LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

Vermont Afterschool is committed to making sure that all kids have the resources, supports, and opportunities they need to succeed. We know that children and youth spend only 20% of their waking hours (about 1,000 hours per year) in school and about 5,000 hours per year out in the community and with their families and friends. How they spend this time can facilitate positive experiences, or place them at risk for negative outcomes.

It is critical that we continue to strengthen our communities, support those in need, and invest in our children and youth. Afterschool and summer learning programs help to do that important work by inspiring learners, keeping kids safe, and helping working families.

Everyday program staff step forward to help children in need, provide healthy snacks and meals, serve as role models, share their excitement and enthusiasm for learning, and connect with working parents as they pick up their children at the end of a busy day. At the same time, many programs deal with challenges related to staffing, space, regulations, funding, and logistics. We take very seriously the responsibility of supporting the afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs in Vermont by providing tools and resources, offering trainings, building partnerships, and advocating for funding and strong public policy.

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, your support and involvement helps Vermont Afterschool build a stronger foundation for youth to reach their full potential.

With gratitude,

Holly Morehouse
Executive Director

Ginny Burley
Board Chair

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.
FY16 BY THE NUMBERS

INCREASING ACCESS

$50,000 distributed to programs for quality, start-up, and improvement grants

1,198 afterschool supporter cards collected statewide for the Zap the Gap campaign

$5,500 given as mini grants for Lights On Afterschool events

INCREASING QUALITY

80 afterschool professionals advanced their careers with coursework and credentials

1,121 adults trained in expanded learning best practices annually

1,495 hours of training and coaching through professional learning strands

INCREASING IMPACT

110 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) programs served

13,647 youth impacted who participated in 21st CCLC programs

87% of afterschool professionals who fully agreed that Vermont Afterschool helped them to do their jobs better
TRAININGS

to elevate the field

Research shows that the number one indicator of a high-quality afterschool program is well-trained staff. Vermont Afterschool offers a variety of opportunities to help programs, staff, and partners improve the quality of their services.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING STRANDS

We had 59 participants in the Individual System of Support for Afterschool Programs (ISS-AP) for 2015-16. ISS-AP is our hallmark professional learning community that offers participants an ongoing and in-depth professional development experience with an experienced coach and a small group of professional colleagues. Strand topics in FY16 were Afterschool Essentials, New Directors, STEM Environmental Literacy, Brain Research, and Big Picture Storytelling: Digital Media Strategies.

VERMONT AFTERSCHOOL CONFERENCE

Our annual Vermont Afterschool Conference was held on October 23, 2015, and we welcomed 240 participants to the Stowe Lake Resort Center for a fun day of learning and networking. The conference featured Leslie Beller, founder of MHA Labs, as the keynote speaker. In addition to 24 workshops on best practices in the field, we also offered two full-day strands, Environmental Literacy in Action and How to Engage Kids in Afterschool Art. These strands both received excellent evaluations.

WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

Vermont Afterschool hosted 71 professional development trainings statewide (exclusive of the Vermont Afterschool Conference and ISS-AP) for staff working in afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs. These trainings are facilitated by trainers with significant expertise in their topic areas. Of the 71 trainings, 32% of trainings were STEM focused. Also of note, 75% of trainings were delivered to 20 participants or less – a size that continues to support quality interactivity, deeper discussion and responsiveness by trainers to specific program site needs invested in applying new learning.

COLLEGE COURSES

In partnership with the Vermont State Child Development Division (CDD), we offered three-credit, online courses for 30 afterschool professionals through the Community College of Vermont (CCV). Thanks to funding from CDD, these courses are tuition-free for those who are working in a licensed child care setting. Both the Fall 2015 course, Afterschool Education and Care, and Spring 2016 course, Development of the School-Age Child, filled quickly and had waitlists.
100% of ISS-AP participants agreed that the workshops helped them improve their program’s quality

96% of Vermont Afterschool Conference participants responded that their overall experience was excellent or good

88% of professional development workshop participants agreed that they would apply new knowledge learned in the training to their programs
ADVOCACY

to inspire and affect change

Through our policy and advocacy efforts, we are building a stronger movement in support of quality Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs) to further influence policymakers and voice the important role these programs play in closing the opportunity gap and supporting student success.

ZAP THE GAP CAMPAIGN
Zap the Gap with Afterschool & Summer Learning is Vermont Afterschool’s new statewide advocacy campaign seeking to amplify support for public funding of afterschool and summer learning programs in Vermont. In addition to highlights listed on the right, we saw increased numbers of people calling and meeting with their legislators to talk with them about the importance of afterschool and summer learning programs, as well as increased numbers of advocates attending legislative hearings and sharing their stories about afterschool and summer learning programs.

AFTERSCHOOL & SUMMER LEARNING DAY
Our annual Afterschool & Summer Learning Day saw significant changes for 2016. We scaled back the event and decided to base all activities at the State House in order to emphasize the value of meeting one-on-one with legislators. Thirty participants registered for the event, plus 17 adult chaperones and 41 youth ambassadors. Multiple media outlets covered the event—including the youth ambassadors entering the State House in their Zap the Gap capes—and three students testified on the value of afterschool to the House Education Committee.

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL CHALLENGE
Vermont Afterschool staff traveled with two afterschool program directors to Washington D.C. for the Afterschool for All Challenge in May 2016. This is an annual advocacy event organized by the Afterschool Alliance, and this year we were able to meet with congressional staffers from the offices of Senator Sanders, Senator Leahy, and Representative Welch to talk about the importance of afterschool and summer learning programs, including federal funding for 21st CCLC.

ELO WORKING GROUP
The ELO Working Group, chaired by Holly Morehouse, is a subcommittee of Vermont’s PreK-16 Council that reviews and evaluates issues of equity in and access to ELOs. In January 2016, the ELO Working Group published All Learning Counts: How Expanded Learning Opportunities Support Flexible, Personalized, Student-Centered, and Proficiency-Based Learning in Vermont. This report presents the Working Group’s recommendations on how to build and strengthen systems in the state in order to more fully utilize ELOs in support of Vermont’s vision for educating students in a way that is personalized, student-centered, and proficiency-based.
ZAP THE GAP HIGHLIGHTS

• **1,197** Zap the Gap supporter cards collected statewide

• **Vermont Child Poverty Council** included funding for the ELO Special Fund as a top priority in their annual report

• **Working Vermonters Legislative Caucus** requested an appropriation of $2.5 million for the ELO Special Fund

• **House Education Committee** requested an appropriation of $1 million for the ELO Special Fund

• **Governor’s Pathways from Poverty Committee** report included a recommendation for funding afterschool programs in all VT schools and districts

• **55** Lights On Afterschool events held statewide

• **545** subscribers added to advocacy email list via MailChimp

• **18** letters to the editor published + **5** news stories + **3** TV clips + **2** op-eds
RESOURCES

to support quality programs and professionals

The resources that we provide to programs and partners are diverse. From technical assistance support for YPQI implementation to blog posts on best practices in STEM instruction, we strive to support our community with quality in mind.

STEM INITIATIVE
FY16 was Vermont Afterschool’s third year of the STEM Initiative that aims to support, inspire, and increase high-quality STEM programs during the out-of-school time. We benefitted from strong partnerships, increased our professional development opportunities, implemented data and assessment, and launched a statewide Afterschool Tinkering Project. Thanks to funding from the Noyce Foundation, 12 afterschool programs were awarded full tinkering kits, training, and resources for implementing tinkering programs for youth at no cost to them.

AFTERSCHOOL CARE GRANTS
Five programs were awarded 2016-2017 Quality Improvement or Start-Up/Expansion Afterschool Grants through the CDD Afterschool Care Grant Program. Totaling $50,000, these grants are designed to increase the capacity and quality of regulated Vermont afterschool programs and are available to any licensed afterschool program working with school-age youth in grades K-12.

YOUTH PROGRAM QUALITY INITIATIVE
We finished our second year of supporting 21st CCLC programs’ completion of self-assessments and improvement plans under the Youth Program Quality Initiative (YPQI), which is now a requirement for all 21st CCLC grant recipients. Almost three-quarters (72) of the 21st CCLC sites completed both a self-assessment and a program improvement plan for YPQI.

21st CCLC programs that used YPQI for two years in a row showed improvement on 95% of the areas measured in the assessment tool.

21 YPQI professional development trainings were offered in FY16.

562 hours of support provided to programs around YPQI.
PARTNERSHIPS

to build a vision for successful kids

Strong partnerships are integral to our work. Our partnerships are built on common goals and benefit from lasting relationships.

EXPANDED LEARNING SUMMIT
We hosted the Expanded Learning Summit in partnership with Up for Learning on May 5, 2016. In total, 88 participants convened for a day of discussion around how to include ELOs in personalized learning plans. The Summit served as the kick-off to the work of the Expanded Learning Coalition (ELC) Project, co-chaired by Vermont Afterschool and the Community Engagement Lab.

STEM
Key STEM partners include VT Agency of Education (AOE), VT Department of Libraries, VT Department of Fish and Wildlife, VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, VT SWEEP, UVM Extension 4-H, Montshire Museum, and Engineering is Elementary, Museum of Science, Boston. We also continue to participate on the AOE Science Professional Learning Team and UVM’s VSTEM Collaborative.

ADVOCACY
In FY16 we saw nonprofit partners step forward in deeper and more focused ways to support our advocacy and policy goals. These partners included the Vermont Early Childhood Alliance, Voices for Vermont’s Children, and Hunger Free Vermont.

STATE LEADERSHIP
Vermont Afterschool participates in a number of partnerships to build and support statewide quality initiatives. This past year we were members of the STARS Oversight Committee, the CDD Quality Think Tank on professional development, and the MATCH Committee. We also continued our partnerships with the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, the National AfterSchool Association, and the Afterschool Alliance.

PARTNER ADVISORY COUNCIL
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Kathy Fleury, Hunger Free Vermont
Thara Fuller, LAFTER Afterschool
Christy Gallese, Burlington School District
Deb Hathaway, Tapestry
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FUNDERS
Afterschool Alliance
C.S. Mott Foundation
National AfterSchool Association (NAA)
Noyce Foundation
VT Agency of Education
VT Child Development Division (CDD), Dept. of Children and Families, Agency of Human Services
VT Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC)

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All photos taken by Cassie Willner, Vermont Afterschool

Thank you to One Planet at Tunbridge (cover page) and Student Success Winooski & Beyond (p. 8) for inviting us to take photos at their summer learning programs

IN TOTAL

FY2016 Total Expenditures: $605,253
FY2016 Total Income: $627,251

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