



BUILDING RESILIENCE • CREATING OPPORTUNITY

VCTF GRANTS LIST 2021

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 2021.

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

VCTF Grant Summary 2021

VCTF Grant Awards

Number of Grants	36
\$ Amount of Grants	\$354,877

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 2021. Some programs operate in more than one county.

County	# of Grants
Addison	12
Bennington	8
Caledonia	13
Chittenden	16
Essex	8
Franklin	10
Grand Isle	7
Lamoille	8
Orange	11
Orleans	12
Rutland	10
Washington	12
Windham	13
Windsor	14

Programs by Targeted Outcomes

Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential -	27
Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported -	9

VCTF Grant Award List 2021

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Locations</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Est. # Served</u>
Addison Central Teens & Friends Inc	\$10,000	Addison	A	90
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont	\$10,000	Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Orleans, Windham, Windsor	A	312
Bishop John A. Marshall School	\$2,000	Lamoille	A	90
Building a Positive Community (BAPC)	\$6,575	Windham	A	1,940
Chandler Center for the Arts	\$10,000	Orange, Washington, Windsor	A	500
Changing Perspectives	\$17,000	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor, Statewide	A	3,075
Common Roots, Inc.	\$10,000	Chittenden	B	540
Connecting Youth/Champlain Valley School District	\$17,000	Chittenden	A	90
Creative Lives, Inc.	\$9,500	Orange, Windsor	A	127
DREAM Program	\$8,500	Caledonia, Orleans	A	35
Everybody Wins! Vermont	\$14,102	Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windsor	A	1,188
Family Place	\$10,200	Windham	B	410
Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile	\$14,025	Franklin	B	200
Girls on the Run Vermont	\$6,375	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor, Statewide	A	2,640
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$6,163	Washington	B	129
Hopecam Inc	\$5,000	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor, Statewide	A	19
Mary Johnson Children's Center	\$15,300	Addison	B	378
Milton Community Youth Coalition	\$10,000	Chittenden	A	34
New England Youth Theatre	\$7,500	Windham	A	1,273

Northeast Kingdom Preschool and Childcare	\$16,644	Caledonia	B	154
One Planet Program, White River Valley SU	\$8,301	Windsor	A	105
Outright Vermont	\$17,000	Addison, Chittenden, Orleans, Rutland, Statewide	A	224
Outright Vermont	\$6,000	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor	B	153
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont	\$10,000	Bennington, Caledonia, Franklin, Washington	B	116
Richford Health Center Inc.	\$13,309	Franklin	A	160
Safer Society Foundation	\$8,500	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor, Statewide	A	22
The Arts Bus	\$6,000	Orange, Washington, Windham, Windsor	A	2,630
The Mentor Connector	\$10,000	Rutland	A	75
Thrive After School and Summer Program	\$964	Chittenden	A	44
Vermont Family Network	\$10,000	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor, Statewide	A	1,225
Vermont Humanities Council	\$10,000	Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor, Statewide	A	200
Very Merry Theatre	\$10,000	Addison, Chittenden	A	75
Windsor County Partners	\$7,000	Windsor	A	164
Winooski Family Center	\$11,919	Chittenden	B	102
Wonder & Wisdom dba WonderArts	\$10,000	Caledonia, Orleans	A	1,057
Youth Services, Inc	\$10,000	Windham	A	34

Outcomes Reference Key:

- A) Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential
- B) Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported

VCTF Grantees Fiscal Year 2021

(Alphabetical Order)

Addison Central Teens & Friends Inc **\$10,000.00**

Drop-in, Life Skills, and Minority Community Building Programs

Addison Central Teens provides a daily after school drop in space with a healthy meal, adult mentorship and support, and socio-emotional skill building opportunities for youth 12-18. We are expanding our drop in service alongside our additional critical programs, specifically our life skills classes, and we are broadening our community building support and activities for marginalized and minority youth. ACT strives to provide youth with the tools to succeed as teens and future adults. We host groups for LGBTQ+ youth, and for teens struggling with their mental health, and workshops on financial literacy to support teens from all angles. We hope to expand these programs to serve a broader range of identities, and build a variety life skills.

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

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont

Big Brothers Big Sisters Vermont (BBBSVT) is a non-profit mentorship program with the mission and vision of igniting the potential in all youth through the scope of mentorship. BBBSVT is a voluntary program and matches youth in the community with trusted, safe adults who are dedicated to providing quality one to one time towards developing an impactful relationship with youth. BBBSVT has coined the phrase "trusted adult friend" to describe the bigs (mentors) in the program which speaks to the fact that the big is someone who can be relied upon and maintain a safe space for youth to explore and grow while honoring the little's (mentee) developing authentic self.

Bishop John A. Marshall School **\$2,000.00**

The BJAMS Winter Cruisers Club

In the middle of Morrisville sits a small, but mighty school that boasts fields with majestic views and quiet serenity. Throughout the seasons, you'll find students playing soccer, lacrosse, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing. Athletics is a vital part of the school's mission. Currently, we only have used Winter equipment for our 6th-8th graders. We'd like to see students start earlier in our Winter programs by the 3rd. grade. We are providing cross country ski equipment (skis,bindings,shoes,and poles) and snowshoes. It's so vital for children to get outside and be healthy all year long!

Building a Positive Community (BAPC)

\$6,575.00

Quality Youth Development Certification Brattleboro

Building a Positive Community (BAPC) supports the greater Brattleboro community (including the towns served by the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union school district. We are becoming certified as a Quality Youth Development community. The Quality Youth Development or “QYD” is a community certification process that will demonstrate the greater Brattleboro community is actively promoting youth engagement and youth empowerment. The Coalition will convene youth and adults representing a cross-section of our community to work toward meeting at least 7 of the 10 possible benchmarks identified by Essex CHIPS in Essex, VT (the host of the certification process) to qualify as a QYD community.

Chandler Center for the Arts

\$10,000.00

Chandler Center for the Arts Summer Youth Musical and Elementary Camp Program

For 30 years Chandler Center for the Arts has served the children and teens of Central Vermont with an exceptional theater arts program. Each summer for 6 weeks between 70 to 150 kids participate in a powerful collective experience which helps them create strong social connections while also allowing them to achieve their full potential. Each year during these weeks of rehearsal, and during four public performances clustered around the 4th of July, teens and kids learn to count on each other, while testing their abilities and developing positive supportive interactions with the adults assisting with the show: the director, music director, choreographer, tech director, costumer, dozens of community volunteers and our younger campers.

Changing Perspectives

\$17,000.00

Expanding Disability Awareness in Vermont Schools

Changing Perspectives engages preK-12 students in open dialogue and real-world experiences to promote disability awareness and foster inclusive communities. We accomplish our mission through a combination of curricular materials and educator professional development opportunities. About 20% of Vermont students receive school-based support for a disability through an IEP or 504 plan. Changing Perspectives assists educators in proactively addressing awareness of disability as another dimension of diversity in their schools. In doing so, our programs support schools in fostering social-emotional competence among all learners. A three-year renewal grant will enable us to reach more schools to further expand programmatic impacts.

Common Roots, Inc.

\$10,000.00

Building Food security

Common Roots is a non-profit that provides 5 food education and food access (11 years) in South Burlington. Our Food Shares program provided organically grown, farm-fresh, local food to families facing food insecurity identified by social workers in 5 schools. The So Burlington Food Shelf opened on November 1, 2019. We will deepen our impact with an increased volume of fresh food available for folks who struggle, especially children due to the impacts of Covid-19.

Goals to increase food security:

- continue to build relationships that enable people to learn as they select healthy foods
- grow 33% more certified organic food for both the So Burlington Food Shelf
- grow 50% more certified organic bedding veggie and herb plants

Connecting Youth/Champlain Valley School District

\$17,000.00

Connecting Youth Mentoring (CYM)

CY has a long history of providing high quality mentoring in one of the largest school districts in the state. Serving 180 students grades 5-12 in Champlain Valley SD (CVSD), our outcomes exceed expectations annually and our staff are frequently sought to provide technical assistance & professional development for other programs. In 2017 we launched a community based high school program that alleviated pressure on other local community based programs and more importantly allowed us to apply our expertise in a new way to better meet students' needs. As we enter the 2020 school year we are prepared to increase the FTE committed to the high school from 0.5 - 1.0, effectively doubling the size as envisioned in our original 5yr roll-out plan.

Creative Lives, Inc.

\$9,500.00

BroadwayVentures

Creative Lives, a non-profit devoted to helping children thrive, will expand our current partnership with Hartford Rec. Departments "Ventures Summer Camp" (an eight-week day camp). Our new programs include a two-week musical theatre intensive for 4th-12th graders and week-long introductory camp for elementary students. BroadwayVentures will culminate in a full-length, well-known musical production.. Off-Broadway Magic will include a performance for parents and peers. Campers will be fully immersed in every aspect of the stage experience and will participate in a unique character education program based in the Creative Lives holistic approach to learning. Camps foster positive self-esteem, relationship skills, and wise decision-making.

DREAM Program

\$8,500.00

Growing DREAMs: DREAM Expansion to the Northeast Kingdom

DREAM is seeking support to reach some of the most underserved children in Vermont, those living in the Northeast Kingdom (NEK). We are currently engaged in a feasibility study, exploring a variation to our model that will train high school students to mentor younger youth living in low-income housing. Our model will maintain the high-quality DREAM mentor experience while also expanding our mentor pool to reach children in the NEK, an area that has proven difficult to reach, with little easy access to college student mentors. We are seeking support to carry our study forward into implementation, including developing a service-learning curriculum for high school students and piloting the new model at a high school in the NEK.

Everybody Wins! Vermont

\$14,102.00

Everybody Wins! Vermont

Everybody Wins! Vermont is the state's largest mentoring organization, with over 600 adult volunteers reading one-on-one weekly with children in 22 schools statewide. Mentor pairs meet during lunch time at the school to share books and literacy activities and to build positive relationships. Our Power Lunch program exposes children to topics and discussions they might not have otherwise, enhances children's self-esteem, and expands their possibilities for academic and life success. Research shows that children who enjoy reading and are surrounded by books at a young age gain an edge in school and life. Everybody Wins! mentors help make sure that more children have that opportunity.

Family Place**\$10,200.00**

Parent Education Services and Playgroups

The Family Place seeks to meet the growing request from families and other community partners for more parent education opportunities and playgroups, through additional and more diverse program offerings. We fulfill a need to provide strength-based parenting education services, so that all parents – including those considered the most vulnerable or high-risk – acquire skills to strengthen their families. Research shows providing supports at the earliest opportunity can make a difference in the strength and health of families and a child's foundation for future learning.

Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile**\$14,025.00**

Story Enchantment All Year

Story Enchantment All Year (SEAY) addresses the need for high-quality childcare by delivering professional development opportunities for the early childcare workforce by extending our visits and targeting content for child care professionals. With each bookmobile visit, SEAY provides book/material loans for everyone, free professional development, and story times with evidence-based extension activities for children 0-5. By focusing on social-emotional skill development, SEAY builds trauma-informed services that will reduce the impacts of adverse childhood experiences and increase kindergarten readiness in social and emotional learning.

Girls on the Run Vermont**\$6,375.00**

Girls on the Run and Heart & Sole

Girls on the Run Vermont is an independent and statewide after-school program for 3rd-8th grade Vermont girls that focuses on whole health -- physical, emotional, and social. We serve more than 2,600 girls at over 150 sites in the state and are working hard to ensure that every girl has access to our high-quality after school program. But there is a lot more to be done. Annually, we serve over 2,700 girls between the ages of 8 and 13. While that may seem like a large number, it represents only 20% of Vermont females in this age group.

This grant will fund more team sites, train more volunteer coaches, and continue to offer critical financial assistance to every girl that participates.

Good Beginnings of Central Vermont**\$6,163.00**

Expansion of Parent/Caregiver Support Groups

Good Beginnings parent/caregiver circles bring families together to support each other in the unique-but-shared experience of parenting an infant. Anyone caring for an infant is welcome. Each circle is a welcoming, judgment-free space where new parents and caregivers can speak openly and honestly about the challenges and triumphs of the parenting experience, gain support, and build community. Weekend and weekday options help connect new moms and dads alike to a network of peer support that can make the difference during the first few months. Each circle is facilitated by a local parent with support from Good Beginnings staff. Food, drink, and age-appropriate children's activities and/or child care are provided.

Hopecam Inc**\$5,000.00**

Give Hope, Get Connected - Vermont

Hopecam helps children with cancer stay connected to their schools during treatment. Our "Give Hope, Get Connected – Vermont" project is launched in conjunction with our 15th Anniversary. Hopecam is expanding our reach to Vermont. Hopecam provides each child with a tablet or laptop. If the family does not have internet access in their home, Hopecam provides it while they are in treatment. Simultaneously Hopecam works with the school to secure their participation. Schools are given web cameras and laptops, lesson plans, and support resources. 90% of our children attend Title 1 schools.

Mary Johnson Children's Center**\$15,300.00**

MJCC School Age-- Stronger Families

MJCC School Age -- Stronger Families amplifies the efforts of our six licensed programs across Addison County to strengthen and support families and children that we serve. It explores and deepens parental resilience, expands opportunities for social connections among children, parents and communities, offer education and instruction for program staff and parents together in the social, emotional and cognitive benchmarks and developments for children ages six to twelve. Over the course of three years, the promotive factors identified by the state of Vermont as integral in the stability of hundreds of families will be examined, addressed and improved for 85% of participants, by their own report; sustainable results will be documented.

Milton Community Youth Coalition**\$10,000.00**

Milton Peer to Peer Mentoring Program

Data shows that Milton youth need greater community support. Milton Town School District (MTSD) reports describe bullying around issues of racial and gender identity. MICYC is working to improve this problem. The peer-to-peer mentoring program will expand youth mentoring opportunities in the community and build relationships that improve youth resilience, social connection and enhance social and emotional competence. MTSD educators have been informally pairing elementary age students with Juniors and Seniors over the past few years. This program is a formalized, evidence-based program in which high school students are matched with elementary students in mentoring relationships that meet weekly during the school year.

New England Youth Theatre**\$7,500.00**

New England Youth Theatre's Town Schools Theatre Program

Town Schools Theatre was launched in 2015 as a way to bring accessible after-school arts education to our region's elementary school students. Students join the program as cohorts of 4th, 5th, and 6th graders; and are guided through the process of devising, rehearsing, and performing a play. The program is offered free of charge to all participants. NEYT receives an annual contribution from our local supervisory union to help make this program possible. Through Town Schools Theatre, NEYT has built relationships with many of the elementary schools across Windham County. As the program continues to grow, NEYT serves more young people, adding more school partners, and expanding the program's theatre technology track.

Northeast Kingdom Preschool and Childcare

\$16,644.00

Families First Advocacy, Building Community, Cultivating Citizenship

Families First is an innovative and exciting program based in rural Vermont that supports local children and families. The guiding principles of Families First will be Advocacy, Building Community and Cultivating Citizenship. The goal is to develop and support the whole family. This program will provide families with therapeutic support, connections with local resources and community agencies, education in the area of child development, provision of practical strategies and exploration of educational and employment opportunities in our region. This program will be based out of a not for profit childcare center located in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. Families First will support and nurture families in and around this region.

One Planet Program, White River Valley SU

\$8,301.00

One Planet Program

Over the past three years, we have developed a robust STEM program in our eight programs. As a next step, we are implementing a dynamic robotics program. Robotics provide rich grounds for the development of valuable transferable skills, like problem-solving, critical thinking, communication and 21st century skills. By its nature, the study of robotics inherently incorporates all four pillars of STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, making it a truly dynamic and multi-disciplined learning opportunity. Robotics also allows scaffolding in learning--through a variety of techniques, students can move progressively toward deeper understanding and, ultimately, greater independence in the learning process.

Outright Vermont

\$17,000.00

Expanding Friday Night Groups for LGBTQ youth to Rural Vermont!

Friday Night Group is Outright Vermont's (ORVT's) signature social-support program—meeting every Friday in Burlington since 1989! Today, groups in Burlington, Montpelier, Morrisville, and Brattleboro offer a drop-in space that celebrates who LGBTQ+ youth are. Groups enable youth to be themselves, connect with peers about shared joys and challenges, and engage with LGBTQ+-identified adults who model healthy behaviors and ensure that group is safe and supportive. Youth choose topics and lead conversations, while facilitators uphold youth generated rules that govern group, provide support, and referrals. ORVT established a strategic priority to increase access for rural LGBTQ+ youth; with your support, Friday night group can expand statewide!

Outright Vermont

\$6,000.00

Outright Vermont Family and Youth Resilience

Outright's founders imagined a Vermont where LGBTQ+ youth would always know they weren't alone. They launched the first social and support program in November of 1989 – a weekly Friday Night Group (FNG) in Burlington. It didn't take long to determine that preparing youth to navigate isolation and harm wouldn't be enough. We needed to strengthen – and when necessary, transform – the external climate affecting young people every day. This includes their own families. Outright is strengthening our family programs, and launching new co-occurring programs in northern VT. These programs will build resilience and protective factors for both families and youth, creating more safe, supportive, and stable homes for vulnerable Vermonters.

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

\$10,000.00

Strengthening Families Program

A large majority of the people enrolling in our parenting programs these days struggle with addiction as well as the effects of various trauma and adverse experiences (75-80%). With so many parents and caregivers presenting with substance use issues, we will offer Strengthening Families Programs (SFP). SFP is an evidence-based parenting and life skills training program which parents and children attend together. The program was originally designed to improve outcomes for parents with substance use disorders and their children. Studies over the years show that, in addition to being very effective in preventing substance use and mental health issues in children, the program also improves family functioning and reduces violence and abuse.

Richford Health Center Inc.

\$13,309.00

Swanton Notch Daycamp

Notch has successfully run summer daycamps for over 25 years currently offering a six week program attended by nearly 200 children in Richford and a newly added two week camp in Swanton this program has steadily grown and expanded to meet the needs of Swanton and the surrounding communities. Our goal is provide free high quality, enriching activities to our rural impoverished service areas as well as providing access to free nutritious breakfast and lunch daily. Expansion of our existing programming from two weeks to four weeks in addition to our successful partnership with Swanton Recreation and area 21C funded programs would help bridge the summer food insecurity gap, address summer learning loss, and build community connections.

Safer Society Foundation

\$8,500.00

New Circle Mentoring

New Circle provides one-on-one mentoring services to Vermont children from primary school through high school who have one or more parent/s who are incarcerated or who have a history of incarceration. Mentors are carefully recruited, trained, and matched with mentees, and each match is supervised by a Clinical Director, a retired school counselor with decades of experience. This is a long-term program, with a three-to-five-year minimum commitment by both mentors and mentees. New Circle's goal is to support these children academically, psychologically, and emotionally so they can be successful in school and graduate from high school ready to pursue higher education or career training.

The Arts Bus

\$6,000.00

EVER AFTER KIDS - Quality Art Education to At-Risk Kids Perpetually in After-School, After-Spring, After-Hours Programs

After a decade of service, the Arts Bus mission of “empowering joy & authentic self-expression through the arts” finds Vermont’s favorite green bus at the crossroads of limited public art education resources & ever-increasing costs of raising children. As a mobile art education service, the Arts Bus has driven thousands of miles 1,000 times to provide a creative resource right where our communities need it. The EVER AFTER KIDS Program is based on acceptance of two systemic facts: 1)there will FOREVER be children in AFTER programs; and 2) quality art education will ALWAYS be limited in school budgets. Thus, at libraries, camps, schools & after-school programs, we capture the ‘after’ time to achieve quality art-education & our mission!

The Mentor Connector

\$10,000.00

Positive Action Group Program

The Mentor Connector's aim is to create a community where all youth and their families are empowered to succeed. As Rutland County's youth and family mentoring organization, we serve over 200 youth and families each year, with one-on-one mentoring, family mentoring, and community prevention programming.

The Mentor Connector is implementing the Positive Action curriculum for 25 vulnerable youth while utilizing one-on-one mentoring to reinforce the learned social- emotional skills throughout the subsequent months.

Thrive After School and Summer Program

\$964.00

Thrive After School and Summer Program

Thrive is a childcare/enrichment program serving the diverse, close-knit, and resilient community of Winooski. We support children in grades K-5 to develop their literacy, STEM, and socioemotional skills during after school and summer time. We plan to create a Makerspace to enhance the engineering and tinkering options we provide to kids, promoting youth resilience. Using an iterative process to solve problems and persist through failure will help our students overcome challenges in other areas of their lives. Students will collaborate, imagine, and problem-solve while building cars and structures, coding and programming robots, and exploring with a 3-D printer.

Vermont Family Network

\$10,000.00

Puppets in Education's Bullying Prevention Program

Vermont Family Network (VFN) empowers and supports all Vermont families of children with special needs. Puppets in Education (PiE) was a stand-alone nonprofit until 2017, when it merged with VFN. Utilizing life-sized puppets, PiE teaches children how to keep themselves safe and healthy and to appreciate each other's differences through educational programs for pre-K-8 students and their adults. Our programs model effective leadership and problem-solving skills and demonstrate respect and inclusion in a diverse community. For over 38 years, PiE has reached 10,000 children a year in schools throughout VT, promoting empathy and kindness for all while educating students in strategies to break the cycles of abuse, bullying, and harassment.

Vermont Humanities Council

\$10,000.00

Humanities Camps

Vermont Humanities Camps are week-long summer day programs that engage at-risk middle school students in fun, rewarding educational activities. Held at approximately 14 middle schools each summer, they are run by two teachers at each school who recruit students that may struggle with reading or learning in a traditional classroom. Students rave about the camps; they are, for some students, their first positive interaction with reading, school, and perhaps with learning itself. Not only do the camps strengthen reading and self-expression, they also change students' attitudes dramatically about reading, learning, school, and self-identification as learners. The camps are free for parents and provide food for students.

Very Merry Theatre

\$10,000.00

Very Merry Theatre

Very Merry Theatre is expanding programming and attracting new participants in the areas of costume design and set design. Historically, Very Merry Theatre programs have focused on the performance side of theatre where children meet weekly to learn story-telling and performance skills culminating in a theatrical production. We aim to expand our offerings to include programming in other creative arts associated with theatrical productions. Specifically we want to offer classes in costume design and set design which would enable interested participants to showcase their creative ideas and learn new skills in the technical arts related to a theatrical production. We also hope this may attract new participants.

Windsor County Partners

\$7,000.00

Windsor County Mentors

For nearly 50 years Windsor County Mentors has provided mentoring relationships for Windsor County children and youth. Through our school-based and community-based one-on-one mentoring programs, WCM matches a caring adult with an at-risk youth. At the very heart of mentoring is the assurance that a young person will have someone who cares about them. Someone they can rely on to help them deal with day-to-day challenges and who makes them feel like they matter. Research on the impact of mentoring confirms that quality mentoring relationships fundamentally change the direction of a young person's life for the better. We are planning to double the number of mentoring pairs under our program.

Winooski Family Center

\$11,919.00

Winooski Family Center Program

Through weekly playgroups, parent workshops and summer community based activities, the Winooski Family Center will offer caregivers and children, birth through five years of age the opportunity to participate in learning activities that are child-centered, developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive. While drawing from the Early Multi-Tiered System of Support's (Pyramid Model) Positive Solutions for Families evidence based practice model, the facilitator will offer a curriculum to support parental resilience and social connections as well as Strengthening Families Protective Factors to increase family stability and children's ability to learn.

Wonder & Wisdom dba WonderArts

\$10,000.00

Expanding Enrichment In-school & Afterschool

Through in-school and after school enrichment classes, WonderArts provides direct programming to over 500 children in a tiny corner of Vermont's rural Northeast Kingdom. We support the physical, social, and emotional development of local youth by offering outlets for self-expression, exposure to new activities, and opportunities for development of creative skill sets. In an area where resources are limited, WonderArts collaborates with schools, community organizations, and local teaching artists to create meaningful experiences and guide our children and young people in achieving their true potential. WonderArts seeks support from VCTF to continue building vibrant, safe, and resilient communities around our valued youth and their families.

Youth Services, Inc

\$10,000.00

Friends For Change

FFC is a youth-led/adult guided, trauma-informed, and play-based program. We provide after-school and summer programming where youth thrive and learn how to build a stronger community. Our model is based on SAMHSA's Key Principles of a Trauma-Informed Approach. This approach creates a shift that allows our participants to process and communicate their stories, and reframe their traumas as strengths. We see the lives of youth who've experienced trauma transformed. FFC youth feel safe, seen, and empowered in very real and meaningful ways. Our data shows that as a result of being a part of FFC youth report an increase in a sense of belonging, confidence, leadership, community involvement and reduced substance use.