



The Asch Family and friends aboard VCTF's *The Polar Express*, 2014.

GIVING IS A FAMILY AFFAIR FOR THE ASCHES

THE EVOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR VCTF from the Asch family started with Michele joining our board six years ago. She quickly recruited her family to volunteer at VCTF's *The Polar Express*, with husband Pete as conductor, Michele as head chef and their children and friends as sous chefs.

"Our experience aboard the train brought to life what VCTF stands for: making sure children have joyful and enriching experiences," said Pete. "Our company, Twincraft, has sponsored the event for the last 4 years. Our employees love the event almost as much as we do!"

This winter, Michele and Pete came to us with an idea for a way to engage their entire family in philanthropy. They pledged \$2,500 annually for three years to fund a specific grant chosen by their family.

"We want to make giving a family affair, sparking in our kids the desire to contribute to society as thoughtful, innovative philanthropists," explained Michele. "With its broad spectrum of programs, VCTF provides a strategy to accomplish this. We can pick an area that interests us as a group – literacy or mentoring, for example – and then review grant applications in those areas and choose one to support directly."

If you are interested in learning more about giving as a family, we'd love to talk with you. Michele is happy to share her family's experience navigating the interests and passions of individual family members and ultimately arriving at a joint decision they all feel great about.

A GARDENER AT HEART

The philanthropic leadership that Mary Jane Gentry has exhibited throughout her life stems from her nurturing nature. Over the years, she has helped to grow valuable institutions that benefit many in our community. Mary Jane was a driving force in important initiatives during her time on her local school board. She and her husband, Stokes, were instrumental in the founding of Wake Robin in Shelburne. As a long serving board member at Shelburne Farms, Mary Jane has demonstrated a strong commitment to their global sustainability programs. And lucky for VCTF and the children of Vermont, Mary Jane, with her colleagues Lynne von Trapp and Brenda Bean, started the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation in 1991.

Mary Jane's work helping to ensure the well-being of Vermont children began in 1983 when she was appointed by Governor Richard Snelling to chair the Delinquency Prevention Coordinating Council (DPCC). In 1986, she worked with the Vermont Legislature to establish the Children's Trust Fund, a way to get State and Federal grants to fund prevention programs. By establishing the Foundation, Mary Jane and her colleagues were able to raise private money to contribute to the Fund, increasing the number of grants awarded to programs.

The work of Mary Jane and her colleagues at the Foundation stands the test of time. Many of the programs they originally funded over twenty years ago are going strong today – Puppets in Education, Lund and the VNA to name just a few. The seeds they planted and nurtured along the way created the basis for VCTF's success. Thanks to their early work, Vermont children today have access to resources that lead them to healthy and productive paths. Many initiatives have grown in number and strength over the years with funding from VCTF.

Brenda Bean notes, "Mary Jane's approach to problem-solving leads to successful coalitions for lasting innovation and improvement, as is evident from her work on behalf of the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation and many other organizations."



We recently met with Mary Jane, who told us she has designated VCTF as a beneficiary in her will. In true Mary Jane fashion, she is taking care of future generations of Vermont children.

2ND ANNUAL SALLY FOX AWARD

VCTF created the **SALLY FOX AWARD** to honor Sally's commitment to the welfare of Vermont children and families. Sally was a powerful and effective advocate for children in Vermont. In her memory, VCTF will present this Award to a Vermont organization that provides direct services of exceptional merit to children. The first award went to Vermont Works for Women in the amount of \$8,500, \$5,000 of which came from VCTF and the other \$3,500 through donations from Sally's colleagues in the Vermont Legislature.

If you'd like to make a contribution to the **SALLY FOX AWARD**, please designate this on the donor envelope.

VCTF's THE POLAR EXPRESS™
 — 2015 —

The Polar Express is VCTF's biggest fundraising event of the year. This highly anticipated, well-loved trip to the North Pole raises close to \$100,000 for Vermont children. It is an event that celebrates community in so many ways:

- Volunteers come out in droves – over 700! – to help create the magic
- Business and civic groups provide annual sponsorship to host an entire train for members of the military and their families
- AAWARE, the autism awareness group, coordinates among its members to reserve a car so their families may enjoy the event together
- Over 200 tickets are donated each year to local children's organizations
- Many businesses sponsor the event to help defray the costs



Thanks again to our 2014 sponsors:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Main Street Landing | Hannaford | Twincraft Skincare |
| Vermont Rail System | Stageworks | Timberlane Dental Group |
| National Life Group | Sodexo | Associates in Orthodontics |
| Himalaya Restaurant | Kids Vermont | Parlato Productions |
| BOND Autoparts | ICV | Lake Champlain Chocolates |
| PCC | KOOL 105 | Anjou & the Little Pear |

TICKETS: 2015 is our 14th year of putting on the event. We anticipate another sellout. While we would love to accommodate everyone who wants to ride, our capacity is finite. We anticipate the majority of 2015 tickets will be purchased by VCTF Donors, Sponsors and Volunteers; and many will be donated to organizations serving children in the greater Burlington area.

You are guaranteed the ability to purchase up to 5 tickets by donating \$100 or more before June 30, 2015. Your donation will help to fund the programs VCTF supports throughout Vermont, and it will automatically put you on the Advanced Ticket list to purchase tickets in early September. Advance ticket purchase is one way for VCTF to thank donors and volunteers for supporting our work on behalf of Vermont kids.

Thank you for keeping the magic alive! www.vtchildrenstrust.org

RAISE ME WELL

We've talked a lot about raising money in this newsletter —private giving, planned giving, family giving and special events. We appreciate all the ways our community supports our work.

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. The money we raise supports the many organizations across our great State that are providing these opportunities and connections for our children. Learn more about our grantees and their wonderful programs on our website. We think you'll be impressed with these groups who help to Raise Vermont Children Well

