



10 YEARS OF OUR COMMUNITY CARES CAMP



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY OCCC: DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Our 10 year anniversary is a good opportunity to look both backwards and forwards. In 2009, I could not fathom the impact of OCCC on our campers' lives. Kids come back year after year, some saying camp is the best part of their lives. Our early campers grew up, becoming interns and counselors, supporting a new generation of campers. In 2018, 14 percent of MMU's graduating class had participated in OCCC.

As we grew, we gained a reputation as a trailblazing organization that provides a critical service to children in the summer. Everything we do is built on the evidence that quality time with caring adults is the best foundation we can give our children to build resilience and the tools for success in life.

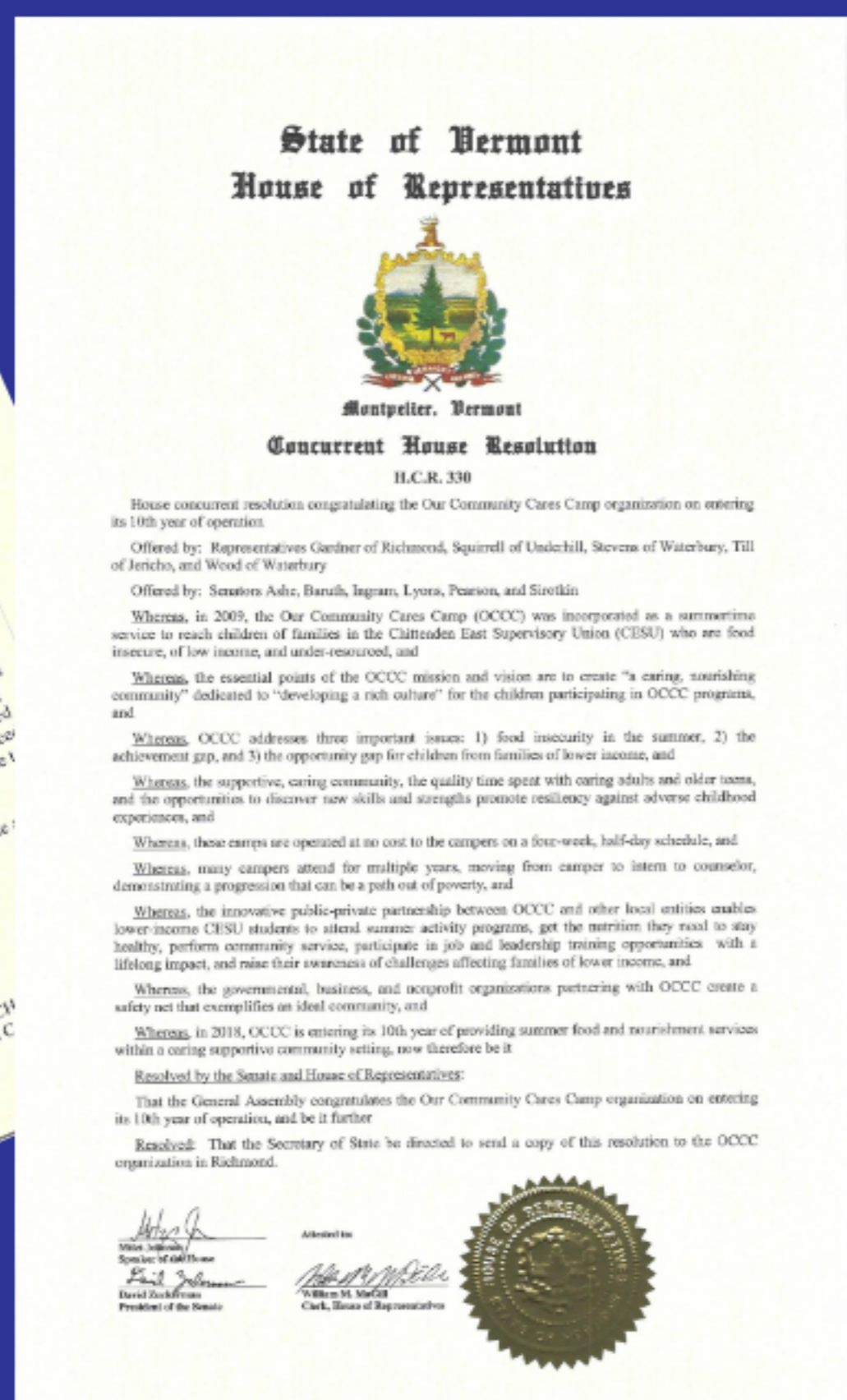
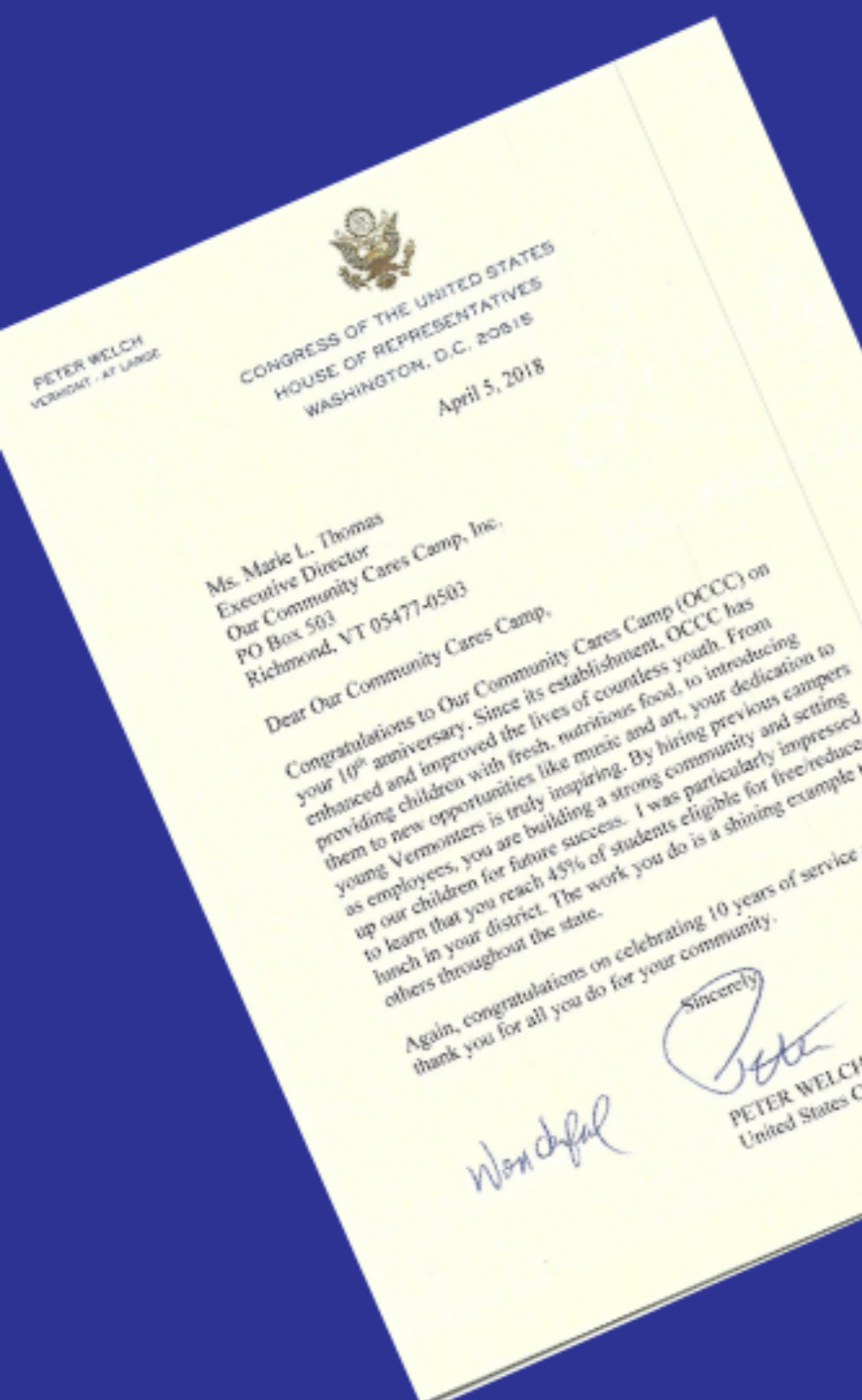
We're proud to partner with Chittenden East Supervisory Union (CESU) to reach as many children as possible with summer food and activities. As partners, we've seen kids improve their nutrition, behavior, and social skills in camp, school, and throughout the community.

This year, the state legislature passed a resolution congratulating OCCC on 10 years of feeding kids and closing the opportunity gap. We received letters of commendation from Gov. Phil Scott, Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman, and US Representative Peter Welch. One of our former counselors, Elizabeth Morris, is now on Peter's staff, working to help lift families out of poverty. Other former counselors are now doctors, nurses, and teachers. Still others have pledged to bring the spirit of a caring community to wherever their professional lives bring them. I am very proud of all of our former campers, interns, and counselors who know what it takes to be a member of a community.

I plan to retire as OCCC's director after the 2019 season. My priority now is on ensuring OCCC's sustainability and financial health. Over the years I've been awestruck and grateful for the generous support of our community members and foundations. I'd like to encourage our donors to become monthly donors: being able to count on regular contributions helps stabilize our finances, which allows our skilled staff to keep the focus on creating opportunities for kids.

When you give to OCCC, you see a return on your investment in the form of happier children who are effective and engaged citizens. Thank you to everyone who has supported OCCC in any and every way over our first decade. When we band together to care for our kids, we strengthen our community for all of us.

Marie Thomas
Executive Director



"From providing children with fresh, nutritious food, to introducing them to new opportunities like music and art, your dedication to young Vermonters is truly inspiring. By hiring previous campers as employees, you are building a strong community and setting up our children for future success . . . The work you do is a shining example to others throughout the state."

Peter Welch
US Congress

The state resolution honoring OCCC and commendation letters from Rep. Welch, Gov. Scott, and Lt. Gov. Zuckerman. Read the full text of these letters at ourcommunitycarescamp.org.

OUR VALUES

NUTRITION COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY DISCOVERY ENCOURAGEMENT EMPOWERMENT

OCCC provides nutritious meals, fun, enrichment, and confidence to kids in Richmond, Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, and Underhill.

Our mission is to create a caring, nourishing community for Chittenden East children where every child can find success.

Our vision is to develop a rich culture of community that includes health, safety, happiness, gratitude, and citizenship that the campers carry with them throughout their lives.



OUR PROGRAMS

FREE SUMMER DAY CAMP WITH TWO NUTRITIOUS MEALS PER DAY

Our Community Cares Camp serves day campers ages 5-11.

Leadership Adventure Camp helps 12-14 year old campers dive deeper into interests and life skills.

INTERNSHIP AND COUNSELOR PROGRAMS PROVIDE JOBS AND JOB TRAINING

Our internship program gives 14-16 year olds a volunteer experience as junior counselors or culinary interns.

Paid counselors are ages 16 and older. Most of our staff and interns are students or graduates of Mount Mansfield Union School District.

FOOD PROGRAM REACHES KIDS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

Not all vulnerable children in our community attend camp. We work with community partners to bring summer meals to these kids, too.

Our partners include Chittenden East Supervisory Union, Jericho Rec, public libraries, and others.

Between our camps and these partnerships, at least 45% of community kids eligible for free/reduced lunch have access to summer meals through OCCC.

OUR IMPACT IN 2018



We served **7,028 meals** to campers and, with our partners, kids throughout the community



We enrolled **120 campers** in OCCC (grades k-6) and Leadership Adventure Camp (grades 7-8)



We hired **24 interns and 41 staff**, most of whom are MMU students and graduates



26 of MMU's graduating seniors, or **15% of the class**, attended or worked at OCCC

CAMPER SURVEY RESULTS

This summer, we surveyed our campers about their OCCC experiences. Here's what we learned:

21% tried a new food

58% learned a new game

65% tried a new activity

76% made a new friend

FAVORITE ACTIVITIES

- fort building
- puzzles
- music
- art
- cooking
- ball games
- field trips
- Legos
- rock climbing
- group games

I thought I knew what a summer camp was all about. Coming to OCCC, I was blown away by the support that staff showed one another. Counselors worked as a team and respected one another at all times.

Another significant difference was the approach in which counselors treated the campers, always making sure to speak calmly and remain positive. It was astonishing to see how that affected the campers, because it really did work and created positive behavior changes.

COUNSELOR



A PORTRAIT OF THE OCCC COMMUNITY



STRESSES
OUR KIDS
FACE

HowardCenter tracked the family stressors faced by students served by school services clinicians within CESU. These kids are exactly the ones OCCC works to support.

Among HowardCenter's findings:

- 70% have experienced trauma
- 60% have families experiencing financial stress
- 35% are affected by substance use disorder
- 37% aren't being raised by their biological parents
- 33% are affected by family violence
- 25% are housing insecure
- 22% are food insecure



OUR
COUNSELORS:
RAISING
LEADERS

Max Eriksson (left), a beloved OCCC counselor now college-bound, wrote about his camp experience in his admission essay. An excerpt:

"At the end of the summer I was amazed by how much the kids had grown throughout the four weeks and the connection I had with each of them. Since that first summer with OCCC, my role at camp has changed and I have been given more responsibility. In addition to being a counselor, with my own campers, now I have the privilege of training the new interns."



"OCCC has been monumental in my life . . . I have also gained valuable life skills and created connections that will last my whole life. OCCC has made me realize how important helping my community is to my identity."



CHITTENDEN
EAST: ONE OF
OUR AWESOME
PARTNERS

CESU provides OCCC with transportation and space at Camel's Hump Middle School. In exchange, OCCC supports summer school students with food and access to OCCC's resources.

"The OCCC and Chittenden East relationship is the type of non-profit/school partnership that is realizing success around the country," said CESU Superintendent John Alberghini, Vermont's 2018 Superintendent of the Year. *"OCCC's summer opportunities have the potential to reduce or eliminate the achievement gap within the Chittenden East Supervisory Union."*



10 YEARS OF
FOOD AND
CARE

In 2018, OCCC celebrated 10 years of camp, good food, fun, and care. We marched in the Richmond Fourth of July parade, held a family fun day at the end of camp, and hosted a storytelling anniversary event in September to celebrate.



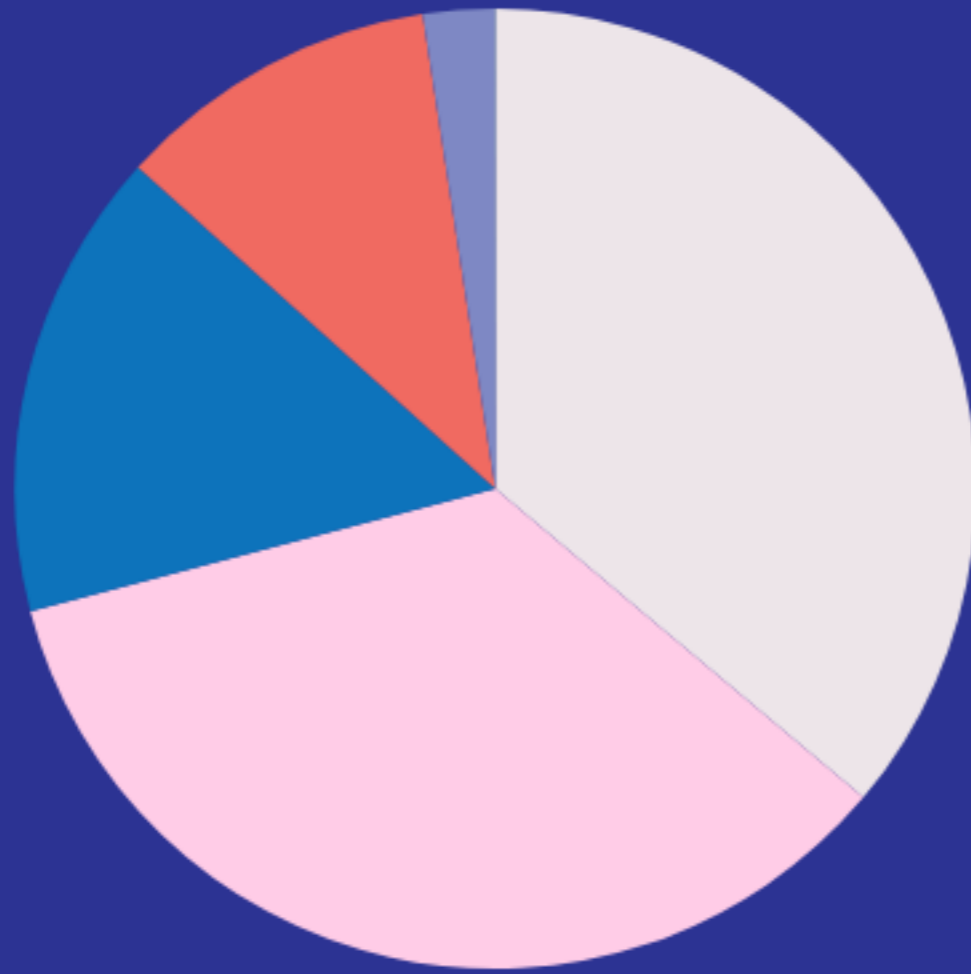
As Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman said in his letter of congratulations, *"Over the last decade you have changed the lives of thousands of children by providing them with healthy meals, exposing them to the arts, and, most importantly, providing a safe and caring environment for them to grow."*

OCCC LEADERSHIP

Marie Thomas, Executive Director
 Mark Carbone, President
 Mike Dooling, Vice President
 Connie van Eeghen, Secretary
 Linda Parent, Treasurer
 Karen Clark
 Alicia DiCocco
 Mary O'Neil

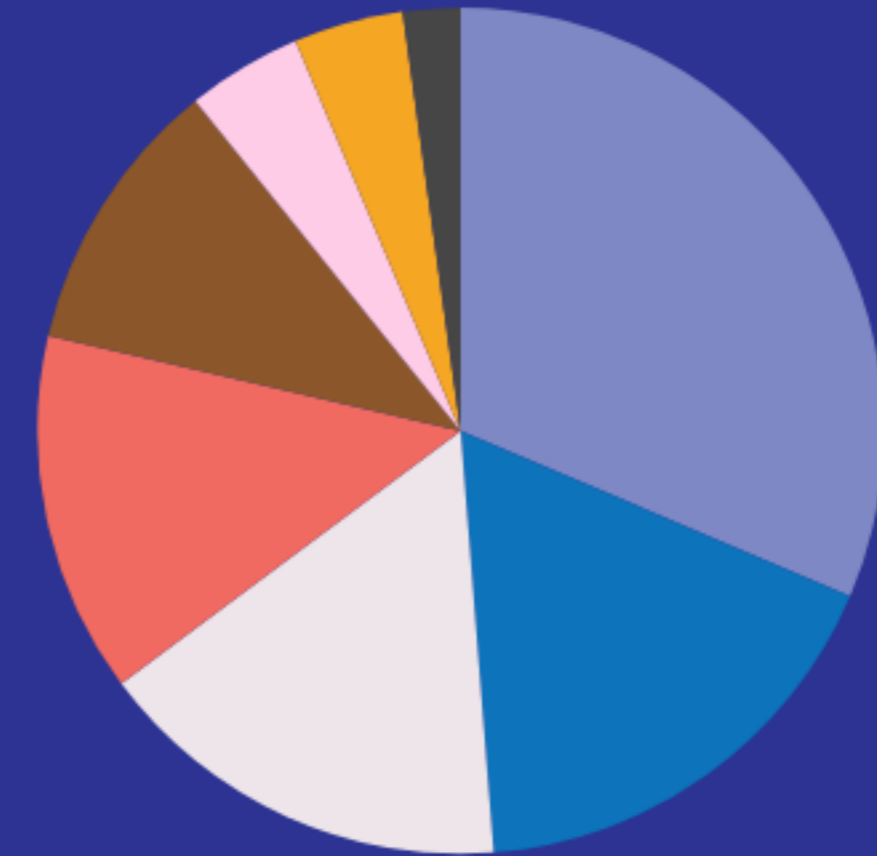


FUNDING \$131,959



- Unrestricted gifts (36.13%) ■ Grants (34.77%)
- Donated goods & services (15.77%)
- Restricted gifts (10.92%) ■ Lunch sales (2.38%)
- Other income (0.03%)

EXPENSES \$134,046



- OCCC day camp (31.40%)
- Food program- Richmond .. (17.35%)
- Food program- Jericho (16.05%) ■ Administration (13.80%)
- LAC day camp (10.62%) ■ Music & art (4.40%)
- Fundraising (4.19%) ■ Staff & intern training (2.19%)

PITCH IN!



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ourcommunitycarescamp.org



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