

You Helped Us Make a Difference!

At the end of 2007, the VCF awarded grants to Vermont nonprofits that support children, elderly, and family services; housing, food, and shelter; and health. Our Basic Human Needs grant round received 64 applications requesting a total of \$560,800.

Proposals covered a range of issues from providing child abuse prevention training throughout the state to offering low-income, elderly, and disabled residents in the Upper Valley free home repairs. There were a number of grants made to organizations with food programs, which are addressing the increased demand from the populations they serve.

Grants were awarded to 51 organizations totaling \$420,900. Close to 65% of the total grant dollars awarded in this round, \$266,695, came from our **Giving Together** contributors. Twenty-eight funds partnered with the VCF — the largest number of funds to participate in a single grant round since the program began three years ago. This total includes six funds that took part for the first time.

A list of the grant awards follows, including the amount awarded, a brief summary of the work, and which advised funds supported the grant. The funds that participated in Giving Together are marked with (GT) after the fund name. Awards that relate to one or more *Understanding Vermont: A Resource for Philanthropists and Grantmakers (UV)* issues are marked with a green icon that includes the UV page number for easy reference.

Many thanks to everyone who partnered with us, and congratulations to the organizations that received grant awards. We hope that you enjoy reading about the awards and the highlighted organizations, and please feel free to call or email with questions or comments.

Refugees Face Challenging Transition

The **Sara Holbrook Community Center**, in Burlington's Old North End, has been serving an increasing number of refugees. The lack of affordable, quality childcare is particularly hard on these often large families, and its afterschool and summer camp programs have expanded to try and meet the growing need. The Center received a \$10,000 VCF grant to support these programs.

"Many of these kids are coming out of experiences where life was about survival of the fittest," Executive Director Leisa Pollander explains. "We're focusing on collaboration and helping the kids understand the concept of working together."

The programs introduce the students to their new locale with visits to local businesses owned by or employing refugees and with field trips around the area. The students also participate in citywide events like the downtown cardboard box parade, enhanced this year with

decorations inspired by Vietnamese dragons and African folk tales.

In addition to the caregiving, the Center works closely with a network of agencies and sponsors to offer a web of support to nurture these families.



Children participating in a program at Sara Holbrook Community Center.

2007 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

Addison County

AC Dental Care Incorporated

UV - 6

\$10,000 to create a community-developed dental practice in Middlebury to help meet the dental care needs of primarily low-income and Medicaid-eligible individuals.

Funded by the Lady Elaine's Fund (GT)

Addison County Housing Coalition

UV - 9

\$10,000 to support the Addison County Housing Solutions program, a multi-agency supportive housing program that keeps families and individuals safely and affordably housed.

Funded by the Carol J. Ross Memorial Fund and the Rhodebeck Fund

John Graham Shelter

UV - 10

\$10,000 to target intensive case management services to assist 60 homeless individuals to attain permanent housing.

Funded by the David and Eleanor Ignat Fund (GT) and the Trumasu Fund (GT)

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

UV - 22, 23, 39

\$1,000 for general support of the Champlain Longboats program, a team boat-building project and extensive youth rowing program.

Funded by the Trumasu Fund (GT)

Middlebury Transitional Care Coalition

UV - 9

\$9,000 to create storage space for donated home furnishings that will be made available to transitioning families.

Funded by the Rhodebeck Fund

Bennington County

Bennington Interfaith Council Emergency Food and Fuel Fund, Inc.

UV - 8, 10

\$6,500 to work with member congregations to recruit and train 10 mentors who will provide education and support to Food & Fuel Fund clients.

Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

By the Numbers

64

applications requesting \$560,800

51

organizations that received a grant

\$266,695

Giving Together contributions

\$420,900

total amount of grants awarded

Thank You To Our Giving Together Participants!

- Anonymous (3 funds)
- Avada Fund
- Bellerose Family Fund
- Albert G. and Gretchen R. Besser Fund
- Flying Birch Fund
- Gillette French Fund
- Honey Pot Fund
- David and Eleanor Ignat Fund
- Knuth-Otto Fund
- Janusz Korczak Memorial Fund
- Lady Elaine's Fund
- Landmann Family Fund
- George T. & Elizabeth Little
- Edwin and Helen Lynch Fund
- New Castle Fund
- Niebling Family Fund
- Nowak Family Fund
- Octot Fund
- R. Day Surles Fund
- Rainbow Fund
- Rhubarb Hill Fund
- Wallace A. Rogers
- Virginia Steele Fund
- Sustainable Future Fund
- Takoradi Fund
- Trumasu Fund

2007 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

(list continued from previous page)

Caledonia County

Northeast Kingdom Youth Services

UV - 10, 23

\$9,343 to support the Elm Street Project, an emergency shelter and transitional housing program for youth ages 16-21 in Caledonia and southern Essex Counties.

Funded by the Edwin and Helen Lynch Fund (GT) and the Sustainable Future Fund (GT)

Rural Community Transportation, Inc.

UV - 15, 31

\$3,000 to provide coordinated transportation services in the Northeast Kingdom.

Funded by the Charlotte M. Stetson Fund for the Life of Vermont and the Eagleridge Fund

Chittenden County

Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf

UV - 10, 25

\$10,000 to support the grocery distribution translator position to help refugees and immigrants who speak little English access the Food Shelf's services.

Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

Intervale Center, Inc.

UV - 10, 22

\$3,500 to fund its Healthy City Gleaning Project, which provides fresh, healthy food to social service agencies and trains youth in sustainable organic farming.

Funded by the Rainbow Fund (GT) and the Sustainable Future Fund (GT)

King Street Youth Center

UV - 23, 25

\$10,000 to support King Street South, a wrap around out-of-school care program for refugee children who attend Champlain Elementary School.

Funded by the Wynne & Joan Wister Fund, the Avada Fund (GT), and the Trumasu Fund (GT)

Lund Family Center

UV - 7

\$10,000 to support its Home-Based Family Services Program, which helps families successfully deal with challenges such as lone parenting, social isolation, addiction, and mental illness.

Funded by the Eagleridge Fund and the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

Mercy Connections, Inc.

UV - 8, 30

\$8,040 to support Kindling Connections, a workplace readiness program offered at the Education and Transition Center in the Old North End of Burlington.

Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

Recycle North

UV - 30

\$10,000 to support the Apprentice-style Training Program, a six-month course for individuals who are ready to work, but need to obtain certain credentials.

Funded by the VCF Basic Human Needs Fund, the Trumasu Fund (GT), and the Rainbow Fund (GT)

Sara Holbrook Community Center

UV - 20, 25

\$10,000 to support additional staffing for its afterschool program, which is required due to the increase in the number of children from refugee families.

Funded by the Eagleridge Fund and the Honey Pot Fund (GT)

Spectrum Youth and Family Services

UV - 10

\$5,000 to implement the Results-Based Accountability system throughout its residential programs.

Funded by the Honey Pot Fund (GT) and the Rhubarb Hill Fund (GT)

Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties

UV - 6

\$10,000 to improve the health of its clients with chronic disease by hiring a registered dietitian.

Funded by the Vermont Health & Nutrition Fund

Women's Rape Crisis Center

UV - 11

\$7,500 to provide general operating support given a dramatic increase in clients in the last two years.

Funded by the Honey Pot Fund (GT) and the Nowak Family Fund (GT)

2007 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

(list continued from reverse side)

Franklin County

Champlain Housing Trust

UV - 9

\$10,000 to complete a feasibility study to redevelop three properties in Swanton Village into 15-20 affordable apartments.

Funded by the VCF Basic Human Needs Fund

Montgomery Teen Center (The Basement)

UV - 13, 22

\$9,000 to support start-up of the teen center in donated basement space, including staffing and programming.

Funded by the Lady Elaine's Fund (GT)

Lamoille County

Clarina Howard Nichols Center

UV - 11

\$10,000 to increase staffing to ensure consistent availability of quality shelter and support to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Funded by the Eagleridge Fund, the Albert G. & Gretchen R. Besser Fund (GT), and an anonymous advised fund (GT)

Out and About Adult Day Care Center

UV - 15

\$10,000 to support operating expenses while the center develops a financial plan for on-going sustainability.

Funded by the Rhodebeck Fund, the Albert G. & Gretchen R. Besser Fund (GT) and an anonymous advised fund (GT)

Salvation Farms

UV - 10, 31

\$10,000 to increase its cold storage and distribution infrastructure to ensure excess farm produce is available to the food and/or nutritionally insecure of the Lamoille Valley area and beyond.

Funded by the Sustainable Future Fund (GT) and an anonymous advised fund (GT)

Orange County

Orange County Domestic & Sexual Violence Task Force

UV - 11, 23

\$10,000 to support staffing for regional teen and adult groups, called cluster groups, to identify domestic and

sexual violence issues and share ideas about solutions.

Funded by the Takoradi Fund (GT) and the Rainbow Fund (GT)

White River Valley Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Network

UV - 15

\$3,000 to support the expansion of Home-Safe-Home beyond Orange County, as well as offer one visit to assess fire and fall safety needs at home.

Funded by the Rhodebeck Fund

Rutland County

Castleton Community Seniors, Inc.

UV - 15

\$5,000 to support building plans and permits to convert a barn on the property into a Community Wellness Center.

Funded by the Samuel A. and Elizabeth M. Parson Fund and the Rhodebeck Fund

Washington County

Central Vermont Community Action Council

UV - 29

\$9,880 to support the program that provides conditional seed capital grants to low-income entrepreneurs, who are often unable to obtain traditional financing and have limited resources.

Funded by the McClure Motivation Fund, the Rainbow Fund (GT), and the Sustainable Future Fund (GT)

Good Samaritan Haven

UV - 10

\$5,000 to provide support for the shelter's renovation and construction of an addition, which will increase energy efficiency and improve safety and accessibility for the men, women, and families in Barre that it serves.

Funded by the Rainbow Fund (GT)

Greater Barre Community Justice Center

UV - 12, 23

\$10,000 to fund the part-time volunteer coordinator position that works with a team of three trained community members to support and assist offenders released from prison to the Barre area.

Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

2007 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

Raising Awareness



Members of the Orange County Task Force help raise awareness in Randolph's 4th of July parade.

Part of the goal of the **Orange County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force** is to raise awareness regarding these issues of violence and spark discussions about what they mean. As the field becomes more structured, the Task Force is trying to return to its grassroots beginnings by encouraging neighborhood conversations and solutions. Its model is to provide support for local cluster groups, making it easier to overcome obstacles like work schedules, childcare, transportation, and fatigue.

The Task Force is now ready to establish its first youth cluster for ages 12-18, and it wants to give young people the tools to think critically about media coverage and the stereotypes it promotes. This age population is critical to finding solutions, since peer models are so influential at this age.

Chair of the Task Force Jennifer Beaudin Ring explains, "If we can empower youth to understand and talk about these issues then we can start the cultural shift that will move us to a less violent society."

The Task Force was awarded a \$10,000 VCF grant to support staffing for cluster groups.

Helping Homeless Youth



Northeast Kingdom Youth Services' (NEKYS) Elm Street Project clients Sadie Brill and Tye Rowe share a game of pool.

Through circumstances largely beyond their control, young people wind up homeless. They are living on the streets, sleeping in cars, trading sex for housing, never knowing when they might be victimized or cast out again. Without safe and stable housing, these youth have no hope for a positive future.

With support from the Foundation, **Northeast Kingdom Youth Services** launched its Elm Street Project last fall to provide both emergency and transitional shelter for 16-21 year olds. Screening procedures ensure that youth are not at risk of harming themselves or others, assuring this remains a safe haven. In addition, they agree to engage in immediate follow-up services with staff. NEKYS has already provided 14 youth with over 1,000 nights in a setting that promotes a healthy sense of independence.

"This new stability is already having an impact," observes Executive Director Marion Classen. "These young men and women are going to appointments and classes, getting work, and following through on other aspects of the individual plans they develop. Our residents are free to come and go, and be part of our community, yet benefit from knowing we offer an open-door safety net."

NEKYS received a \$9,343 VCF grant to support the Elm Street Project.

2007 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

(list continued from page 4)

Washington County Youth Service Bureau, Inc. **UV - 23**

\$10,000 to support the Gateway Project, which provides intense services to 22 young people at Barre City Middle School whose behaviors and life circumstances place them at high risk for social and educational failure.

Funded by the Nichols Fund and the Sustainable Future Fund (GT)

Windham County

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont **UV - 6**

\$7,500 to support the Gathering for Mealtime food program, which provides frozen prepared meals, non-perishable food, and a wide variety of frozen meats and vegetables to people living with HIV and their families in rural southern Vermont.

Funded by the Vermont Health & Nutrition Fund

Connecticut River Transit, Inc. **UV - 8, 31**

\$10,000 to support operating expenses to continue to provide transportation services to people in Windham and southern Windsor Counties.

Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

Our Place Drop In Center **UV - 6, 10**

\$10,000 to support the Nutrition-Based Food Services Program, to increase the nutrition level of foods offered, educate clients on portion size and meal content, and involve clients in healthy menu planning and food preparation at the Center.

Funded by the Vermont Health & Nutrition Fund

Valley Cares, Inc. **UV - 9, 15**

\$10,000 to support first-year operating expenses for this new elderly housing facility in Townshend.

Funded by the Rhodebeck Fund

Vernon Advent Christian Home **UV - 6, 15**

\$9,000 to hire a development director to raise funds to support a redesign of its nursing care facility to a more home-like setting.

Funded by the Eagleridge Fund

Windham Child Care Association **UV - 7, 8**

\$7,000 to reach out to underserved populations (grandparents, non-native English speakers, the deaf) in order to provide improved child care referral and subsidy services.

Funded by the O'Bryan Fund for Vermont Children

Windsor County

COVER Home Repair **UV - 8, 9**

\$10,000 to support the program that organizes volunteers to work in partnership with low-income, elderly, and disabled Upper Valley residents to provide urgent home repairs at no charge.

Funded by the Knuth-Otto Fund (GT), the Landmann Family Fund (GT), the Octot Fund (GT), and the Takoradi Fund (GT)

Magic Mountain Children's Center **UV - 20**

\$2,970 to purchase age-appropriate, best practice educational materials, gross motor materials, art supplies, and curriculum materials.

Funded by the Rainbow Fund (GT)

Valley Court Diversion Programs **UV - 14**

\$8,500 to create a "One Up" group in Springfield for teens in grades 9-12 who are contemplating or committed to recovery from drugs and alcohol.

Funded by an anonymous fund and the VCF Basic Human Needs Fund

Willing Hands Enterprises, Inc. **UV - 10**

\$10,000 to support the recovery and free distribution of reclaimed produce, baked goods, and prepared foods to those experiencing food insecurity in the Upper Valley.

Funded by the Landmann Family Fund (GT), the Octot Fund (GT), the Takoradi Fund (GT), and an anonymous advised fund (GT)

2007 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

(list continued from previous page)

Statewide

Kids Are Priority One Coalition

UV - 20

\$10,000 to support the new multi-year Champions For Children initiative, an effort to broaden and diversify advocates for improved early childhood development policies and services.

Funded by the Avada Fund (GT) and the New Castle Fund (GT)

NH/VT Albert Schweitzer Fellows Program

UV - 6

\$4,000 to help support two 2007-2008 Schweitzer projects: conducting a needs assessment and developing an action plan at the Pearl Street Clinic in Burlington; working to reduce the incidence of lead-based paint poisoning in children in Sharon, South Royalton, and Tunbridge.

Funded by the Joan and Jim Ashley Fund, the Landmann Family Fund (GT), and the Takoradi Fund (GT)

PACE Vermont, Inc.

UV - 6, 15

\$7,168 to help support a facilitated strategic planning retreat for its Board of Directors to evaluate progress to date and determine capacity and opportunities to expand PACE to other regions of Vermont.

Funded by the VCF Basic Human Needs Fund

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

UV - 11

\$5,000 to support 150 child sexual abuse prevention trainings in 2008 throughout the state of Vermont.

Funded by the Rainbow Fund (GT)

Steps Toward Adult Responsibility

UV - 6

\$10,000 to create and pilot a six-session curriculum for teens with chronic disease or disability and pair them with college mentors who are also dealing with chronic health conditions.

Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

Vermont Campaign for Health Care Security Education Fund

UV - 6

\$10,000 to create an outreach and enrollment network, the Vermont Health Care Reform Outreach Initiative, to build awareness of and increase enrollment in the new Cata-mountain Health Plan.

Funded by the Edward and Elinor Janeway Fund

Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger

UV - 6, 10

\$5,000 to support the Cooking for Life: Young Adult program to empower at-risk teens to improve their health by learning to cook nutritious, affordable meals, and explore the benefits of balanced nutrition and physical activity.

Funded by the Honey Pot Fund (GT)

Vermont Center for Independent Living

UV - 23, 28

\$10,000 to support the Youth Leadership Program, a cross-disability program for high school students and young adults with disabilities, ages 15-25, who want to learn independent living and leadership skills, self-advocacy, and peer mentoring.

Funded by the James E. Gaseau Fund, the Vermont Children with Disabilities Fund, and the McClure Motivation Fund

Vermont Children's Aid Society, Inc.

UV - 12, 23

\$10,000 to create a youth advisory group to provide training and consultation for families with an incarcerated parent, and to develop a statewide public awareness campaign about issues faced by the children in these families.

Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

Vermont Community Loan Fund

UV - 29

\$10,000 to support VCLF's Community Facilities Loan Program, providing low-interest lending opportunities to support community-based organizations in the building and renovation of facilities that provide essential services to low- and moderate-income Vermont families.

Funded by the Marjorie A. Pierce Fund and the Knuth-Otto Fund (GT)

Vermont Foodbank, Inc.

UV - 10

\$10,000 to increase the capacity of member agencies to collect and redistribute nutritious and perishable food by purchasing 20 freezers for member agencies. Amount awarded: \$10,000

Funded by the Niebling Family Fund (GT), the Takoradi Fund (GT), and an anonymous advised fund (GT)

2007 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

Incarceration Affects Families

There are an estimated 5,000 Vermont children affected by their parent's imprisonment each year, and our current systems inadvertently contribute to their problems, rather than address them. Caregivers enter into an often fragmented system of support and are ill-prepared for the financial and emotional demands thrust on them. Though children are being cared for in their parent's absence, there is not enough attention on securing their futures.

The Vermont Children's Aid Society (VCAS), through its Kids-A-Part program, is bringing this issue to the forefront. VCAS held a kickoff conference for the program last fall, which was attended by more than 500 people. It is also promoting passage of a Children's Bill of Rights at the State House and created a new advisory group of youth who have experience with parents in prison. This group will be active in revising current policy.

"We're trying to address unintended consequences and institutional barriers," says Tara Graham, director of Kids-A-Part. "Someone can break the law and still be a good parent. We need to do everything we can to allow these families to maintain connections."



A mother and child celebrate with a special birthday visit arranged through the Vermont Children's Aid Society at the Southeast State Correctional Facility.

The Society received a \$10,000 VCF grant.

Housing for the Elderly in the West River Valley

When Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend closed its small nursing home in 2002, it triggered a community-wide assessment of care services for the elderly in the West River Valley of southeast Vermont. The study identified a major need for affordable elder housing with support services, and soon after the nonprofit **Valley Cares, Inc.** was established. Its first development, the \$10 million West River Valley Senior Housing Project, opened last fall and all 52 independent and assisted living units are occupied. Auxiliary services, like Meals on Wheels and the Strong Living Exercise Program, are helping to serve the area's broader elder population.

Valley Cares received a \$10,000 VCF grant to assist in its transition from project development to project delivery. "The need for this new level of health care services is tremendous," explains Operations Director Bob Crego. "The Foundation's timely support is key, allowing us the opportunity to establish the financial and management systems needed to ensure we are able to provide these services far into the future."