

VERMONT'S FIRST MAGNET SCHOOLS



Pictured above are students from the Burlington School District who participated in a program similar to the magnet school programs, earlier this year.

This fall, the **Burlington School District** will launch Vermont's first two magnet schools. One, in partnership with Shelburne Farms, revolves around sustainability and the environment. The other, through a working collaboration with the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts and St. Michael's College, will focus on integrated arts. The change comes after years of community conversations, research, and planning to find the best approach to celebrate Burlington's diverse student population, improve educational outcomes, and achieve socio-economic integration throughout the district.

With a \$10,000 grant from the Vermont Community Foundation, the District will continue this grassroots community involvement. It will also document the transformation of these schools, allowing it to share what is learned with educators around the state and nation.

"This first year is very much a pilot," says Burlington School District Grants Director Julie Cadwallader-Staub. "Keeping an active two-way feedback loop with the parents, students, and community-at-large is essential for us as we explain our approach, hear what's working well, and learn where we need to make changes."

Successful Communities

grants at a glance

40

organizations received a grant

\$153,855

Giving Together contributions

\$286,480

total amount of grants awarded

98

applications received

2009 Successful Communities Grant Awards

[Understanding Vermont Issue Areas Noted In Brackets]

STATEWIDE

Audubon Vermont

[Education, Natural Resources Protection]

\$2,000 for general operating support.

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

Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity

[Education, Costs of Living]

\$10,000 to expand the services of the Growing Money financial education program for low- and moderate-income adults in Chittenden, Franklin, Addison, and Grand Isle Counties.

Funded by the Edward and Elinor Janeway Fund

The Chelsea Shakespeare Program

[Arts, Youth Engagement & Support]

\$1,200 to develop a sustainable business plan by hiring additional staff for one year to research and develop funding opportunities in the community.

Funded by the Antionetta M. Stafford Fund for Vermont Education

Girls Move Mountains (formerly Diva Adventures)

[Youth Engagement & Support]

\$8,000 to expand programming for girls, ages 11-17, in Lamoille, Franklin, Caledonia, Washington, and Orleans Counties.

Funded by the O'Bryan Fund for Vermont Children and an anonymous advised fund (GT)

Global Campuses Foundation

[Education]

\$10,000 to strengthen current campuses and expand advanced-learning opportunities for under-served populations, primarily people with disabilities, to other communities in Vermont.

Funded by the James E. Gaseau Memorial Fund and the Edward and Elinor Janeway Fund

Governor's Institutes of Vermont

[Education, Youth Engagement & Support]

\$9,000 to provide need-based financial aid to qualified Vermont high school students whose families cannot afford tuition for its enrichment programs.

Funded by the Lady Elaine's Fund (GT), the Sustainable Future Fund (GT), and an anonymous advised fund (GT)

Kids on the Block - Vermont

[Youth Engagement & Support]

\$2,000 for general operating support.

Funded by the Blue Ridge Fund (GT)

Outright Vermont

[Youth Engagement & Support]

\$10,000 to maintain the Burlington-based youth center as a safe space for all queer youth in Vermont as well as to provide services and expand statewide programs including youth empowerment initiatives and education presentations.

Funded by the Marjorie A. Pierce Fund

2009 Successful Communities Grant Awards

[Understanding Vermont Issue Areas Noted In Brackets]

STATEWIDE

Smart Growth Vermont

[Education, Land Use]

\$1,000 for general operating support.

Funded by the Cashdan/Stein Great Grandmother Fund (GT)

Toxics Action Center

[Civic Engagement]

\$1,000 for general operating support.

Funded by an anonymous advised fund (GT)

Upper Valley Arts

[Health Care, Homelessness & Hunger]

\$10,000 for a documentary film collaboration,

Freedom and Unity, that weaves together Vermont's history, connecting its present, past, and future. The film explores traditions of freedom, independence, tolerance, and participatory democracy in the state.

Funded by the Marjorie A. Pierce Fund

Vermont Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies

[Education, Youth Engagement & Support]

\$2,000 for general operating support.

Funded by an anonymous advised fund (GT)

Vermont Folklife Center

[Cultural Heritage, Immigrants & Refugees]

\$10,000 to research the needs and goals of refugee communities in salvaging arts traditions vital to their cultural identity, economic growth, and successful transition. The project will create a coordinated plan of action.

Funded by the Eagleridge Fund

Vermont Workers Center

[Civic Engagement]

\$10,000 to develop an intensive leadership program, Organize For Change, which is rooted in popular education, anti-racism, human rights, economic justice, community organizing, and base building.

Funded by the Eagleridge Fund

Vermont Works for Women

[Incarceration & Corrections, Workforce Readiness]

\$2,000 for general operating support.

Funded by an anonymous advised fund (GT)

Voices for Vermont's Children

[Youth Development & Support, Civic Engagement]

\$2,000 for general operating support.

Funded by an anonymous advised fund (GT)

BENNINGTON COUNTY

Mark Skinner Library

[Aging Population]

\$3,700 to expand Books to Go, a delivery service to homebound library customers, by increasing both numbers served and materials available.

Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

Oak Hill Children's Center

[Education, Childhood Poverty]

\$7,550 to support staff development to build staff skills and knowledge about children with special needs. All staff will participate as a group in monthly training sessions.

Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

2009 Successful Communities Grant Awards

[Understanding Vermont Issue Areas Noted In Brackets]

CALEDONIA COUNTY

University of Vermont Center for Rural Studies

[Civic Engagement, Infrastructure Limitations]

\$8,725 to do an assessment of civic engagement and information sourcing in the Hardwick area. Part of a statewide rural news initiative, the assessment will identify existing resources and create a plan to increase civic engagement using new media.

Funded by the VCF Successful Communities Fund and an anonymous advised fund (GT)

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Burlington School District

[Education]

\$10,000 to promote civic engagement, celebrate Burlington's diverse student population, and improve educational outcomes for the disadvantaged by creating two magnet schools in the Old North End.

Funded by the Lady Elaine's Fund (GT)

Lund Family Center

[Costs of Living, Youth Engagement & Support]

\$10,000 to support the Lund Early Childhood Program, which provides high-quality childcare to approximately 50 low-income families per year.

Funded by the Honey Pot Fund (GT), the Blue Ridge Fund (GT), and the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

Milton Family Community Center

[Youth Engagement & Support]

\$10,000 to expand services to the Birchwood Trailer Park in order to bring Teen Time to teenagers who don't have transportation to the Center. Funding will also help bring teen populations together to let go of stigmas based on socio-economic status.

Funded by the Marjorie A. Pierce Fund

Mobius

[Youth Engagement & Support]

\$1,000 for general operating support.

Funded by the Landmann Family Fund (GT)

Somali Bantu Community Association of Vermont

[Immigrants & Refugees]

\$10,000 to facilitate the resettlement and integration of the Somali Bantu Community and other refugee communities by providing education, cultural, and life skill training programs.

Funded by the McClure Motivation Fund

Intervale Center, Campus Kitchen

[Education, Homelessness & Hunger]

\$4,000 to create a summer internship program that will allow weekly meals to continue throughout the summer months, and also expand programming to include collaboration with the Intervale Center's Healthy City program and nutrition and education.

Funded by the David and Eleanor Ignat Fund (GT)

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE



Camp members from last year's program participated in putting on a production of *Romeo & Juliet*

Deep in Orange County, the two-week **Chelsea Shakespeare Program** brings students together for a different kind of summer camp. Over the past few years the 11-17 year-olds and camp directors have performed *Macbeth* in the town graveyard and featured no less than five Juliets sharing her famous role with Romeo.

Recognizing the growing importance of this opportunity to the area, the program has developed a sustainability plan that includes training local interns and expanding its position of Operations Director to include grant writing and community fundraising. In this transition year, a **\$1,200 Successful Communities grant** will assure that scholarship requests can be met and that the program's momentum will continue.

Co-director Sophie Wood emphasizes the camp is focused on the process of acting, and tries to make the experience understandable, fun, and active. "Using your body is so important at this age. Our approach builds confidence in their physicality and excitement in being part of what they recognize as such a high mark in the theater world."

2009 Successful Communities Grant Awards

[Understanding Vermont Issue Areas Noted In Brackets]

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Women's Rape Crisis Center

[Education, Domestic & Sexual Violence]

\$10,000 to enhance the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative with a focus on civic engagement, providing prevention education to at-risk youth, and addressing the needs of under-served populations within Vermont.

Funded by the Octot Fund (GT)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Gedakina

[Youth Engagement & Support, Cultural Heritage]

\$10,000 to work with youth and families from the Abenaki community of Missisquoi on community health and wellness, undoing internalized racism, and redirecting the cycles of family, social, domestic, and sexual violence.

Funded by the O'Bryan Fund for Vermont Children and the Kokoro Fund (GT)

LAMOILLE COUNTY

The Children's Garden

[Education]

\$10,000 to expand and split its infant and young toddler program to be able to serve five extra children. Outcomes will include more developmentally appropriate programs, increased capacity, and the ability to meet community needs for more slots.

Funded by two anonymous advised funds (GT)

Clarina Howard Nichols Center

[Civic Engagement, Domestic & Sexual Violence]

\$10,000 to support a partnership between the Center and AWARE to educate and advocate for the needs of children affected by violence, their peers, and adults in their lives.

Funded by two anonymous advised funds (GT)

ORLEANS COUNTY

Green Mountain Farm-to-School

[Education]

\$10,000 to develop a regional food distribution system to sell Vermont farm products directly to schools. This project will support local farms, provide students with fresh nutritious foods and educate the community about the benefits of eating locally-grown foods.

Funded by the Vermont Health & Nutrition Fund, the Kokoro Fund (GT), and an anonymous advised fund

RUTLAND COUNTY

The Mentor Connector

[Youth Engagement & Support]

\$10,000 to recruit volunteers to serve as mentors in affiliated mentoring programs, provide technical support to these programs, and seek additional funding for mentoring.

Funded by the Blue Ridge Fund (GT) and the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

2009 Successful Communities Grant Awards

[Understanding Vermont Issue Areas Noted In Brackets]

RUTLAND COUNTY

Poultney Mettowee Conservation District

[Youth Engagement & Support,
Civic Engagement,]

\$8,305 to increase capacity and public outreach by relocating its native plant nursery to a more centrally located site.

Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

Rutland Area Farm and Food Link

[Civic Engagement]

\$10,000 to continue and increase outreach and civic engagement activities during a time of important organizational growth.

Funded by the Saunders-Wise Fund (GT), the Sustainable Future Fund (GT), and the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

Rutland Redevelopment Authority

[Civic Engagement, Infrastructure Limitations]

\$10,000 to conduct workshops for community leaders on the idea and process of eco-municipalities with support from the Sustainable Rutland Committee of the Rutland Creative Economy Initiative.

Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

CULTURE IS CORE OF REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

Vermont's refugee communities face overwhelming challenges, not the least of which is keeping their cultural identity as they adapt to their new home. Through its affiliation with Congolese, Tibetan, Laotian, and other new immigrant groups, the **Vermont Folklife Center (VFC)** has identified a growing need to support the cultural framework that is the core of these fragile communities.

"Each of these emerging communities is a rich, nuanced, dynamic cultural world," observed VFC Education Director Greg Sharrow. "We want to find out what traditions they value most, what resources each needs, and how a wide range of potential partner organizations can best support their development."

A \$10,000 Successful Communities grant will support the Folklife Center's collaboration with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program and the Vermont Arts Council in a series of interviews (including translators) with artists, cultural leaders, and organizations within ten of Vermont's major refugee groups.



Meskhetian knitter Makhbule Temirova

2009 Successful Communities Grant Awards

[Understanding Vermont Issue Areas Noted In Brackets]

RUTLAND COUNTY

Vermont Achievement Center

[Education, Youth Engagement & Support]

\$10,000 to support Kaleidoscope, a ten-week summer program for ages 6-12 that emphasizes healthy nutrition, respectful interaction, and physical activity.

Funded by the Flying Birch Fund (GT)

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Everybody Wins! Vermont

[Youth Engagement & Support]

\$1,000 for general operating support.

Funded by the Landmann Family Fund (GT)

New Directions for Barre

[Youth Engagement & Support]

\$10,000 to reach out and help middle school students develop and carry out a social marketing campaign that focuses on discouraging underage and binge drinking.

Funded by the Nichols Fund

WINDHAM COUNTY

University of Vermont Extension Youth Horticulture Project

[Homelessness & Hunger]

\$2,000 for general operating support.

Funded by the Sustainable Future Fund (GT)

Vermont Independent Media

[Civic Engagement]

\$10,000 to expand *The Commons*, a monthly publication, to a weekly print and a daily online publication, and expand the Media Mentoring Project to engage more youth participants.

Funded by the Eagleridge Fund

World Learning

[Education, Civic Engagement]

\$10,000 to use local resources to grow healthy, organic food for donation to low-income families, and to organize self-sufficiency workshops for youth and adults to reconnect citizens with their community and food.

Funded by the Vermont Health & Nutrition Fund

ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE

The Vermont Workers Center (VWC) is best known today for its “Health Care is a Human Right” campaign and through its growing grassroots volunteer network, it is building popular support for changing our current health care system.

This work has helped the VWC recognize that the struggle for workers’ rights is directly connected to the general lack of organization of working-class Vermonters and a broader range of injustices which transcend the workplace. Throughout its existence, the Center has used leadership training as a key part of its strategy. With its new program, Organize for Change, the VWC is hoping to train new multi-generational Vermont community leaders who will work for human rights, economic justice, and a better democracy. **A \$10,000 Successful Communities grant** will support the new program.

“There’s only so much we can do as individuals,” Director James Haslam points out. “We provide organizing skills that people then apply to their own lives. Examples we’ve already seen include paraeducators winning groundbreaking livable wage contracts, nurses improving working conditions, and parents fighting to keep their neighborhood school open.”

THANKS TO OUR GIVING TOGETHER PARTNERS!

Anonymous (2)

Blue Ridge Fund

Cashdan/Stein Great Grandmother Fund

David and Eleanor Ignat Fund

Flying Birch Fund

Honey Pot Fund

Kokoro Fund

Lady Elaine’s Fund

Landmann Family Fund

Octot Fund

Saunders-Wise Fund

Sustainable Future Fund

Trumasu Fund

PRESERVING ABENAKI TRADITIONS

Gedakina is dedicated to strengthening and revitalizing the cultural knowledge and identity of Native American youth and families across northern New England. Its programs are shaped by the recognition that young Native Americans face the loss of a sense of place and those losses often lead to at-risk behavior.

In Vermont, the group began by coordinating monthly language circles in Swanton, where Abenakis from babies to tribal elders share traditional stories, singing, drumming, handcrafts, and food. Now Gedakina is leading a living history project, teaching youth from the community to use digital video cameras to interview family members and elders. Participants will also construct a marked nature and history trail on the Grandma Lampman’s/Maquam Wildlife Management Area, conserved land with strong ties to Abenaki tradition.

A \$10,000 Successful Communities grant will support this program.

According to Executive Director Rick Pouliot, Gedakina provides direction, guidance and resources. “The project will help develop a new connection to the land, rekindle a spirit of cooperation, strengthen relationships with knowledge-keepers, and empower young leaders. We’ve learned if youth are motivated, they’re hard to stop.”