

## KING STREET YOUTH CENTER ADAPTS TO DIVERSITY



Burlington's **King Street Youth Center (KSYC)** was started in 1971 to meet the tremendous need for an afterschool enrichment program in one of Vermont's poorest communities. In the past few years immigrant and refugee families have added to its diversity and its challenges. Staff was unprepared for the cultural, language, and social differences and found itself faced with behavior that was disrupting the calm, safe, and peaceful environment it strived for.

This dynamic has changed dramatically since September, when the Center began training its staff in the "Responsive Classroom" model and began implementing it throughout the programs. Kids are having more fun, exploring self-expression, and building a sense of place in their new home.

This approach is having an unintended bonus as well—increased communication and skill sharing among staff. The Center received a **\$10,000 Basic Human Needs grant** from the Vermont Community Foundation to support this program.

"Things look and feel different now," observes KSYC Executive Director Vicky Smith. "We're not band-aiding or putting out fires and are able to refocus on long-range programs that are fun, engaging, and inclusive."

*Pictured above are children from the KSYC who participated in the US Open's Arthur Ashe Kids' Day, which continues Ashe's mission of using tennis as a means to instill the values of humanitarianism, leadership, and academic excellence. The trip was made possible by Grand Slam Tennis Tours.*

*Basic Human  
Needs*

*grants  
at a glance*

**38**

organizations received a grant

**\$281,736**

total amount of grants awarded

**\$108,787**

Giving Together contributions

**63**

applications received

## 2008 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

[Understanding Vermont Issue Areas Are Noted In Green Brackets]

### STATEWIDE

#### Rural Vermont

[Homelessness and Hunger, Costs of Living]

**\$5,500** to present 15 farm and food talks to libraries and community centers.

*Funded by the Trumasu Fund (GT) and the Kokoro Fund (GT)*

#### Vermont Community Loan Fund

[Affordable Housing, Energy Alternatives]

**\$10,000** to study the energy efficiency needs of Vermont's affordable housing developers, with the goal of developing an effective financing program to meet these needs.

*Funded by the Trumasu Fund (GT)*

### ADDISON COUNTY

#### Addison Central Teens & Friends

[Youth Engagement & Support]

**\$10,000** to support afterschool activities, wellness programs, youth leadership development, community service projects, and mentoring/tutoring programs.

*Funded by the Trumasu Fund (GT)*

#### Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes

[Workforce Readiness, Youth Engagement & Support]

**\$10,000** for general operating support.

*Funded by the Trumasu Fund (GT)*

#### Bristol Family Center

[Education, Costs of Living]

**\$5,640** to expand community outreach through monthly parent education workshops open to all area families.

*Funded by the Eagleridge Fund*

#### John Graham Shelter

[Affordable Housing, Homelessness & Hunger]

**\$10,000** to provide four furnished units of transitional housing with utilities to homeless families along with case management, mental health counseling, and comprehensive services.

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

#### Shoreham Elementary School

[Education, Childhood Poverty]

**\$10,000** to expand its existing kitchen in order to develop an on-site food service program.

*Funded by the Arnold-Tilton Fund (GT), the Trumasu Fund (GT), and the Kokoro Fund (GT)*

### BENNINGTON COUNTY

#### Bennington Interfaith Council Emergency Food and Fuel Fund

[Health Care]

**\$10,000** to start a free medical clinic for uninsured adults.

*Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)*

## 2008 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

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### **Bennington Project Independence**

[Health Care, Aging Population]

**\$10,000** to quadruple the number of families served by securing a part-time development person to oversee the final building stages of a state-of-the-art facility for the community.

*Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)*

### **CALEDONIA COUNTY**

#### **Umbrella**

[Domestic & Sexual Violence]

**\$8,109** to enhance its Family Room Supervised Visitation Program.

*Funded by the Eagleridge Fund, the Penny Street Fund, and an anonymous advised fund (GT)*

### **Chittenden County**

#### **Champlain Valley Area Agency on Aging**

[Aging Population, Homelessness & Hunger]

**\$10,000** to develop a web-based database to more efficiently manage its Meals on Wheels programs.

*Funded by the Eagleridge Fund*

#### **Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS)**

[Affordable Housing]

**\$10,000** to help cover back rent for households at imminent risk of becoming homeless, and to increase its capacity for shelter overflow.

*Funded by the Rhodebeck Fund and the Flying Birch Fund (GT)*

### **Dismas of Vermont – Burlington**

[Education, Incarceration & Corrections]

**\$1,000** for general operating support.

*Funded by the Ann C. Livingston Fund (GT)*

### **Kidsafe Collaborative**

[Incarceration & Corrections, Youth Engagement and Support]

**\$10,000** to support its Safety Net program, which provides crisis intervention and therapy for children and families of an incarcerated parent.

*Funded by the O'Bryan Fund for Vermont Children*

### **King Street Youth Center**

[Education, Childhood Poverty]

**\$10,000** to implement Responsive Classroom, an afterschool programming approach that develops higher levels of academic and emotional growth.

*Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)*

### **Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont**

[Homelessness & Hunger]

**\$9,877** to increase the access of farmers' markets to low-income consumers through the use of Electronic Benefit Transfers.

*Funded by the Vermont Health and Nutrition Fund, the Tamarack Fund (GT), and the Trumasu Fund (GT)*

## 2008 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

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### **Recycle North**

[Costs of Living]

**\$10,000** to support the Essential Goods Program, which provides essential items to those in need.

*Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)*

### **Sara Holbrook Community Center**

[Childhood Poverty, Immigrants & Refugees]

**\$10,000** to provide summer classes to children who speak English as a second language.

*Funded by the Edward and Elinor Janeway Fund and the Ann C. Livingston Fund (GT)*

### **Spectrum Youth and Family Services**

[Childhood Poverty, Homelessness & Hunger]

**\$4,950** for general operating support.

*Funded by the Margorie A. Pierce Fund and the Ann C. Livingston Fund (GT)*

### **Vermont CARES**

[Childhood Poverty, Homelessness & Hunger]

**\$10,000** to support the goal of realigning its funding to focus on the anti-poverty work that represents the majority of its services.

*Funded by the Eagleridge Fund*

### **Vermont Children's Aid Society**

[Incarceration & Corrections, Youth Engagement & Support]

**\$10,000** to educate people in the state about the impact of incarceration on children, families, and communities through a campaign based on the Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Bill of Rights.

*Funded by the O'Bryan Fund for Vermont Children*

### **Vermont Legal Aid**

[Costs of Living]

**\$10,000** to build a website that serves its clients and others in Vermont seeking legal help and information.

*Funded by the Eagleridge Fund and the VCF Basic Human Needs Fund*

### **Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties**

**\$2,000** for general operating support.

*Funded by the Avada Fund (GT)*

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

### **Samaritan House**

[Homelessness & Hunger]

**\$7,000** to offset fuel and utility costs and provide more support services for clients.

*Funded by the Rhodebeck Fund*

## **Grand Isle County**

### **Champlain Islands Parent Child Center**

[Education]

**\$5,000** to design and install a new outdoor learning space for its program in South Hero.

*Funded by the Niebling Family Fund (GT)*

## 2008 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

### GOOD NUTRITION HELPS CHILDREN LEARN



*Pictured above are fifth and sixth graders helping Food Service Coordinator Dot D'Avignon serve lunch to younger students.*

When the **Shoreham Elementary School** completes the renovation and expansion of its existing kitchen this fall, the whole community will benefit. For the first time, the school will be able to prepare breakfast and lunch on site. A **\$10,000 Basic Human Needs grant**, recommended by fundholders participating in Giving Together, was awarded for the project.

In a town that takes pride in its agricultural diversity, students will be able to enjoy local farm products and a direct link to their neighbors. Feeding students during the summer and teaching youngsters to grow their own food will become real possibilities.

The K-6 school serves 90 children, 60% of whom qualify for free and reduced lunch. The new on-site hot lunch program will give the school access to grants and programs it does not qualify for currently. Additionally, it will cost the school less to prepare meals in its own kitchen than to purchase them at a per plate cost, as it does now through a satellite lunch program.

"We're looking forward to playing a big role in developing lifelong healthy eating habits," explains Principal Heather Best. "And this kitchen will help us ensure that our children are not too hungry to learn."

## 2008 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

[Understanding Vermont Issue Areas Are Noted In Green Brackets]

*(list continued from page 4)*

### **RUTLAND COUNTY**

#### **College of St. Joseph**

[Education, Workforce Readiness]

\$10,000 for its STEPS program, which provides foster youth the needed resources and support systems to attend the college.

*Funded by the Nowak Family Fund (GT) and Lady Elaine's Fund (GT)*

#### **Dismas of Vermont – Rutland**

[Education, Youth Engagement & Support]

\$2,000 to expand its offerings to the wider community and incorporate prevention work into its curriculum.

*Funded by the Eagleridge Fund*

#### **Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports**

[Health Care]

\$10,000 to support advanced equipment purchases, specialized volunteer training, scholarships for participants, and its Bolton Valley expansion initiative.

*Funded by the Eagleridge Fund*

### **Washington County**

#### **Alzheimer's Association of Vermont and New Hampshire**

[Health Care]

\$2,000 for general operating support.

*Funded by an anonymous advised fund (GT)*

#### **Central Vermont Community Land Trust**

[Affordable Housing, Energy Alternatives]

\$10,000 to create an energy awareness program and reshape its programmatic activity to engage all residents in green practices.

*Funded by the VCF Basic Human Needs Fund*

#### **Faith In Action, Northern Communities Partnership**

[Health Care, Aging Population]

\$1,000 for general operating support

*Funded by the Nowak Family Fund (GT)*

#### **Home Share of Central Vermont**

[Costs of Living, Affordable Housing]

\$10,000 to meet the increased demand for matches due to rising fuel and housing costs.

*Funded by the Nichols Fund*

#### **Washington County Mental Health Services**

[Costs of Living, Affordable Housing]

\$10,000 to support its Child and Family Trauma Treatment Program.

*Funded by the Nichols Fund*

### **WINDHAM COUNTY**

#### **Morningside House**

[Homelessness & Hunger]

\$9,640 to strengthen its capacity through the creation of a formal development program.

*Funded by the Rhodebeck Fund*

## 2008 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

[Understanding Vermont Issue Areas Are Noted In Green Brackets]

### WINDSOR COUNTY

#### Community Cares Network of Chester/Andover

[Aging Population]

\$1,000 for general operating support.

*Funded by the Tane Family Fund (GT)*

#### COVER Home Repair

[Costs of Living]

\$5,000 to complete urgent home repair projects for disabled, low-income, and elderly Upper Valley residents, using volunteer work crews. *Funded by the Landmann Family Fund (GT), the Takoradi Fund (GT), and an anonymous advised fund (GT)*

#### Health Connections of the Upper Valley

[Health Care]

\$10,000 to conduct a health needs assessment for the towns of Royalton, Sharon, Strafford, and Tunbridge. It will also establish a community based coalition to review the data, determine health priorities, and develop an action plan. *Funded by the Joan and Jim Ashley Fund, the Vt. Health and Nutrition Fund, and the Marjorie A. Pierce Fund*

#### Willing Hands Enterprises

[Health Care, Homelessness & Hunger]

\$1,000 for general operating support.

*Funded by the Takoradi Fund (GT)*

### FROM HOMELESSNESS TO INDEPENDENCE

Case management is a labor intensive, but essential part of transitioning people out of homelessness and into permanent housing and self-sufficiency. These staff members are the ones that assist shelter residents with budgeting, repairing credit ratings, job and housing applications, parenting skills, and finding other services.

**Samaritan House** is the only organization offering temporary shelter and transitional housing for homeless individuals and families in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. Like shelters statewide, it has seen a spike in demand and a **\$7,000 Basic Human Needs grant** will help increase staff capacity to meet it.

"There was a woman who came to us from a condemned trailer," Executive Director Linda Ryan recalls. "Her parents had died, there were no utilities working, and rats had moved in. She was terrified. For six months we taught her to cook, clean, and care for herself. It's rewarding to know she is now in her own apartment and succeeding in her independence."

*Pictured at right is a shelter resident and her daughter.*



## 2008 Basic Human Needs Grant Awards

### UNPRECEDENTED NEED

The face of homelessness is changing in Vermont, as more and more families face costs that rise faster than their incomes. Increasingly, we know these people and recognize our own vulnerability in uncertain times.

To meet this unprecedented need, **Morningside Shelter in Brattleboro** has plans for a “green” expansion that will double its capacity without increasing operating costs. A **\$9,640 Basic Human Needs grant** from the Foundation will help the Shelter launch a broader development program to raise public awareness of its work and increase support from local donors.

As it marks its 30th year, Executive Director Paul Capcara reports early campaign success. “We bulk mailed our first newsletter ever and produced a short video for our local public access TV to bring attention to the need for the services Morningside is providing. We’ve already added over 100 new donors who provide essential funds to make up for state cuts and skyrocketing demand.”

### *THANKS TO OUR GIVING TOGETHER PARTNERS!*

Anonymous (2)  
Arnold-Tilton Fund  
Avada Fund  
Bellerose Family Fund  
Flying Birch Fund  
David and Eleanor Ignat Fund  
Kokoro Fund  
Lady Elaine’s Fund  
Landmann Family Fund  
Ann C. Livingston Fund  
Niebling Family Fund  
Nowak Family Fund  
R. Day Surles Fund  
Sustainable Future Fund  
Takoradi Fund  
Tamarack Fund  
Tane Family Fund  
Trumasu Fund

### FREE ADULT MEDICAL CLINIC OPENS IN BENNINGTON

As a result of a concerted effort by the **Bennington Interfaith Food and Fuel Fund**, Dr. Richard Dundas, and the Vermont Coalition of Clinics for the Uninsured, a free medical clinic for adults, opened in downtown Bennington in January this year. A **\$10,000 Basic Human Needs grant** from the Foundation helped to cover start-up costs. Forty-five area physicians and over 100 community members are volunteering time and expertise to make sure this project succeeds. Sixteen percent of the county’s adult residents do not have any health insurance.

“We’re providing a new and clearly needed access point to our health care system,” says Manager Sue Andrews. “Not only are we seeing uninsured patients who have delayed treatment, but there are a surprising number of people with insurance who live in rural parts of the county and have not been able to find a doctor who can add any more patients. Part of our success is getting the insured matched up with a physician for future care.”

Southwestern Vermont Medical Center is providing assistance with lab and x-ray services for the new program and prescription vouchers are helping keep medication costs affordable.