

Town of Richmond

Request for Special Appropriations

Request for Fiscal Year: 2023

Organization's Name: Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC)
Address: PO Box 503
City, State, Zip: Richmond, VT 05477
Website address: www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Program Name: Our Community Cares Camp

2. Contact Person/Title: Susanne Parent

Telephone Number: (802) 318-3449

E-mail address: occcvt@gmail.com

3. Total number of individuals served in the last complete fiscal year by this program: 78 Campers, 12 Counselors, 15 Jr. Counselors, and 11 Staff .

4. Total number of the above individuals who are Town residents: 31 Campers, 3 Counselors, 4 Jr. Counselors, and 3 Staff.

Percent of people served who are Town residents: 40% Campers, 25% Counselors, 27% Jr. Counselors, and 27% Staff.

Please, attach any documentation that supports this number.

5. Amount of Request: \$3,000

6. Total Program Budget: \$ 151,278.00

Percent of total program budget you are requesting from the Town of Richmond:
1.98 %.

7. Please state or attach the mission of your agency:

Our Mission is to create a caring, nourishing community 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. We provide a free summer food and an enriching camp experience for underserved and at-risk Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District children and youth.

8. Funding will be used to:

- Maintain an existing program
 Expand an Existing Program
 Start a new program

9. Has your organization received funds from the Town in the past for this or a similar program? Yes

If yes, please answer the following:

- a. Does the amount of your request represent an increase over your previous appropriation? If yes, explain the reason(s) for the increase.

No

- b. Were any conditions or restrictions placed on the funds by the Selectboard? No
If yes, describe how those conditions or restrictions have been met.
-
-

B. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1. Statement of Need: Identify the issue or need that the program will address (use statistical data to justify the need for the program). To what extent does this need, or problem exist in the Town of Richmond.

Funds will support underserved or at-risk children and youth in the MMUUSD. We provide free meals and enriching camp experiences and focus specifically on social emotional learning and trauma responsive practices. Approximately 45% of MMUUSD children receive free or reduced lunch. Some campers came with high needs: four campers attended who attend non-mainstream classrooms and five campers attended with their district-provided 1:1 support personnel. This year we also had the highest number of homeless children we have ever had attend. The caring, safe and supportive community camp feel attracts a high population of LGBTQ youth who are able to express their authentic selves. According to the YRBS, 13% of HS and 9% of the MMUUSD population identify as LGBTQ+. The Leadership Adventure Camp is a way for youth to learn transferable life skills such as basic job skills, reinforcing self-esteem and leadership skills. We have a high return rate, 53/78 returned, and 8 of the 13 counselors had previously been campers. OCCC has proven to be essential to families, especially during COVID-19.

2. Program Summary:

- a. Identify the target/recipients of program services. Specify the number of Town residents your program will serve during the fiscal year and explain the basis upon which this number is calculated. Indicate any eligibility requirements your program has with respect to age, gender, income or residence.

OCCC serves at-risk and underserved children and youth ages K-12th grade. Camp takes place during the month of July and is free of charge to anyone who has a hardship. We coordinate with MMUUSD so children have better access to summer services and provide transportation to help families. We offer half day camp and provide breakfast, lunch, field trips, enrichment activities in the arts, music, biking, cooking and more. Of the 78 campers, 31 were from Richmond.

Counselors are typically high school students from the MMUUSD, and 8 of the 13 counselors were from Richmond.

- b. Identify what is to be accomplished or what change will occur from participating in the program. How will people be better off as a result of participating in the program? Describe the steps you take to make the project known to the public, and make the program accessible and inclusive?

The pandemic has certainly changed the landscape of school and after a year of a strict protocol with lots of unexpected changes and fewer options to engage in the classrooms, it was evident that the children were craving the positive and fun interactions that summer and camp brings. Our Community Cares Camp was an essential opportunity for children and youth to have these field trips, art projects, musical moments, and just plain old fun! They continued learning how to navigate their social and emotional interactions while having fun: a win-win! As with any organization in uncertain times, we have to flexibly set our next goals and identify the areas we need to improve. However, 2021 was encouraging for us in that even through global pandemics, our essential services mattered and changed the lives of children and families in the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District.

Our Community Cares Camp works closely with school principals and guidance counselors to identify students who will benefit from this service and provide support for their applications to the camps. We also promote the camp through social media, our website, Front Porch Forum, and local newspapers. Additionally, we have former staff and participants positioned at tables during community events throughout the year to reach potential donors, families and campers. OCCC has worked hard over the past 12 years to have a public appearance whenever possible. We will continue to market through the campaigns we host each year and are moving towards using more social media to share our services with the community.

3. Program Funding:

- a. Identify how Town funds, specifically, will be used (i.e., funds will provide "X" amount of units of service.)

Our cost per camper for four weeks of camp in 2020 was \$1098. The requested funds of \$3,000 will about cover the cost of three Richmond campers. Which is about 10% of the cost needed to cover the costs of 35 Richmond Campers.

- b. List the other agencies to whom you are submitting a request for funds for this program and the amount requested. How would this program be modified should revenues be lost?

We are submitting requests to the other 4 towns served by OCCC to assist with the operational infrastructure costs. OCCC also receives funding from the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District as well as their in-kind donation for building use of Camels Hump Middle School. OCCC will continue to submit grant applications to several philanthropic organizations - mostly private foundations, soliciting donations from individuals and businesses - and sponsor several

fundraising events each year. Additionally, OCCC receives a reimbursement from the USDA for summer food served which helps to support the food program.

C. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

1. Describe your agency's capability to provide the program including its history, previous experience providing this service, management structure and staff expertise.

OCCC has been a staple of the Richmond community for the past eleven years and has grown incrementally each year in the number of students it serves, feeds, and nourishes for four weeks during the summer. Throughout this time, stability and staff structure has been a critical growth area for the organization. Under the direction of the Executive Director, there are kitchen leads, and lead counselors that run the programs and have been trained to operate using standard operating procedures in a safe and effective way. Within the programs, leaders and staff are cross-trained to avoid any disruptions should staffing changes occur. Please see the attached Annual Report for further details.

2. How will you assess whether/how program participants are better off? Describe how you will assess program outcomes. Your description should include: what (what kind of data), how (method/tool for collecting the data), from whom (source of data) and when (timing of data collection).

We conduct annual surveys of participants, families and staff that are given and collected after camp. We survey our campers and collect data on their actual camp day by asking them, every day, 5 questions about their day. We also connect with principals and staff throughout the year and assess how the program has worked for their students. Please see our annual report and the attached document about the number of meals served and other statistics. This year, 35 (17%) of MMU's 199 graduating class Seniors were associated with OCCC.

3. Summarize or attach program and or service assessments conducted in the past two years.

Please see attached report.

4. Does your organization have a strategic plan and a strategic planning process in place? No - If yes, please attach your plan.

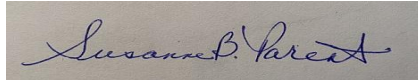
The strategic plan should include a mission statement, goals, steps to achieve the goals, and measures that assess the accomplishments of the goals.

The pandemic, lack of resources, and leadership/board decision has postponed our development of a strategic plan. It is a goal of our organization and the board to begin the development of a strategic plan in FY22-23.

5. What is the authorized size of your board of directors? 5-9 members
How many meetings were held by the board last year? 11

I, the undersigned, confirm the information contained herein is accurate and can be verified as such. I understand and agree that if the requested funds are approved, the disbursement of funds are subject to all conditions established by the Richmond Selectboard.

Signature of Applicant

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susanne B. Parent".

Date 10 - 4 - 2021

Susanne B. Parent, Executive Director
Print Name of Applicant and Title

All Programs		Administration	Fundraising	Food Richmond	LAC	Music, Art, Science, Cooking	OCCC	Staff and Intern	Racial Equity	TOTAL
Income										
	Donated Goods and Services - In Kind			2,000	400	600	1,600			4,600
	Grants		60,000							60,000
	Other Income									0
	Unrestricted Contributions		80,000							80,000
	Restricted		10,000							10,000
	Total Income	0	150,000	2,000	400	600	1,600	0	0	154,600
Expense										
	Administration									
	Advertising	400								400
	Bank Charges and Fees	300								300
	Books, Subscriptions, Reference	150								150
	Business Registration Fees									0
	In kind expenses admin									0
	Insurance	2,238					3,050			5,288
	Other Costs								2,000	2,000
	Postage, Mailing Service		1,500							1,500
	Professional Fees									0
	Accounting Fees	2,000								2,000
	Outside Contracted Services	500								500
	Telephone, Telecommunications	150								150
	Total Professional Fees	2,650								2,650
	Total Administration	5,738	1,500				3,050		2,000	12,288
	Fundraising Expenses		500							500
	Program Expenses									
	In-kind expenses			2,000	400	600	1,600			4,600
	Supplies		4,000	800	300	600	1,200			6,900
	Food			10,000				500		10,500
	Transportation/Field Trips				1,000		3,000			4,000
	Mileage			25	100	25	400			550
	Professional Development							500		500
	Other									0
Payroll										
	Payroll Expenses									
	Payroll Processing fee	1,500								1,500
	Payroll Tax		1,671	800	888	544	4,240			8,144
	Salaries		20,892	10,000	11,100	6,804	53,000			101,796
	COVID Sick									
	FFCRA Credit									
	COVID Sick - Other									
	Total COVID Sick									
	Salaries - Other									
	Total Salaries		22,563	10,800	11,988	7,348	57,240			109,940
	Payroll Expense - Other									
	Total Payroll Expense									
	Program Expenses - Other									
	Total Program Expenses		26,563	23,625	13,788	8,573	63,440	1,000	0	136,990
	Reconciliation Discrepancies									
	Total Expense	7,238	28,563	23,625	13,788	8,573	66,490	1,000	2,000	151,278
	Net Ordinary Income	-\$7,238	\$121,437	-\$21,625	-\$13,388	-\$7,973	-\$64,890	-\$1,000	-\$2,000	\$3,322



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Jana Brown~Asher Carfaro~Connie van Eeghan~Samuel Empie~Jessica Johnson~Tim Kane~Alicia Mead~Kyle Silliman-Smith



2021 Our Community Cares Camp Report

Our Community Cares Camp, Inc. (OCCC) successfully completed its 12th year of operation! We serve at-risk and underserved children and youth for the five towns in the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District including Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill. Our Mission is to create a caring, nourishing community 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. We provide healthy meals, enriching activities, and have highly qualified staff working alongside our campers. We pride ourselves on the amount of returning campers we have each year, and many come back as older youth to be counselors and staff. Additionally, 35 (17%) of MMU's 199 graduating Seniors in June 2021 were associated by OCCC. Despite any challenges and unpredictable changes that came with COVID-19 and 2021 in general, we stayed true to our mission and provided the quality, enriching, and caring camp that we do each year!

During the late winter and early spring, we had several conversations with MMUUSD regarding their summer model to coordinate logistics between both of our needs. The State of Vermont and the school system were granted some COVID-19 funding to assist students with academics during the summer. We opened additional spots for our middle school age campers and partnered with MMUUSD to allow elementary-aged campers to also receive tutoring services next door at Richmond Elementary School. Because the MMUU School District held in-person summer services, this meant our campers were able to access transportation to and from camp which is a barrier for some families. We operated with our traditional camp model of Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm and were able to hold space for a total of 85 campers.

A challenge we faced was that OCCC was not allowed to use the cafeteria at Camel's Hump Middle School because it was being used for storage for other summer projects around the building. We also had COVID-19 restrictions. This meant we could not operate our typical served meals program, so we adjusted, and packaged individual breakfasts and lunches for each camper. Our menu was packed full of fresh and healthy meals, and every meal was served with fresh fruit and/or vegetables. "Made from scratch blueberry muffins," local Cabot and Shelburne Farms cheddar cheese, whole grain pasta and wraps, pizza from locally sourced dough, and organic yogurt fruit parfaits are among some of the delicious options. As always, campers could always have seconds of any meal. We also provided meals for the RES Summer Extended School Year Program, Pre-school, and Part2. Our goal was met - no one went hungry! One of our main goals was to provide meals for our own campers this year. Between feeding all the children participating at Richmond Elementary School and at OCCC we served 2272 meals (breakfast and lunch)! A huge improvement compared to no meals served last year.

Social-Emotional Learning and Mental Health were a major focus of this year's camp and we intentionally planned programming based on these concepts. The staff received excellent training at the beginning and during camp from a school clinician from Howard Mental Health and the First Call organization. The staff were able to ask many questions and found this very valuable. We had to navigate more complex needs and behavioral challenges; four campers attended OCCC who are unable to attend mainstream classrooms and five campers attended with their district-provided 1:1 support personnel.



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This year we also had the highest number of homeless children we have ever had. There was also one young adult with disabilities who attends and participates each year and is now mentored as a junior counselor.

We also worked with the school district to help campers attend ESY and/or COVID-19 recovery tutoring during the camp day because we recognize that it can be challenging for parents to get their children the school for just an hour or two a day. We did find, however, that it was very disruptive to the camper who had to leave their fun activity for tutoring, so next year we are considering returning to a regular camp day for elementary children and continuing with the tutor/camper model for the middle school as we have historically done. Smaller groups, or rather, micro-groups with only a few students, seem to be the most effective way to keep our campers engaged and manage any emotional or behavioral issues that happen. Many of our staff are counselors who are often teenagers and are at a developmental stage where they are still learning how to navigate their own needs and interactions with others. We recognize this and our continued need to bolster our training in teaching skills in social-emotional learning and teaching, and trauma-responsive approaches.

We had the Local Motion Bike Program for one week and this was very exciting for the campers! Some of our more behaviorally challenged campers found their most successful moments in small biking groups, exploring and riding the trails in the woods with their counselors. Children's Literacy Foundation, CLiF, made their annual attendance at camp for stories and free book give-a-ways which are always well received. We were also lucky to have a Vermont State Police K9 demo this summer. Even with the poor rainy weather throughout July, we managed some field trips to Underhill Pond, Mills River Park, the Audubon in Huntington, Maple Street Park in Essex Junction, and a playground in Hinesburg. We were fortunate to attract a nutrition student from UVM to volunteer at our camp this summer. She helped energize campers by cooking and assisting them in making healthy and fun snacks. We held our second annual "Chopped Competition," and the campers just absolutely love this food activity!

Our Art program exploded this year, and the campers could not get enough hands-on crafts and activities! We have a very talented and highly qualified Art Director who ensured that each day many different textiles and a variety of materials were made available to create multi-media artwork. There were activities for all ages and included Perler beads, regular beads, embroidery floss for friendship bracelets, etc. There was even some time for the Art Director to provide some college-level drafting instruction to a new First Year Art Jr. Counselor (10th Grader). The high school Sophomore was excited to learn something new and has a natural aptitude! Other supplies were used for making the ever-popular cardboard forts. Our Campers NEVER tire of this activity! Each group had themed weeks of Pirates, Superhero Training, Medieval Times, and they all made forts related to their theme which resulted in a pirate ship, castle, "leap over" tall buildings, and more!

Camper enrollment increased this year by 42% and we served a total of 78 children from Jericho (5), Huntington (22), Bolton (20), and Richmond (31). We did not have any youth attend from Underhill this year. Of these children, 25 of them were new (32%) and 53 of them were returning (68%). We had a total of 38 people who supported this year's camp as either a junior counselor, counselor, or staff member. There were 13 Counselors which made up 62% of the total staff. Eight of these counselors had previously been campers themselves! Employees represented all five MMUUSD towns and other Vermont



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communities, too. We are lucky to have incredible junior counselors and town volunteers who helped with mailing and other tasks which amounted to 1151 total volunteer hours. Full-year staff increased this year, too, as we shifted our organizational structure and added a Development Coordinator to our team. This position was created to help seek grant opportunities, expand community connections, and market the organization in new ways.

Camper and family feedback is important to us, and we make it a priority to survey everyone to see where we do well, how we help the most, and ways that we can make changes to improve for the benefit of all. We surveyed families at the end of camp and received quite a few wonderful reviews that just thanked us for our hard work and continued efforts to make this camp the best it can be, and for providing an essential service to the families. We surveyed our campers and collected some data on their actual camp day. Our goal was to ask each camper every day five different questions:

1. Did you make a new friend?
2. Did you try new food?
3. Did you play a new game or activity?
4. Did you create an art project?
5. Did you learn a new song or try a new instrument?

Overall, we confirmed what we already know - art, food, music, games, and friendship matter across all ages and hands-on activities provide the best outlet for our children and youth. Sometimes data collection was skewed if campers were asked at the end of the day and we missed some who had already left, or others were at tutoring when the group was surveyed, or a day was missed. Some interesting data points are that campers were least likely to try a new food, but most likely to create an art project. Every day except a few, every group had someone who made a new friend. The valuable information that we learned from all the feedback gathered will help us plan next year's camp.

The pandemic has certainly changed the landscape of school and after a year of a strict protocol with lots of unexpected changes and fewer options to engage in the classrooms, it was evident that the children were craving the positive and fun interactions that summer and camp brings. Our Community Cares Camp was essential for children and youth to have these field trips, art projects, musical moments, and just plain old fun! They continued learning how to navigate their social and emotional interactions while having fun which is a win-win! Like any organization, we certainly have our next goals to set and know the areas we need to improve, but 2021 was encouraging for us. Even through global pandemics, our essential services matter and change the lives of children and families in the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District.



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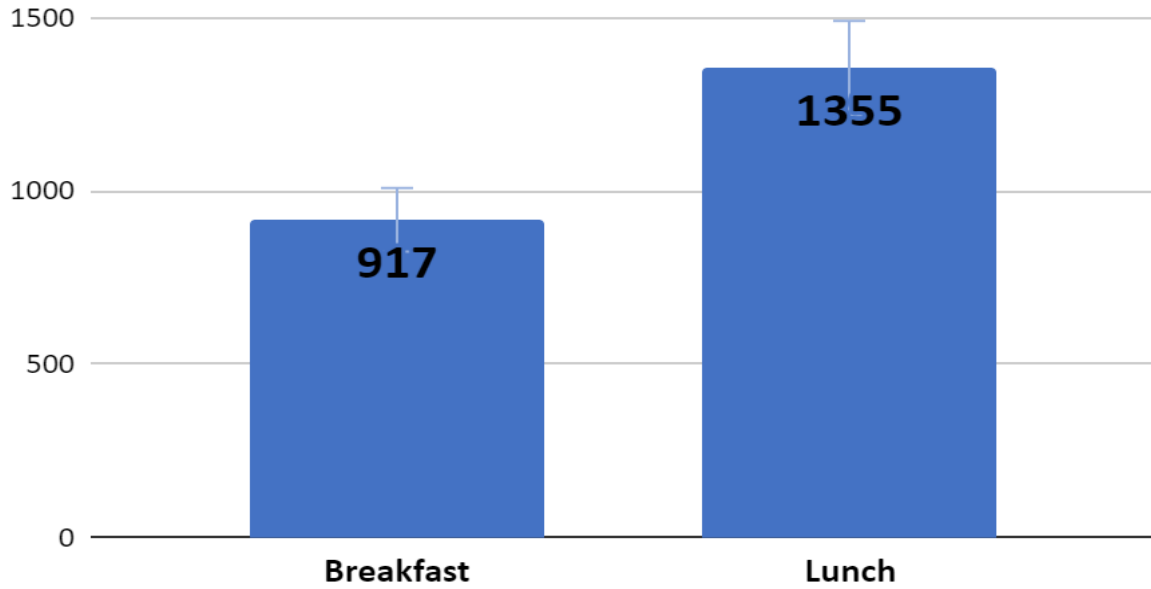
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2272 Total Meals Served





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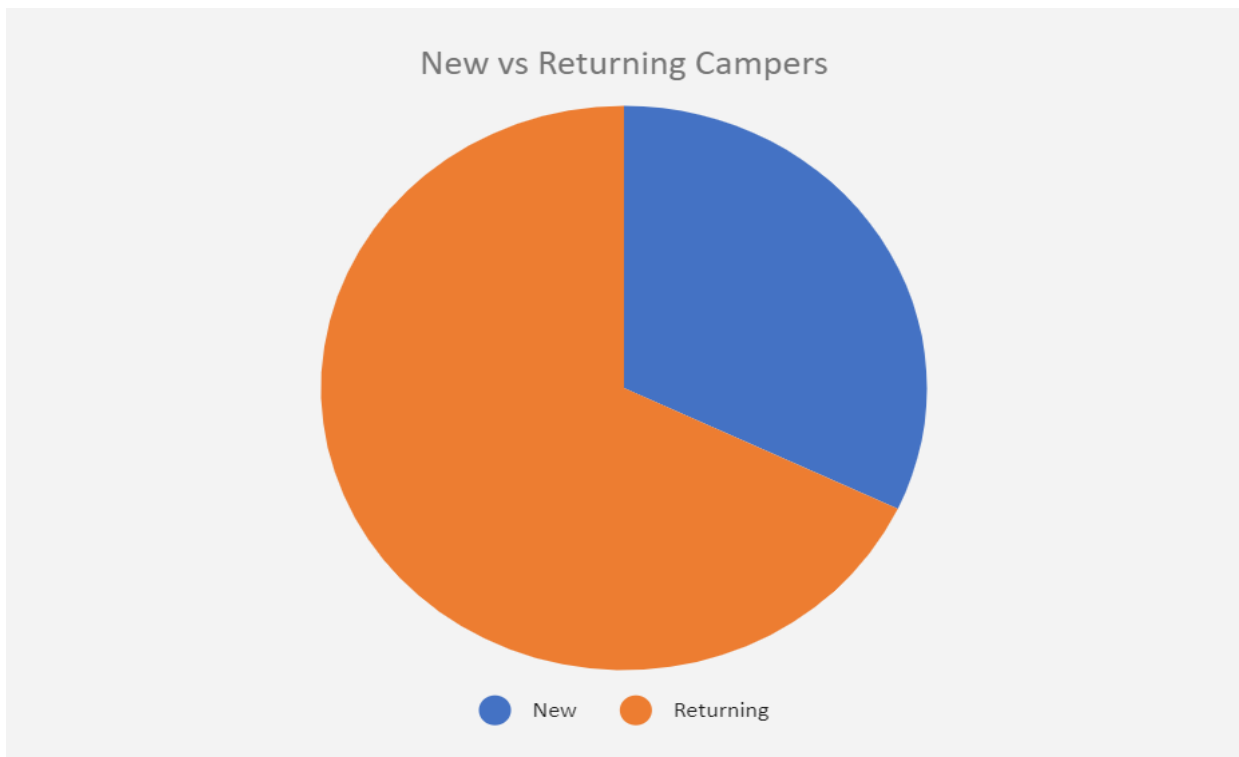
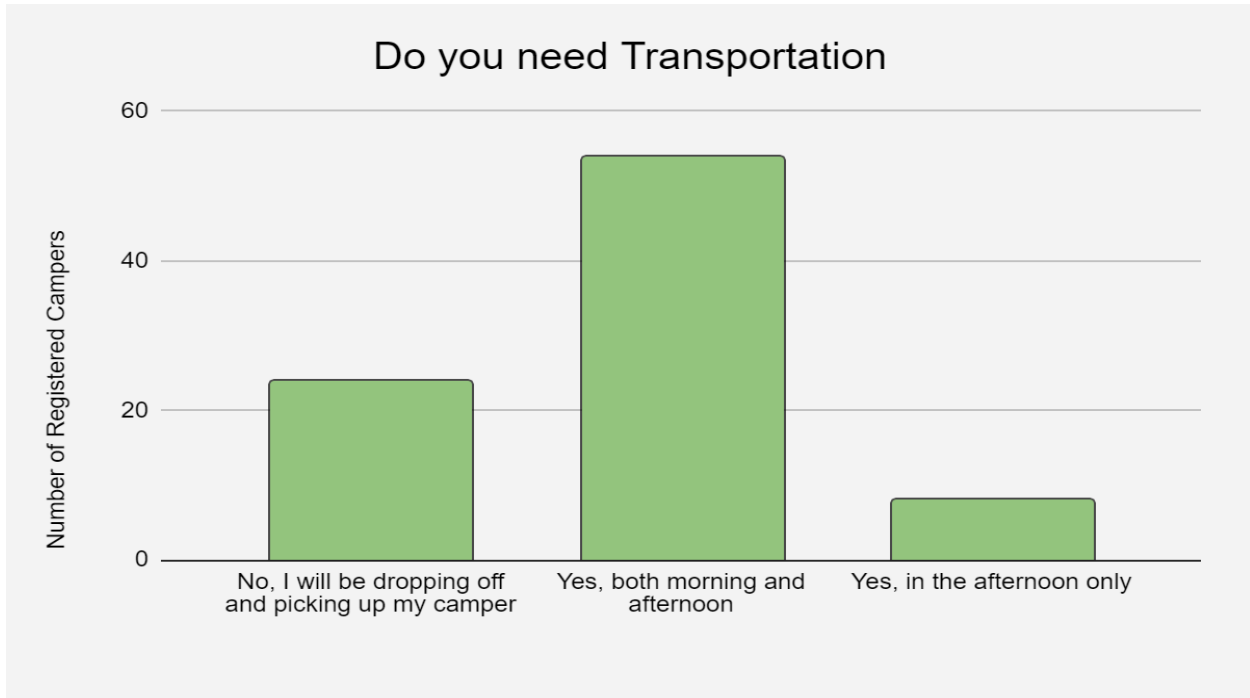
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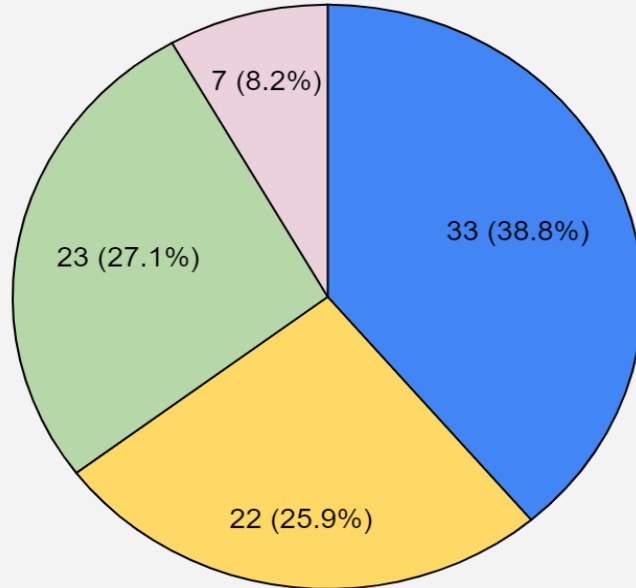
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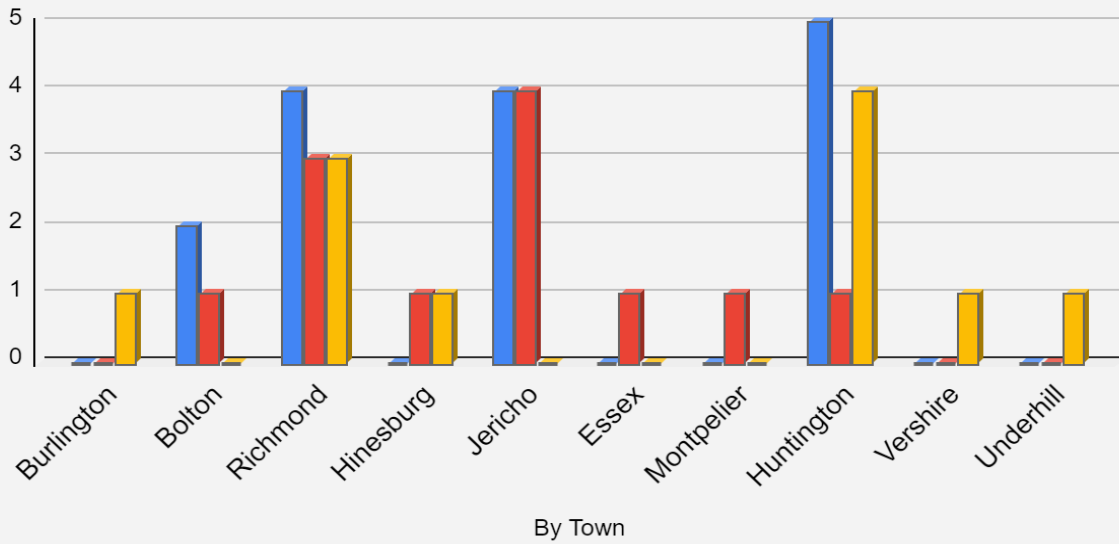
Number of Registered Campers by Town

- Richmond
- Bolton
- Huntington
- Jericho



Jr Counselors, Counselors and Staff

- Jr Counselors
- Counselors
- Staff





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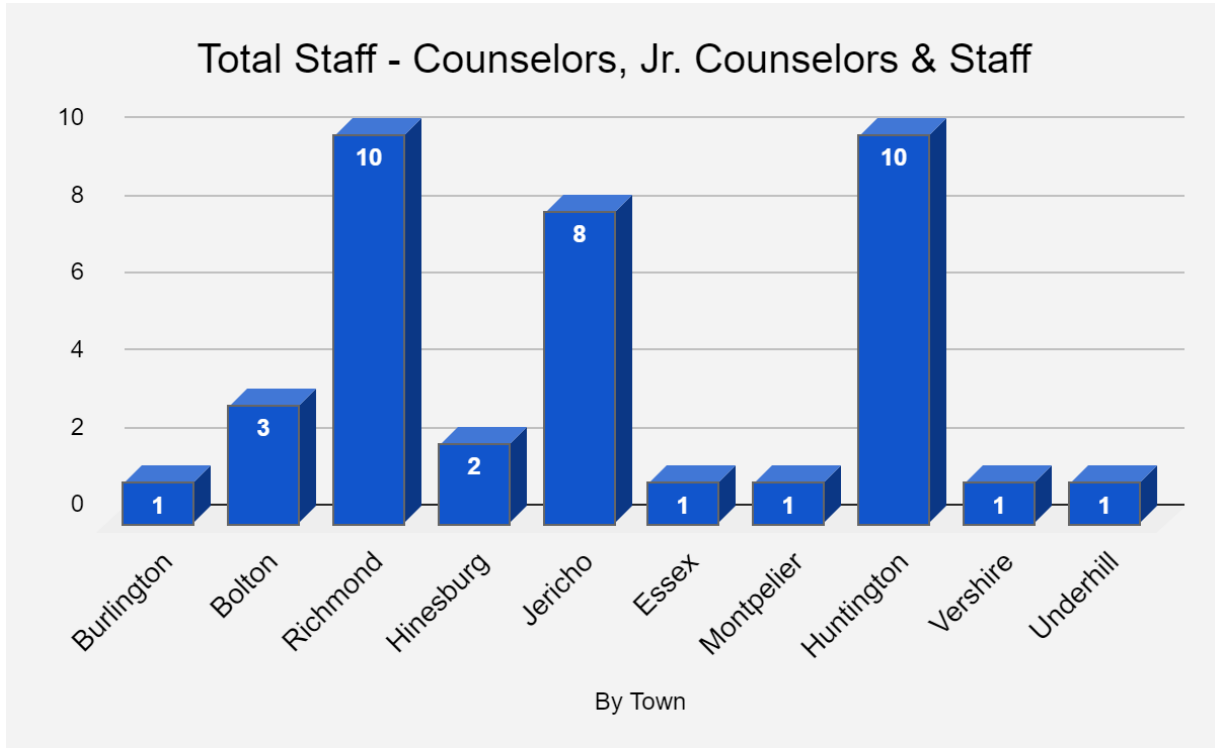
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2020 Our Community Cares Camp Report

Summer Food Program and Enrichment Camp MMUUSD

Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, Underhill

Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC), INC has completed our 11th year. We are a summer food and enrichment program for lower-income and high needs youth. Our camp made an impact on our communities again this summer, although in a different way. This was in no way a typical year. We are in the midst of a global pandemic. The novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, causes the highly transmitted infectious illness called COVID-19, which directly impacted our camp in many ways.

The end of April brought a new Executive Director to OCCC - Susanne Parent. At that time, Vermont was under a State of Emergency declared by our Governor Phil Scott. A Directive issued - Stay Home, Stay Safe to help quell the rising numbers of people affected with COVID-19 and to help Vermonters of all ages stay safe. OCCC's commitment to meet the needs of our community continues throughout. Our Community Cares Camp wrote a new and living COVID-19 Protocol Manual, in accordance with the Vermont Department of Health, Vermont Agency of Education, Guidance for re-opening for summer camps, mandates from our Governor, and the CDC. The protocols were designed for the safety of campers, counselors, staff, community members, and people who worked during the summer in the Camps Hump Middle School building. By the beginning of June, there were still no clear answers from the Vermont Agency of Education regarding school building use over the summer.

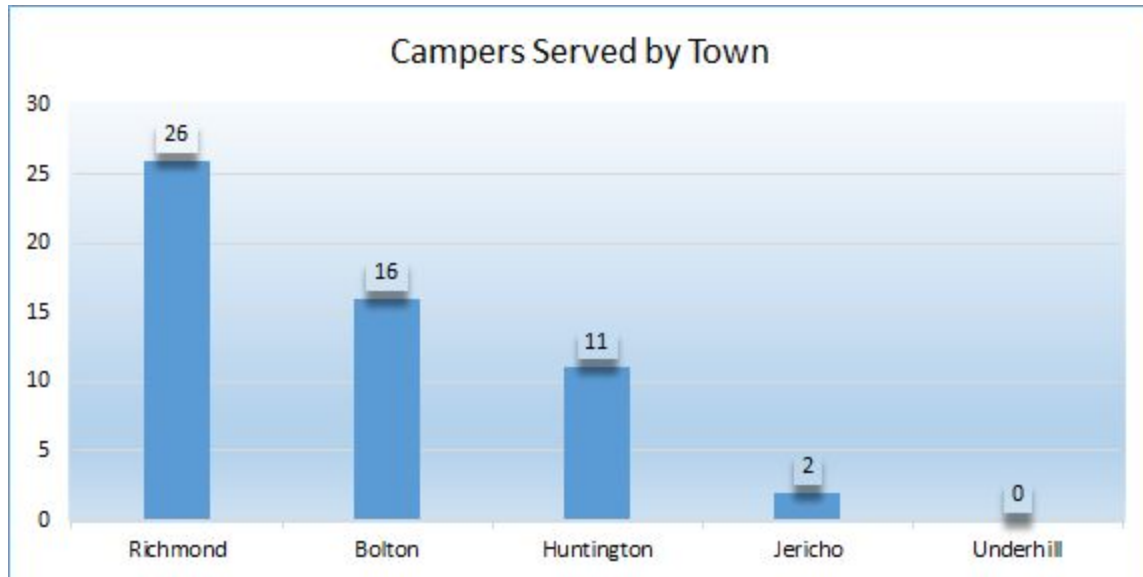
The sentiment from the community was supportive yet reluctant. Healthcare professionals were learning what it means to be safe during COVID for everyone. Scientific data showed that children ten years old and younger were at a much lower risk for contracting COVID-19 and that they could be asymptomatic carriers. Information from the Vermont Department of Health stated how the trauma of being away from school, teachers, and friends were adversely affecting children. As a result of all of this, the Vermont Department of Health issued strict guidance and stated that childcare and camps could reopen under these conditions.

After many conversations and meetings, MMUUSD agreed to let camps and childcare occur in their school buildings. There was a limit of 60 participants and many protocols and procedures to follow, from the state, school district, and specifically the administration of Camels Hump Middle School. This decision was made the third week in June. We had three weeks to move forward with the camp to start on July 6th. We were organizing how to meet to fulfill the State of Vermont's new mandated COVID-19 training for re-opening, camp training, communications with families, etc., all within three weeks while keeping everyone safe.

OCCC provided a camp for those who needed us most this summer. We hosted a physical camp that reached 55 children and 38 families. The 2020 OCCC group included 42 returning and 13 new campers. The choice to send youth to camp was very different then in the past, many families were not sure of the health risks. Campers who live with high risk family members, most commonly with Grandparents, and families who had created working strategies for being home in a pandemic gave up their OCCC spots. In the end, though OCCC had about half the in-person capacity as usual, many of the youth who need our program had access to it this year.

In addition to our in-person programming for youth, this year we added a virtual OCCC option for campers who could not be with us onsite. We offered Art, Music, Games, and Bookclub through a virtual zoom

platform two or more hours a day. In true OCCC fashion, we persisted in meeting an essential need in our community in July 2020.



The OCCC program operated entirely differently. We were distanced to six feet - no piggyback rides or camper high-fives, and everyone wore masks inside the building. Much of our time was spent outside. Camels Hump Middle School generously set up tents for us to borrow to help ensure success with so much outside time.

The MMUUSD Special Services Department chose to have all extended school year services held remotely, with no in-person services. This resulted in no transportation to schools, thus no transportation for OCCC campers and families.

OCCC was able to pivot to accommodate essential workers and families. We changed our hours of operations from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm. We continued to operate four days a week. Every Friday morning, a team of four directors was in the building to do deep cleaning of each group's room.

Our Community Cares Camp served 55 campers from 38 families. Of these families, 31 were returning families and 42 returning campers. We still had room for 7 new families and 13 new campers.

Summer Food Program

Historically, OCCC operates six meal sites in partnership with the MMUU school district, Jericho Summer Recreation Program, and the Huntington Town library. In mid-June, the USDA provided blanket funding across the US to each state, allowing schools and communities to continue to provide meals - breakfast, lunch, and dinner to families. In our community, this service was provided through our district schools. The State of Vermont informed OCCC we could not operate our food programs this summer as it would be in direct conflict and competition with the schools. To obtain the Federal USDA funds, it mandates there cannot be two entities providing the same service on the same site. We could not run our food program. So, Browns River Middle School, Camels Hump Middle School, MMU, and Huntington, continued to provide breakfast and lunch to the community at large. CHMS provided breakfast and lunch at our camp.

OCCC supplemented Camels Hump offerings with healthy and nutritious snacks. We provided our campers with many locally sourced fruits and vegetables. OCCC was also fortunate to receive a donation of fresh cheddar cheese from Shelburne Farms. OCCC offered fresh-baked, made from scratch bread and pretzels from local King Arthur flour. Our campers enjoyed fresh raspberries donated by a resident. These raspberries were consumed as a fresh snack, offered as a made from scratch breakfast muffin or fruit smoothie, and a frozen treat. Our campers had fresh local blueberries from Owl Head Farm donated by a long-standing donor and campers parent. OCCC also offered fresh juicy cucumbers from VYCC, which were also enjoyed and as a variety of fresh pickles. OCCC also supported the local Richmond Market and Richmond Home supply with supplies needed for camp.

Enrichment Camp

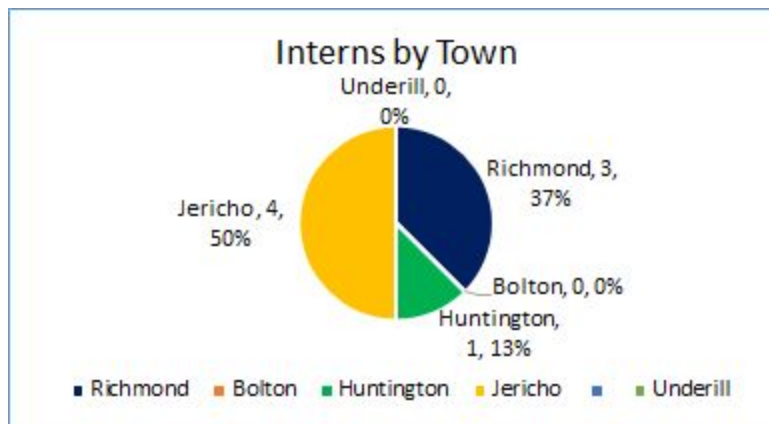
This year we operated as an enrichment camp. We altered regular games of tag to noodle-tag to stay distanced. We planned on having art and music under the tents. The Senior Staff and Directors were in constant communication making plans to do every day activities differently. Art and Music were modified as there was no travel in the building. During music, campers composed new songs and continued to explore and play instruments. OCCC welcomed a new art director to the program. There were many paint, textile, and craft projects created. We offered many of the campers' favorite activities; wall ball, basketball, and kickball. There was plenty of cardboard engineering, science exploration, and the popular rocket launching. Wildly popular this year was tennis, our newest outdoor activity. Jake led this from Kids on the Ball. OCCC was fortunate to be able to have our annual CLiF event. There was storytelling, and each camper was able to take home two new free books. OCCC invited Part 2 to participate in our CLiF event, and they received new books as well. OCCC took walking trips to the Volunteers Green as well as explored and had scavenger hunts in the outdoor classrooms behind RES and CHMS. There were several Themed Camp weeks - Potion and Slime Week, Medieval Week, and Spirit Week. Campers engineered an obstacle course, created castles and masks with paper mache. The month of July was recorded as one of the hottest on record. As such, there were many different outside water games and activities. There was a new 96-foot slip and slide and rainbow sprinkler. There were many water balloons, a talent show, and an end-of-day carnival with prizes on the final day. A parent stated, "My kids look forward to the camp every summer, this summer did not disappoint! As a parent, I was a little skeptical about how things; this still be fun with the restrictions, but wow it was amazing! My kids came home with smiles everyday!"

Our camp believes in nourishing the whole child. One parent commented, "the connections with counselors were so vital to our camper. He really needed outside people again." Purposely we have a low camper to counselor ratio to foster and develop meaningful relationships. Campers also meet and make new friends while enjoying new activities and gaining mastery of new skills. Embedded in our program is a rich culture of acceptance, support, encouragement, and empowerment.

With thoughtful planning, a caring and supportive community is created that extends through all organizational levels. This accepting community is reflected with a large number of returning campers each year, campers who become interns, and counselors. Many young teens participate in our camp with their friends rather than choosing to stay at home. A quote from a camper; what was the best part about going to OCCC? The response, "Everything!"

Job Training and Employment

Interns/Counselors in training



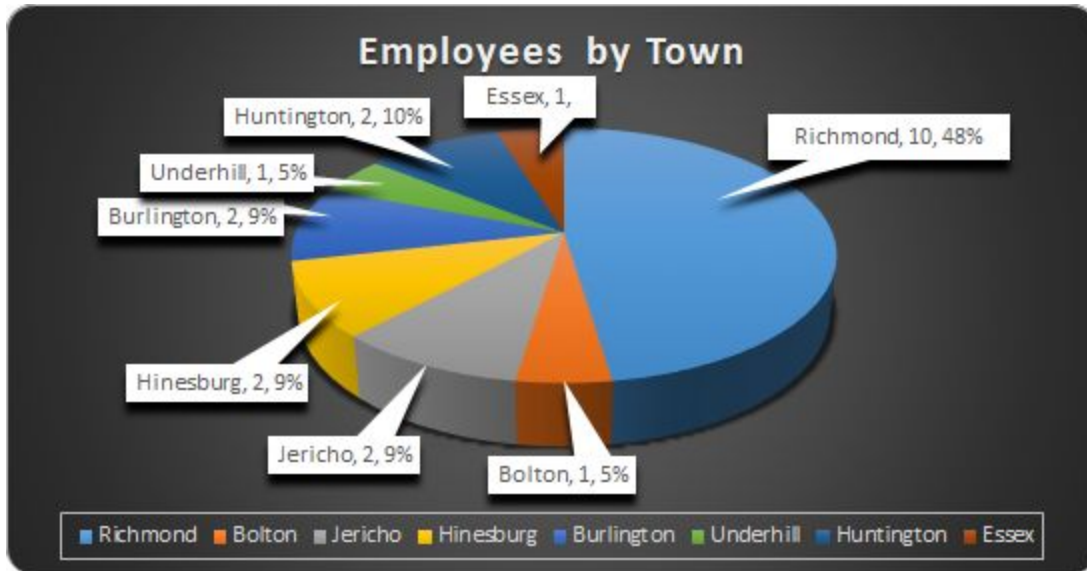
Not only does Our Community Cares Camp provide enriching activities for campers, we also provide opportunities to all grade levels in our district through our camps and staff development. This year, OCCC had 960 volunteer hours from eight Interns! Of these 8 Interns/Counselors in training, five were returning, and three were new. The Interns came from the towns of Jericho, Richmond, and Huntington.

We are teaching lifelong employment skills and habits. OCCC offers a safe and successful, on the job training program and coaching for Interns/Counselors in training. They are mentored in each camp group by counselors, whom many were campers and Interns themselves. Interns/Counselors in training develop confidence and leadership skills working with peers and campers. One camper stated, " the best part of OCCC is playing games with counselors."

Interns/Counselors in training learn strategies for managing activities, time management, building positive communication practices, and problem-solving skills. Counselors and Directors communicate to Interns their strengths and show them how to build their skills. Interns learn how to set goals and identify steps to achieve their goals. One of this program's designs is to help Interns and Counselors establish essential practices for the framework to be successful in the future workforce.

Paid Staff

Our paid staff are individuals aging from 16 years old and up. Most of these positions are counselors who are students or graduates of Mount Mansfield Unified Union High School. Most of the employees who are not MMU graduates are residents of one of our five towns. There are three administrative positions - executive director, photographer, and media manager.



Statistics

- 13 Counselors, 62% (8) had previously been campers
- Employees came from all 5 towns
- 17 of the graduates were previous campers, counselors, or interns
- 9% of the graduates were affiliated with OCCC
- 62% of the employee are counselors
- 2 Program Directors
- 1 Assistant Director
- 1 Music Teacher
- 1 Art Teacher

Community Partnerships

With full community engagement, OCCC can accomplish much, helping all of our district's children of all ages reach their full potential benefiting our communities. Numerous partnerships throughout our community contribute to the success of OCCC. These partnerships allow OCCC to reach many children and provide a summer food service program with an embedded day camp providing enriching activities to "feed" young minds and bodies.

MMUUSD: Provides bus transportation and donates space. In turn, OCCC offers two meals a day to students who participate in the MMUUSD Extended School Year program and Part 2 participants.

Jericho Summer Recreation Program: OCCC provides food to eligible campers who receive grants from individuals or the school district. Meals are offered at a small cost, delivering a service to parents.

Huntington Library: OCCC provides outreach "Pizza Fridays" to draw in children to the summer programming at the library in addition to providing a meal to an outlying community.

Town of Richmond: Provides storage for camp supplies and office space year-round.

Radiate Art Space: Offers a destination for campers to experience an Art Studio.

Hinesburg Nursery School: Allows a field trip destination for our youngest campers.

Allison's Aquatic Center - donates free access for field trips to the swimming pool for campers.

CLiF: Provides a day of storytelling and two new books for each camper.

Other Notes

With community partners, support from five towns, and OCCC working together, we can create a community that benefits everyone. OCCC strives to create a safe, accepting, and affirming community for all individuals to have a place to enjoy locally sourced nutritious meals, participate in enriching activities, gain self-confidence, learn citizenship and have opportunities to find success. In order to better accomplish this we added a racial equity component to our mission.

We are looking at our work with children, families, communities, and partners through a new social equity lens. We have dedicated time during Board Meetings to discuss and better understand institutional racism to relate this learning to OCCC's policies, culture, and behavior. We are committed to hosting 2-4 racial justice programs a year for the OCCC community, such as book discussions, film screenings, and/or workshops. We will partner with and/or promote other racial justice events and actions locally to increase the OCCC community's opportunities. Incorporate social justice programming as a part of annual camp training. OCCC committed budgeted funds and added racial equity program initiatives.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR COMMUNITY CARES CAMP

**Creating a caring community
where every child can find success.**

AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

OUR CAMP MADE AN IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITIES AGAIN THIS SUMMER, ALTHOUGH IN A DIFFERENT WAY



In its 11th year, Our Community Cares Camp adapted to the challenges posed by COVID-19 and provided engaging summer programming to youth from Richmond, Huntington, Bolton, Jericho, and Underhill. In doing so, OCCC fulfilled its mission of offering a camp experience to all: providing nutritious, locally-sourced snacks and creating employment opportunities and job training for local youth.



At the end of April, in the midst of Vermont's Stay at Home Order, Susanne Parent officially became our new Executive Director. Despite the uncertainty at the time of this transition, Susanne dedicated herself to creating an immediate action plan to ensure that camp could happen safely.



OCCC provided children coming off months of virtual learning the opportunity to socialize with their peers in person. To make our camp more accessible to families, we extended our hours from our usual half-day format to 7:30 am to 3 pm to prevent the need for midday transportation. To create a fun, safe environment, we spent most of our days outdoors. Art projects, music lessons, picnic-style lunches, games, sports, and water play were all part of our time together.

CAMP STATS



13 COUNSELORS

62% (8) WERE FORMER CAMPERS

972.5 VOLUNTEER HOURS

17 GRADUATES

IN 2020 MMUUSD CLASS WERE FORMER CAMPERS, COUNSELORS, OR INTERNS

FIVE TOWNS

CAMP EMPLOYEES CAME FROM HUNTINGTON, RICHMOND, JERICHO, BOLTON, & UNDERHILL

TESTIMONIALS

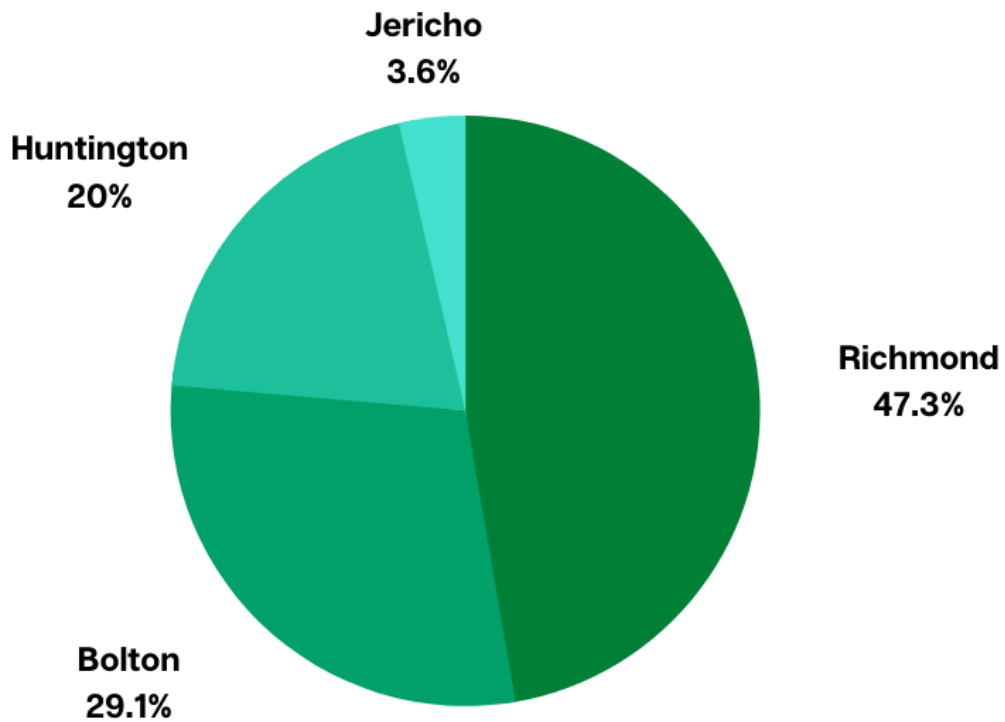
“EVERYTHING FELT SAFE, WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY FEELING OPEN, FRIENDLY, FUN AND CARING.”

“MY KIDS CAME HOME WITH SMILES EVERY DAY!”



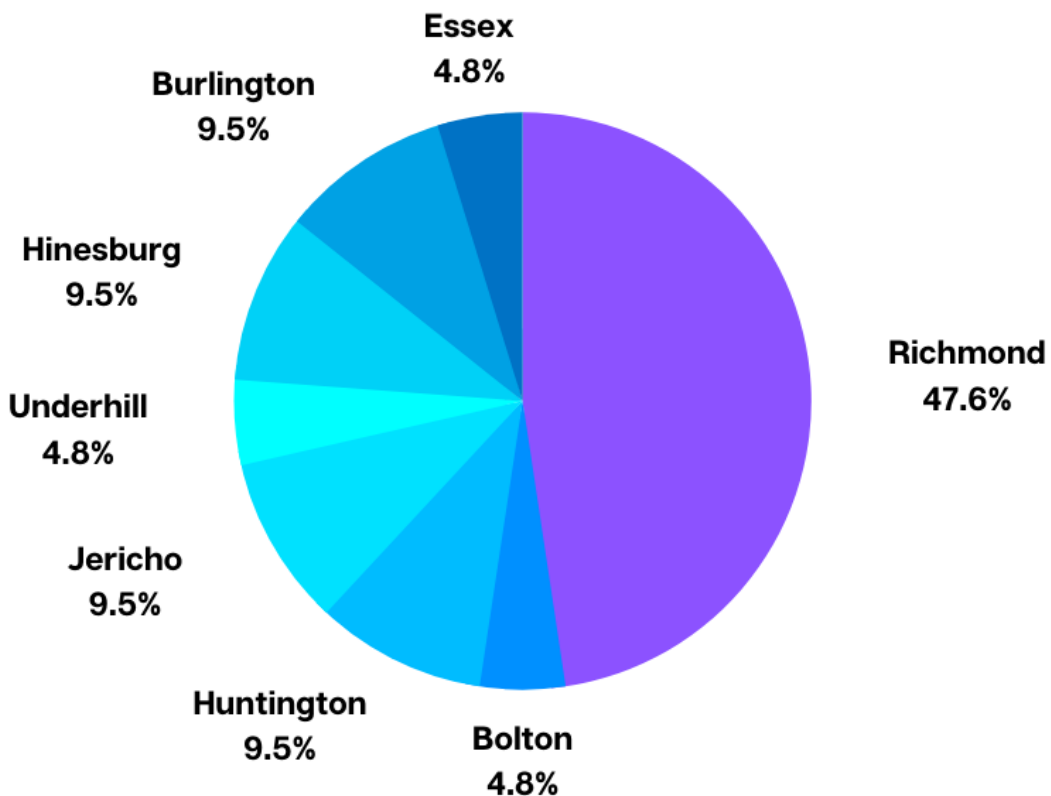
CAMPERS SERVED

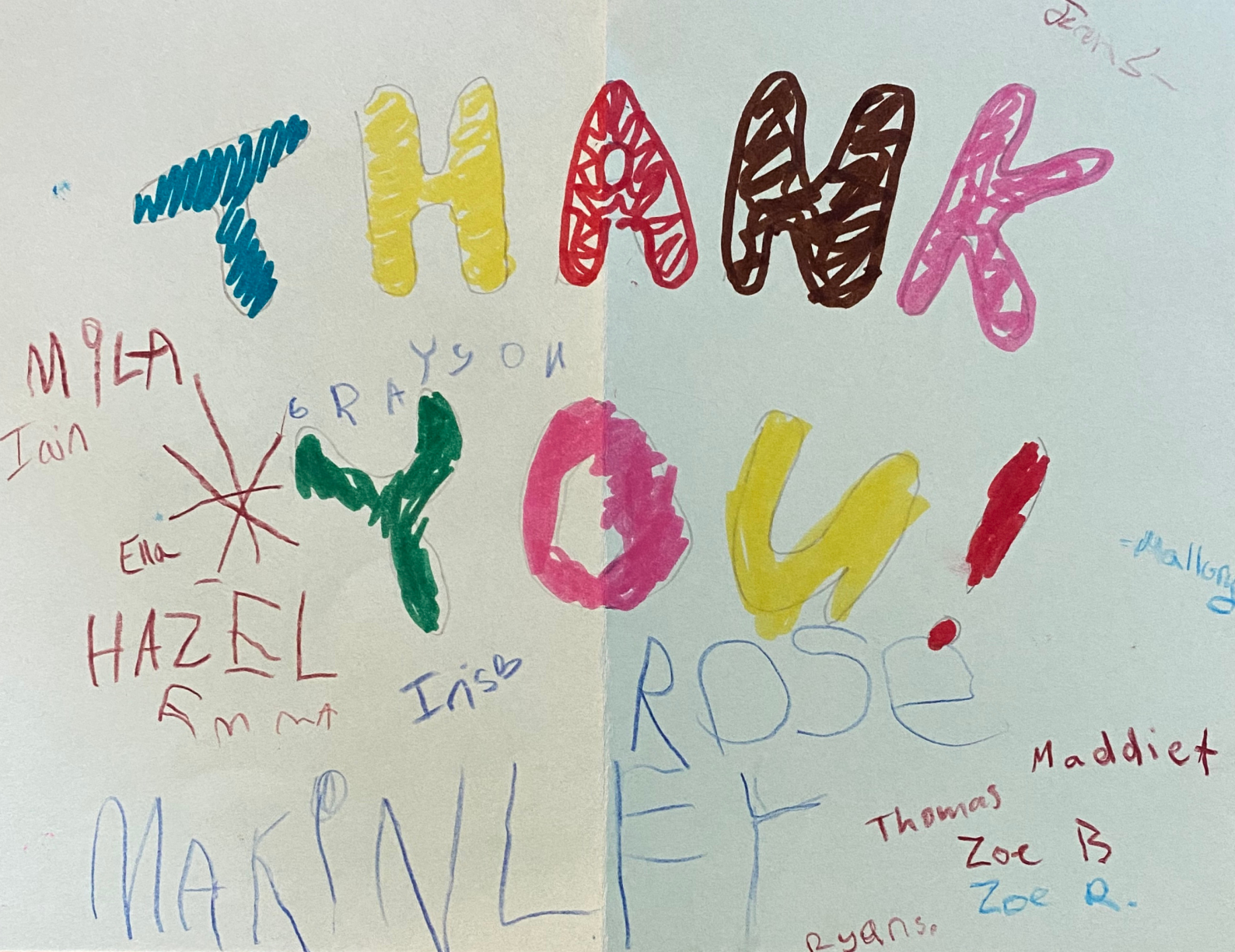
OCCC provided a camp for those who needed us most this summer. We hosted a physical camp that reached 55 children and 38 families. The 2020 OCCC group included 42 returning and 13 new campers.



EMPLOYEES

Our paid staff are individuals aging from 16 years old and up. Most of these positions are counselors who are students or graduates of Mount Mansfield Unified Union High School.





**Thank you to the towns of Bolton, Huntington,
Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill.**

A special thank you to Richmond for significant one-time support, as well as the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District for donating their space at CHMS this year.



Our Community Cares Camp

Post Office Box 503

Richmond, VT 05477

(802) 434-6006

OCCC is a summer food service program and enrichment day camp for children from 5 rural Vermont communities: Bolton, Huntington, Richmond, Jericho, and Underhill.



OUR COMMUNITY CARES CAMP

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Fed 217 campers, interns, and staff at OCCC, and fed 227 additional local youth through our summer food program



Created a safe place for underprivileged children to be themselves and make lifelong friends



Inspired campers with opportunities in art, music, science, outdoor play, and field trips to North Beach and the Audubon Center



Doubled our sustaining monthly donors and launched our business sponsorship program



Nurtured self-esteem, leadership, and job skills through our camper-to-counselor ladder

“The entire community benefits from OCCC and the strong sense of community it fosters. Children make better choices about food and behavior, more children have opportunities for summer enrichment, and teens get good work experience before they head out into the workforce.



Thank you for the chance to serve our community. I have cherished watching our kids grow into young adults and community leaders.”

- Marie Thomas, founding director

ABOUT OCCC

OCCC provides nutritious meals, fun, enrichment, and confidence to kids in Richmond, Bolton, Huntington, Jericho and Underhill for four weeks every summer, for free.

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.

In 2019, we marked 11 years of camp, and bid farewell to founding director Marie Thomas and founding board members Mike Dooling, Mary O’Neil, and Linda Parent. It’s a time of transition, and thanks to our past leaders, we are well prepared for the decade to come.



The best parts of coming to OCCC this year were the counselors, learning new games, the field trip to North Beach, and making lots of new friends.
- Camper



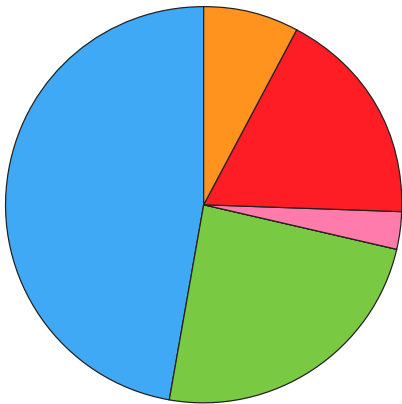
My child

feels empowered

at camp. Never wants to miss a day and talks about it all year.

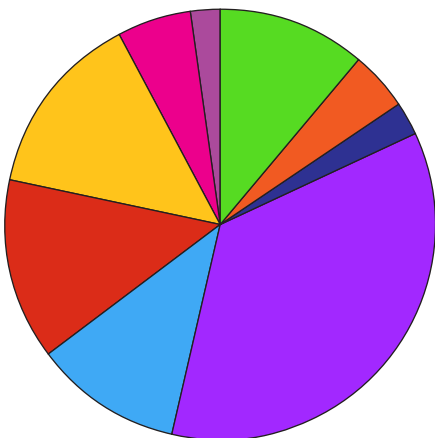
- Parent

INCOME \$147,606



Donated Goods & Services	\$11,516
Grants	\$26,500
Lunch sales	\$4,526
Other Income	\$29
Restricted Contributions	\$35,348
Unrestricted Contributions	\$69,687

EXPENSES \$131,901



Admin	\$14,735
Fundraising	\$6,013
Transition Activities	\$3,299
Our Community Cares Camp	\$46,970
Leadership Adventure Camp	\$14,691
Food Program Richmond	\$17,636
Food Program Jericho	\$18,490
Music, Art, Cooking, Science	\$7,354
Intern Training	\$2,713

OUR SPONSORS



New England

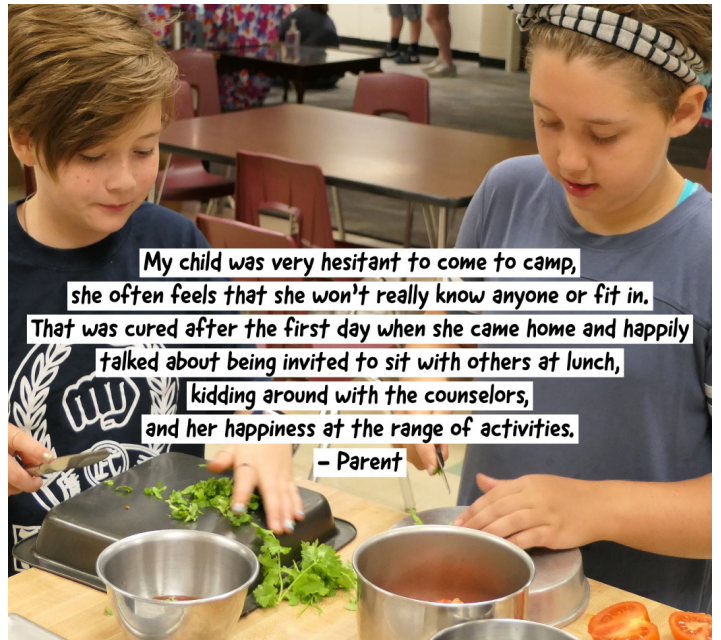
AG Supermarkets

G.W. Tatro Construction, Inc
Main Street Landing Co.
Skyline Building Company

Pleasant Mount Farm
Waterbury Dental Studio
Beaudry's Store
Birdseye Building
Conants' Riverside Farms
Interrobang Design
Jamieson Insurance
Moose Mountain Maple
Morse & Morse Forestry
& Wildlife Consult

Owl's Head Blueberry Farm
Patterson Propane
Rhino Foods
Richmond Pediatric
& Adolescent Medicine
Spence Excavating
& Construction
Vermont Transco
VT Land Maintenance
Richmond Dental
Wellspring Learning

OCCC also receives grants from private and public foundations and donations from hundreds of community members. Thank you!



My child was very hesitant to come to camp, she often feels that she won't really know anyone or fit in. That was cured after the first day when she came home and happily talked about being invited to sit with others at lunch, kidding around with the counselors, and her happiness at the range of activities.

- Parent

OUR LEADERSHIP

Jana Brown | Karen Clark
Jessica Johnson | Kyle Silliman-Smith
Connie van Eeghen

PITCH IN!



P.O. Box 503, Richmond, VT 05477



ourcommunitycarescamp.org



occcvermont@gmail.com



facebook.com/OCCCVT



on our website or by mail - thank you!