



# THE Vermont Community Foundation

Pictured at right are "Little" Jonathan O'Brien and "Big" Brendan Benway, who were matched through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bennington County. Relationships like this not only benefit the child and the mentor, but also help to strengthen the fabric of a community by building social capital.



## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

This has been an exciting year for the Foundation. As you are aware, shortly after Brian Byrnes' departure the board of directors unanimously appointed Faith I. Brown as acting president & CEO. Faith and her staff are doing a great job and keeping a steady course during this time of transition. The board also appointed a Search Committee to seek a new president for the Foundation. On behalf of the Committee I want to provide you with this update on the search.

To help us establish an effective and customized search process, the Committee has retained Phillips Oppenheim, a well-known search firm with much experience in the community foundation field. During the first phase, Phillips Oppenheim interviewed board members, staff, and key stakeholders to gather their thoughts on the future of the Foundation and the qualities they seek in a leader.

Our next task was to create a position description and to advertise in Vermont and nationally. We received over 100 indications of interest from candidates. We have now narrowed the field of candidates to a few excellent individuals, and we anticipate that we will have interviews with the board and staff in October. We are on track to bring our next president on board by the end of this year.

As always, we extend our gratitude to all of you for helping to build healthy and vital Vermont communities.

Sincerely with warm regards,

Deborah W. Granquist

## The Permanent Fund & the VCF

### Growing Mentoring. Strengthening Communities.

The Permanent Fund for the Well-Being of Vermont Children (PF) is a supporting foundation of the VCF. Supporting foundations partner with the VCF for its philanthropic and administrative expertise, while maintaining a unique identity and functioning much like a private foundation.

Co-founded in 2000 by Rick Davis and Carl and Judy Ferenbach, the Permanent Fund's mission is to promote healthy, happy children and families in Vermont through the funding and support of community-based prevention strategies. The organization has chosen to focus on three issue areas: mentoring, early childhood, and children with incarcerated parents. Visit [www.permanentfund.org](http://www.permanentfund.org) to learn more.

As with all of its focus areas, the PF's mentoring work combines national

research, community leadership, and heart-felt passion. "Rick Davis is committed to mentoring because he has seen the impact it has on kids, says Permanent Fund Executive Director Christine Zachai. Through King Street Youth Center, he formed a relationship with an eight-year-old who could barely read – and that boy has now graduated from high school. This transformative experience drives his philanthropy."

National research validates the positive effects of mentoring, showing that children are less likely to use drugs, hit someone, or skip school when they are mentored. The research also identifies effective practices that help programs succeed. Drawing from this and its own experience, the PF developed a set of quality standards to help increase both the quality and

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quantity of matches in Vermont.

The PF also administers Vermont Mentors!, an innovative partnership with the Vermont Agency of Human Services that is funded with state appropriated monies. Vermont Mentors! grantees must grow their programs and raise matching funds through private donations. The PF pairs these requirements with technical assistance and fundraising workshops to help grantees meet their goals.

“The work of the last eight years has not only resulted in 1,000 new mentoring matches – it also helped us understand what mentoring programs need to do to succeed, and where the gaps are in the state,” says Christine. “We are creating the Vermont Mentoring Collaborative at the VCF, which will allow other philanthropists to join us in reaching more children.”

**We will host a discussion group for interested funders on October 29.**

Location will be determined by donor interest. Please contact Philanthropic Advisor Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup at [cilstrup@vermontcf.org](mailto:cilstrup@vermontcf.org) or 802-388-3355.



Hannah Palminter

*“Big” Ruth Domato and “Little” Jennifer Wood met through Girl Scouts and joined Windham County’s Youth Services’ Big Brothers Big Sisters in order to receive staff support and participate in activities. There are nearly 200 youngsters matched with mentors through the program, with 35 more on the waiting list.*

## The L3C Debuts in Vermont

In May of this year Vermont became the first state to pass legislation enabling the formation of Low-Profit Limited Liability Companies (L3Cs). Faith I. Brown, acting president & CEO of the VCF, tells us more about them and what they mean for the VCF.

**Q: What is an L3C?**

A: It is a for-profit limited liability company that is organized primarily to pursue a social or charitable purpose. Like any other for-profit, it is taxable but has an important advantage over other for-profit entities: it facilitates acceptance of program related investments from foundations.

**Q: What is a Program Related Investment (PRI)?**

A: A PRI is an investment vehicle used by foundations to further their charitable mission. PRIs can be made in both for-profit and nonprofit entities. However, the primary motivation cannot be investment return.

**Q: What does the legislation mean for Vermont?**

A: L3Cs create an opportunity for Vermont to specialize in this type of business structure and may encourage out-of-state foundations and investors to establish their projects under Vermont law, attracting business similar to Vermont’s captive insurance industry.

While we don’t believe the ability to establish an L3C will immediately draw PRIs to Vermont, it provides people an additional method of leveraging capital for social change and brings attention to Vermont as an innovator.

**Q: What do L3Cs mean to the VCF and its many partners?**

A: While we have been considering PRIs for some time, L3Cs may be the catalyst for the VCF to use our ability to aggregate pools of capital for PRIs. Using our existing networks and systems can help grow the impact of philanthropic dollars invested in L3Cs.

**For more information on L3Cs or PRIs please contact Faith I. Brown at [fbrown@vermontcf.org](mailto:fbrown@vermontcf.org) or 802-388-3355.**

## Meet Betty Sproston Little

**B**etty believes you always remember the names of your pets and the love they bring to your life - she fondly recalls Toby and Buddy, her dogs from childhood, as well as her mother's stories of bringing stray dogs back to her home more than a century ago.

With these memories, she established an advised fund and two charitable gift annuities solely for the welfare of animals, now and in the future.

"My philanthropic advisor is Laura Marlow and I am very happy that the

VCF recently hired new staff and matched every donor to an advisor. This is really wonderful and helps me learn more about the organizations I support," said Betty.

After 50 years of academic life, including 24 years as a reporter at the *Burlington Free Press*, Betty now lives at Wake Robin with her husband, UVM Professor Emeritus George T. Little. She writes for the weekly *Times Sentinel* and the *Wake Robin Carefree Cosmos*.



## Needed: Winter Warmth

Because of the rising cost of gas, oil, food, and housing, this winter will be extremely challenging for many low-income and even middle-income Vermonters. There is widespread concern that there could be record numbers of people in need, and that community resources like churches, fuel assistance programs, temporary shelters, foodshelves, and other human service organizations won't have enough resources to help everyone.

The VCF has created the **Vermont Winter Assistance Fund** and is working with other funders to support programs addressing immediate need, as well as efforts to find long-term solutions. If you are interested in contributing to the fund or would like to know more about this effort, please contact **Laura Marlow** at [lmарlow@vermontcf.org](mailto:lmарlow@vermontcf.org) or 388-3355.

## 2008 Grants at a Glance

Please visit our website for detailed information.

The **Successful Communities** grant round awarded **\$241,959** to **31** nonprofits for projects that support civic engagement; diversity and equity; and education.

The **Sustainable Communities** grant round awarded **\$283,000** to **34** nonprofits that support the arts, humanities, and cultural heritage; the environment; and economic development.

The **Special and Urgent Needs** grant program funds unforeseen issues and time-sensitive emergencies or opportunities. Thus far in 2008, it has awarded more than **\$70,000** to **17** organizations throughout the state.

The **Vermont Women's Fund** awarded **\$194,949** in grants to **27** organizations working to break down social and economic barriers facing Vermont women and girls.

The **Arts Endowment Fund** and the **Concert Artists Fund** together awarded a total of **\$100,885** to **29** organizations and individuals across the state to support the creation and production of new work by Vermont artists and arts organizations, provide technical assistance for arts organizations, and support performances of western classical music in Chittenden County.

The **Walter Cerf Community Fund** made **\$152,950** in grants to **54** organizations that are located in Addison County or Brandon, or that have a statewide constituency and make a unique contribution to Vermont.

The **Basic Human Needs** grant round awards will be announced at the end of December. The awards support children, elderly, and family services; housing, food, and shelter; and health services.



### News & Notes

#### The Vermont Women's Fund (VWF) Relocates:

The VWF, a component fund of the VCF, recently moved from Montpelier to the VCF building in Middlebury. Says VWF Director Catherine Kalkstein, "This move will strengthen our relationship with the VCF and in turn help us better meet the needs of women and girls in Vermont and expand women's philanthropy throughout the state."

#### VCF Open House - October 21st - 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.:

Please join us in Middlebury for hors d'oeuvres and refreshments, to welcome the VWF to our offices, meet some new and old friends, and tour our renovated space!

**Community Fund Grantmaking Programs:** We are currently evaluating these grantmaking programs for 2009 and anticipate making some significant changes. Deadlines for individual grant rounds may change. Please check the website at the end of October 2008 for more details.

**We Became an Environmental Partner** of the Vermont Business Environmental Partnership. (See [www.vbep.org](http://www.vbep.org))

### The VCF – A Partner for Financial Advisors

Jason Cadwell is the sixth son of the sixth generation of his family to be raised on a farm in Pittsford. He is now the principal of Vermont Pure Financial, a fee-only advisory firm.



He believes that the best service comes from listening, "I think the most important thing an advisor can provide is not so much to answer questions as to frame the right questions for the client to answer. The VCF is a working partner in my planning with clients to bring form to their philanthropic goals, and I have benefited from access to the VCF's experience and expertise," says Jason.

Jason thinks Vermont is an incubator for fresh ideas and sees a bright future for philanthropy in the state. He sees its small scale as an ideal base through which people can implement ideas and see results.



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