

VERMONT CHILDREN'S TRUST FOUNDATION

SPRING 2014

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)



EARLY EXPERIENCES MATTER

VCTF supports the Winooski Family Center's Early Literacy Program, which encourages parents to engage their young children with books, music and other literacy activities.



WITH SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE that points to parent involvement as one of the key factors linked to school readiness, the Early Literacy Program at the WFC was designed to support parents and caregivers in creating enriching early reading experiences for the entire family with a focus on children from birth to five-years-old.

Parents in the Early Literacy Program are instructed in ways to easily incorporate books, music and other literacy based activities into their daily interactions with their children. In weekly meetings, families are encouraged to read aloud, share stories and play creatively together. Local library trips help parents discover developmentally appropriate materials for their preschool children.

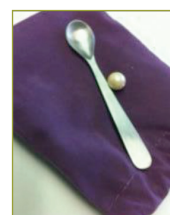
Through these group activities, children and parents are introduced to new friends, many of whom will share a future Kindergarten experience. Socializing with other families builds community connections that benefit both parents and children for the many school years ahead.

One of the parents in the program sums up the importance of this program beautifully, "This playgroup helps me talk to other parents, learn English, get information, and helps my son learn."



TURNING TEARS INTO PEARLS

How one teacher made a significant difference in the lives of local children.



"Mrs. Jed kneels down and puts her arms around this child, smiles and whispers comforting words."

Mrs. Jed (Patsy), a beloved teacher who ran Creative Playgroup Preschool in Colchester, was just such a person in her community:

"In a room alive with twelve preschool children playing, creating, discovering, laughing...one child is crying. Mrs. Jed kneels down and puts her arms around this child, smiles and whispers comforting words. And then the magic happens: Mrs. Jed reaches in her pocket, takes out a tiny silver spoon and rests it on the child's cheek, scooping up a tear. She puts the spoon in her pocket and after a second brings her hand out and opens her palm for the child. To the delight of the child, the tear has transformed into a magical pearl. The child is astonished that Mrs. Jed has the power to turn sadness into precious, magical pearls. Mrs. Jed puts the pearl in a tiny jar, tightens the lid and hands it to the child to take home as a treasure."

Sadly, Mrs. Jed passed away recently from cancer. As with all strong and dedicated teachers, her spirit carries on in the young lives she touched.

By making a donation to the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation of \$25 or more in honor of Mrs. Jed, donors will receive a special package that contains Patsy's story, a silver spoon and a magical pearl tear in a velveteen pouch.

THE POLAR EXPRESS™

**13th Annual!
December
13 & 14, 2014**



The Polar Express is an important fundraising event for VCTF. Each year, we raise close to \$100,000 for Vermont children. We could not achieve this without the huge support of our community. Big thanks to our 700+ volunteers and our most magnanimous 2013 sponsors:

*Main Street Landing
Vermont Rail Systems
National Life Group
KOOL 105
ICV
Anjou & The Little Pear
Associates in Orthodontics
BOND Auto Parts
Four Seasons Dermatology
Hannaford*

*Heritage Automotive
Kids VT
KPS Productions
Lake Champlain Chocolates
MVP Healthcare
Parlato Productions
Sodexo
Stageworks
Twincraft, Inc.*

POLAR EXPRESS 2014 will head to the North Pole December 13 & 14. If you'd like to get on the Advanced Ticket list, you still have time. If you make a donation of \$100 or more before June 30, you will receive the opportunity to purchase tickets in September. You may use the enclosed donor envelope or donate via PayPal on our website. Advance ticket purchase is one way for VCTF to thank you for your support.

Thank you for keeping the magic alive!

www.vtchildrenstrust.org

THE ART OF GIVING

Come on down to the South End, the heart of the arts scene, for an evening of good eats, libations, music, and the best art shopping around. 20 local artists will sell paintings, sculpture, glass and photographs by silent auction to benefit VCTF.



THURSDAY, APRIL 10
ArtsRiot, Pine Street,
Burlington.
\$30 pp/Cash Bar

Visit vtchildrenstrust.org for tickets and preview gallery.

HAVEN'T FILED YOUR TAXES YET?

Over 300,000 Vermonters will file state tax returns. If every one of these Vermonters donated \$1.00 to the Vermont Children's Trust Fund on Line 29B on the State Income Tax form, over 100 programs serving more than 30,000 children and families in Vermont could be supported.

100% of 29B donations go to programs that work to keep children safe and secure, help them to make wise choices, prepare them to be good students, and encourage them to feel good about themselves.



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www.vtchildrenstrust.org | DONATE TODAY

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