



## 2005 Strategic Grant Awards

MIDDLEBURY, VT - The Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) announced that it has awarded a total of \$340,000 to nine Vermont nonprofit organizations for broad initiatives that address the root causes of regional or statewide problems in the areas of agriculture, economic development, social services, environment and nonprofit capacity-building:

- The Nulhegan Gateway Association (Island Pond) received \$50,000 over two years to develop a geotourism initiative in the Northeast Kingdom, in partnership with the University of Vermont and the National Geographic Society.
- The Committee On Temporary Shelter (Burlington) received \$40,000 over two years to develop a statewide system to track and evaluate the needs of the homeless.
- Rural Vermont (Montpelier) received \$50,000 over two years to improve state policies that govern the sale of Vermont farm fresh dairy products.
- The Toxics Action Center (Montpelier) received \$50,000 over two years to develop zero-waste programs in solid waste districts across Vermont.
- The Vermont Children's Forum (Burlington) received \$50,000 over two years to develop a statewide collaborative initiative to improve the well-being of children in foster care.
- The Vermont Council on Rural Development (Montpelier) received \$25,000 to continue its statewide community development efforts that engage residents in town planning.
- The Vermont Land Trust (Montpelier) received \$25,000 to support its work in affordable housing and land conservation.
- The Vermont Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (Burlington) received \$25,000 to continue its work in increasing the capacity of nonprofits in Vermont to achieve their missions with excellence and efficiency.
- The Institute for Sustainable Communities (Montpelier) received \$25,000 to strengthen its efforts to help Vermont communities address environmental, economic and social challenges as part of a New England-wide initiative.

To further support and strengthen the work of these organizations, the VCF has also commissioned the Vermont Leadership Initiative of the Snelling Center for Government. The Center will work with the recipients of the two-year grants to design a leadership development curriculum that will help them achieve success in their efforts.



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The grants, which are some of the largest competitive grants the Foundation has ever awarded, signal the importance the VCF places on supporting strategies that address significant social, environmental and economic issues in the state. “In order to improve the lives of Vermonters, the VCF is making a major commitment to these organizations that address critical needs in the state. It’s just a start – we know there is much more to do – but we are delighted that we can support this crucial work,” said Brian T. Byrnes, VCF President & CEO. “We’re granting out \$340,000, but over \$1 million of compelling requests are going unfunded. This is but one indicator of unmet needs in our state.” The Foundation plans to offer the grants again in 2007.

The VCF worked closely with its fund holders to find resources to fund these grants. The grants were made possible by sizeable contributions from the VCF’s J. Warren and Lois McClure Supporting Foundation, an anonymous donor to the VCF, and Barb Lande Bronfman, a fundholder at the VCF. The VCF also earmarked \$100,000 of its own discretionary resources for this effort.

The VCF is made up more than 500 distinct charitable funds, each established by charitable individuals to build healthy and vital Vermont communities. Grants from these funds are awarded both at the suggestion of fund holders and through competitive processes.

In addition, the VCF offers planned giving, nonprofit agency endowment management, and other philanthropic services to help ensure that philanthropy is increasingly effective in supporting healthy and vital Vermont communities.

To learn more about the VCF’s grants and services, visit the Foundation’s website at [www.vermontcf.org](http://www.vermontcf.org) or call (802) 388-3355.