Bus**

**\$50,000.00**

Art Van Purchase

Art VanGo: The Arts Bus Ever is seeking Project funding for an all-weather vehicle (cargo van) to continue with the magic we've created in our award-winning, growing & going Ever After Kids Program (and other programs New RouTEEN, Art from the Start). We expect that within 90 days of funding we will begin impacting over 1,200+ kids in Year 1 with weekly art enrichment, likely to double by Year 5 – and this 'project' should keep on rolling for a decade of thousands of children's empowerment thru art!

The research-supported, needs-based Ever After Kids Program is based on 2 systemic facts: 1) there will FOREVER be children at-risk in AFTER care programs; and 2) quality art education will ALWAYS be sacrificed from school budgets. We started with routinized year-round teaching 3-5x/week in afterschool, daycare & summer camp settings, but with the onset of the Covid pandemic, we altered course by starting the Kits4Kids initiative to deliver creative & high-quality guided art enrichment & supplies to remote areas. We are now fully engaged year-round and need a vehicle that can accompany our work to fulfill our mission!

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont****\$10,000.00**

## Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont

BBBSVT serves children and youth between the ages of 6-18+ in community, and site-based settings. The BBBS 1:1 mentoring service delivery model is an evidence-based preventative practice that fosters social/emotional learning and positive mental health. Youth who are at risk due to factors such as parental incarceration, poverty, homelessness, parent's suffering from an addiction or mental health concern are matched with a reliable mentor "Big". Matches meet for 4-6 hours per month for at least one year. BBBSVT also provides supportive services for volunteers, youth and families including ongoing training, facilitated group activities, monthly support contact, resource referrals, and mental health and prevention education.

**Blue Mountain Union School****\$1,980.00**

## Blue Mountain Union School

Blue Mountain Union School recently became a full day/full year preschool program and are looking at ways to enhance the materials that are available to our children. With the expansion of our program we are adding an outdoor classroom space for our students to explore within and use their imagination to a whole new world of excitement and learning. With the funds from this grant we are purchasing water exploration tables, mud kitchens, outdoor reading nooks and more. We currently serve 40 children within our preschool program and they come from a variety of backgrounds. Being outdoors is something that many of them are missing or have missed from the pandemic. We plan to expand their learning and their world.

**Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro****\$5,018.00**

## Nurture Nature Days - Piloting a Collaboration between BGCB &amp; Vermont Wilderness School

BGCB is piloting our Nurture Nature Days Program in partnership with the Vermont Wilderness School in order to provide structured outdoor learning and recreation environments for youth and their families. This program will operate free bi-weekly on Saturdays from 10AM through noon during the fall of 2023 and spring of 2024. Each session of the program will be operated on a drop-in basis at a different outdoor location around Windham County. This structure creates better access to programming for families in Windham County's rural towns, allowing youth and parents/caregivers to attend the sessions that align best with their schedules. Each program session focuses on different outdoor skills and includes a healthy snack for all participants.

**Bristol Hub****\$2,000.00**

## More Mountain Bikes for Bristol Recreation Department

The Bristol Recreation Department creates opportunities for families and children to enjoy Bristol, explore new interests, get outdoors and learn new skills. The role as a Recreation Department is to improve the quality of life for community members and make Bristol a better place to live. With this grant BRD is expanding our Mountain bike library, a resource that provides access to free, quality, maintained bikes for the community - both child and adults.

**Cabot Community Association**

**\$2,000.00**

Cabot Community Association

The Cabot Community Association is pairing with the Cabot school, the United Methodist Church, and childcare owner Heather Smires to open the Cabot's Children Center. This will be the only licensed children center within Cabot that serves infants and toddlers, meeting needs of many local families, including the 300 employees of Cabot Creamery. This program will also expand to support preschool children, who will face a need for care when school is closed during the summer. This funding will provide the program with strollers that will allow them to access the Cabot green for quality outdoor time and cribs for a location to rest. Both will also be an intricate part of the licensing plan to provide transportation methods.

**Child Care Resource**

**\$15,000.00**

Specialized Child Care

Specialized Child Care supports children in child care with physical or developmental needs, including children up to age 13 in state custody, and children and families experiencing significant short term stress. Supports include child care financial assistance, transportation coordination and securing placement in an appropriate early care program. In addition, CCR staff provide supports and consultation to early childhood educators to help develop teaching strategies, classroom set-up, program culture, and behavior mitigation to prevent expulsion from care. We embody the data which supports the value of safe, healthy and quality early care in preparing children to thrive in school and life.

**Community Sailing Center**

**\$4,000.00**

Pre-STEM for Preschoolers, Parent/Child

CSC strives to ensure access to Lake Champlain by all community members. Mission-based programs eliminate barriers to access based on gender, ability, income, age, and now, with our latest program, race, culture & ethnicity. Now in our 29th year, we continue to find new ways to provide lake access and life lessons for all. This educational program will be piloted to determine format, design, registration methods, and effective outreach methods. Held on Saturday mornings throughout the summer, this program will engage parents/guardians and their preschool-aged children in Early STEM activities, with funds supporting the design and implementation of the program, keeping it affordable for children from low-income families.

**Dad Guild**

**\$11,000.00**

Dads & Kids

Dad Guild uses a multifaceted approach to engage father figures in their caregiving roles. Since 2019, the organization has developed and implemented over 600 hours of programming to a growing network of nearly 800 fathers across the state of Vermont. The Dads & Kids program is the organization's most popular, attracting over 200 unique participants (including 90 dads) in the 2021-22 fiscal year. In this program, dads and their children meet up at playgrounds, sporting events, restaurants, nature trails, and libraries to connect with one another. Fathers participating in the playgroups strengthen and grow their own peer support network, while children who participate benefit from strengthening their relationships with their own fathers.



**Encore After School and Summer Program**

**\$10,544.00**

North Country Supervisory Union Encore After School and Summer Program

NCSU Encore runs afterschool and summer programs out of nine elementary schools in the NEK. A goal of the program is to keep 6th-8th graders in small rural communities engaged, help them build community, and to leverage their leadership in program, school, community and state decision making. This project would support the establishment and sustainability of a middle school SU-wide GSA (for LGBTQIA+ youth and their allies) that meets for Saturday retreats throughout the year. In these retreats youth will learn advocacy and leadership skills, connect with the local community through service and stewardship, and build community with other youth that they will eventually attend the centralized high school with.

**Enosburgh Public Library**

**\$9,880.00**

Night Out at the Library

The Enosburgh Public Library is the center of the community here in Enosburgh Falls. We are planning a twice a month Night Out event at the library here at the Enosburgh Public Library. One night each month will be for our Teen's only to have a safe space where they can come and enjoy some food, have a space to socialize with friends, participate in the nights events, watch a movie, play games and have a safe spot to hang out. We will also do one night a month for our whole families to have a "Night Out" together, where they will be fed, play games, watch a movie and socialize. We will have a special performer that will differ for each event ex: Trivia Night.

**Essex CHIPS, Inc.**

**\$7,625.00**

Pages, a Book Club for Parents and Caregivers and Friday Nights in the Teen Center

Pages, a Book Club for Parents and Caregivers is a group to gather caregivers to discuss the highs and lows of raising tweens. The discussion will be guided by a book of the group's choosing and will center the expertise of participants. This is an opportunity for parents and caregivers to find community, share tips, and develop a support network. Friday Nights in the Teen Center for High School Students will open our Teen Center space to 9-12th graders. We will offer games, dinner, crafts, and other activities of the kids choosing. Providing this third space for youth at no-cost to families will help engage high schoolers.

**Everybody Wins! Vermont**

**\$15,000.00**

Everybody Wins! Power Lunch

On the 2022 reading NAEP, only 43% of VT 4th-graders scored proficient or above—and only 19% of children in poverty. Reading well and liking to read are tied to further education, well-paying jobs—and a good life as an adult. Everybody Wins! Vermont helps children love to read by matching them one-on-one with volunteer reading mentors who share books & literacy activities and build friendships weekly at school. Children are exposed to new topics & discussions, enhance self-esteem, and show gains in reading skills, self-esteem, and overall classroom performance. Everybody Wins! Connects children with their communities and citizens with their local schools. One principal: "Everybody Wins! Is our most important connection with our community."

**Finding Our Stride**

**\$5,000.00**

Finding Our Stride

Finding Our Stride (FOS) has been addressing the mental and physical health of VT and NH youth for 12 years, reaching over 3,000 kids, grades K-8, with free and accessible after school running programs. In 2021, through careful evaluation, FOS confirmed its meaningful impact on the fitness and social emotional growth of participants (more data below). In 2022, through a board-led strategic plan, FOS committed to growing its regional impact. In spring of 2023, due to a high level of interest, FOS will expand from 10 to 15 VT sites. FOS is in conversation with ten additional VT sites for 2024 and 2025.

**Food for Thought****\$10,000.00**

## Food for Thought

Food for Thought began in 2008 with the goal of providing supplemental lunch and summer reading materials for children in Grand Isle County at risk for hunger. Our mission is simple. We provide fresh, nutritious (often local), food to the most vulnerable families in our communities when school lunch is unavailable. Families from Grand Isle County sign up through the Congregational Church of South Hero (CCSH). No financial disclosure is required. Once a week, a group of community volunteers puts together boxes which families retrieve either at the CCSH or at a collection site in Alburgh. This program has been run through donation for 15 years, and we plan to serve more families and to continue to source more food locally.

**Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile****\$15,000.00**

## Youth Services Proram

Franklin Grand Isle (FGI) Bookmobile is a mobile library and literacy organization that serves the northwestern corner of Vermont in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. With a primary focus on promoting access to literature and information to help close the education gap between social classes by ensuring Kindergarten readiness, instilling a lifelong love of learning and reading, and supporting vulnerable Vermonters through in-person visits and connecting them with the community. Our unique structure allows us to commute directly to community members, overcoming some obstacles faced by low income Vermonters living in rural communities.

**Good Beginnings of Central Vermont****\$7,250.00**

## Expanding Access to Babywearing

Babywearing enables caregivers to bond with their newborns, manage stress, and care for their baby and themselves. Families worldwide have carried their babies for centuries. But for many families today, babywearing can be expensive - and overwhelming. Carrier options are confusing and complicated; a good quality carrier may cost over a hundred dollars. Many new parents give up after one failed attempt because they lack sustained support and the ability to try different carriers until they find a good fit for their needs. This program breaks down barriers to babywearing via individualized fitting assistance, practical information on how to carry your baby, and access to a variety of carrier types in a supportive, judgment-free environment.

**Green Mountain Mobile Therapy Inc.****\$2,000.00**

## Green Mountain Mobile Therapy-Mobile Mental Health

Green Mountain Mobile Therapy is purchasing an electric generator battery, which will increase the mobile healthcare units electric watt capacity. This is a sustainable renewable energy source that is efficient and reduces overall costs for the organization. Green Mountain Mobile Therapy is a nonprofit organization that provides therapy and social/emotional services to Vermont's youth and families in locations that do not have appropriate therapeutic spaces and accessible services. Green Mountain Mobile Therapy engages with schools and community organizations to provide direct mental health services and social/emotional resources.

**Green Mountain Mobile Therapy Inc.****\$1,969.00**

## Ramp for Accessible Access to Mobile Therapy Space

Green Mountain Mobile Therapy is requesting an equipment grant to fund a ramp installation to our mobile therapy office. This will provide a safer, more accessible entrance to the therapeutic space for children with mobility challenges.

**Henry Sheldon Museum** **\$2,000.00**

Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History

The Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury, Vermont is planning a new hands-on space for children and families titled "Inventing the Future: A Kids' Makerspace" and we are requesting funding for a Rig-a-ma-jig Basic Building kit. This space will serve children and families/caregivers from all over Addison County to boost connection, foster engagement, and connect children and families with their community museum. We will invite children and their families/ caregivers to create, collaborate, explore, test, experiment, and invent in the new space and the Rig-a-ma-Jig kit will be an ideal opportunity for children to learn through open-ended play sparked by STEM/STEAM learning.

**Highgate Library and Community Center** **\$1,883.00**

Music Garden at HLCC

Highgate Library and Community Center is creating a music garden for all ages to take part in and enjoy in the library backyard. This music garden will contain outdoor musical instrument equipment stations to encourage musical creativity and rhythm and sound education for children and families within the community of Highgate. It will develop and foster a love of music from a young age and will provide social connections for community members.

**Janet S. Munt Family Room** **\$10,000.00**

Family Play at The Family Room and Gardens

Family Play is a year-round weekly drop-in parent-child interactive play and literacy group for parents and caregivers with children ages 0-5 to offer parent education and support featuring a variety of groups and classes to promote cross-cultural relationships and family health and wellbeing. The program happens on-site from October-May and at a summer nature garden from June-September. Family Play takes place in a community environment featuring supportive experiences, positive expectations, and self-care to effect intergenerational change. With every adult caregiver who participates, there is at least one child who is also benefiting from these nurturing and supportive experiences.

**Kids in the Country** **\$1,417.00**

Kids in the Country Child Care and Preschool, Inc.

Kids in the Country is a small non-profit child care that serves families in the many surrounding towns in Sothern Vermont. We provide quality care for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old. We are purchasing learning materials, so that we are able to rotate often and keep the children engage in learning and exploring their environment. We will also purchase organizational materials to get our current learning material closet organized and easy to use so that teachers are able to rotate learning materials often to support the children's development and provide them with the ability to build a strong foundation that they will build on for the rest of their life.

**King Street Center** **\$10,000.00**

King Street Center Family Support Specialist

For the last six months, King Street Center has been engaged in a strategic planning process with a heavy focus on equity to better approach our work in an anti-racist and anti-bias way. We have met with and listened to our families, alumni, staff, board, volunteers, and partnering organizations to learn about experiences, where opportunities to grow exist, what needs aren't being met, and what KSC means to this community. Among many ideas, one of the most pressing needs we have heard is that parents needs more support, assistance, and connection. To that end we plan to hire a Family Support Specialist to coordinate services, support, and training to assist families in meeting the needs of their children and prevent crisis situations.

**Lake Paran Recreations** **\$5,000.00**

Providing Vital Third Space Summer Learning for Low Income Youth

Paran Recreations INC is dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of rural children from low income families. Our goal is to sustain the access of year-round outdoor and place-based education for our surrounding community focusing on youth populations by providing at least 45% of campers with a full funded scholarship to attend our camps throughout the year.

**Lamoille Restorative Center** **\$2,000.00**

Lamoille Restorative Center - All Programs

Lamoille Restorative Center is a 43 year old nonprofit that touches the lives of about 1,000 people each year; many of these individuals are children and youth. LRC works in three primary arenas: supporting school success, empowering employment-related goals, and intervening when youth and adults are involved in the legal system. LRC has significant needs related to technology to better meet the needs of lower income program participants who struggle with transportation and other barriers to in-person participation. COVID highlighted the disparities Lamoille's more remote and isolated residents experience regarding access to needed services. LRC can effectively complement in-person services with technology to support participants' goals.

**Lawrence Memorial Library** **\$8,000.00**

Lawrence Memorial Library Children's Theatre

Lawrence Memorial Library Children's Theater is an 8-week immersive theater program run 4X per year and committed to fostering the growth of young people through the practice of theater arts in a welcoming, youth-centered community library. We are committed to the development of creativity, self-discovery, self-esteem and peer support through theater. Over the course of an 8-week program, the theater group will produce a theatrical performance for the community, demonstrating the value of arts education and community art projects to the participating children, families and audiences. Our first group will begin in July 2023 and the program will run until July 2024

**Little School** **\$1,750.00**

Little School, Inc

The Little School suffered severe damage from flooding this past summer and we are looking to replace items lost in the flood. We are hoping to purchase 2 new tricycles, and an outdoor magnetic wall. This equipment will help with children's growth across all domains of learning while enjoying our outside play space.

**Living Tree Alliance** **\$954.00**

Living Tree Alliance Adventure Playground and Community Farm

Living Tree Alliance believes all children should explore and connect to the seasons and to each other. Our educators provide outdoor, place-based education for exploring and building community. We host field trips, after school programs, community wide programs, and camps to create experiences of wonder. Youth share in the work of homesteading and interact with our animals, garden and forest. Building out our natural playground will enhance opportunities for creative and collaborative play. We are extending our Adventure Garden by adding swings, a sandbox, sense gardens, and outdoor games for kids ages 6-12 to expand their connection to the land.

**Mad River Mentoring**

**\$15,000.00**

Mad River Mentoring

Mad River Mentoring (MRM) is the only community-based mentoring program serving the four communities in the Mad River Valley. MRM provides 1:1 mentoring for youth aged 8-18 who reside or attend school in the valley. Mad River Mentoring partners with parent/guardians and schools to provide quality 1:1 mentoring opportunities for children and youth who have been identified as at risk or otherwise in need of a mentoring relationship. Our goal is to develop quality adult-to-youth relationships that increase access to the support and resources that youth need to improve their wellbeing, sense of belonging and quality of life. Mad River Mentoring is in its infancy and will be making their first matches in the coming months.

**Maple Leaf Childrens Center Inc**

**\$1,369.00**

Outdoor Classroom

Maple Leaf Childrens Center is located in orange county where childcare availability is low. We plan to increase our outdoor enrichment space for all the children we serve and bring art from the inside! MLCC loves using full-body multiuse learning. Art is such a large important of learning. We plan to create an outdoor art learning space.

**Milton Town School District**

**\$10,000.00**

Milton Elementary School: Monarch Classroom

The Milton Elementary School located in Chittenden County is one of the largest elementary schools in the state; it has 650 students in pre-kindergarten to 4th grade. Coming off the heels of the pandemic, MES has seen a large increase in behavioral issues affecting students' academic and social experiences. In an effort to help our students in need of social-emotional skill development and their families, MES seeks to create specialized Social Emotional Learning (SEL) support services. The Monarch Classroom will provide guided mindfulness and sensory activities for students to learn and practice regulation, optimistic thinking, self-awareness & personal responsibility, and provide resources to continue this practice at home.

**MoonRise Therapeutics**

**\$15,000.00**

Moonrise Therapeutics Family Support Services and Family Intervention Services

MoonRise Therapeutics (MRT) is a farm-based nonprofit healing psychological trauma and promoting mental health and well-being. MRT offers prevention and psychotherapy intervention, integrating horses, art and movement, to create a uniquely effective setting for healing and growth. Success will be leveraged by using MRT's Family Support Services, utilizing the Circle of Security attachment based model, as a channel to pilot more intensive clinical intervention services provided to families in crisis. The goal is to help caregivers/children develop healthy secure attachments, which are the foundation for success in school, social relationships and predictive of a general sense of competence and well-being.

**NEK Community Growth Center**

**\$10,000.00**

Family Support Network

We are creating a program to implement targeted Family Support. Our Family Support specialist will have continuous engagement with all our families, support families if they need assistance with child care subsidy applications, help support families facing housing crisis, food insecurities, reach out to local community partners on behalf of the family to ensure they are getting the support needed from each agency they work with or want to be involved with. The Family Support Specialist will schedule and do outreach events with our center and families with the intentional purpose that our families will feel close and connected to our center, their child's teacher and our Family Support Specialist.

**New England Youth Theatre**

**\$10,000.00**

Rebooting NEYT's Peer Mentorship Program

New England Youth Theatre is rebooting our Peer Mentorship Program, which was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic as programming was scaled down to focus on smaller group sizes. This program is designed for youth ages 13-18 who are interested in deepening relationships with other students and staff at NEYT as they work together on projects. Peer Mentors will focus on developing leadership, communication, team work, and confidence. Each participant will take on responsibilities in support of NEYT programs through a role that aligns with their interests. Throughout the program, a cohort of 12 Peer Mentors will be supported through the process of planning and implementing three events at NEYT with aspects of performance, community engagement, and education.

**NFI VT family center**

**\$10,000.00**

Mwangaza Summer Program

Mwangaza (means Light in Sawhili) Summer Program is designed for and by refugees and immigrants. This program's focus is female high school students who came as refugees from Africa. We want to create a safe and fun space for the students to talk and learn about important and sensitive subjects. Each week is a different topic on social emotional well-being, physical health, and personal growth. Experts will be invited to share with the group. For example, a licensed mental health provider for depression and anxiety, a primary care provider for adolescence health and hygiene. At the end of the program each participant will take home a back to school bag that has supplies to enhance their growth.

**Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.**

**\$1,980.00**

SMART Room

Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc. Children, Youth, and Families Services needs specialized sensory equipment to work with children who require additional supports for sensory regulation. The equipment purchased for a newly designed SMART (Sensory Motor Arousal Regulation Treatment) room will enhance mental health interventions for an anticipated 10 to 15 children and adolescents each week. The beneficiaries are youth who may have experienced complex trauma, may have an autism diagnosis, and need help with emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal regulation skills. The utilization of this equipment will enhance their social and emotional development and build resiliency and social connection.

**Northeast Kingdom Youth Services**

**\$10,000.00**

Unique to YOUth

Northeast Kingdom Youth Services will create a model that incorporates age appropriate alternative approaches to help young people manage emotional challenges and use the tools developed to minimize their substance misuse and dependency.

**ONE Arts**

**\$10,000.00**

ONE Arts Inc

We know that arts education increases the cognitive function of children, and we know high-quality childcare is the difference between a family struggling or thriving. When ONE Arts began, we wanted to offer quality childcare at an affordable rate with an art-centered curriculum. Over the past few decades, political attacks on the arts have caused many communities to lose arts funding. ONE Arts is proud to offer two preschools and an after-school art center to our community. Over a third of our students are from marginalized groups including include low income families, houseless families, and children of parents who are in recovery. Our schools allow these students and their families to stabilize, grow, and belong in their school home.

**ONE Arts Inc****\$2,000.00**

## ONE Arts Community School

ONE Arts is on a mission to facilitate and coordinate unique and significant art experiences in our local community (Chittenden County) and to build a larger creative community of all ages. Our art center provides daily after school programs and creative camps for elementary ages and middle school in the Old North End of Burlington, while our two early learning locations serve ages 0-5 and their families. We need a new gate to keep the toddlers from leaving the classroom, specifically in our gross motor space. We used a baby gate system, but unfortunately the gate broke, pulling out of the wall. We currently have a couch blocking the exit but this is not a sustainable long-term solution. We are looking forward to replacing the broken gate with a higher quality, safer gate and having it installed by our handyperson. With the \$2,000 from the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation, we will be able to install a high quality safety gate, long enough and strong enough to create a barrier to the exit door and specifically made for children that is ADA compliant. Installing a new gate will help us control exits more safely and securely.

**Orleans Central Early Childhood Program****\$1,993.00**

## Orleans Central Early Childhood Program

Our early childhood program serves 60 children from seven towns in the Northeast Kingdom. We strive to get our students outside everyday, and some of our playground equipment has been here as long as the program has - almost 20 years! Our custodian, who is a certified playground inspector, is removing two of our play structures, as they have reached the end of their lifespan. This grant will benefit our students by providing safe gross motor activities during outdoor play time. Additionally, our playground is often used by families during our family events, providing developmentally-appropriate equipment options for our youngest learners and their siblings.

**Outright Vermont****\$15,000.00**

## Expanding and Innovating Programs for Families of LGBTQ+ Youth

Outright is building a VT where all LGBTQ+ youth have hope, equity, and power. A crucial step is ensuring that they have supportive adults in their lives - starting at home. According to The Trevor Project's National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health, "LGBTQ youth who report having at least one accepting adult were 40% less likely to report a suicide attempt in the past year." The goal for our family programs (TransParent, Panorama, Gender Creative Kids) is to equip parents and caregivers to be that accepting and supportive adult. This year, we will add a new member to our Family Programs team, allowing us to increase participation, expand offerings, reach new regions, and apply new innovative approaches to our work alongside families.

**Outright Vermont****\$50,000.00**

## Camp Outright

Outright Vermont is purchasing 146-acre Boy Scout camp in rural southern Vermont. This purchase would not only revolutionize our summer camp programs, but ultimately create a year-round home for residential programs. From family retreats to educator conferences, Outright can reimagine what it means to build a Vermont where LGBTQ+ youth have hope, equity, and power.

**Partners In Adventure, Inc.**

**\$2,000.00**

Partners In Adventure, Inc.

Partners In Adventure is a year-round, one-of-a-kind non-profit program which offers a wide variety of adapted & inclusive recreational and social programs for young people with disabilities & friends. Our mission is to honor diversity while providing unique experiences that foster independence, self-esteem, & build social & community connections. We have implemented a highly successful music therapy program through grant monies received from VCF last year. We have been able to offer this at no cost to participants & with the amazing work of a trained music therapist we have approximately 20 people every session. Music is highly motivating tool for increased communication skills, social skills, creativity, and self expression.

**Prevent Child Abuse Vermont**

**\$15,000.00**

Project SELFIE (Safe Expression onLine For Internet Empowerment)

Unfortunately, in 2019, 27 % of Vermont high schoolers admitted to either receiving or sending a sext in the past 30 days (YRBS). This can cause youth legal involvement and emotional and social distress. PCAVT's Project SELFIE (Safe Expression onLine for Internet Empowerment) will decrease the numbers of youth who engage in and are harmed by sexting. The program is a developmentally appropriate, trauma informed, sexting prevention program to increase digital safety for youth. It includes presentations for middle and high school students and training for adults on decreasing the digital risks: sexting, online grooming, inappropriate digital communications by adults to youth, and online pornography. Evaluations show the program works!

**Reinbow Riding LTD**

**\$4,126.00**

Strengthening Families through Horses

This is a pilot program developed by Reinbow Riding Center (RRC) in collaboration with Rutland Mental Health's Early Childhood division. RRC is a PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) member center with PATH certified instructors. PATH is an international organization that teaches and certifies instructors to administer programs. The goal of this program is to provide prevention techniques to families via a therapeutic equine experience to those who have experienced significant traumatic stress. By focusing on the caregiver/child relationship our goal is to provide tools by which a healthy and mutually satisfying relationship can develop and be maintained. Our goal is to support the strengthening families initiative.

**Robin's Nest Children's Center**

**\$9,900.00**

Robin's Nest Children's Center

Robin's Nest Children's Center is a high-quality, non-profit, early education program in the Old North End (ONE) of Burlington. Established in 1985, the Center has demonstrated a commitment to equity and diversity by routinely enrolling families from the refugee and new American population. We plan to improve our program's ability to serve New American families; families who face complex societal and economic challenges with a direct impact on youth. Specifically, we seek to improve social connection, offer interpreters where language barriers exist and support parental resilience. We'd also like to build the cultural competency skills of our staff to promote connection and offer strengths-based guidance.



**Rutland County Community Justice Center at BROCC Community Action**

**\$2,000.00**

Full Circle Family Room supervised visitation program

When it comes to helping families in Rutland County, BROCC Community Action has been at the forefront for more than 50 years. Under BROCC, the Rutland County Community Justice Center provides a variety of services, including victim liaison programs, supervised visits and exchanges, reparative justice panels, Circles of Support and Accountability, and reentry navigation for formerly incarcerated people. Our supervised visitation and exchange program, a haven for families, has been utilized by an average of thirteen families each week since August 2020. The impact is great; however, our visiting room furnishings and toys need to be replaced. Our services are free but wear and tear on our facilities threaten the quality of support we provide. They will be purchasing miscellaneous toys and furnishings, as well as a carpet cleaner and air purifier.

**Rutland County Parent Child Center**

**\$2,000.00**

Rutland County Parent Child Center

The Rutland County Parent Child Center consists of five campuses that provide targeted family support to at-risk community members with each campus addressing specific community needs based on campus capacity and staffing. Our Madison Street, Rutland site currently hosts therapy rooms to provide access for families utilizing specialty providers such as speech pathologists, our family support case management workers, our community resource and workforce navigation program directors, as well as our high-school completion program for pregnant, parenting and at-risk youth. Currently none of these providers or programs have on-site access to a colored printer to support school work, printing marketing, outreach, or data collection materials.

**Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary**

**\$5,000.00**

Afterschool in Nature

Afterschool in Nature is an out-of-school program that follows the calendar school year, and provides a platform for youth to cultivate an understanding of themselves and the world around them through the natural lens of a holistic, hands-on afterschool program. The goal of Afterschool in Nature is to develop future leaders to advocate for the protection of their environmental community while providing the resources to nourish the student's whole self. This includes social-emotional wellbeing, and physical and mental health centered curriculum that is evidence-based and realistic to the student's circumstances and background. This program serves students from grades 4th to 8th grade and consists of primarily middle school students.

**Saint Albans Museum, Inc.**

**\$15,000.00**

CREATE at SAM

The Saint Albans Museum (SAM), located in the heart of St. Albans, Vermont, is a non-profit organization that aims to preserve and educate the public about the rich history of St. Albans and the greater Vermont region. In the past couple of years, SAM has made a strong effort to create a more engaging and inclusive environment for all community members, especially young children and families. Our program, CREATE at SAM! is the most recent and largest initiative to date to do just that; standing for Crafts, Reading, Exploration, Art, Technology, and Education at the Saint Albans Museum, this program is designed to provide children with opportunities for exploring local and state history in an interactive, hands-on and multi-disciplinary way.

**Second Growth, Inc.**

**\$15,000.00**

Second Growth Summer Camp

Second Growth provides counseling, youth programs, prevention education, and recovery supports for youth and families in our community. We provide FREE registration to middle school students who wish to attend Camp, thereby eliminating barriers to entry for low- and moderate-income families. Our long-standing summer programs are designed to provide social-emotional learning, prevention education, develop leadership skills, and offer other enrichment through experiential learning activities. Each year we update the curriculum to include new research, best practices, and improve efficacy. In recent years we have expanded into new towns and offered additional weeks in order to reach a broader audience.

**Shelburne Nursery School, Inc.**

**\$1,320.07**

Shelburne Nursery School, Inc.

We are a small non profit family cooperative school year preschool program located in Shelburne Vermont. We have been struggling with enrollment as families in our community need more hours than we have traditionally offered. We decided to expand our hours to offer a school day program and have great interest in this opportunity. We need funds to set up our space to meet the State Regulations to offer rest time and proper lunch storage for children in our care who will attend for a longer day. We will be purchasing cordless blinds for our windows to provide a darker space, we also need a refrigerator to properly and safely store the children's lunches.

**Slate Valley Union School District**

**\$1,875.00**

Fair Haven Teen Center

We are seeking grant funding to launch and promote the Fair Haven Teen Center, a dynamic project dedicated to providing enriching opportunities for youth in our community. The requested funds will be used to organize "pop-up" events orchestrated by our Youth Council.

By investing in our project, you will be supporting a platform that empowers young individuals, fostering creativity, leadership, and community engagement. The equipment we seek will enhance the quality and impact of these events, creating memorable experiences for the youth and their families.

Your contribution will not only help us establish the Fair Haven Teen Center but also play a pivotal role in creating a positive and inclusive space where local youth can thrive.

**Springfield Area Parent Child Center**

**\$10,000.00**

Training Center

Early Childhood Education (ECE) is essential. The professional development of those providing this care is equally important. The Springfield Area Parent Child Center is opening a 150 seat training center that will provide ECE and other essential training opportunities such as child First Aid/CPR.

**Starksboro Cooperative Preschool**

**\$472.00**

Starksboro Cooperative Preschool

Starksboro Cooperative Preschool has a well-established garden space, comprising two 14 X 20 feet plots located within the Starksboro Community Garden, and adjacent to our school. We use the garden for our Morning Meeting year-round, and for many learning activities. We plan to purchase tools to help children do necessary garden work such as digging, moving dirt, and transporting mulch and debris. We believe that giving children hands-on access to tools and work opportunities will increase their health and developmental skills. Research has shown that heavy work (pushing, pulling, carrying heavy objects) helps regulate a child's sensory system, provides a calming effect, and improves strength, stability, and stamina.

**Sunrise Family Resource Center**

**\$10,000.00**

Brain Lab Playgroup

Sunrise is Bennington County's Parent Child Center, and our mission is "Strengthening Families". Sunrise works in partnership with individuals, families, and community members to provide a variety of supports and services. These services promote the growth and development of individuals and families through encouragement of strengths, expansion of opportunities, and support in times of stress. With this opportunity, we will host a pilot Brain Lab Playgroup, for our Early Care & Education and Learning Together Program participants. Brain Lab focuses on building the parent-child bond and promoting brain development in young children through positive serve and return interactions, using research-based strategies.

**Sunrise Family Resource Center**

**\$15,000.00**

DADS (Dads Always Discovering Success)

Sunrise is Bennington County's Parent Child Center, and our mission is "Strengthening Families". Sunrise works in partnership with individuals, families, and community members to provide a variety of supports and services. These services promote the growth and development of individuals and families through encouragement of strengths, expansion of opportunities, and support in times of stress. With this opportunity, we will start a monthly program, DADS (Dads Always Discovering Success). We will invite father figures and their children to join in enriching activities, in partnership with the Vermont Arts Exchange. Together with their children, they will cook, create art, learn, grow, be present, and build social capital with other fathers.

**Teen Center**

**\$10,000.00**

Experience Counts

The Teen Center is a nonprofit located in Middlebury, VT. Our mission is to offer space, programming and resources that support teen development and well-being. We offer after school drop-in, enrichment programs, and summer camp to youth ages 12-18. All programs are free or pay-what-you-can. With this grant, we will create an internship program for youth ages 14-18 who staff identify as 'at-risk' in terms of high school completion and/or employability. Accepted youth will be offered a paid internship which will blend job training, social-emotional learning, and academic support. We will work with them to identify strengths and areas for improvement in a supportive environment, and help them set and achieve academic and employment goals.

**Teen Center**

**\$7,500.00**

ConnecTeen 2: The Sequel

The Teen Center is a community space for teens serving the ACSD school district. We plan to continue a program piloted last year, ConnecTeen. ConnecTeen was designed to bring teens and parents together for a fun night of food, games, crafts, or projects. The idea was simply to make it easier for teens to connect with their trusted adults. This year, we will expand our idea of 'parent', and invite trustworthy community members to our events.. For those teens who are reticent to invite their parents (and many are, because, well, they're teens), we will provide more social connections with adults in the community, with the hope of strengthening our teens' sense of belonging, ability to seek guidance, and access to support.

**Town of Brighton**

**\$1,876.00**

Back to the Pond

The Town of Brighton plans to share the communities love of Island Pond. Currently there is no ability for children, young adults, or adults to enjoy the outdoor recreational space that is Island Pond. By purchasing paddle boards, oars and life vests we hope to encourage residents to learn more about outdoor recreation on the water, water safety, swimming, and all things related to our love of Island Pond and bring recreational water sports to the residents of Brighton and to future generations.

**UVM Health Network - Home Health and Hospice**

**\$2,000.00**

Family and Children's Program

The Family and Children's Program (FCP) operates in Chittenden and Grand Isle counties, cares for about 750 children each year and provides parents with information and tools to maximize each child's physical, mental, and emotional development. FCP is comprised of Pediatric Rehabilitation (PR) and Nursing and Family Support (NFS). Families would use the new equipment on a short term basis to aid development and provide safe environments. Adaptive tableware would support feeding skills within PR. Access to developmentally appropriate feeding tools allow families to better care for their children. Child locks and safety covers for income insecure families in NFS will ensure children are safe within their home and reduce caregivers' stress.

**Vermont Family Network**

**\$10,000.00**

Vermont Family Network's Puppets in Education's new bully prevention puppet program and workshop

Vermont Family Network (VFN) empowers and supports all Vermont families of children with special needs. VFN's program Puppets in Education (PiE) uses life-sized puppets to teach children how to keep themselves safe and healthy and to appreciate each other's differences through educational programs for PK-8 students. PiE programs model effective leadership and problem-solving skills and demonstrate respect and inclusion in all communities. For 41 years, PiE has connected with children through powerful puppet programs that address social and emotional issues. PiE reaches 10,000 children annually in VT & NY schools. We promote empathy and kindness while educating students about strategies that break the cycles of abuse and bullying.

**Very Merry Theatre**

**\$15,000.00**

Winooski AfterSchool and Summer Theatre Arts Program

Very Merry Theatre plans to expand access to theatre arts-based after school and summer camp programming to children in Winooski. Winooski's population of young people includes a high percentage of youth from the global majority. We hope to partner with Winooski Parks and Recreation to offer theatre arts-based programming to enrich out of school time program offerings in this community and most importantly bring Very Merry's inclusive approach to developing literacy skills, communication skills and teamwork to children from a range of diverse backgrounds. Our goal is to provide 18 weeks of afterschool programming and 1 week of summer day camp to Winooski youth in collaboration with Winooski Parks and Recreation.

**Village of Enosburg Falls**

**\$15,000.00**

Enosburg Youth Center

The Village of Enosburg Falls is working to open a Youth Center within walking distance of the middle & high schools. Being in a space designed for and with youth will enhance their sense of self-worth through activities and relationships. Youth in our community do not feel a sense of belonging outside of school and the library is our only youth-friendly business. This space will help youth express themselves, explore their self-identities, provide safe opportunities for stepping outside of their comfort zones, and the grace of being supported through their trial and errors, rather than reprimanded or discouraged by them. This Center will increase youth mental health and help increase youth-positive feelings in the community.

**Willowell Foundation**

**\$1,991.00**

The Pond Brook Middle School

The Pond Brook Project is requesting grant funds in order to build our science station for students to get hands-on experience with science. Pond Brook is an outdoor experiential program and travels throughout Addison County to explore the ecology of our immediate environment. Students are aged 12-15, and spend each day outside in nature as a core part of the curriculum. Though we are mobile, tools and equipment will help students to document and explore what they find. This grant would benefit students directly by allowing them to have access to science equipment, and therefore a space to conduct experiments, inspect specimens, inspire their curiosity, and encourage them to engage more deeply with the world around them. Willowell will purchase a rolling lab table, 2 binocular compound microscopes, 15 hand held magnifiers and a set of propylene beakers.

**Youth Services, Inc**

**\$15,000.00**

Friends For Change

Friends For Change is a grassroots community program built for and by youth in June of 2016. In partnership with our local substance abuse prevention coalition, we've built a program that specifically addresses the unique needs of our often overlooked community members. Our entire program is rooted in identifying and responding to the needs of marginalized and most impacted youth and families. We provide after-school and summer programming where youth and their families thrive and learn how to build a stronger community.