

YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE A BETTER VERMONT



Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Annual Report 2018

DEAR FRIENDS,

As an organization, we are all about strong, multifaceted, connected support for afterschool and summer learning programs. When we look back on FY18, we see so much more than the typical trainings and workshops that an organization like ours might deliver.

We see comprehensive technical assistance and onsite coaching within programs. We see vibrant communities of practice meeting regularly, building trust, and grappling with difficult issues. We see partnerships with mental health practitioners, healthcare professionals, restorative justice centers, Vermont's foster care system, libraries, museums, hospitals, state agencies, food service providers, and other non-profit organizations. We see new colleagues in Finland and new ideas brought back home. We see a group of young people coming together from all across the state to create the Vermont Declaration of Youth Rights. And we see the formation of a new coalition, the VT9to26 Coalition, that is doing the ground work to take us in new directions in support of our young people through messaging, policy, youth voice, and best practices.

Thank you for being involved in this work. Thank you for your financial support, your ideas, participation, and interest. We can't tell you how much we appreciate your high fives on the good days and your words of encouragement on the tough days. Thank you for making this such an incredible year.

With gratitude,



Holly Morehouse
Executive Director



Barbara Russ
Board Chair



Holly Morehouse at the 2017 Youth Rights Summit in Randolph, VT. Participants from the Summit are pictured on the cover.

CON HOGAN AWARD:

The Vermont Community Foundation recognized Holly Morehouse's exceptional work by naming her the 2017 Con Hogan Award winner. This annual award is given to a leader who shows deep community involvement, generosity, enthusiasm, a collaborative approach, and a focus on data and outcomes in their work. This award not only highlighted Holly's leadership, but also provided the financial support for her to return to Finland in April 2018 and continue her research into innovative youth work models. While there, Holly met with youth center staff, government officials, academics, and came back inspired by what she saw happening there around youth voice.

Vermont Afterschool

WHO WE ARE:

A statewide nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that the children and youth in every Vermont community are able to benefit from the power of afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs.



HOW WE DO IT:

1) Create a sustainable structure of statewide, regional, and local **partnerships**, particularly school-community partnerships, focused on supporting policy development at all levels.

2) Lead statewide systems and partnerships to ensure that afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs in Vermont are of high **quality**.

3) Support the development and growth of statewide **policies** that will secure the resources that are needed to sustain new and existing out-of-school time programs for Vermont's children and youth.

WHY WE DO THIS WORK:

Young people make a better Vermont. We believe that we have a collective responsibility to ensure that all young Vermonters are safe, healthy, supported, educated, and engaged. Together with our partners, we can work with youth to provide many opportunities for young people to be young and to grow into healthy and happy Vermonters.



OUR MISSION:

To support 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.

GOAL AREA 1: PARTNERSHIPS

We have seen renewed energy and investment in partnerships for FY18. New and old initiatives alike are benefitting from the strength of collaboration. Our work is driven, in large part, by the partners who help to make it happen.

In the midst of the many outstanding partners who are involved in the many dimensions of our work, we are extremely excited about new partnerships formed this year with the **VT9to26 Coalition**. This is a statewide action-oriented, cross-sector coalition working together to achieve positive outcomes for all youth ages 9-26 in Vermont. Partners include public and private organizations; state and local community leaders; those working with older youth; as well as youth and young adults themselves.

Drawing on inspiration from the VT Youth Declaration of Rights (see below), the VT9to26 Coalition is committed to helping Vermont youth find what they need to be the best versions of themselves.



Holly came back from Finland with the idea of a Youth Rights Summit, which we hosted in October 2017. At this event, Vermont youth ages 9-22 came together to co-create a **Youth Declaration of Rights**.

The **VT Department of Health** has stepped forward as a new partner in this work, providing Vermont Afterschool with a grant to fund a youth voice coordinator at the network and support a Finnish-style participatory budgeting process.



**PARTNER HIGHLIGHT:
 “ART AND INCLUSION,” VSA
 VERMONT’S HIGHLY RATED
 WORKSHOP DEVELOPED
 SPECIFICALLY FOR
 AFTERSCHOOL STAFF**



**STEM
 PARTNERS**

Engineering is Elementary, Museum of Science, Boston
 Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance
 Montshire Museum
 The Vermont AHEC Network
 The PEAR Institute: Partnerships in Education and Resilience
 UVM Larner College of Medicine
 UVM Extension 4-H
 Vermont Agency of Education
 Vermont SWEEP (Statewide Environmental Education Programs)



**SEL
 PARTNERS**

Child Development Division, Agency of Human Services
 Greater Burlington YMCA
 National AfterSchool Association
 UVM Extension
 Vermont Agency of Education
 Northeast Family Institute
 VSA Vermont
 Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality



**ADVOCACY
 PARTNERS**

Afterschool Alliance
 Hunger Free Vermont
 STEM Education Coalition
 Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
 Vermont Low-Income Advocacy Council
 Voices for Vermont’s Children

GOAL AREA 2: QUALITY



HOW MUCH?

1,478 adults were trained in expanded learning best practices

122 afterschool professionals advanced their careers with credentials & higher education coursework

\$16,000 in grant funding were distributed to programs to increase quality and capacity

HOW WELL?

90% of professional development training participants agreed that they gained new knowledge

91% of training participants agreed that they would apply what they learned in their programs

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

IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

93% of afterschool professionals who fully agreed that Vermont Afterschool helped them to do their jobs better

ELEVATING THE FIELD

LEAD

Our newly formed professional development program called L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Exploration, And Development) held four courses over the fall/spring. We've had 15 staff participating in the program, which provides an advanced level group of afterschool professionals with the tools to hone their strengths and develop new skills to assume greater leadership roles in the future.

SEL

This year we saw the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Initiative continue to grow.

- 1,571 children grades K-6 served by programs in the SEL pilot
- 204 afterschool staff trained on trauma-informed care
- 14 afterschool program sites served by the communities of practice model providing dedicated coaching and consultation from our SEL Coordinator Sara Forward

STEM

A couple of initiatives stand out in our work around Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

- The STEM Pathways project, funded by the McClure Foundation, launched in five afterschool programs with the goal of training high school students work-based learning skills to teach afterschool STEM content to elementary age youth.
- The MedTrek project expanded to four afterschool programs sites (pictured above at Winooski) and fostered strong partnerships with regional health education centers. MedTrek is a 10-week afterschool program that brings together community partners and mentors to help middle school youth explore different health sciences careers.

APLS

Our hallmark Afterschool Professional Learning Strands (APLS) wrapped up another year with a total of 30 participants across the STEM, SEL, and Program Quality strands.

- 100% of APLS participants said that this year-long, in-depth professional development for afterschool directors and leaders would help them do their jobs better.



GOAL AREA 3: POLICY

As Vermont's leading voice for afterschool in Montpelier and Washington, D.C., we advocate for state and federal policy that promotes access, affordability, and sustainability of afterschool, summer learning, and out-of-school time programs.

For FY18, the Youth Declaration of Rights informed our policy work at the State House as well. The Vermont Child Poverty Council heard testimony on the Youth Declaration of Rights, which led to the Council naming afterschool funding as one of their top priorities for the 2018 legislative session. Rep. Diane Lanpher and Sen. Debbie Ingram, who are the Council's co-chairs, subsequently became solid champions of afterschool and summer learning.

MAJOR WINS FOR AFTERSCHOOL

STATE

In 2018, the Agency of Human Services received legislative approval to spend \$600,000 over three years to increase access to afterschool programs. The funding comes from a special allocation intended to boost Vermont's prevention efforts. This happened thanks for the hard work of our legislative champions and advocates. Years of work, in fact. But it has been the inspiration from Finland, attention around youth voice, testimony on social emotional learning, and the Department of Health partnership that has helped push the issue into a broader context of how to help all youth grow into happy and healthy Vermonters.

FEDERAL

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (pictured below standing in blue) led a bipartisan group of afterschool champions, including all three members of the Vermont delegation, to push for increased federal spending on afterschool. For FY18, Congress increased spending for 21st Century Community Learning Centers by \$20 million.





**2018 AFTERSCHOOL
YOUTH AMBASSADORS
FROM NEWARK AFTERSCHOOL WITH REP. PAUL LEFEBVRE**

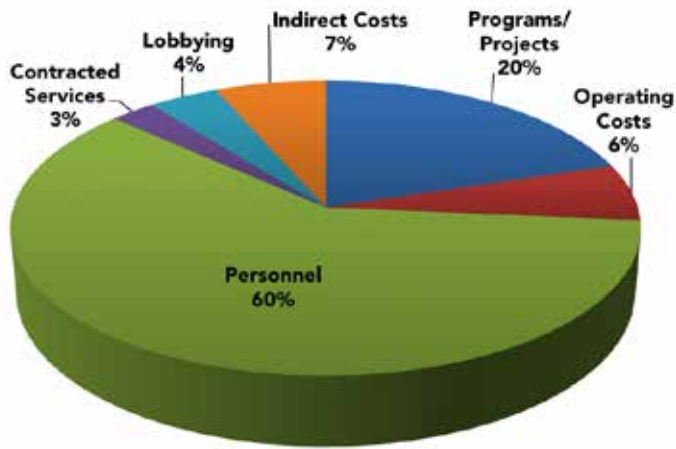
AFTERSCHOOL & SUMMER LEARNING DAY

Our annual Afterschool & Summer Learning Day went off without a hitch (no snowstorms!) on February 16, 2018. This event brings together program providers, partners, and advocates for a day of action at the State House. We welcomed Erik Peterson, Vice President for Policy at the Afterschool Alliance. Erik led a session for participants on federal policy implications for afterschool programs as well as testified in the House Education and Senate Education Committees on the federal funding outlook for afterschool for FY19.

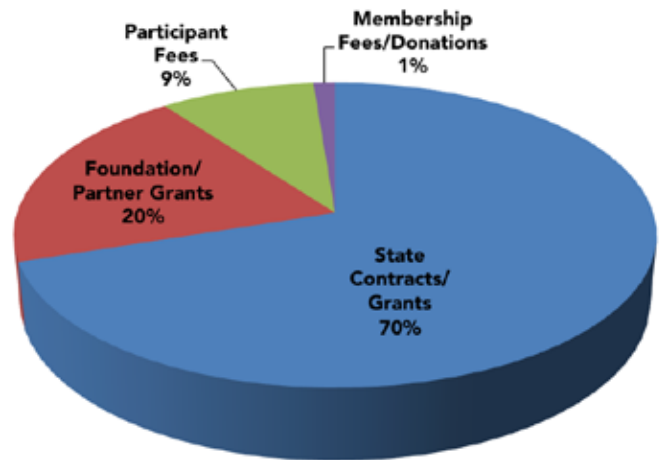
Alongside the Afterschool & Summer Learning Day, we ran our annual **Afterschool Youth Ambassadors** program. In total, 71 youth ambassadors in grades 5-12 signed up, representing 17 towns across Vermont. During their morning workshop, Youth Ambassadors met Lt. Governor Zuckerman and engaged with him on a variety of issues and topics relevant to them. Youth Ambassadors then delivered copies of the VT Youth Declaration of Rights to legislators at the State House; and everyone was recognized in the House Chamber during a reading of the House Resolution on Afterschool.

IN TOTAL

FY2018 Total Expenditures:
\$630,468



FY2018 Total Income:
\$633,155



WHO WE ARE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Our BOD received a "Stand For Your Mission" national award from BoardSource in recognition of their outstanding leadership, courage, and commitment to advocacy.

STAFF

- Alissa Faber
Project Specialist
- Sara Forward
SEL Project Coordinator
- Sam Gaulty
Youth Voice Coordinator
- Katrina Kretschmar
Director of Expanded Learning
- Holly Morehouse
Executive Director
- Tricia Pawlik-York
Program Improvement Coordinator
- Erin Schwab
Research Analyst
- Cassie Willner
Communications Coordinator

FUNDERS

- C.S. Mott Foundation
- J. Warren & Lois McClure 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)

In FY19 we are excited to partner with new funders on exciting new initiatives:

- Northfield Savings Bank Foundation*
- Vermont Community Foundation*
- Vermont Department of Health*

COACHES & TRAINERS

Kym Asam
Suzanne Birdsall-Stone
Mellisa Cain
Joan Carey
Lauren Chicote
Deb Chisholm
Marissa Coleman
Rachel Donegan
Rhonda Drake
Betsy Graziadei
Jenna Guarino
Deb Hathaway
Linden Higgins
Kate Hudspeth
Charlie Hutchison
Colleen Lariviere
Merry McDonnell
Nicole Miller
Liz Mirra
Melissa Nutting
Cindy Perry
Tami Stagner
Alexandra Turner
Kurt Valenta

MEMBERS

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Joyce Ashton
Orianna Baez
Erica Baker
Jennifer Ball
Lee Barrett
Barbara Bell
Nancy Bird
Kimberly Bolduc
Kate Bosnich
Jennifer Bouvier Wendel
Deb Bovat
Ashley Bowen
Sara Breckenridge
Andreea Briere
Donna Brooks
Tara Brooks
Jackie Burgess
Janice Burrows
Kelly Burton
Amanda Butler
Debra Campbell
Anne Carroll
Damon Cawley
Elizabeth Chambers
Alyssa Church-Smith
Ray Coffey
Lindsey Cole
Sloan Collins
Kathryn Cookson
Ryan Cornellier
Holly Crispell
Brandon Davis

Paul Dayton
Patty Demingware
Gabe Diaz
Donna Diaz
Ali Dieng
Pasquale DiLego
Diane Farquharson
Deeann Fassett
Alicia Finley
Susan Fortier
Sean Fortier
Thara Fuller
Heather Gale
Christy Gallese
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane
Zoe Gascon
Donna Gaston
Kristen Getler
Anne Gleason
Maria Gleason
Elsie Goodrich
Melanie Gross
Sam Hagen
Jess Hannigan
Mandi Harris
Anne Hatch
Aurina Hartz
Cassandra Hayes
Joseph Henley
Angelina Hernandez
Shannon Hickman
Katelyn Irwin
David Irwin
Phuket Jennings
Sarah Kleinman
Kathy Kneebone
Jolanta Labejsza
Carlie Lavallee
Carol Lizotte
Diana Lopez
Tammy Lynch
Brandon Lynch
Katy Marshall
Roxana Matthews
Jenna Maurer
Nina Mazuzan
Carrie McDonnell
Drew McNaughton
Hope Metcalf
Nicole Miller
Becky Mitchell
Heather Moore
Susan Morse
Tamara Musgrove
Ruthie Nye
Diadel Ortiz
Doug Orvis
Christine Owens
Ken Paquette
Kirstie Paschall

Michael Paul
Jill Paul
Angie Pelchar
Amanda Perry
Eli Phillips
Leisa Pollander
Karen Powers
Alexander Rob
Sara Robertson-Ryan
Maggie Robinson
Renee Roddy
Elsa Rood
Kerrie Ross
Kristin Roy
Cara Sargent
Alisha Sawyer
Casey Searles
Suzanne Skaflestad
Sherry Sousa
Julie Snider
Tami Stagner
Todd Stratton
Jordan Swank
Hannah Thody
Brekke Thompson
Karen Thompson
Kate Toland
Shona Trimboli
Kari Trudo
Tara Tucker
Jennifer Turmel
Nancy van Nostrand
Michael Wanigasekera
Theresa White
Venissa White
Sue Winsor
Tara Young

Special thanks for the following donors for supporting our work:

Jim Fitzpatrick, Sara Forward,
Jane Mekkelson, Holly Morehouse,
Tricia Pawlik-York, Barbara Russ,
Tracy Truzansky, Dean Williams



These are the faces of afterschool!

In 2018 we captured photos of youth expressing different feelings for a poster distributed to afterschool programs in our Social Emotional Learning pilot.

Thank you to the King Street Center and Greater Burlington YMCA Essex Elementary School's afterschool programs for participating in this project.



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www.vermontafterschool.org