



BUILDING RESILIENCE • CREATING OPPORTUNITY

VCTF GRANTS LIST 2025

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

VCTF Grant Summary 2025

VCTF Grant Awards

Number of Grants	52
\$ Amount of Grants	\$557,059

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 2025 . Some programs operate in more than one county.

County	# of Grants
Addison	7
Bennington	4
Caledonia	7
Chittenden	12
Essex	2
Franklin	5
Grand Isle	2
Lamoille	3
Orange	9
Orleans	7
Rutland	6
Washington	12
Windham	7
Windsor	13
Statewide	6

Programs by Targeted Outcomes

Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential -	34
Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported -	18

VCTF Grant Award List 2025

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Locations</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Est. # Served</u>
Addison Northwest School District	\$12,750	Addison	A	125
Barra School	\$2,000	Caledonia Orange Washington Windsor	A	60
Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center	\$15,000	Windham	B	155
Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro	\$15,000	Windham	A	269
Bradford Teen Center	\$9,100	Orange	B	310
Chandler Center for the Arts	\$11,175	Addison, Orange, Rutland, Washington, Windsor	A	132
Child Care Resource	\$12,750	Chittenden	A	1,400
Community Sailing Center	\$5,000	Addison, Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Rutland, Washington	A	70
Dad Guild	\$9,350	Chittenden, Franklin, Orleans, Washington	B	431
Dad Guild	\$10,000	Statewide	B	4,000
DREAM Program	\$15,000	Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Orleans, Washington, Windsor	A	183
Encore After School and Summer Program	\$8,950	Essex, Orleans	A	42
Everybody Wins! Vermont	\$12,750	Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windsor	A	600
Finding Our Stride	\$13,000	Orange, Windsor	A	79
Florida School of Holistic Living, Inc. DBA Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary	\$15,000	Orleans, Washington	A	35
Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile	\$12,750	Franklin, Grand Isle	A	194
Full Circle Theater Collaborative	\$10,000	Chittenden	A	45
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$6,150	Lamoille, Orange, Washington	B	211
Good Shepherd's Little Lambs	\$2,000	Rutland	A	238
Greater Burlington YMCA	\$15,000	Chittenden	A	27
Inclusive Arts Vermont Inc	\$15,000	Statewide	B	683
Janet S. Munt Family Room	\$10,000	Chittenden	B	99
King Street Center	\$15,000	Chittenden	B	323
Lake Paran Recreations	\$4,250	Bennington	A	122

VCTF Grantees Fiscal Year
(Alphabetical Order) **2025**

Addison Northwest School District **\$12,750.00**

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.

Barra School **\$2,000.00**

The Barra School

The Barra School provides free year-round forest and wilderness programming for at-risk and neurodivergent LGBTQIA+ youth and youth of other underserved and marginalized populations. We operate on a cohort model and work with 2-4 cohorts of youth ages 9-18 a year. We are requesting funding for adaptive backpacking equipment which will improve the accessibility and safety of our programming for youth with physical limitations and/or disabilities.

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center **\$15,000.00**

Hike and Seek

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center is collaborating with the Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro to build on the success of their “Hike and Seek” pilot program to continue to provide outdoor learning and recreation experiences for youth and their families. This program will operate free bi-weekly on Saturdays from 10AM through noon during the school years, 24-26. Each session of the program will be operated on a drop-in basis at locations around Windham County. This series structure creates access to programming for families in our rural towns, allowing youth and parents/caregivers to attend the sessions that aligns with their schedules. Each program session focuses on different outdoor skills and inquiry-based learning and STEAM.

Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro **\$15,000.00**

Expanding BGCB College and Career Support Programming

The Boys and Girls Club of Brattleboro (BGCB) is expanding College and Career Support Programming to include new partnerships, offer new components, and serve more youth in our region. Our plans for this programming during the 2024/2025 school year include:

- 1) Eight College Visit Field Trips
- 2) Ten College and Career Prep Workshops
- 3) Afterschool college and career prep tutoring with professional mentors

Together, these programs will engage community partners to provide youth with the guidance and encouragement they need to pursue higher education and make informed decisions about their futures. BGCB College and Career Support Programs are operated free of charge with the core purpose of helping youth achieve their potential.

Bradford Teen Center**\$9,100.00**

Bradford Teen Center

Bradford Teen Center is a drop in teen center in Bradford, Vermont. Our mission is to be a safe space where teens can gather, and engage in programs that empower them. After a successful Culinary Camp last summer, we agreed to create a Program Budget Expansion Project. Starting this year, we will increase our programs budget to include 3 high quality, multi-session courses a year, as well as offer 2-3 field trips through the year. This year will be Culinary, a VR Mindfulness Program, and a filmmaking class with professional teachers.

Each program has a focus on an issue important to our teens: Culinary Camp on food insecurity, Mindfulness on non-clinical mental health support, and the film on racism in our community.

Chandler Center for the Arts**\$11,175.00**

Chandler Youth Theater

Chandler is working to rebuild its Youth Musical Summer Program. The COVID-19 pandemic greatly diminished awareness and participation in the program, which in its heyday served over 100 students from all over Central Vermont each year and last year drew about 30. There is a scarcity of childcare options in the area, and Chandler will fill a need by offering a full-day camp for three weeks during the summer to elementary and high school students. Theater programs and summer camps offer social and emotional benefits, as well as aid in developing skills such as teamwork, creativity, commitment, and literary engagement. They foster mentorship with role models and a sense of community belonging.

Child Care Resource**\$12,750.00**

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**\$5,000.00**

Diversity in Lake-Based Recreation

CSC was founded to ensure access to lake-based education and recreation for all community members regardless of gender, ability, income, age, race, culture & ethnicity. Now in our 30th year, we continue to seek new ways to ensure lake access and life lessons for all.

The Diversity Access Initiative (DAI) has been designed to mitigate historic, social, and economic barriers to outdoor, water-based recreation experienced by children who identify as BIPOC: free summer camp and afterschool activities, with a pathway to employment.

Dad Guild **\$9,350.00**

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.

Dad Guild **\$10,000.00**

Dad Guild Digital Content

Dad Guild uses a multifaceted approach to engage father figures in their caregiving roles. Since 2019, the organization has developed and implemented over 750 hours of programming to a growing network of over 1000 fathers across the state of Vermont.

We recently received a grant from the VT Dept. of Health that will support the expansion of our in-person parental education workshop series and also the production of a parental education podcast series. We will expand Dad Guild's onling programming by producing additional online content, purchaing more equipment, and increasing staff time to ensure the highest number of Vermont fathers can access our programming content digitally.

DREAM Program **\$15,000.00**

Growing Dreams: DREAM's Guided Mentoring Program

DREAM's mission is to help close the opportunity gap for at-promise youth.

Historically, we achieve this mission through year-round programming including (1) Weekly after school "Village Mentoring" (2) Summer Enrichment (3) Afterschool Enrichment, and (4) Local and regional adventures taking youth as far as DREAM's residential Camp in northern Vermont, Camp DREAM. All of DREAM's programming is free for enrolled families.

The focus of this grant is to support DREAM's newest program, Guided Mentoring, an in-school peer-to-peer mentoring program in which high school students are trained in mentoring best practice, matched with elementary youth, and guided by DREAM staff through an extensive mentor-in-training curriculum.

Encore After School and Summer Program **\$8,950.00**

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.

Everybody Wins! Vermont

\$12,750.00

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

\$13,000.00

Finding Our Stride: Deepening Impact on Vermont Youth

Finding Our Stride (FOS) is a FREE, donor-funded, high quality, enriched after-school running program in the states of VT and NH for elementary and middle school aged children. Since 2011, FOS has boosted fitness, self-esteem, and resilience in more than 4,000 runners while connecting them to peers, mentors, and their communities. We are now in 20 VT schools, have created a social-emotional learning curriculum with the Positivity Project, and support children by providing them with impactful relationships with trusted mentors and increased awareness of their own character strengths. VT children can thrive when they know they are strong, competent, and supported.

Florida School of Holistic Living, Inc. DBA Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary

\$15,000.00

Afterschool in Nature

Afterschool in Nature creates a platform for youth to cultivate an understanding of themselves and the world around them through the natural lens of a holistic out-of-school program. Afterschool in Nature develops future leaders to advocate for the protection of their environmental community while providing the resources to nourish the student's whole self. This program takes place five days a week in rural Vermont on Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary's breathtaking outdoor property, boasting over 600 acres within 80,000 acres of contiguous forests. 100% of youth in this program live in economically challenging circumstances.

Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile

\$12,750.00

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.

Full Circle Theater Collaborative

\$10,000.00

Youth Theater Programming Expansion

Full Circle Theater Collaborative (FCTC) is partnering with King Street Center (KSC) to address arts education gaps in Burlington. We plan to reduce access barriers to our programming for low-income families by allowing children to participate for free. Through the 24-25 school year, FCTC will pilot an after-school theater arts programming at KSC for 10 weeks each semester (fall & winter/spring.) Students will devise an original piece of theater to perform for their families and community at their Family Dinner Night and at one of the black box theaters in downtown Burlington. If there is student interest, during FCTC's 2025 summer programming, we will host KSC 10-14-year-olds for one-week midsummer as cast members in FCTC's junior production, culminating in a weekend of performances at Main Street Landing.

Good Beginnings of Central Vermont

\$6,150.00

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.

Good Shepherd's Little Lambs

\$2,000.00

Good Shepherd's Little Lambs

Little Lambs serves children ages 6 weeks through 12 years old year-round. After evaluating our needs with parents and staff, it was determined that the children would greatly benefit from having an outdoor classroom within a nature-based learning environment. We have an amazing location however the grounds require immense re-grading before we can add paved pathways, a learning garden, classroom pavilion, dramatic play stage, sandbox, swings, and fencing. It is our desire to create a "playborhood" where families and communities members can come together to play and learn together in a safe, stimulating and shared space.

Greater Burlington YMCA

\$15,000.00

Black Youth in Action

The Black Youth in Action (BYA) Program offers youth a collective space focused on health, wellness, and belonging. Black youth in Vermont have limited opportunities to engage in positive spaces with other Black youth and adults. This program provides that opportunity while creating healthy life habits and discipline to contribute to future success. BYA provides social connection, mentorship, and community service activities for teens, along with opportunities to explore flexible pathways after high school.

Inclusive Arts Vermont Inc

\$15,000.00

Start With the Arts

Start With The Arts instills a lifelong love of learning in Vermont's youngest children by combining direct service arts-based literacy activities for children with professional development for childcare providers. In 2023, Inclusive Arts Vermont launched the pilot of Arts First, a version of the program focused on meeting the emerging and increasing mental health and behavioral needs of children through arts-based social and emotional learning activities. Since that time, we have begun to evolve and reimagine the program based on the pilot session, continuing our commitment to early childhood educators and the children in their care.

Janet S. Munt Family Room

\$10,000.00

Healthy Families From The Start ("HFS")

Support for at-risk new parents is vital to creating safe and secure families who raise resilient children. The system in Vermont is divided in two: those who can pay for supports are able to access doulas, child care, playgroups, and child development classes; and those who can't pay instead rely on the child welfare services. As a result, those who most need continuous, reliable, and nurturing support have the least access to it. Through our Healthy Families from the Start program, we provide prenatal and postpartum doula support for higher-risk families in Chittenden County. We offer online and home-based groups, home visits, education, doula support, and concrete supports from pregnancy through the first 12 weeks postpartum.

King Street Center

\$15,000.00

King Street Center Family Support Program

King Street Center, located in downtown Burlington, serves children and youth ages 18 months to 18 years and their families through our Toddler, Preschool, K-5, Middle School, High School, Mentor, and Family Support programs. Family engagement is critical for student achievement and social development, and is a powerful strategy for sustainable long-term student success. Our philosophical approach is to serve the whole child, which means not just supporting their own development, but also their families so they are able to provide a positive and resilient environment at home. To best serve our families, we are enhancing and expanding our Family Support Program in 2024.

Lake Paran Recreations

\$4,250.00

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 Family Center

\$10,000.00

Nature-Based Outdoor Playgroups

Free, nature-based playgroup programs give all children and families the opportunity to connect with each other and with nature. Currently, these programs reach approximately 200 people multiple times throughout each year via four weekly meet-ups in local communities. Our family-centered playgroups help families in the Lamoille Valley build social connections, gain child development skills, and learn how to access community resources. Together with our partner in this project, the Four Winds Nature Institute, we will offer a series of nature-based playgroups through three different seasons, providing informal education opportunities for families as we model the adult role and language supporting children's nature-based play.

Lyndon Institute**\$10,000.00**

Early Childhood Career Training & Education

Lyndon Institute (LI), a Town Academy high school and Career & Technical Education (CTE) center, has supported Northeast Kingdom families for more than 155 years. Education in the NEK plays a crucial role; ensuring resilience and sustainability by equipping the next generation with the skills necessary to address the social and economic challenges associated within a historically under-resourced community. Beginning in fall of 2024, Lyndon Institute in partnership with Northeast Kingdom Community Action and CCV will offer early childhood education curriculum focused on careers, licensure as a Teaching Assistant immediately upon graduation, Dual-Enrollment college courses, and targeted education-related internships.

Mad River Mentoring**\$15,000.00**

Mad River Mentoring

Mad River Mentoring (MRM) is a community-based mentoring program serving youth aged 8-18 who live or go to school in the HUUSD. Our program offers the chance for youth to establish 1:1 connections with adults and cultivate supportive relationships. By collaborating with parents/guardians, schools, and other organizations, MRM ensures all interested youth have access to high-quality mentoring opportunities. We strive to foster strong mentoring relationships, thereby enhancing the availability of support and resources crucial for the well-being, sense of belonging, and overall quality of life of our youth.

MoonRise Therapeutics**\$12,750.00**

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.

Mountain Communities Supporting Education - The Collaborative**\$10,000.00**

Mountain Communities Supporting Education dba - The Collaborative

TC's Resilience Through Understanding (RTU) Program is a community & school-based series of educational substance misuse & asset-building events for youth in grades 6-12. RTU is available to 9 schools & homeschoolers. This past program season served 357 youth participants and their caring adults. Participants learn about health risks associated with substance misuse & asset-building skills like resilience & coping skills. Participants who attend 5 sessions receive a pass to a local community recreation partner. Last year, TC piloted a spring/summer RTU program season with 3 events and new seasonal incentives. This year, we aim to standardize content by grade and create more equitable opportunities for a more diverse youth population.

NFI VT family center

\$15,000.00

The Talking Room

The Talking Room is a walk-in/drop-in counseling clinic for parents who participate in the programs at The Janet S. Munt Family Room. This is the collaboration of NFI VT Family Center and The Family Room. The NFI VT Family Center clinician has expertise in parenting support and healing trauma through counseling. The Family Room is known to be the place where refugees and immigrant parents go. The goal is to increase accessible mental health services for parents and caregivers.

Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Inc.

\$15,000.00

Community Connections - School-based Program

NVRH's Community Connections program supports individuals and families to meet their whole-person wellness needs. Many students and families in the Northeast Kingdom face disproportionate health and social barriers to maximizing their potential, such as social isolation and disconnection, substance use, and marginalization. This new initiative will integrate a Community Health Worker (CHW) at the St. Johnsbury School to meet families where they are utilizing research-informed approaches, such as Strengthening Families, to support child and family well-being. Addressing risk factors for adverse childhood events, juvenile delinquency, truancy, and mental illness, the CHW intervention will support better outcomes for our youth and families.

Northwest Vermont Foster Grandparent Program

\$10,000.00

Northwest Vermont Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program is a unique school-based volunteer program for individuals 55 and older. Foster Grandparent volunteers serve as tutors, mentors, and friends to children. They visit preschools and K-12 schools, working one-on-one or in small groups with children with exceptional needs. Foster Grandparent volunteers contribute crucial educational, social, and emotional support that helps children to reach their full potential.

Engaging program participants in effective, high-quality trainings—which allow them to be helpful and respond to the needs of the children they serve—will allow us to extend the program throughout the Northwest region to support more children.

Orange County Parent Child Center

\$5,000.00

PCC Community Supports

OCPCC provides a range of supports to help all families get off to a healthy start, promote well-being, and build on family strengths. OCPCC serves more than 500 families each year and covers about 759 square miles of mountainous terrain with a population that has an average income level more than 10% below the poverty line. In our service region, parents have little access to resources given the rural nature of our community. Grocery stores are 30+ miles away, there is no public transportation and access to medical services is limited. OCPCC creates a safety net for the community with our supports and resources and we are in a unique opportunity to grow those resources and prevention services throughout our county.

Outright Vermont**\$12,750.00**

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**\$15,000.00**

Expanding Gender Sexuality Alliances into Elementary Schools

Outright is building a Vermont where all LGBTQ+ youth have hope, equity, and power through programs like the vibrant and robust statewide Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Network. While 30% of VT public schools have a GSA, only 2% of the state's GSAs are in an elementary school. Why is this important? Because by age 4, most children have a stable sense of their gender identity (American Academy of Pediatrics), by age 8, the average trans person has socially transitioned, and between ages 10-13, the average LGBTQ+ youth has begun feeling they may not be straight (Pew). Outright is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and affirming environment for young people by celebrating their identities, combating isolation, and making their schools safer, by expanding supports in elementary schools.

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont**\$12,750.00**

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!

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont**\$15,000.00**

InsideOut Dad: Parent Education and Support for Fathers Inside and Outside Prison

PCAVT will facilitate groups with incarcerated fathers to support their understanding that their role in their children's lives is irreplaceable. Participating in our InsideOut Dad® Program is a life-changing experience leading to families' and children's lives changing for the better. Supporting a strong relationship between a child and their father can mitigate the negative consequences for the child and lower recidivism rates.

The program's focus is on developing self-awareness, caring for self, fathering skills, parenting skills and relationship skills. These abilities support fathers becoming more involved, responsible, and committed fathers to their children, thus interrupting the intergenerational cycle of abuse and trauma.

rePlay Arts

\$10,000.00

Piloting Artcycle Workshops with New Youth Organization Partners

rePlay Arts will coordinate and implement 32 Artcycle workshops with both new and existing partners. Launched in 2023, Artcycle teaches creative reuse artmaking skills using art supplies donated by community members. We plan to launch new partnerships with youth service organizations in Vermont's Upper Valley towns.

Artcycle workshops will be scheduled and tailored to enrich the activities available to the populations served by each partner. We will operate free of charge for any partner identifying cost as a barrier.

River Gallery School of Art

\$15,000.00

Art in Schools

River Gallery School's Art in Schools (AIS) residency program places teaching artists in 3 elementary schools in Southern Vermont. The 2024-2025 school year will be our 4th year offering this program to local students in the Brattleboro area. Younger grades receive monthly visits by the same teaching artist, building relationships, artistic identity and confidence in students over the course of the year and culminating in a year-end showcase community event. Older students participate in a month-long intensive in the spring, building art installations in their classrooms, schools and communities. AIS supports community building and individual resilience for elementary students through exploratory art making aligned with the school's values.

Rutland County Parent Child Center

\$10,000.00

RCPPC Dads' Group

The Rutland County Parent Child Center is implementing a pilot "Dads' Parenting Group" program. Our agency currently hosts a weekly daytime parenting education class that utilizes the Strengthening Families Protective Factor Framework. We recognize that there are limited spaces within our community however that specifically address or aim to empower fathers. This pilot program is designed to give dads in Rutland County a space to gain social connections and education that will support their journey through fatherhood and help them become more actively engaged within the community.

Second Growth, Inc.

\$12,750.00

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.

Sharon Academy**\$10,000.00**

TSA's Work-based Learning Program

The Sharon Academy (TSA) provides relevant, comprehensive education to rural VT students in grades 7-12, ensuring graduates are equipped to thrive in a constantly changing and increasingly complex world. Adolescents in rural VT need reasons to engage in school and ways to imagine themselves as successful professionals meeting their immense potential. Students will explore real, virtual, online, or simulated work environments through a Work-based Learning Program (WBLP) designed to develop skills and connect academic principles with real-world applications. WBLPs are crucial pathways for post-secondary readiness and are essential to modern learning. Introducing a WBLP at TSA will greatly benefit students.

Springfield Area Parent Child Center**\$1,350.00**

Preschool Smartboard

Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing a wide range of community services to residents of Southern Windsor and Northern Windham Counties. At the heart of our organization is PlayWorks Child Center which aims to provide children with a nurturing environment in which to grow and learn. With this funding, SAPCC will purchase a "Smart Board" for the PlayWorks preschool classroom. A smart board is an interactive display used by educators to whiteboard project lesson materials, play videos, and give presentations. The advantages of smart boards in the classroom are multifaceted and transformative for engaging students in dynamic learning experiences and fostering collaboration.

Teen Center**\$6,375.00**

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.

Teen Center**\$7,500.00**

Play for Keeps

The Teen Center provides after school drop-in to teens in Addison County, as well as no-cost enrichment and summer programming. We encourage teens to use our space to explore their interests and talents. Teens who have not found an interest by middle- or high school often feel like they have missed their chance. For many of our teens, this is tied to their socio-economic status, as their families could not afford lessons or equipment when they were younger. Teens internalize this into thinking they are not as talented or capable as their peers, which affects confidence and drives anxiety. Play for Keeps (PfK) will allow teens to earn their own equipment while learning a new talent, setting them up to be lifelong, confident learners.

Teen Center**\$609.00**

The Teen Center

The Teen Center offers space for local youth to build community with free events, summer camps, and after school drop-in, providing free food to foster an inclusive environment. While many youths gravitate toward indoor activities such as art and video games, they have requested a Gaga Ball Pit. Gaga Ball is a fast-paced dodgeball variation where players strike others below the knee with a ball to get one another “out” and players must keep the ball inside the pit. The Gaga Pit would encourage outdoor play, enhancing teens' health, well-being, conflict resolution skills, and social connections. It would also be accessible for all Middlebury residents to enjoy competitive outdoor fun.

Umbrella NEK**\$10,000.00**

Umbrella Early Prevention Education Program

Our mission is to cultivate a Northeast Kingdom where all people thrive free from abuse and oppression. Umbrella’s core programs include Social Change, Advocacy, and Family-Based Services. Social Change offers gender-based and substance misuse prevention in local schools and other community settings. Advocacy supports survivors of domestic and sexual violence with a variety of services. Family-Based supports include Kingdom Child Care Connection which helps to connect families to child care financial assistance and referrals and the Family Room, our supervised visitation program. Through this grant, Umbrella will offer evidenced-based prevention curriculums in child care settings in the Northeast Kingdom.

Vermont Farmers Food Center**\$15,000.00**

Farmacy: Food As Medicine Shares for WIC Identified Families in Rutland County

Vermont Farmers Food Center (VFFC) has operated a food as medicine program, Farmacy, since 2015, sourcing locally grown produce from Rutland county farms to support patients signed up through their healthcare provider. In 2024, we will expand this offering to 25 families signed up through Womens, Infant and Children (WIC) here in Rutland county with a pick up site at BROCC Community Action, giving the children and families access to resources and support in one place. These families will receive 15 farm fresh shares during the summer, July-October, and a monthly farm share Nov-May as well as nutrition and cooking education. Receiving the proper nutrition and eating seasonally will help nourish the children and set them up for success.

Very Merry Theatre**\$15,000.00**

Very Merry Theatre Afterschool and Summer Programming in Winooski

Very Merry Theatre is expanding 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 will extend the collaborative partnership with Winooski Parks and Recreation to offer year round afterschool and summer programming characterized by Very Merry's inclusive approach to developing literacy skills, communication skills and teamwork to children from a range of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development

\$2,000.00

Winston Prouty Center

We currently have 4 classrooms serving 40 children ages 2 months to 5 years old. We believe that the environment has the power to shape how and what children can learn, and that in the right environment every child can thrive. Having a high-quality sensory table in each classroom has been cost prohibitive. Our ability to support our students through sensory play would be helped by access to several high-quality sensory bins. This grant could help us support students-particularly our ELL students, and those who get services for speech-with materials for sound panels to reduce the echo in our preschool room. We would also invest in rubberized mats giving children access to climbers in the classroom, reducing stress for teachers

Youth First Mentoring

\$13,500.00

Youth First Mentoring

YFM plans to boost the protective factors of our established community mentoring program by offering an enrichment program that involves our youth in the arts, sciences, outdoors, service, and wellness. This will close the opportunity gap our at-risk youth face, enhance youth and mentor recruitment, strengthening social connectedness, resilience and outcomes for youth. The youth we serve are often deprived of typical enriching and educational experiences because of the risk factors they face (poverty, parental absence, e.g.). We will augment this with an educational program for mentors on adolescent development, adverse childhood experiences, and mental health first aid, which will boost protective factors in their mentor relationships.

Youth Services, Inc

\$12,750.00

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.