Thank you to everyone who helped make the last two months simply amazing. With visitors from Finland, Iceland, and Chile, we met with hundreds of people across Vermont about the importance of supporting youth in the third space. We also hosted our first ever Youth Art in the State House event; ran the Youth4Youth Grant process; organized 60 or so Youth Ambassadors at the State House for Afterschool & Summer Learning Day; piloted VerMONEY; and launched the Afterschool for All statewide grant process. It has been an incredible experience. Any one week over the last 6-8 weeks would have been a great opportunity for moving our issue and our conversations forward. To have so many of them strung together like we did one after another, all with the strong collaboration of our many partners, was something pretty amazing.

Big thank you to everyone who helped make this all happen. We couldn’t have done it without you.

Holly Morehouse
Executive Director
Center Operations

• Tricia, Sam, and Alissa traveled to Seattle Washington for the Ready by 21 National Meeting and Conference hosted by The Forum for Youth Development. The conference focused on improving program quality, ensuring readiness, promoting equity, and increasing our shared commitment to our work.

• Sam and Vermont Afterschool trainer Matt Wolf went to Ann Arbor Michigan to participate in a “train the trainer” event for the Weikart Center’s Youth Work Methods series of trainings. They gained a lot of experience and also made some fantastic connections with others in the youth development field. They have already begun facilitating these trainings across Vermont.

• In May, Erin attended the Open Data Science East conference (ODSC East) in Boston. She gained valuable perspective on data visualization and useful tips on communicating impact and storytelling with data.

• We are thrilled to share that we have a new colleague in the office: Robin Katrick started in May as our new Youth and Community Health Coordinator. Robin will be overseeing the Vermont Youth Project, as well as making new connections with statewide prevention partners. This project will support five (or more) communities around positive youth development and utilize the Iceland data tool to drive community conversations.

• We have another intern! Johanna Arnott is a student at Syracuse University and is working with Robin on the Vermont Youth Project for the summer.

• Cassie recently wrapped up her 2018-19 White-Riley-Peterson fellowship and presented her findings to her cohort via Zoom. Cassie’s project entailed developing outreach and communications materials for the VT9to26 Coalition along with supporting Vermont Afterschool’s advocacy work for the 2019 legislative session.

• Cassie also attended the National Network Meeting in April representing Vermont Afterschool as one of the 50 statewide afterschool networks funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.
• Have you noticed the new logo? It’s here! We’re very excited to unveil the new look and feel when our new website launches later this month. There will be a formal announcement when the website redesign finishes, but in the meantime you can get a sneak peak here and see that the new look is modern, approachable, clean, and professional. All in time for our 10 year organizational anniversary this fall.

• Over the course of FY19, the team has painstakingly tracked the field’s participation in our initiatives into our internal database. As a result, we can report with confidence the following:
  o Through our programs/initiatives, opportunities for program leaders to serve on committees and coalitions, and opportunities for program leaders to participate in advocacy efforts, Vermont Afterschool impacted:
    ▪ 74% of the total towns in Vermont that have afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs (128 our of 172 towns)
    ▪ 49% of the total afterschool, summer, and expanded learning program sites in Vermont (227 out of 465 sites).
    ▪ 50% of the licensed sites* that serve school age kids (126 out of 251 sites).

• Since April 1, 2019, we had 2155 visits to our website which is a slight decrease compared to last. We did, however, see the number of page views per session increase along with the amount of time spent on the website per session. Subpages of the website that saw the greatest amounts of activity during this period are 1) /who-we-are; 2) /youthworkvt; and 3) /professional-development.

Policy and Advocacy

• Opioid Council (HM).

• Our legislative goals this year included the standard ask for $2.5 million for afterschool funding and educating legislators on our new talking points around the third space for learning and VT9to26 Coalition framing. The session officially wrapped up in May and although no additional funding was allocated to afterschool this year, the new Substance Misuse Advisory Council was allocated $400k to distribute as they see fit. The childcare bill was folded into the budget and includes an increase in the Child Care Financial Assistance rates for school age children to 2014 market rates. The budget also includes a study to look at the high rates of children in custody and what interventions they received, and requires the Agency of Human Services to develop a strategic plan to address the most challenging issues the Agency anticipates Vermont will face within the next five to 10 years. Finally the budget bill creates a Youth Employment Program.

Partnership Development

- On Sunday, June 2 Vermont Afterschool partnered with the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association to host Summerama in Barre, Vermont. Over 200 summer staff attended this daylong training to prepare their professionals to provide children with wonderful summer camp experiences. There was a robust schedule of hands-on education sessions for both new and seasoned counselors and recreational staff.

- Tricia Pawlik-York continues to serve on the PPD, STARS, and STARS oversight committees. The STARS Phase 1 changes will go into effect in September, 2019 making all licensed programs part of STARS and eliminating the compliance arena.

- Though the hard work of many of the participants, the Vermont Youth Center Alliance was formed this spring. A collection of drop-in-based programs that serve adolescents and young adults, the Alliance had its first in-person gathering on May 16th at the Junction Youth Center in White River Junction. It was a positive first meeting, and we will be meeting monthly online with 3-4 in-person meeting that will rotate to various programs around the state. Vermont Afterschool will help in managing and promoting this group and it continues to develop.

- Helped on by connections made in Vermont Afterschool’s Youth Voice Community of Practice (CoP), a Youth Summit Event was put on at VTC’s Randolph campus on May 30th. Organized by The Vermont Youth Advocacy Council, a group comprised of youth and young adults who educate and empower individuals with differing abilities. Members of the CoP were involved in assisting to organize the event and well as instructing workshops. The members reported that they would not have made the connections to their colleagues without the CoP.

- We completed our first parent education series in Milton with partnering agency, the Vermont Child Welfare Training Collaborative. Led by Sara Forward, the series was very successful and received positive participation reviews.

- We are thrilled to have been chosen to coordinate statewide delivery of the Youth Thrive framework approach. This training –based, community-level support for those working with youth ages 9 to 24 is perfectly aligned with our organization’s recent growth and mission. We will be building funding partnerships with local agencies and businesses to grow the impact of Youth Thrive over the next year.

Professional Development and High-Quality Programs

- We had 13 afterschool professionals from around the state graduate from our first ever Leadership Institute of Resilience in Afterschool (LIRA). After six months of hard work they each received a micro-credential in Resilience Leadership. Sara Forward organized and designed LIRA, thanks to funding from the Northfield Savings Bank Foundation.

- Sara also completed yearlong communities of practice in social and emotional learning in four communities with encouraging reviews from participants about the model and content.

- We had 15 afterschool staff successfully complete the Spring 2019 CCV course Afterschool
Education and the Development of the School Age Child. Some of the students are now working on completing their Afterschool Credential portfolio

- Five afterschool staff have completed the Afterschool Essential class, which runs from March-June and benefits newly hired staff or those without a lot of experience working with children and youth. Four staff received Afterschool Foundation Certificates, and two staff were awarded the Afterschool Credential.

- L.E.A.D. 1 and 2 participants completed the program in May at Lake Morey. At least 6 professionals will now move on to L.E.A.D. 2, and 3 (Lindsey Cole, One Planet; Alyssa Callan, Essex Junction Recreation and Parks; and Patrick Muro, The Collaborative) received the first Afterschool Micro-Credential in Leadership after presenting their final projects.

- On May 17th, 20 third space leaders participated in the first VT9to26 Coalition Leadership Retreat. Amy Brady, Speaker and Professional Coach from StandUP of Denver, Colorado, led the group through activities connecting participants to emotional intelligence, the power of choice, understanding values and self-awareness.

- This quarter, we hosted 13 site-specific trainings and collected 141 corresponding evaluations. In summary:
  - 91% of these participants fully agreed that they gained new knowledge and/or perspective.
  - 96% of these participants fully agreed that they will apply what they learned.
  - 86% of these participants fully agreed that attending was worth their time and effort.
  - 91% of these participants fully agreed that attending would help them do their job better.

Funding and Sustainability Efforts

- Ten Afterschool for All Grants were awarded thus far to programs in eight different counties; totaling $267,865. Two additional programs are in the process of writing final applications for this grant.

- We were able to fund 14 for the inaugural Youth4Youth Grants. A celebration and training for all the grantees was held on April 12th at the State House in Montpelier with press coverage at the event. Over $27,000 was given out directly to young people for ideas that they created and were voted on by their peers. We have over 700 votes come in from all 13 counties in Vermont.

Vermont Afterschool, Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that children and youth in every Vermont community are able to benefit from the power of afterschool, summer learning, and third space programs. Our mission is 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.

For more information on Vermont Afterschool, Inc. visit: www.vermontafterschool.org