



Vermont Afterschool



2014

A N N U A L
R E P O R T

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.

LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

Executive Director Holly Morehouse (L)
and Board Chair Ginny Burley (R)



This has been an exciting first year at Vermont Afterschool as our own nonprofit organization. We've seen tremendous growth in our annual operating budget, in the level and depth of our partnerships and collaborations, and in the range of programs that we are able to impact with our quality initiatives. We are particularly energized by the number of program directors, staff, partners, and volunteers who have come forward to work with us on various initiatives and projects throughout the year.

As a result of these collaborative efforts, we've also seen increases in two key areas this year: (1) program quality improvements; and (2) support for state policy and advocacy. We know that these two trends go hand-in-hand. The spirit of continuous quality improvement is one that we embrace at Vermont Afterschool, and it is exciting in 2014 to see so many afterschool programs taking on initiatives such as program self-assessment, reflection, and improvement planning. At the same time, we're energized by a growing awareness at both the state and local levels of the tremendous role that afterschool and summer learning programs play in keeping kids safe, inspiring learners, and supporting working families.

We encourage you in this coming year to be an active participant in both these efforts—improving quality and expanding access—so that all Vermont children and youth have the opportunities and resources they need to thrive, grow, learn, and explore.

Thank you for your contributions to this important work,
Holly and Ginny



STAFF

Holly Morehouse

Executive Director

Erin Schwab

Project Support Specialist

Karen Scott

Project Manager for Quality

Tracy Truzansky

Project Manager for Training

Cassie Willner

Communications Coordinator

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creating PARTNERSHIPS that last

LEADERSHIP

Vermont Afterschool incorporated as its own nonprofit in 2013 with a new Board of Directors providing leadership, oversight, and guidance to our organization. We are grateful for their time and support. In addition, we have an expanded and reinvigorated Partner Advisory Council. Our partners--represented in both the board and partner council--support our mission in creating connections between expanded learning programs, educators, community partners, nonprofits, and funders. For FY14, the partner council has met quarterly to provide guidance, insight, and feedback on our Results-Based Accountability outcomes and measures that will feed into our strategic planning process next year.

REGIONAL GROUPS

Our regional group coordinators facilitate local partnerships and training efforts. They are key in connecting with childcare and afterschool programs, including school-based, community-based, licensed, non-licensed, home providers, and/or teen center programs. In FY14, our regional groups sponsored over 20 free professional development trainings in seven different local regions with funding from Vermont Afterschool and served as the starting point for increased program quality.

COMMON EVALUATION TOOL

In partnership with the Child Development Division's Quality Think Tank (a statewide committee focused on supporting quality professional development for the afterschool and early childhood fields), Vermont Afterschool provided leadership and technical support to the development of a Common Evaluation Tool. This tool, implemented statewide in 2014, is an evaluation tool for professional development workshops based on the model we've been using at Vermont Afterschool for the past three years. Vermont Afterschool is responsible for hosting the data collection, monitoring its use, and advising on analysis.



2013-2014 PARTNER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Emanuel Betz, *VT Agency of Education*
Grace Greene, *VT Department of Libraries*
Sarah Kleinman, *UVM 4-H*
Derrick Lambert, *Hunger Free Vermont*
Mike Mrowicki, *VT State Representative*
Mary Mulloy, *VT Agency of Education*
Ken Page, *VT Principals' Association*
Julie Peterson, *Greater Burlington YMCA*
Cathy Printon, *VSAC*
Lynne Robbins, *Child Development Division*
Lindsay Simpson, *VT Agency of Education*
Adriane Schubert, *Essex CHIPS*
Sarah Teel, *Voices for Vermont's Children*
Jan Walker, *Child Development Division*
Jenna Whitson, *Hunger Free Vermont*

NAA EMERGING LEADERS

Two of our Vermont afterschool colleagues and friends--Nicole Miller (pictured in the purple at right at the Afterschool & Summer Learning Day) and Alissa Faber--were selected by the National Afterschool Association (NAA) for their "Afterschool: Next Generation" awards. Nicole, director of REACH! afterschool, and Alissa, a Vermont Afterschool trainer, were nominated because of their commitment and dedication to our field.

AFTERSCHOOL & SUMMER LEARNING DAY

The fifth annual Vermont Afterschool & Summer Learning Day, held on February 20, 2014, drew 190 participants and 50 legislators. Keynote speaker Dr. Terry Peterson enlightened our audience on the research connecting afterschool with positive youth outcomes, as well as testifying at the House Education Committee. We welcomed our largest group of youth ambassadors (pictured below) to date: 33 youth joined us for the day and their essays were published online at bit.ly/1w6JcHV.



EXPANDED LEARNING TIME WORKING GROUP

For 2014, Vermont Afterschool is participating in a legislative study group on the topic of equity and access to quality expanded learning time programs in Vermont. The working group falls under the PreK-16 Council and is charged with reviewing and evaluating issues of equity in and access to Vermont's expanded learning programs and developing a more comprehensive statewide strategy to promote high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs. This is an exciting opportunity for the afterschool community in Vermont, with Executive Director Holly Morehouse chairing the group (Holly sits on the PreK-16 Council as well).

providing **TRAININGS** to educate

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Vermont Afterschool currently has 25 active trainers, including a number of new trainers recruited this year. In addition, for the 2013-2014 school year, Vermont Afterschool launched 23 new and improved workshops. The offerings were identified last year by the Trainer Workgroup and developed over the spring and summer. During the course of the year, Vermont Afterschool fulfilled 64 workshop requests; 25 of these workshops were on STEM related topics.

COACHING STRANDS

Over 70 people participated in Individual System of Support for Afterschool Programs (ISS-AP) Coaching Strands this year. ISS-AP offers participants an ongoing and in-depth professional development experience with an experienced coach and a small group of professional colleagues. Strand topics in FY14 included: Knowing Adolescent Learners, STEM, Wellness, YPQI, New Directors, Afterschool Essentials, and Advanced Topics in Afterschool.

VERMONT AFTERSCHOOL CONFERENCE

We held our annual Vermont Afterschool Conference on October 25th, 2014, and had an outstanding turnout with 265 guests from across Vermont and New England. Maria Konnikova, the author of *Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes*, was the keynote and spoke on neuroscience, brain research, and creativity. In the post-conference survey, 96% of respondents reported that their overall experience at the conference was excellent/good.



MENTORS FOR QUALITY

Our Mentors for Quality Program pairs experience program directors with programs across the state to work in-depth on their program improvement goals. This year, 13 mentors attended a two-day Coaching for Continuous Improvement Workshop in order to learn about coaching strategies as well as collaboratively design the mentoring system for Vermont.

STEM QUALITY INITIATIVE

The year we launched a STEM Quality Initiative to support, inspire, and increase high-quality STEM programming and partnerships in Vermont's afterschool and summer learning programs. The STEM initiative included a partner group, professional development trainings, and running a STEM ISS-AP strand. As a result of these intense support efforts, eight Vermont communities were able to create new STEM initiatives for kids running at least 20 hours each of new STEM programming this past summer.

MAPPING AND DATA

We continue to build and expand our statewide knowledge base about the type, location, size, and quality of afterschool and summer learning programs. Additionally, we developed and published an interactive mapping database with program level information. This information resource is used throughout the year to inform state policy, decision making, and strategic planning.

STATEWIDE EVALUATION

Vermont Afterschool continues to lead on developing common statewide evaluation measures for afterschool and summer learning programs. A significant part of this effort includes the development, data collection, and analysis of Vermont's 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21C) program.



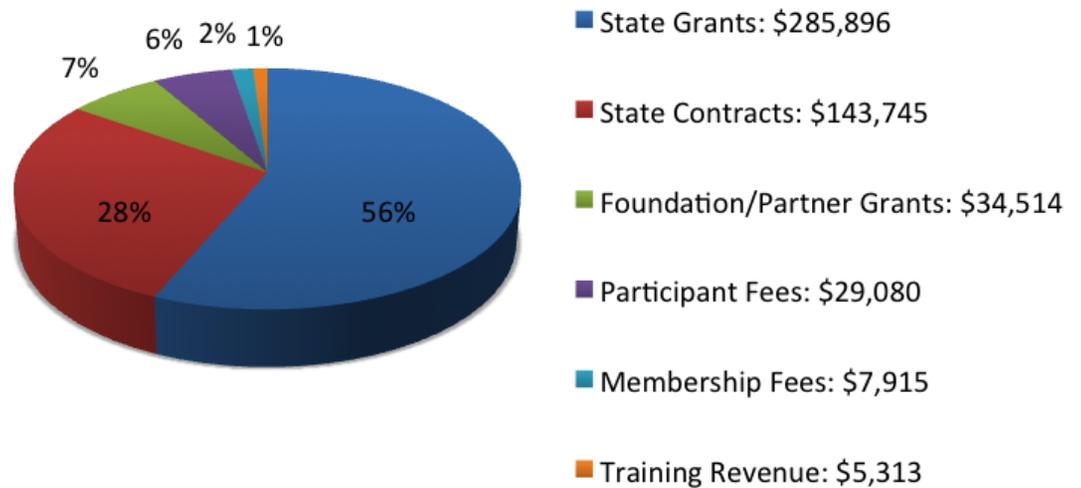
Financial Report July 2013 - June 2014



PHOTO CREDITS

Thank you to: REACH! at Hardwick Elementary School (cover page), Burlington Kids (p. 3 and 7), and One Planet at Sharon Elementary School (last page) for allowing us to take photos at their programs. All photos were taken by Cassie Willner, Vermont Afterschool.

Source of Funds Total Income = \$506,463



Use of Funds Total Expenses = \$472,716

