

FALL 2025

Vermont Children's Trust Foundation

BUILDING RESILIENCE • CREATING OPPORTUNITY

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



VCTF FUNDING IS IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

In every corner of Vermont, VCTF grantees are investing their time and expertise to ensure a brighter, healthier future for all Vermont children.

A nurturing setting that gives working parents the security of knowing their infants and toddlers are well cared for; a high quality preschool that nourishes young minds and prepares kids for kindergarten; a theater program where the director instills confidence and encourages all kids to shine on center stage; a literacy mentoring program that turns the lunch hour into a celebration of reading.

These are some examples of ways in which the programs funded by VCTF are promoting the well-being of Vermont kids.



Come Alive Outside

Come Alive Outside encourages kids to get outside and engage in their communities- connecting to nature and building relationships.

We are continually impressed by our grantees and grateful for the work that they do. Below are a few highlights. Thank YOU for supporting VCTF and our grantees.

DAD GUILD

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

OUR MISSION

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



Polar Express 2025

THE POLAR EXPRESS: We are looking forward to bringing the 23rd annual Polar Express Train Ride to Burlington on December 6 & 7. We are grateful for the hundreds of volunteers and many, many generous supporters who help us bring the magic of The Polar Express to life.

NEW THIS YEAR: Two train cars have been set aside to provide a more sensory friendly experience for passengers that may prefer a more subdued adventure.

The Polar Express exemplifies what the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation stands for: community coming together to benefit children. While bringing holiday joy to thousands, we raise funds for children's prevention programs across Vermont. And good will to all...



We simply could not fund all of these outstanding programs without YOU.

This year, thanks to your generosity, VCTF is funding \$677,000 to support 55 programs serving Vermont youth. These programs span the state and reflect our commitment to support programs that have a positive influence on children's lives. Since 2004, we have proudly invested over \$4.5 million in these vital prevention initiatives. With support from generous donors like you, we will be able to help keep Vermont a great place to raise kids.

Thank you! Please see a full list of our individual donors on our website www.vtchildrenstrust.org/donors

2025 Awards

Lamoille Family Center's Director of Development and Communications, Julia Skonicki, receives The Lynne Von Trapp Award for exemplary leadership in a prevention program for children. This award is given annually by the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation in honor of Lynne von Trapp, founding benefactor, board member and first Executive Director of the Foundation. In 2025 the Lamoille Family Center marked its 48th year encouraging, educating, and celebrating families. "This generous award allows infants, children and families in Lamoille Valley to form and strengthen social connections during nature-based playgroups. Thanks to the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation, Lamoille Family Center developed a collaborative partnership with Four Winds Nature Institute to offer opportunities to explore loose parts, a mud kitchen and books about nature to the playgroups. This award extends the work throughout the summer so that children and families can continue to nurture their curiosity about playing in the natural world."— Julia Skonicki

SALLY FOX AWARD

The 2025 Sally Fox Award has been awarded to Dad Guild. This award is in honor of Sally Fox, who worked as an attorney and director of the Vermont Disabilities Law Project of Vermont Legal Aid before being elected in 1986 to the Vermont House of Representatives from the town of Essex. 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. In the Dads & Kids program dads and their children meet up 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. "I am completely honored and touched by this award for our organization. For our work to be acknowledged under her name, understanding of the impact she had on Vermont and the families living here, I truly feel honored. Thank you."

2025-2026 Grantees by County

Addison County

Education Justice Coalition of Vermont
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History
Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center
Teen Center

Bennington County

Arlington Area Childcare Inc
The Collaborative
Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center
Southern Vermont Arts Center

Caledonia County

Acorn Youth Arts, Inc.
Barra School, Inc
Changing Perspectives
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Lyndon Institute
Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital

Chittenden County

Child Care Resource
Dad Guild
Education Justice Coalition of Vermont
Essex CHIPS
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Greater Burlington YMCA
Junior Milers
King Street Center
Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center
Spectrum Youth & Family Services
Very Merry Theatre

Essex County

Changing Perspectives
Encore After School and Summer Program
Lyndon Institute

Franklin County

Dad Guild
Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile
Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center

Grand Isle County

Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile

Lamoille County

Clarina Howard Nichols Center
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont

Orange County

Acorn Youth Arts, Inc.
Barra School, Inc
Chandler Center for the Arts
Cornerstone Community Center
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Family Place
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont
SafeArt, Inc.
Safeline, Inc.
Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary
Second Growth, Inc.

Orleans County

Changing Perspectives
Dad Guild
Education Justice Coalition of Vermont
Encore After School and Summer Program
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Lyndon Institute

Rutland County

Everybody Wins! Vermont
Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center
MINT, Rutland's Makerspace
Southern Vermont Arts Center
Vermont Farmers Food Center

Washington County

Acorn Youth Arts, Inc.
Barra School, Inc
Come Alive Outside
Dad Guild
Education Justice Coalition of Vermont
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont
Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center
Mad River Mentoring
Rhythm of The Rein, Inc
SafeArt, Inc.
Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary
Youth First Mentoring

Windham County

Bonnyvale Environmental
Education Center

Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro
The Collaborative
Hatch, Inc. DBA HatchSpace
River Gallery School of Art
Sandglass Theater
Southern Vermont Arts Center
Youth Services, Inc

Windsor County

Barra School, Inc
Chandler Center for the Arts
The Collaborative
Cornerstone Community Center
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Family Place
MoonRise Therapeutics
Mountain Views Supervisory Union
SafeArt, Inc.
Safeline, Inc.
Sandglass Theater
Second Growth, Inc.
Windsor County Mentors
Youth Services, Inc

Statewide

DREAM Program
Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History
Leahy Center for Lake Champlain
Outright Vermont
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
Vermont Family Network
Young Writers Project Inc

2025-2026 Grants Funded

Income Sources for Programs

State Appropriation	\$100,000	16%
Donations from Donors on State Tax Returns - Line 23D	\$60,000	10%
VCT Foundation Contribution	\$529,928	77%
Total Funds for Grants	\$689,928	100%

64 Programs Funded (see grants list)

VCTF Awards \$50,000 Grant to the Bradford Teen Center

For the third year, we have awarded a \$50,000 grant to fund an impactful project serving kids across Vermont. Bradford Teen & Community Center's mission is to provide a safe space for teenage youth where they feel heard and empowered as well as providing support for community members and young families. With support from VCTF, The Bradford Teen Center is now able to invest in infrastructure like a full kitchen, dedicated pantry space and reliable internet access. The Prevention 360 project will help more kids and families get what they need—food, support, a broader worldview and a safe place to be. Join our e-mail list and visit our website to be the first to hear of new grant opportunities offered by VCTF in the weeks and months ahead.

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.

COME ALIVE OUTSIDE

The Come Alive Outside Outdoor Passport program is a free, interactive booklet that encourages children and families to engage in hyper-local outdoor activities where they live, work, and play. Each Passport includes 25+ activities across four categories: Make Your Own Adventure, Investigate Local Parks, Discover Local Foods, and Explore Your Community. By completing activities, participants build stronger connections to nature, improve well-being, and engage with their communities. Successfully

implemented in Rutland County for nine years, it piloted in Barre in summer 2025.

JUNIOR MILERS

We are proud to support Junior Milers through the generosity of North Country Federal Credit Union.

Junior Milers is a free, inclusive running program offered to kids between the ages of 10-18. Junior Milers partners with local youth organizations including the King Street Youth Center, Boys and Girls Club, and Miller Center as well as local middle schools and high schools to find at risk youth in our community. They reduce barriers to participation by providing a new pair of running shoes, race entry fees, nutrition, and professional coaching. The program enhances kids physical fitness while exposing them to a positive social environment with peers,

coaches, and mentors as they train for local running races, culminating in late May by participating in the Relay of the Vermont City Marathon.



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



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