

ANNUAL REPORT FY2019

JULY 2018 - JUNE 2019



150 Kennedy Dr. South Burlington, VT 05403
Strengthening programs. Empowering youth.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Ten years. How amazing is that? Especially when you consider all the incredible people, programs, and partners that we've been privileged to work with over that time. Yes, things have changed—including our name, our look, our size, and our scope. We've experienced tremendous growth over the past 10 years both as an organization and as a field.

To name a few areas of growth: we're building coalitions; expanding our reputation as a reliable source of data and information on the field; and expanding our knowledge by reaching out and making new connections. We're making sure our efforts address the full continuum of development from children into their teenage years and beyond; we're understanding that youth engagement is a key part of this work; and we're always looking for new ways to reach and support programs across the state.

Yet many things have stayed the same: a number of our key partners, staff, and board members have been with us through the years. We continue to work closely with program leaders and staff in order to best understand their needs and challenges; our vision for the field maintains a comprehensive and broad scope; and we remain committed to developing deep, meaningful, and mutually beneficial partnerships. Our growth has not been about changing our mission, but rather each year taking concrete steps that have brought us closer and closer to being rightsized to do the work that really needs to be done.

We still dream of opportunities that reach every child and every youth, every day, in every community. And we know that we are made so much stronger, wiser, and effective through our connections with partners, programs, and providers in the field. Whether you're reading our annual report for the first time or have stuck with us from the beginning, thank you for joining our collective efforts to ensure that all young Vermonters are active, connected, engaged, and heard.

With gratitude,



Holly Morehouse
Executive Director

OUR MISSION:

We 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.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!!!



2010

First ever Vermont Afterschool & Summer Learning Day at the State House

2011

Merger with the Vermont School-Age Care Network builds partnership with the Vermont Child Development Division

VCAE becomes the state affiliate with the National AfterSchool Association (NAA)

2013

We incorporate as a 501(c)3 and change our name to Vermont Afterschool, Inc.

We set up a Board of Directors with Virginia Burley as our first Board Chair

2015

Statewide adoption of the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) tool with Vermont Afterschool providing training and technical assistance

2017

Partnership with the McClure Foundation around work-based learning and STEM

Holly is selected to receive the Con Hogan Award

Youth Rights Summit and creation of the VT Youth Declaration of Rights

2019

Vermont Afterschool gets a new logo, a new website, and a new office space

New partnerships and visits with Finland and Iceland

New micro-credentials in Leadership and Youth Resilience

New financial literacy curriculum VerMoney developed with the Vermont State Treasurer's Office

2009

The Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence launches with Holly Morehouse as the Executive Director alongside a 15-member Partner Advisory Council

Launch of our first annual statewide conference

Pilot of ISS-AP, an intensive coaching model, that builds partnership with the Vermont Agency of Education

2012

Increased staffing with new positions around quality, professional development, communications, and research

Legislature establishes a seat for afterschool on Vermont's PreK-16 Council



2014

We kick off the Zap the Gap advocacy campaign and the Legislature creates the Expanded Learning Time Working Group

Launch of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Initiative

2016

Vermont Child Poverty Council recommends funding for afterschool and summer learning as a top priority

Launch of the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Initiative

2018

Partnership with the Northfield Savings Bank Foundation to fund the Youth Resilience Project and Vermont Department of Health to fund youth voice projects

\$600,000 in state funding allocated for afterschool

Partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation helps to launch the VT9to26 Coalition

Launch of LEAD, a professional learning cohort for licensed afterschool leaders and directors



STRENGTHENING PROGRAMS

Much of our work is focused on coordinating efforts around professional development, program quality initiatives, and overall elevation of the afterschool field. Our approach to strengthening programs and quality is multifold:

- Provide quality coaching
- Offer leadership opportunities
- Help programs to start and sustain
- Promote best practices
- Coordinate statewide systems and connection

NEW for FY19 are micro-credentials, which are a certification indicating demonstrated competency in a specific skill. They promote in-depth learning by doing: professionals apply their learnings in practice, collect evidence, and demonstrate their competence. In total, 16 professionals earned a **Micro-Credential in Youth Resilience** and **Micro-Credential in Leadership** as a culmination of many hours and months of focused learning.

Also in FY19, Vermont Afterschool was selected to coordinate statewide delivery of the **Youth Thrive** approach, which is an evidence-informed framework for approaching work with youth ages 9-24 built on a strengths-based approach and positive psychology.





Our initiatives impacted programs in **80%** of Vermont towns with afterschool, summer, and third space programming



We provided **68** site-specific trainings to **577** people



32 professionals advanced their careers with credentials and higher education coursework



45 teens from **6** high schools were trained to engage **300** elementary students in STEM afterschool programs



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

IN FOCUS: YOUTH RESILIENCY

In FY19 our social emotional learning (SEL) work took on a more focused approach called the **Youth Resiliency Project**. Our goals were to increase training so that more programs are trauma-informed; create a Leadership Institute (LIRA) to empower peer experts in the field; and establish networks of support for program sites so they can build and sustain SEL best practices going forward. As a result of staff participation and engagement in trainings, summits, communities of practice cohorts, and LIRA, the various Youth Resiliency Project initiatives supported by the Northfield Savings Bank Foundation ultimately benefitted:

6,216 students in grades PreK-12
286 afterschool professionals
178 school and community-based programs
47 towns throughout Chittenden, Orange, and Washington counties



EMPOWERING YOUTH

As our work has evolved over the past ten years, we've noticed that we cannot simply focus on the afterschool staff person in isolation. We must also consider the kid and young person who is bolstered by a strong afterschool program. So we have expanded our work areas to support programs around youth voice and youth engagement efforts as the means to empowering youth. We do this by:

- Helping programs launch their own youth councils
- Focusing our initiatives on life skills (MedTrek, VerMoney, and STEM Pathways)
- Offering a Youth Voice community of practice
- Creating and leading the Vermont Youth Center Alliance
- Distributing data and research on our monthly "Data Digest" blogs

NEW for FY19 was the **Youth4Youth Grant Program**, a mini-grant competition designed by youth and for Vermont's youth. Created by a teen youth council, the application was open to any Vermonter ages 9 to 22. The ideas came flooding in; with 44 proposals submitted that all focused on furthering youth rights. From there, young people from every county voted in Spring 2019 to select the top 14 projects that received over \$27,000 in funding.





An estimated **10,600** preK-12 students in Vermont are directly impacted by Vermont Afterschool's initiatives



715 youth across Vermont voted for youth proposals to be funded in our first-ever Youth4Youth Grant voting



94% of youth submitting Youth4Youth Grant proposals reported an increase in opportunities to belong



25 afterschool sites took part in VerMoney, a 10-week financial literacy curriculum developed with support from the VT State Treasurer's Office



22 works of art by youth ages 6-18 were on display at the State House for the "Youth Voice in the Third Space" art show we curated

IN FOCUS:

VCF CORNERSTONE PARTNERSHIP

With support and funding from the Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) as a Cornerstone Partner, we have been able to go all in on the formation of the **VT9to26 Coalition**. In FY19 the Coalition, which is an action-oriented coalition of people working in partnership to achieve positive outcomes for all youth ages 9-26 in Vermont, generated talking points and positive messaging based on the Youth Declaration of Rights as well as expanded membership and visibility. The Coalition also sponsored a number of well-attended statewide public speaking events around positive youth development featuring international visitors:

215 attended "Helping Youth Succeed: Strategies from Finland" with Dr. Lasse Siurala, who is considered Finland's leading expert on youth work and youth rights

150 attended "The Iceland Approach to Happy, Healthy Young People" with Dr. Michael Mann of Boise State University and Dr. Humberto Soriano of the Chilean Pediatric Society, both of whom are experts on the Iceland prevention model

INCREASING ACCESS

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. We also keep track of data around access and dosage (see p. 8) and work to help new programs get off the ground.

Policy work in FY19 focused a lot on making connections between afterschool and prevention. Namely, educating policymakers and partners on how afterschool and third space programs build protective factors for youth and function as a “primary prevention” strategy.

Legislative wins for 2019 included:

- Increase in the Child Care Financial Assistance rates for school age children
- Access to afterschool and summer learning programs prioritized in recommendations from the 2019 Opioid Coordination Council and Vermont Marijuana Commission Reports
- Funding request for afterschool and summer learning programs included in the 2019 Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families Council
- 60 Youth Ambassadors attended our annual Afterschool & Summer Learning Day
- Congress increased federal funding for 21st Century Community Learning Center (21C) program by \$10 million



Youth Ambassadors at the annual Vermont Afterschool & Summer Learning Day on February 14, 2019.



82% of 21C sites in VT were in operation for at least 32 weeks during the school year (highest rate in past five years)



74% of 21C sites were in operation for 5 days per week during the school year (highest rate in past five years)



79% of 21C summer sites were in operation for at least 5 weeks during the summer (highest rate in past five years)



96% of 21C sites were in operation for 5 days per week during the summer (highest rate in past five years)



90% of 21C summer programs provided at least 21 weekly hours of programming (highest rate in past three years)

IN FOCUS:

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL GRANTS

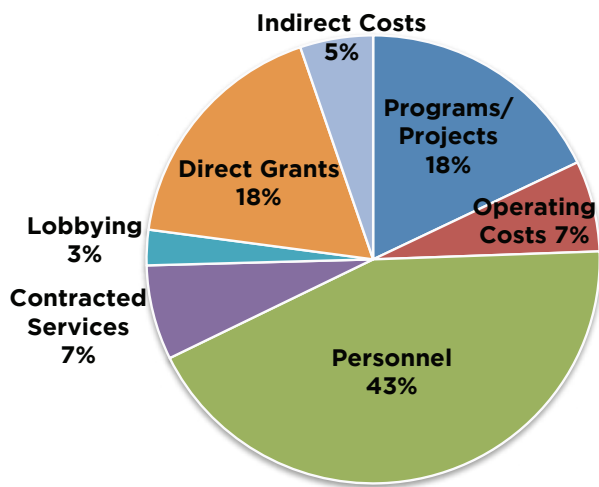
This was an important year for increasing access to afterschool and summer learning programs. For the first time ever, the Vermont legislature allocated \$600,000 for the **Afterschool for All Grants** with funding given to projects to start or expand afterschool and/or summer learning programs in Vermont. We worked closely with the VT Child Development Division to administer the grants and opened the competition in Spring 2019. Out of the 101 letters of intent that were submitted, 12 projects were selected for funding over the next two years and all projects are receiving technical assistance and coaching from Vermont Afterschool.

2019-2021 GRANTEES are Brookfield Elementary School, Two Rivers SU, Bennington Center for Restorative Justice, Friends for Change, Addison Northwest School District, Kingdom East Afterschool, Albany Community School, LEAPS, Meeting Waters YMCA, Twinfield Union School, Upper Valley Haven, and Winooski School District

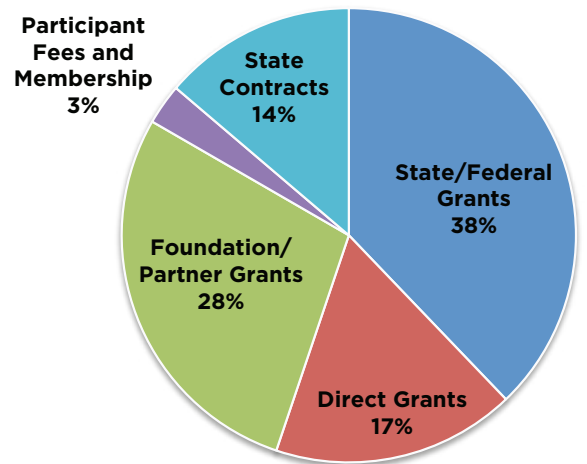
\$5,451,587 in total funds were requested from the 101 letters of intent, demonstrating a huge need for the field in terms of funding and sustainability

IN TOTAL

FY2019 Total Expenditures:
\$1,018,730



FY2019 Total Income:
\$1,038,500



WHO WE ARE

STAFF

Alissa Faber
Project Facilitator

Sara Forward
SEL Project Coordinator

Sam Gaulty
Youth Voice Coordinator

Robin Katrick
Youth & Community Health Coordinator

Nicole Miller
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Holly Morehouse
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FUNDERS

Afterschool Alliance

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

J. Warren & Lois McClure Foundation

Northfield Savings Bank Foundation

Overdeck Family Foundation

STEM Education Coalition

Vermont Agency of Education

Vermont Child Development Division (CDD), Department of Children and Families, Agency of Human Services

Vermont Community Foundation (VCF)

Vermont Department of Health

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC)

COACHES & TRAINERS

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Suzanne Birdsall-Stone
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Ellen Drolette
Alissa Faber
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Katrina Kretschmar
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Rachel Rose
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Karen Thompson
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Nancy van Nostrand
Jennifer Wendel
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Paula Wright

*As of June 30, 2019

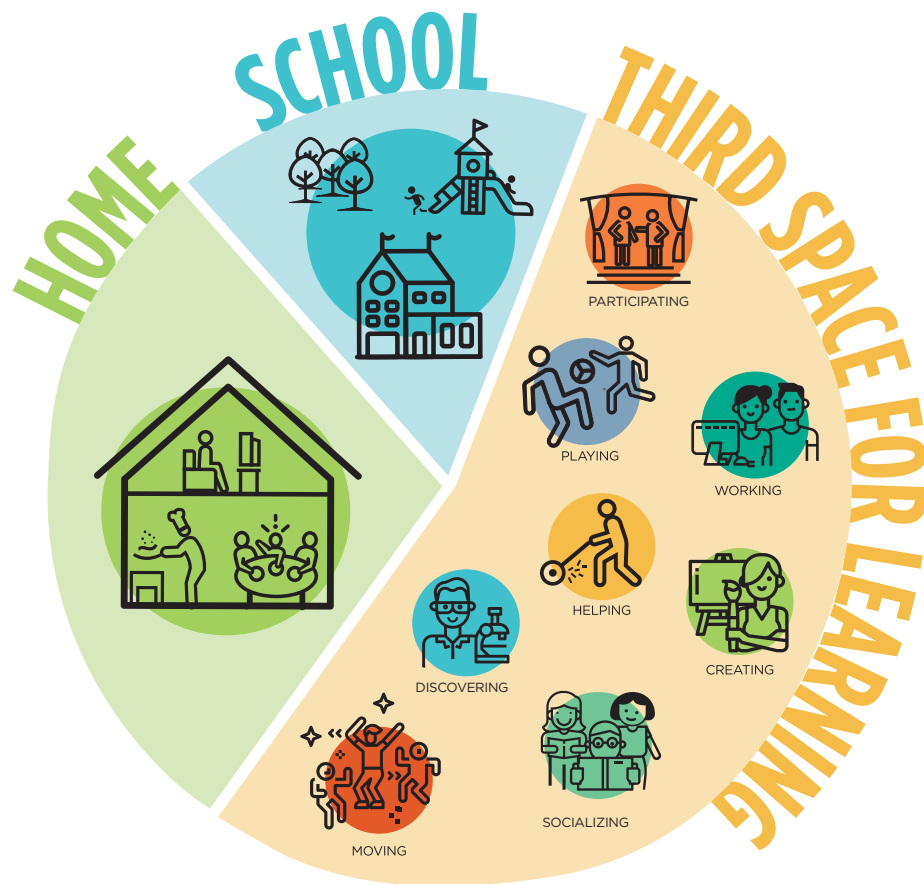
Special thanks for the following donors for supporting our work:

Jim and Susan
Fitzpatrick, Barb Russ
and Dean Williams,
Anonymous VCF Donor



Vermont Afterschool staff at our team retreat: Sara, Robin, Mary, Tricia, Holly, Alissa, Sam, Cassie, and Nicole (L-R minus Erin Schwab)

WHAT IS THE THIRD SPACE?



Did you know that youth in grades K-12 spend only 20% of their waking hours per year at school?

How young people spend their time outside of their homes and outside of school in the “third space for learning” matters. The third space is when opportunities happen. When children and youth are at afterschool programs, summer learning camps, rec programs, youth centers, extracurricular activities, service learning projects, chess club at the library, etc.

We believe that we have a collective responsibility to ensure that all young Vermonters are safe, healthy, supported, educated, and engaged. Which is why we are working hard to make sure that every youth in every VT community has access to high-quality afterschool, summer learning, and third space programs during the out-of-school time hours.

LEARN MORE:
www.vermontafterschool.org