



HELPING YOUTH REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Annual Report 2017

A LETTER FROM HOLLY

The staff and board of Vermont Afterschool are honored and grateful to be part of a rich landscape of organizations and individuals supporting children and youth in our state to reach their full potential. We appreciate the opportunity the afterschool field gives us to play an important and multifaceted role in the lives of young people.

Afterschool is a unique time and place for youth, and an ever growing and changing field. We recognize that in the society in which we live today, access to afterschool and summer learning programs is not only an education, economic, and public health issue, but also essentially a social justice one. The most pressing concern facing our field today is the growing disparity in opportunity that exists both in Vermont and across the U.S. Research has shown that where our most vulnerable students fall behind is not in the classroom but outside the school day and over the summer when they do not have access to the same types of learning experiences, enrichment opportunities, and positive adult role models as their more affluent peers.

Despite so many efforts to close the opportunity and achievement gaps and help all young people experience success in and outside of school, the gap is widening. We know that afterschool and summer learning programs can be the key to supporting young people whether academically, with social-emotional learning, through healthy activities, or by promoting career exploration. Our commitment is to continue working to ensure such opportunities are ample and of high-quality for all of Vermont's children and youth.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to shape and contribute to Vermont Afterschool's work over this past year whether as a funder, donor, grantee, partner, advocate, member, or program provider. We look forward to another year of continued work alongside all of you!



It is with pride and honor that we share Holly received two awards in 2017: the KidSafe Award for Outstanding Professional and the KIDS COUNT Award for Advocacy.

With gratitude,

Holly Morehouse, Executive Director

OUR MISSION

Vermont Afterschool supports organizations in providing quality afterschool, summer, and expanded learning experiences so that Vermont's children and youth have the opportunities, skills, and resources they need to become healthy, productive members of society.

FY17 BY THE NUMBERS

HOW MUCH?

1,412 adults were trained in expanded learning best practices

114 afterschool professionals advanced their careers with credentials and higher education coursework

\$30,000 in grant funding were distributed to programs to increase quality, capacity, and outreach

HOW WELL?

85% of professional development training participants agreed that they gained new knowledge

87% of training participants agreed that they would apply what they learned in their programs

104 21st Century Community Learning Center (21C) programs used the Youth Program Quality Assessment tool to improve program practice

IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

13,246 youth who participated in 21C programs were impacted positively

82% of youth in afterschool STEM tinkering programs reported significant gains in critical thinking, science interest, and perseverance

88% of afterschool professionals reported positive changes in program practice as a result of Vermont Afterschool supports

QUALITY MATTERS



Quality matters when it comes to providing expanded learning opportunities during the out-of-school time hours for Vermont's children and youth.

A growing body of research shows that high-quality afterschool and summer programs are directly related to social, emotional, health, and academic gains. This is where Vermont Afterschool serves a critical niche as the expert and backbone organization working closely with partners, stakeholders, and programs to develop quality improvement systems and professional development opportunities in our state.

Our hallmark **Afterschool Professional Learning Strands (APLS)** offered in-depth professional development around specific topics for 50 afterschool leaders over the course of nine months. For FY17, 89% of participants agreed that APLS helped them improve the quality of their programs.

▲ Keynote speaker Gayle Danley delivered a powerful and memorable slam poetry address at the **2016 Vermont Afterschool Conference**, as well as a workshop on how to engage youth in creative writing. Over 285 participants joined us for the conference and enjoyed a full day of learning, networking, and celebration. According to conference evaluation data, 98% of participants responded that their overall experience was excellent or good.



◀ The **Youth Program Quality Initiative (YPQI)** is an assessment-driven continuous improvement process designed for afterschool programs. We provide trainings, technical assistance, and evaluation for all 21st Century Community Learning Centers who use YPQI to improve program quality.



▲ We sponsored **113 professional development trainings** in FY17 (exclusive of the conference and APLS). These trainings, facilitated by trainers with significant expertise in their topic areas, aimed to boost best practices for afterschool staff of all levels and experience.

ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

As Vermont's voice for afterschool and summer in Montpelier and Washington, D.C., we advocate for state and federal policy that supports the expansion, affordability, and accessibility of afterschool and summer learning programs.

For FY17, our **Zap the Gap** campaign continued to build a stronger movement around public funding for afterschool programs in Vermont and sought to ensure all youth have access to programs. We saw increases in both the number of legislative champions fighting for afterschool and committed advocates who showed up time and time again at the State House.

▼ Many Vermont afterschool programs held **Lights On Afterschool** events on October 20, 2016. Lights On is a day set aside across the nation to celebrate the important work being done in afterschool programs. For FY17, over 45 programs held events in Vermont, with many inviting families, community members, and policymakers to harvest dinners.

▶ Lt. Governor David Zuckerman and numerous legislators stopped by our **STEM at the State House** event to say hello and try out the various hands-on STEM activities showcased by afterschool youth. This event increased awareness around STEM learning that happens during the out-of-school time hours.



◀ We had 60 youth ambassadors join us for the annual **Afterschool & Summer Learning Day** on February 16, 2017. Youth, adults, and partners came to the State House to talk with policymakers about the value of afterschool programs in Vermont. A highlight for FY17 included the video "Opportunities for All," created by clips of youth ambassadors expressing why afterschool matters to them as individuals.

GROWING STEM

We've seen our **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Initiative** take off under the past two years of Noyce Foundation funding. The focus has been around increasing STEM programming during afterschool and summer, quality of STEM instruction, and professional development opportunities in STEM subjects.

Our philosophy is that youth need out-of-school time opportunities to help spark a strong "STEM identity." Our statewide partners play a large role in this work, and we're grateful to the many afterschool and summer programs for jumping on board and working hard to bring afterschool STEM to all.



▼ In the second year of our **Tinkering Project**, we distributed 12 tinkering kits to afterschool programs across Vermont alongside trainings on how to facilitate engaging tinkering and making experiences. According to data collected at 13 afterschool STEM tinkering programs, Vermont students reported significant gains in science interest, critical thinking, and perseverance.

▲ This year we piloted **MedTrek**, a 10-week afterschool program that brought together students, community partners, and college mentors to help middle school youth explore different health science careers. Developed in partnership with the UVM Larner College of Medicine and the Northeastern Vermont Area Health Education Center (AHEC), MedTrek will be expanding to even more afterschool programs across Vermont in FY18.



SEL IMPACT

In FY17, Vermont Afterschool launched a statewide pilot project designed to enhance **social-emotional learning (SEL) in school-age children**. Our new SEL coordinator, Sara Forward, worked with licensed afterschool sites around the state and trained hundreds of staff on a specific SEL curriculum designed to promote social and emotional competence for youth in grades K-6.

This is exciting work for us, with the long-term impacts being linked to workforce readiness, positive physical and mental health outcomes, and decreased challenging behaviors. By training afterschool and summer staff to implement certain techniques that will improve social-emotional competency, we are investing in the healthy development and social functioning of our youth.



▲ Neshobe Elementary School Principal Judi Pulsifer (L) and SOAR Afterschool Program Director Nancy Bird (R) are a **model leadership team** working together to advance SEL for their youth. Neshobe's SOAR program, which is one of our SEL pilot sites, is also funded in part by a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant.

▼ Why is afterschool the **ideal setting for building SEL skills**? Because it's a place where all are welcome; youth can focus on building friendships and relationships with adults; flexible programming and hands-on activities create an engaging climate; and opportunities to practice are abundant.



IN PARTNERSHIP



STEM

Engineering is Elementary, Museum of Science, Boston
Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance
Montshire Museum
UVM Extension 4-H
Vermont Agency of Education
Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
Vermont Department of Libraries
Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP)
Vermont SWEEP (Statewide Environmental Education Programs)



SEL

Child Development Division
Howard Center
National AfterSchool Association
Puppets in Education
UVM Extension 4-H
UVM Vermont PBIS
Vermont Agency of Education
Vermont Arts Council
Vermont Principals' Association
VSA Vermont
Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality



ADVOCACY

Afterschool Alliance
Greater Burlington YMCA
Hunger Free Vermont
Vermont Early Childhood Alliance
Voices for Vermont's Children

▼ Rachel Donegan (center), Science Educator and Program Manager at Montshire Museum, facilitated a hands-on tinkering session at APLS. Montshire Museum has been a key partner in our STEM Initiative, helping to design tinkering kits and lead professional development workshops.



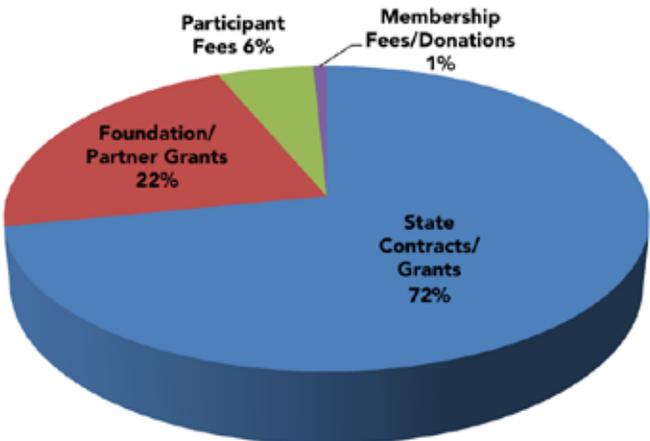


IN TOTAL

FY2017 Total Expenditures:
\$650,231



FY2017 Total Income:
\$688,168



WHO WE ARE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Raquel Aronhime
Secretary
Virginia Burley
Chair
Jim Fitzpatrick
Treasurer
Katie Flanagan Mobley
Vicki Graf
Barbara Russ
Vice Chair
Vicky Smith
Rich Tulikangas
Lauren Wooden

STAFF

Holly Morehouse
Executive Director
Alissa Faber
Project Specialist
Sara Forward
SEL Project Coordinator
Tricia Pawlik-York
Workforce & Program Improvement Coach
Erin Schwab
Research Analyst
Tracy Truzansky
Project Manager for Training
Cassie Willner
Communications Coordinator

PARTNER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Faye Conte
Thara Fuller
Christy Gallese
Deb Hathaway
Diane Janujaktis
Sarah Kleinman
Mary Mulloy
Ken Page
Cathy Printon
Lynne Robbins
Sara Robertson-Ryan
Barbara Russ
Sarah Teel

MENTORS & TRAINERS

Mellisa Cain
Perrin Chick
Lauren Chicote
Deb Chisholm
Rhonda Drake
Alissa Faber
Sue Fortier
Betsy Gradziadei
Jenna Guarino
Deb Hathaway
Linden Higgins
Kate Hudspeth
Jennefer Jolls
Lindsey Lathrop-Ryan
Merry McDonnell
Nicole Miller
Liz Mirra
Tricia Pawlik-York
Cindy Perry
Rachel Rose
Tami Stagner

FUNDERS

Afterschool Alliance
C.S. Mott Foundation
Noyce Foundation
Overdeck Foundation
Vermont Agency of Education
Vermont Child Development Division (CDD),
Department of Children and Families, Agency of
Human Services
Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC)

DONORS

Thank you for supporting our work!

Anna Buttar
Linda Mencucci
Jane Mekkelsen
Holly Morehouse
Karen Scott
Elizabeth Shane
Joshua Smith
Vicky Smith
Dean Williams & Barb Russ

MEMBERS*

Stephanie Ahern
Joyce Ashton
Erica Baker
Jennifer Ball
Barbara Bell
Nancy Bird
Kimberly Bolduc
Kate Bosnich
Jessica Boucher
Jennifer Bouvier Wendel
Deb Bovat
Ashley Bowen
Yee-Wah Brabant
Sara Breckenridge
Cathy Burbo
Janice Burrows
Amanda Butler
Anne Carroll
Damon Cawley
Elizabeth Chambers
Alyssa Church-Smith
Lindsey Cole
Kathryn Cookson
Ryan Cornellier
Holly Crispell
Paul Dayton
Ali Dieng
Pasquale DiLego
Deeann Fassett
Jim Flint
Susan Fortier
Stacey Fox
Thara Fuller
Heather Gale
Christy Gallese
Zoe Gascon
Donna Gaston
Anne Gleason
Maria Gleason
Melanie Gross
Sam Hagen
Mandi Harris
Aurina Hartz
Anne Hatch
Cassandra Hayes
Joseph Henley

Katelyn Irwin
Eddie Kish
Sarah Kleinman
Kathy Kneebone
Jessica Lamberton-Brown
Leila LaRosa
Carol Lizotte
Diana Lopez
Katie Lovely
Tammy Lynch
Brandon Lynch
Heidi Lyons
Roxana Matthews
Carrie McDonnell
Nicole Miller
Becky Mitchell
Susan Morse
Claudine Nkurinziza
Ruthie Nye
Diadel Ortiz
Doug Orvis
Christine Owens
Kirstie Paschall
Jill Paul
Michael Paul
Alexander Rob
Sara Robertson-Ryan
Maggie Robinson
Renee Roddy
Elsa Rood
Cara Sargent
Alisha Sawyer
Casey Searles
Suzanne Skaflestad
Julie Snider
Sherry Sousa
Tami Stagner
Jordan Swank
Hannah Thody
Brekke Thompson
Catherine Toland
Nancy Van Nostrand
Michael Wanigasekera
Venissa White
Theresa White
Sue Winsor
Tara Young

*As of 7/1/17

Photo credits:

All photos taken by Cassie Willner, Vermont Afterschool except for Lights On photo from School's Out South Burlington (p. 4) and MedTrek photo from Winooski MedTrek (p. 5).

Thank you to Burlington School District (cover page; p. 3); Greater Burlington YMCA (p. 2); One Planet Sharon (p. 5); Winooski Student Success and Beyond (p. 6); Tapestry (p. 6), and Cambridge Connections (p. 8) for inviting us to take photos at their summer learning programs.



Vermont Afterschool
123 Ethan Allen Ave. Dupont Hall #309
Colchester, VT 05446

Partnerships | Advocacy | Training | Resources for Excellence in Afterschool

www.vermontafterschool.org