

VERMONT CHILDREN'S TRUST FOUNDATION



SPRING 2011

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.

community creates good kids

www.vtchildrenstrust.org 888-475-KIDS (5437)



Creating Curious Kids

Cambridge Elementary Pre-School has a knack for fostering curiosity and the desire to learn in young children, particularly through their early literacy, play-based program. The program's mentors aid in cultivating children's self-esteem through art, writing, and movement, recognizing that all children learn in different ways. The school operates on the premise that children do better in enriched environments where they are given a variety of opportunities and are encouraged to explore, question and experiment. Subsequently, the pre-school room has several stations set up for the many developmental learning domains which in addition to experimentation, invite peer interaction and healthy socialization.

Curious children lead to thoughtful and conscientious adults, and The Vermont Children's Trust Foundation is proud to support such a rewarding program.

High School Students Help Create Workshop on Youth Violence Prevention

This past Summer and Fall Vermont high school students helped the team at **Women Helping Battered Women** develop a relationship poll for its Youth Violence Prevention Program. The poll consists of a comprehensive list of dating and relationship questions, meant to inspire both self-reflection and consideration of peer relationships.

The poll asks a variety of questions to show that unhealthy relationships can consist of abusive incidents that may not be obvious or physical in nature. By helping create and then respond to the poll, teens were actively engaged with the process of learning about youth violence prevention.

Based on results and specific comments from the poll, workshop leader Darrell Morris has tailored workshops on safe and supportive relationships for particular schools, engaging students in fun and interactive work.

Students are introduced to a young adult version of themes ordinarily presented to adults, incorporating issues such as isolation, emotional abuse and intimidation, and they subsequently integrate these themes with what they have learned to recognize the signs of an abusive relationship for themselves or a peer.

A student who participated in the program appreciated "the way it was presented because it felt relatable and not in a 'talk at us' format." Also, the use of anonymous examples has helped students realize that violence occurs much more than they had initially thought in youth relationships.

As always, knowledge and training in youth helps prevent more violence further down the road. The Vermont Children's Trust Foundation is proud to help support Women Helping Battered Women's Youth Violence Prevention Program, keeping all Vermont youth in healthy relationships, and ensuring that they remain in supportive relationships into their adult lives.

Saturday, May 14
7-10:00pm

**THE
ART
of
GIVING**

An Art Auction and Gala to Benefit the Children of Vermont
The Coach Barn at Shelburne Farms: register online @ www.vtchildrenstrust.org

The Polar Express™ 2011

Thank you to our many volunteers and generous sponsors for helping make 2010 another rousing success. We raised over \$90,000 for children in Vermont.



MAIN STREET LANDING



With each year **The Polar Express™** gets more magical. This year, the train heads to the North Pole on **December 10th & 11th**. As many of you know, **THE POLAR EXPRESS™** is an extremely popular event. We've sold out every year and expect that demand will exceed the number of tickets available this year too. Therefore, in the spirit of fairness, we will once again offer tickets to the general public via lottery.

There is still time to make a donation of \$100.00 or more to the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation and get on **The Polar Express™** advance ticket sale list. If you make a donation to VCTF before June 30, you will automatically receive an opportunity to purchase tickets in September. Please use the enclosed donor envelope and mail before **June 30**, or go to our website and donate online. **Advanced ticket purchase is one way for VCTF to thank you for your support.**



VCTF turns 20 this year—a milestone that invites reflection and gratitude. We have so many people to thank: the hundreds of community-based grantees we've funded over the past two decades for their fantastic work on behalf of our children; our many donors and sponsors who have generously supported us from the beginning; and all of the volunteers who come back year after year to help us with our events. There is a reason Vermont is continually recognized as a great place to raise children. It is because our

community comes together to ensure our youngest members have a fair chance for success. Thank you.

To celebrate our 20th anniversary and honor our founding benefactors and visionaries—Lynne von Trapp, Mary Jane Gentry and Brenda Bean—VCTF wants to raise \$20,000 to be awarded to a selected Vermont organization that exemplifies extraordinary service to the children of Vermont. Please contribute to this one-time award and help VCTF continue to pay it forward to a deserving program serving Vermont kids!

"One dollar up front prevents the spending of many dollars down the road." — Marian Wright Edelman

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