What a year! The Vermont Children’s Trust Foundation proudly funded over $423,000 to 43 programs in 2020. When we funded these programs we envisioned busy camps, thriving children’s programming, live theater productions and mentoring pairs bonding and connecting. When COVID-19 emerged in March, our grantees had very little time to adjust to the many new restrictions imposed upon them. We were astounded by their ability to immediately pivot. Fueled by love for the children and families they serve, these organizations understood how necessary it was to persevere and remain connected with families. And, through their creativity and dedication, we are proud to note that we are seeing busy camps, thriving children’s programming, live theater productions and mentoring pairs safely bonding and connecting. Here are just a few examples of the tremendous work being done by our grantees.

The Arts Bus was created to provide equity, proximity and access to art education, and what emerged was a rolling mobile art studio, theater, library & creative learning center for ALL of Vermont’s children wherever and wherever they are! As a creative response to the pandemic, in April 2020 The Arts Bus launched Kits4Kids, a program to deliver FREE arts and craft kit care packages to the hands, hearts & homes of children in Central Vermont. Now in its 10th year, Vermont’s beloved green bus has driven thousands of miles to empower children to find joy and authentic self-expression through the arts.

Very Merry Theatre teaching artists banded together and made a speedy transition to offering remote programming. “We believed that it was critically important to offer both low cost as well as free programming to keep young people engaged in creativity and we were so inspired by all of the amazing ways they expressed themselves via Zoom in our remote theatrical creations!” Very Merry Theatre spent countless hours planning for the reopening of in-person programming through their summer camps at their Charlotte Barn, Vergennes and 20 Allen Street sites. Teen counselors and teaching artists were a source of inspiration as they reimagined much adored theatre games in physically distanced configurations.

(Continued on Back Cover)
The Polar Express 2020- Keeping the spirit alive!!

As many of you have heard, the Polar Express will be heading down a different track this year. We are packaging up the Polar Express experience, which will be delivered by post to our donors and sponsors this December.

Those who donate $100 or more by October 25th will receive a package that contains everything needed to hold a Polar Express event at home: bells, golden tickets, chocolates, a note from Santa, and a link to an original video of The Polar Express story book reading.

$150+ donors will receive those items, plus a signed copy of the Van Allsburg picture book and a Polar Express ornament.

All $100+ donors will be put on the advanced ticket list for Polar Express 2021.

Put on some comfortable jammies, pour some hot cocoa and create a special night enjoying the Polar Express story reading from your home!

We are grateful for our generous sponsors who enable us to bring this Polar Express experience to you.

Thank you for keeping the magic alive!

WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND LOOK FORWARD TO RIDING THE TRAIN WITH ALL OF YOU IN 2021!

2020 Awards

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont Executive Director Kimberley Diemond, 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.

The 2020 SALLY FOX AWARD has been awarded to Milton Community Youth Coalition.

The award is in honor of Sally Fox, who worked as an attorney and director of the Vermont Disabilities Law Project of Vermont Legal Aid before being elected in 1986 to the Vermont House of Representatives from the town of Essex.
# 2021 Grantees by County

**Addison**
- Addison Central Teens & Friends, Inc.
- Everybody Wins! Vermont
- Mary Johnson Children’s Center
- Very Merry Theatre

**Bennington**
- Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

**Caledonia**
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont
- DREAM Program
- Everybody Wins! Vermont
- Northeast Kingdom Preschool and Childcare
- Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
- Wonder & Wisdom dba WonderArts

**Chittenden**
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont
- Connecting Youth/Champlain Valley School District
- Everybody Wins! Vermont
- Milton Community Youth Coalition
- Thrive After School and Summer Program
- Very Merry Theatre
- Winooski Family Center

**Essex**
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont

**Franklin**
- Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

**Lamoille**
- Bishop John A. Marshall School

**Orange**
- Chandler Center for the Arts
- Creative Lives, Inc.
- Everybody Wins! Vermont
- The Arts Bus

**Orleans**
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont
- DREAM Program
- Everybody Wins! Vermont
- Wonder & Wisdom dba WonderArts

**Rutland**
- Everybody Wins! Vermont
- The Mentor Connector

**Washington**
- Chandler Center for the Arts
- Everybody Wins! Vermont
- Good Beginnings of Central Vermont
- Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
- The Arts Bus

**Windham**
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont
- Building a Positive Community (BAPC)
- Family Place
- Youth Services, Inc.

**Windsor**
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont
- Chandler Center for the Arts
- Creative Lives, Inc.
- Everybody Wins! Vermont
- Good Beginnings of Central Vermont
- One Planet Program, White River Valley SU
- The Arts Bus
- Windsor County Partners

**Statewide**
- Changing Perspectives
- Girls on the Run Vermont
- Hopecam, Inc.
- Outright Vermont
- Safer Society Foundation
- Vermont Family Network
- Vermont Humanities Council

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## VCTF Dollhouse Auction

**Can you imagine** the awe that a child will feel seeing this hand-made, one-of-a-kind dollhouse for the first time? Just in time for the holidays, this intricate replica of Abraham Lincoln’s family home will be auctioned to benefit the Vermont Children’s Trust Foundation. To bid on this priceless gift, crafted and donated by Linda LaBerge, visit our website at [www.vtchildrenstrust.org](http://www.vtchildrenstrust.org)
(Resilient Organizations Continued)

**Vermont Humanities Council**

This summer, students from Richford Jr. Sr. High School and Berkshire Elementary School participated in the virtual camp called “Photos for Change”. While practicing literacy and communication skills, campers explored the power of photography to capture history and to influence change. They also learned photography techniques and tips from professional photographers to help improve their skills. Each camper received five free books, art supplies, and a Humanities Camp 2020 T-shirt. In between live virtual sessions, students read books for discussion and took photos. Two interactive guest speakers, one virtual field trip, a presentation to families, and an exhibit at the local library rounded off the experience.

*This letter from a camper’s mother demonstrates one of the many ways that this experience impacted at-risk youth.*

“[My son] has been so excited and so proud of his photography skills! I have been taking him out and showing him how to use the telephoto lens to his advantage and he has really taken some phenomenal photos. And ... I FIND THAT HE READS ALL ABOUT THE BUGS HE DISCOVERS! Your camp has opened up more than opportunities for learning, but also opportunities for excitement and a whole new avenue for bonding with my son! He has learned so much. It is nice to see him so excited and yet, so focused. Who would have guessed that photography would teach focus far beyond the lens?”

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**Thank You to All of Our 2020 DONORS!**

Our grantees have been able to rise up and provide support to our children due to the generosity of our donors. Through you, Vermont is a better place for our children to live, grow and learn. Please visit our growing list of big-hearted supporters on our website. Our donors recognize that healthy, educated and nurtured children are more likely to realize their promise as they mature. Join us in thanking them for believing in the work of VCTF.

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**2021 Grants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Sources for Programs</th>
<th>Amount (in $)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grant-JJDP*</td>
<td>$31,102</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Appropriation</td>
<td>$23,205</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations from Donors on</td>
<td>$41,795</td>
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<td>State Tax Returns - Line 23C</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCT Foundation Contribution</td>
<td>$248,775</td>
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<td><strong>Total Funds for Grants</strong></td>
<td><strong>$344,877</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>35 Programs Funded (see grants list)</td>
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</tbody>
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*JJDP=Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention

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