

Town of Richmond

Request for Special Appropriation

Request for Fiscal Year: 2022

Organization's Name: Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC)

Address: PO Box 503

City, State, Zip: Richmond, Vermont 05477

Website address: www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1. Program Name: Our Community Cares Camp
- 2. Contact Person/Title: Susanne Parent (New Executive Director); Karen Clark (current president Board of Directors)

Telephone Number: 802-434-6006  
 E-mail address: occcvt@gmail.com

3. Total number of individuals served in the last complete fiscal year by this program: 55 Campers, 8 Counselors InTraining, 13 Counselors, 6 Staff

4. Total number of the above individuals who are Town residents: 26 Campers 3 Counselors In Training, 7 Counselors, 6 Staff  
 Please, attach any documentation that supports this number.

Percent of people served who are Town residents: 47% Campers, 37.5% Counselors In Training, 53% Counselors, 33% Staff.

5. Amount of Request: \$3,000.00

6. Total Program Budget: \$106,900.00      Percent of total program budget you are requesting from the Town of Richmond: 3%

7. Please state or attach the mission of your agency:  
 To provide summer food for Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District children and to provide a summer enrichment camp for children who would not otherwise be able to attend a summer camp.

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? \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain the reason(s) for the increase.

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?

Approximately 1 in 4 children enrolled in Richmond Elementary School receive free or reduced meals during the school year. An additional number of children come from families where costs of living (rent/mortgage and childcare) exceed 45% of their income and funds for enrichment activities like art, music classes and summer camp are not available. OCCC also has a job training program for teens 14 and above teaching them personal responsibility and providing them with basic job skills while also reinforcing their self-esteem and cultivating leadership skills. OCCC activities for campers and counselors in training help children acquire skills for resiliency within a strong and supportive community.

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 will continue to serve children from grades K-12 with summer food for the month of July. OCCC will also offer a summer enrichment camp for children from grades K-8. For teens in grades 9 and above, OCCC offers job training opportunities through the internship program. OCCC provides high-quality summer employment for local high school and college students along with a few local adults.

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?

OCCC has proven to be a staple of the community over the last 11 years providing enrichment and food services to children, internship opportunities for youth, and job training and development for young adults. This program has clear results for participants and their families: it provides the opportunity for children from less affluent families to experience summer camp, counselors provide children with positive role models and friendships that last longer than camp, and families have four weeks during the summer where their children can attend safe, fun, and

educational camp for free, reducing the stress that summer often causes for parents trying to work and afford to send their children to a quality program.

Describe the steps you take to make the project known to the public and make the program accessible and inclusive?

Through Our Community Cares Camp, we work closely with school principals, guidance counselors, and school clinicians 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 table at community events throughout the year to reach potential donors, families, and campers. OCCC has worked hard over the past 11 years to have a public appearance whenever possible.

### 3. Program Funding:

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

The requested funds would be used to provide funding toward the camper program costs. Including enriching activities for music, art, cooking, physical activities, and food.

- 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 programming costs.

OCCC will continue to submit grant applications to several philanthropic organizations-mostly private foundations, soliciting donations from individuals and businesses, and sponsor 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 be self-sufficient and this year were able to run with minimal supervision from the Executive Director. Within the programs, there is also a level of redundancy that has allowed the organization to shift with any staffing changes that inevitably happen while employing teenagers during the summer months.

During the summer of 2020, OCCC took the lead in planning and running the camp program in coordination with the MMUSD during the Covid-19 pandemic. This was made possible by the bridge funding provided by the Town of Richmond during the camp's transition to a new

administrative structure. Due to the experience of leadership and staff, OCCC conducted the camp without interruption, protecting the safety and health of campers and staff. The successful camp experience was noted by the District Superintendent, John Alberghini, and the Camels Hump Middle School Principal, Mark Carbone, as a model for guiding the plan to open district schools in the fall. For the summer of 2021, OCCC plans to conduct a full camp with meal program, if public health safety recommendations allow. Otherwise, it will continue to provide a camp program for children in need, as it has for the past 11 years.

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 anonymous surveys of participants, families, and staff that are given and data collected after camp. We also connect with the MMUUSD superintendent, school principals, and staff throughout the year and assess how the program is working. Participants are surveyed each week on different data points - friendships, games/activities, food, art, and music. Please see the attached annual report.

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

4. Does your organization have a strategic plan and a strategic planning process in place?

We do not have a strategic plan. We plan to begin our process this year, 2020.

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

We will begin our strategic planning this year by submitting grants to support the strategic planning process. Our mission statement is found in the annual report, with the stated goals of feeding children, providing summer enrichment, and providing a safe, nurturing community. The attached document "Our Community Cares Camp in 2018" provides data on the number of meals served and to whom. It also includes survey results from campers, interns, and paid staff. Please see attached document for details.

5. What is the authorized size of your board of directors? 5 - 9  
How many meetings were held by the board last year? 16

I, 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.

Signatures of Applicants

*Susanne Parent*

Date 10/5/20

Susanne Parent, Executive Director, Our Community Cares Camp

Print Name of Applicant and Title

**2021 COVID Budget**

Income		
	Donated Goods and Services	300.00
	Grants	40000.00
	Other Income	
	Restricted/Unrestricted Contributions	85000.00
	Total Income	125300.00
Expense		
	Administration	
	Advertising	400.00
	Bank Charges and Fee's	250.00
	Books, Subscriptions, Reference	150.00
	Business Registration Fees	
	In kind espenses admin	
	Insurance	4000.00
	Other Costs	700.00
	Postage, Mailing Service	1000.00
	Professional Fees	
	Accounting Fees	1500.00
	Outside Contract Services	500.00
	Total Professional Fees	
	Administration - Other	
	Total Administration	<b>8500.00</b>
	Fundraising Expenses	600.00
	Program Expenses	
	Food	500.00
	In kind espenses	300.00
	Other	
	Payroll Expenses	
	Payroll Tax	4500.00
	Salaries	80000.00
	COVID Sick	
	FFCRA Credit	
	COVID Sick - Other	
	Total COVID Sick	
	Salaries - Other	10000.00
	Total Salaries	
	Payroll Expense - Other	
	Total Payroll Expense	
	Supplies	2500.00
	Program Expenses - Other	
	Total Program Expenses	<b>98400.00</b>
	Total Expense	<b>106900.00</b>
	Net Ordinary Income	18400.00



# 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.

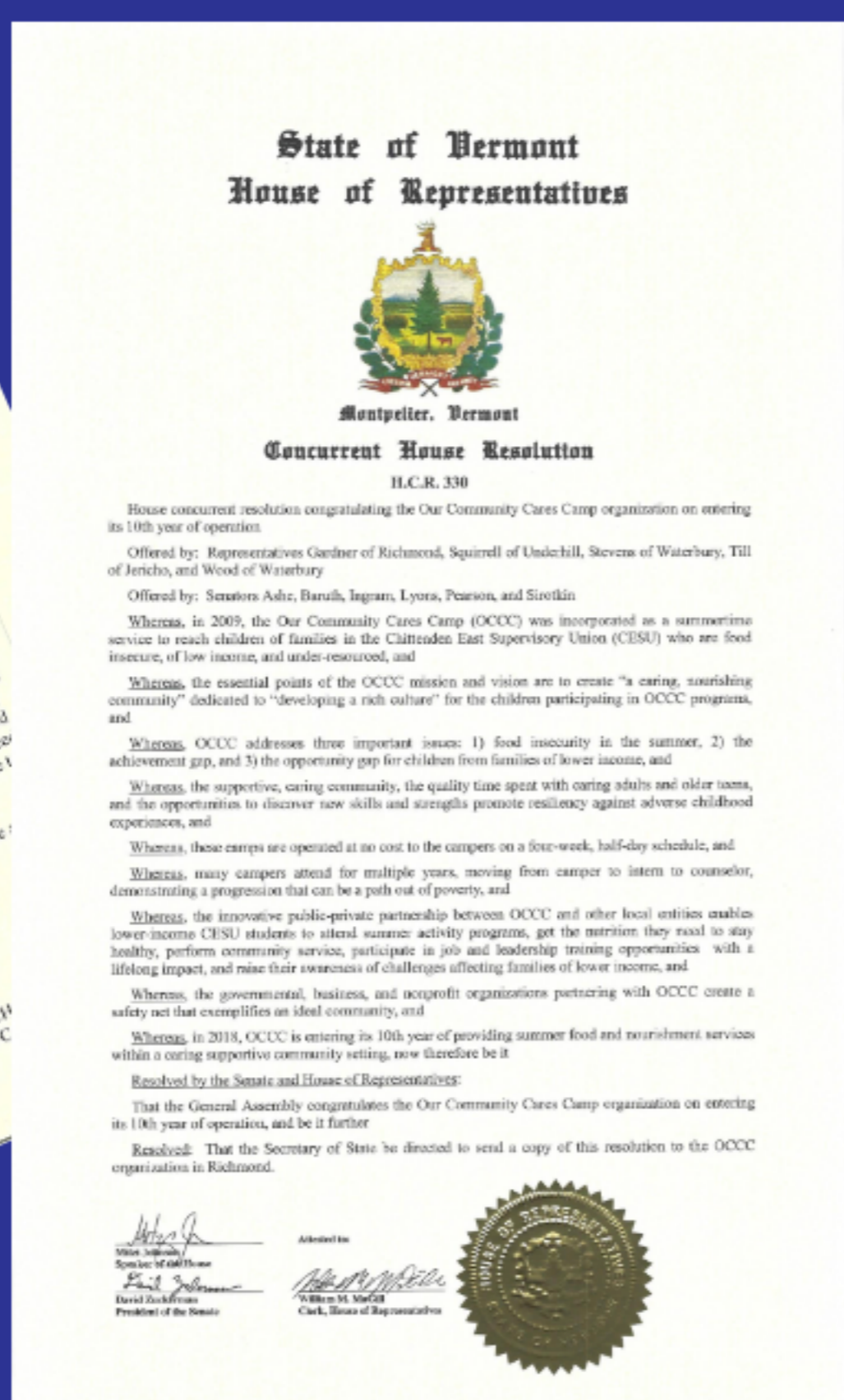
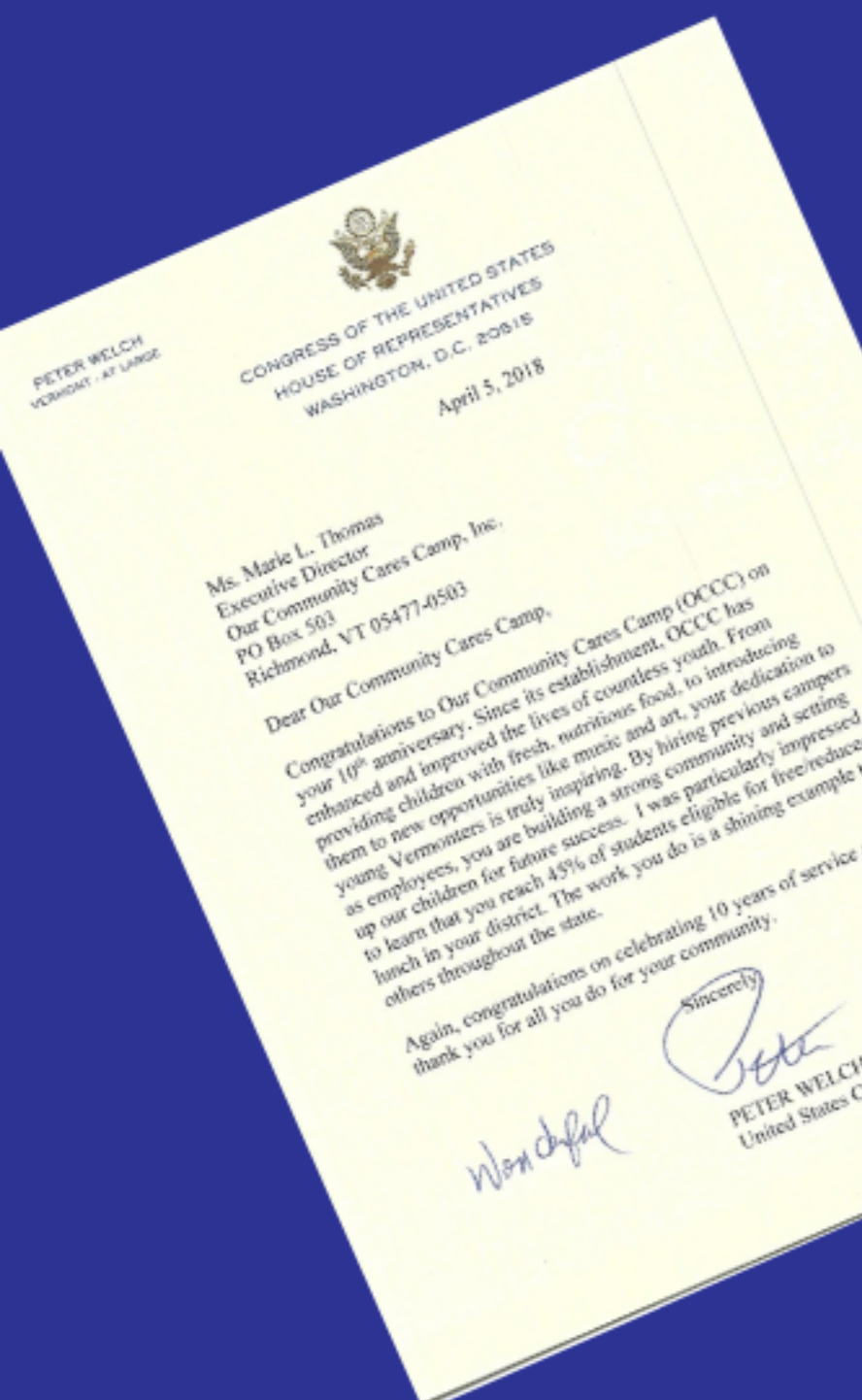
We're proud to partner with Chittenden East Supervisory Union (CESU) to reach as many children as possible with summer food and activities. As partners, we've seen kids improve their nutrition, behavior, and social skills in camp, school, and throughout the community.

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](http://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.



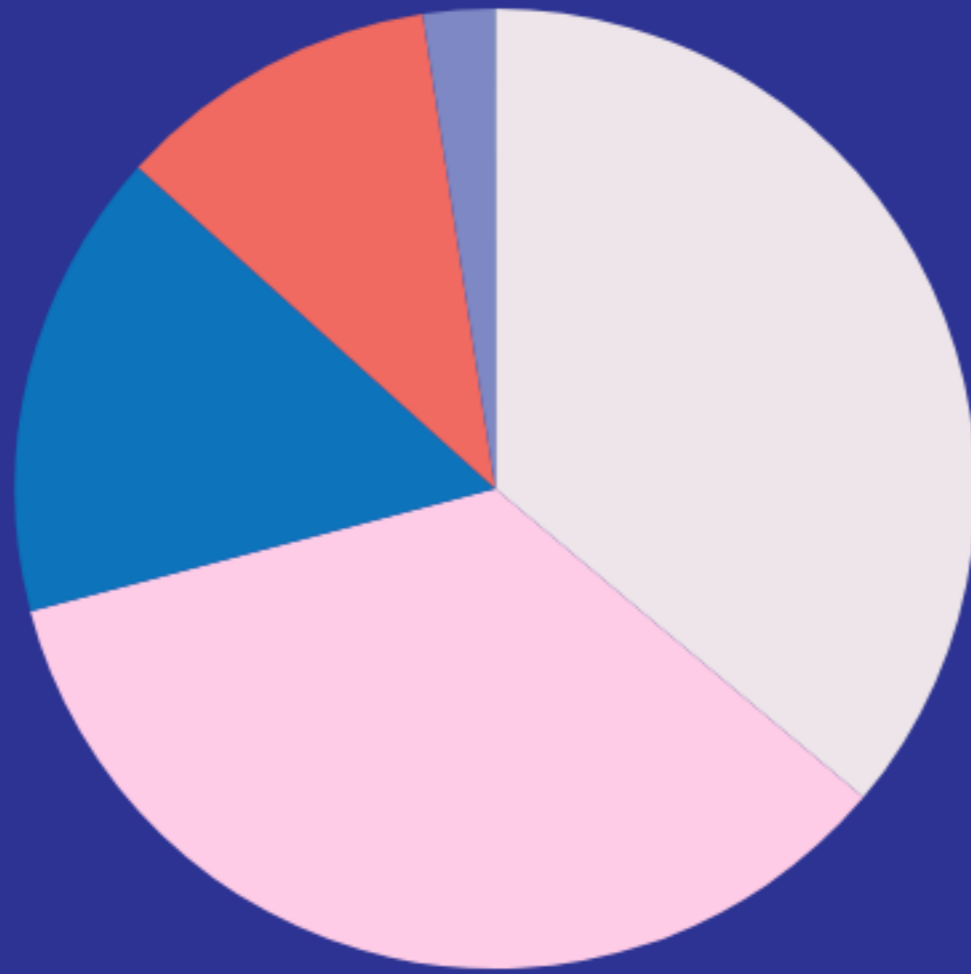
As Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman said in his letter of congratulations, *"Over the last decade you have changed the lives of thousands of children by providing them with healthy meals, exposing them to the arts, and, most importantly, providing a safe and caring environment for them to grow."*

# 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

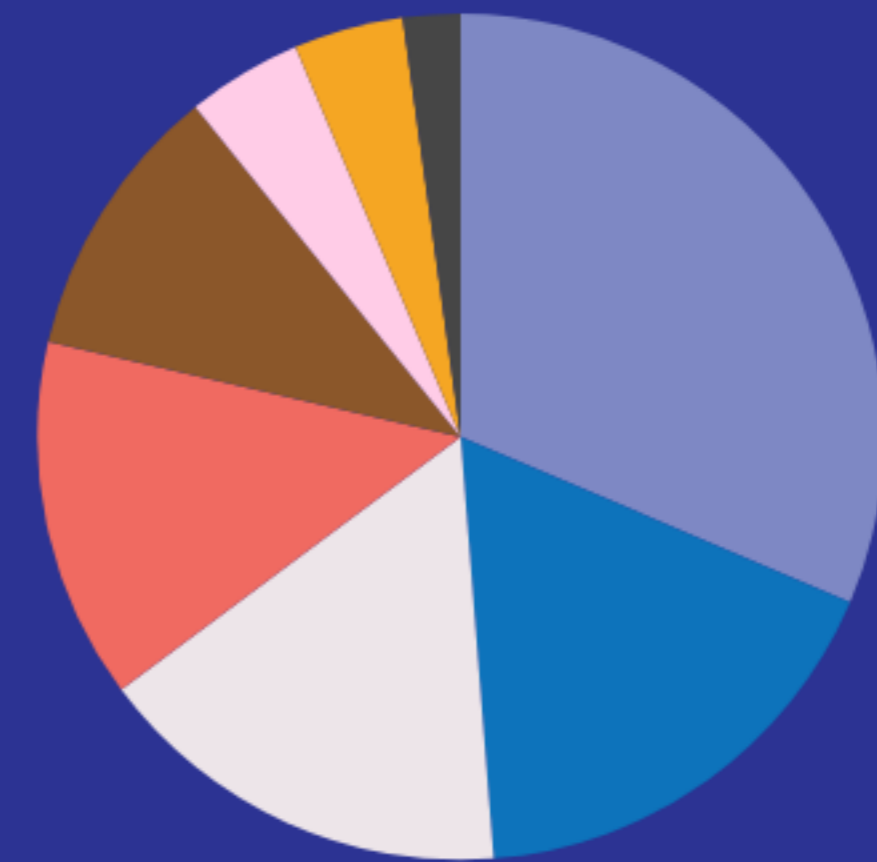


## FUNDING \$131,959



- 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!



802-434-6006



[ourcommunitycarescamp.org](http://ourcommunitycarescamp.org)



OCCC  
 P.O. Box 503  
 Richmond, VT 05477



[occcvermont@gmail.com](mailto:occcvermont@gmail.com)



[facebook.com/OCCCVT](https://facebook.com/OCCCVT)

# Our Community Cares Camp in 2018

*Summer food program and enrichment camp in CESU*

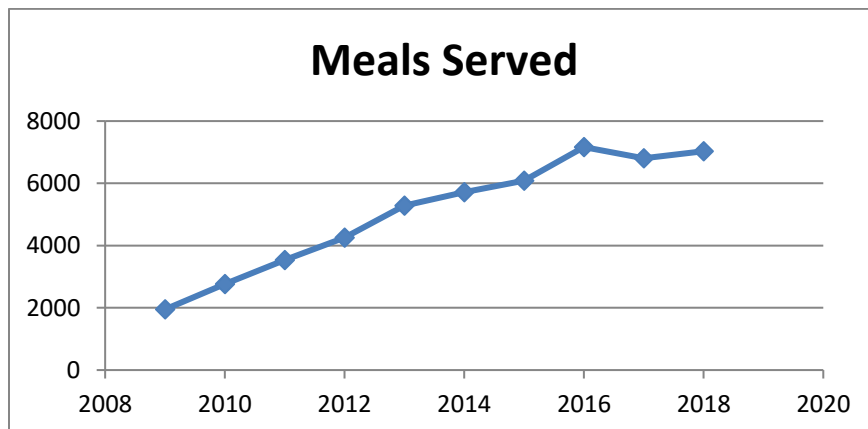
Richmond, Huntington, Bolton, Jericho, Underhill

In its tenth year, the OCCC summer food and enrichment programs for lower income children made a big impact in our communities again this summer. Here is a summary.

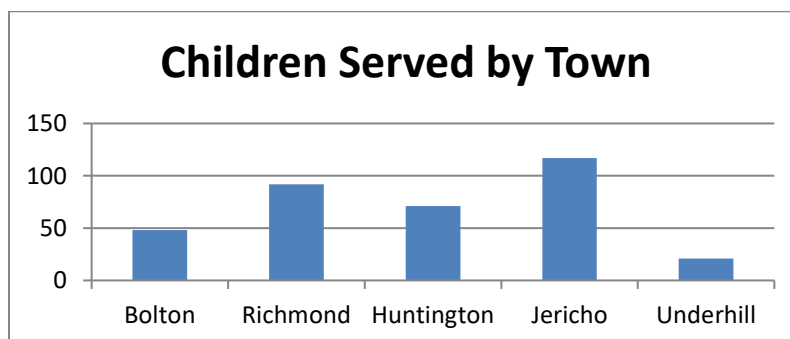
## Summer Food Program

OCCC provided four weeks of meals (breakfast and lunch) in July/August at five different locations in the CESU district. Here are the nutrition numbers for summer 2018:

**7028** meals served (up 3.3% from 2017)



**332** children under age 18 served



The five meal sites OCCC ran this summer were done in partnership with the CESU school district, Jericho Recreation Program, and two town libraries. Meals were served in four of the five towns: at Camel's Hump Middle School, Jericho Elementary School, Browns River Middle School, and the Jericho and Huntington libraries. The availability of meals enhances the other programs and helps them to attract children who need summer enrichment as well as food – a win-win situation for the community and its children.

The meal sites target K-8 students, but are open to all under the age of 18. CESU has 381 students K-12 who are eligible for free lunch (which is 15.5% of the district enrollment). This summer, the OCCC food program fed 31% of the children who are free-lunch eligible in the district, grades K-12.

Goals for the food program also include using food as an educational opportunity. The program sets a high standard for nutritious meals, with lots of fruits and vegetables. Two local farms provide fresh produce, and entrees and baked goods are made from scratch. Children are given choices for their meals, with both favorites and new items included to expand the range of foods they eat. We discovered that the students love fresh kale chips and beet salads!

For children at the enrichment day camp, they have opportunities to learn how to prepare food as part of group activities. Also, camp staffers eat with the children, and with the child/staff ratios at 1:5, meals have a family-style feel with conversations between campers and staff the norm. Campers are also allowed as much time to eat as necessary, which relieves some of the stress of rushed lunches that they may experience in school.

One of our long-term counselors who began working as an intern at age 14 had this to say about the importance of sharing meals together, even on the first day of camp:

*"It is my first morning at Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC). I am 14 years old and I am sitting outside of the middle school awaiting the kids... Noah, my group leader, tells me to go to Bus #2 and pick up Emma, Ethan, and Olivia. As the doors hinge open, the kids pile out. Within a few seconds, Emma and Olivia are at my side, but I can't find Ethan. After looking around for awhile, a tiny boy who looks about four years old walks down the steps of the bus, shoes on backwards, eyes full of tears, desperately looking for where to go. I walked over and said, "Hey there. Are you Ethan?" He gave me a small nod, so I introduced myself and told him I was his camp counselor for the summer. As I walked into the school, with Ethan in tears, I tried unsuccessfully to make conversation. After he struggled putting his backpack in his cubby, I knew what he really needed was a solid breakfast. In the cafeteria, I grabbed him some food, and we sat down at our own table. As he slowly ate, he got more and more comfortable with me, telling me about his favorite color, sports, and foods, until we were having a full conversation. As the days and weeks of camp went on, Ethan became more and more attached to me... It was amazing to see how he grew and developed at camp, and how I could be an important role model in his life."*  
(Children's names are changed.)

## Enrichment Camp

In addition to the nutritious food provided throughout the district, OCCC runs an enrichment day camp at Camel's Hump Middle School for the same four weeks to give kids access to experiences and opportunities they would otherwise now have. This year, the camp gave 120 K-8 kids access to music, art, cooking, creative play, outdoor games, sports, swimming and other field trips. Here is what the campers had to say about their experiences this summer:

### Camper Survey Results

#### New Experiences

Tried new activity	65%
Tried new musical instrument	31%
Tried new art activity	47%
Learned new game	58%
Made new friend	76%

#### Favorite activities

Games: gaga ball, alibi, tether ball, dodge ball, red rover, and basketball  
Art: dream catchers, cork boat making, spin art, puffy paint  
Music: ukuleles, drums, piano  
Science: boat building, rocket launching  
Other: cooking, puzzles, LEGOs, fort building, rock climbing, field trips

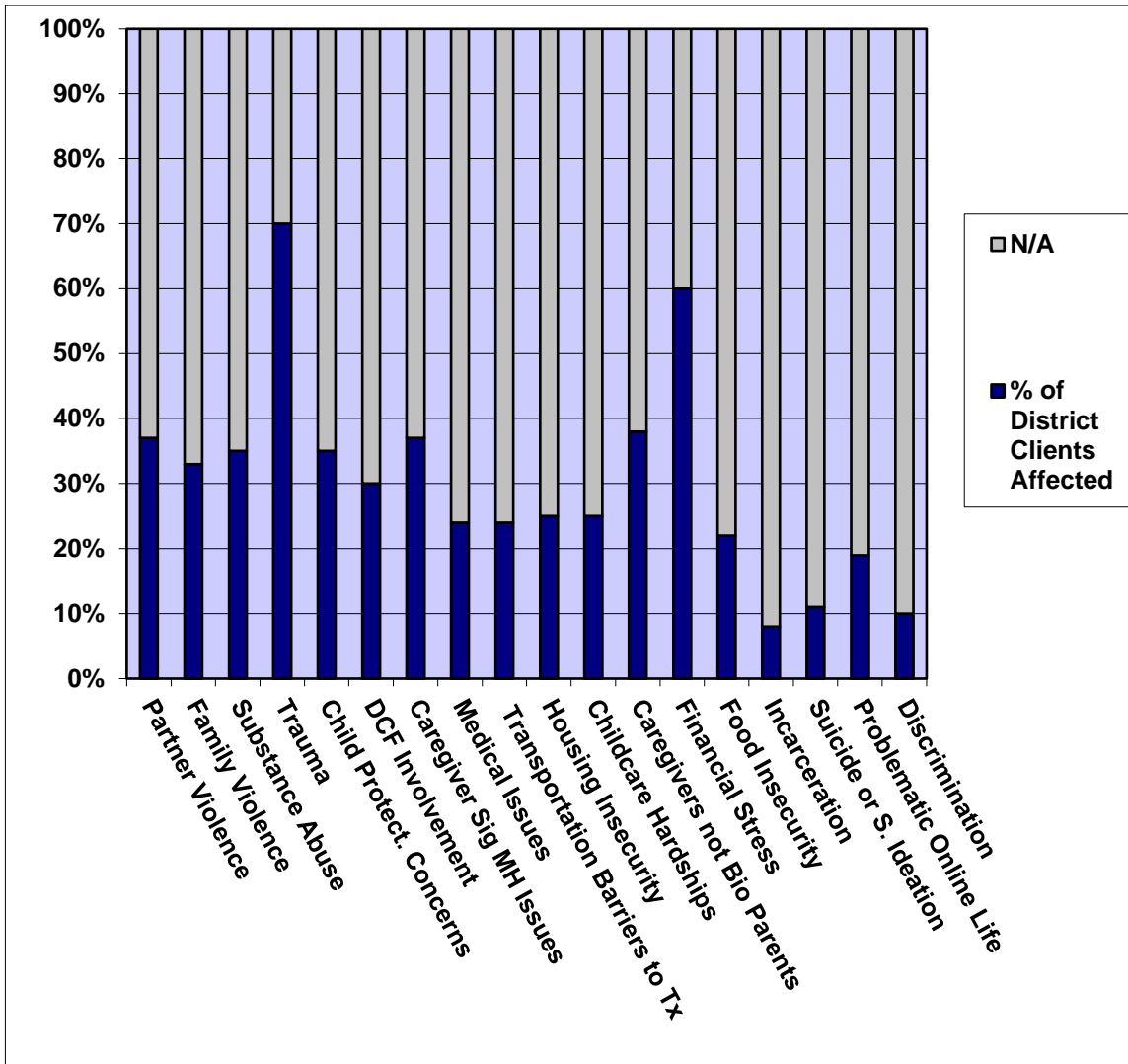
The camp also works to “feed the whole child” by creating a rich culture of acceptance, support, encouragement, and empowerment. All levels of staff feel a responsibility for this culture. Training for interns and counselors includes specific, concrete strategies for managing activities, for mastering positive communication styles, and for problem solving through role-playing and discussion with their peers and coaches during staff meeting time. The 2018 Intern Coach, Lauren Alexander, described it this way: “Communication with the interns, counselors, and senior staff was integrated into every situation during each day at camp.”

OCCC has worked very hard to create this caring, supportive community feel that extends through all the levels of the organization. Lauren Alexander summed it up well at the end of her camp experience: “After working at a different summer camp for seven summers, I thought I knew what 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, which was not typical in my past experience. 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.”

The positive culture of OCCC is reflected in the significant number of campers who return each year, in the number of campers who become interns, and interns who become counselors. Thirty of the OCCC campers were 12-14 years old who can be left at home but opt to come to camp instead. Retention of staff is very high, with many counselors returning for multiple years: the average is 4-6 years for counselors who started as interns. The high continuity of staff from year to year adds to the secure feeling that campers experience daily at camp.

The Howard Center has shared with OCCC the data that they collected on stressors in the lives of CESU students. Many of the food and enrichment activities of OCCC work directly or indirectly on these issues, and help build resiliency in this population.

### Chittenden East School District – 2017-2018 School Year



Examples of individual student impacts this summer:

- Provided work opportunities to differently-abled teens and adults
- Provided a safe, accepting, and supportive work and camp environment for gender fluid or non-binary individuals
- Provided an opportunity for a new non-English-speaking student to be integrated into the school community before she attends school in the fall
- Provided an opportunity for a new student with autism to get acquainted with the school and participate in some activities, making integration into the school system easier for everyone
- Provided a camp space for a migrant farm worker’s child

## Summary of Employee Impacts

OCCC has created benefits to all grade levels in the CESU community through its camps and staff development. 2018 employees came from all five towns, and the job training they receive and leadership skills they develop are assets for their whole lives. Here is a summary of the impact on employees and the district.

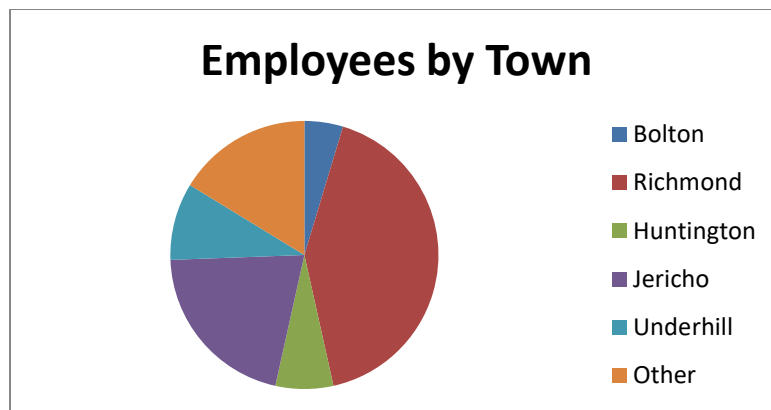
### Internship Program: Building Leaders

- The OCCC internship program for 14-16 year olds had 24 volunteers this year who served as junior counselors.
- This summer, 11 of the 24 interns were former campers (almost half), and three of those have attended OCCC since 2009.

The internship program has grown over the years to provide teens, aged 14-16, with their first work experience. They volunteer at least two weeks and receive training, coaching, and feedback to help them identify their strengths and build skills. During camp, our intern coach meets with interns regularly, and observes and aids them as they discover their ability to mentor younger campers. Being an intern is also a critical step in our camper-to-counselor ladder, helping young people set goals and develop leadership skills. One of OCCC's larger goals for interns is to help them establish the parameters of what it means to be a good employee as they move ahead into the work force of the future.

### Paid Staff

- Paid counselors are ages 16 and older, and most are students or graduates of Mount Mansfield Union High School.
  - Of 16 counselors this summer, 5 had previously been campers.
  - All counselors had been interns for 1 or 2 years before becoming counselors.
    - Employees came from all five towns of CESU this summer.



- 15% of the 2018 graduating class of Mount Mansfield Union High School had been involved in OCCC at some point in their school years.



## Staffing numbers for 2018

- 12 kitchen staff
- 16 counselors
- 4 art and music teachers
- 2 program directors (K-6 and 7-8 programs)
  - 1 intern coach
- 6 administrative positions (executive director, registrar, video and photo documentation, and camper resource specialists)

## Community Partnerships

OCCC would not be successful without the numerous partnerships throughout the community. These partnerships allow OCCC to reach more children with summer food and help them find activities to keep their minds active and their bodies healthy. Partnerships include:

- **CESU:** donates space and bus transportation. In turn, OCCC provides 2 meals a day to summer school students.
- **Jericho Recreation Program:** OCCC provides food to eligible students who receive grants from individuals or the school district. Meals are offered to others at a small cost, providing a service to parents.
- **Huntington and Jericho Town Libraries:** OCCC provides “pizza Fridays” to help draw in children to the summer programming at the libraries.
- **Town of Richmond:** provides storage for camp supplies and office space year round
- **Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLiF):** provides a day of storytelling and two new books for each camper.
- **Radiate Art Space:** provides a destination for campers to experience different art and craft forms.
- **Hinesburg Nursery School:** provides a field trip destination for our smallest campers to play in their indoor and outdoor play areas.
- **Alison’s Aquatic School:** provides free access to their swimming pool for campers.



# 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



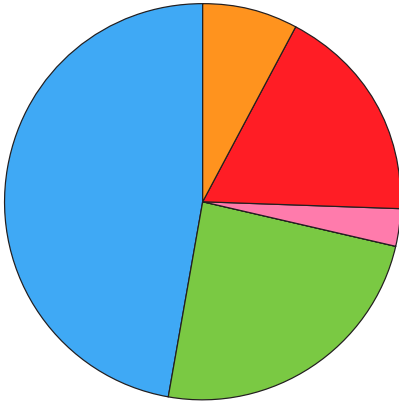
My child

**feels empowered**

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

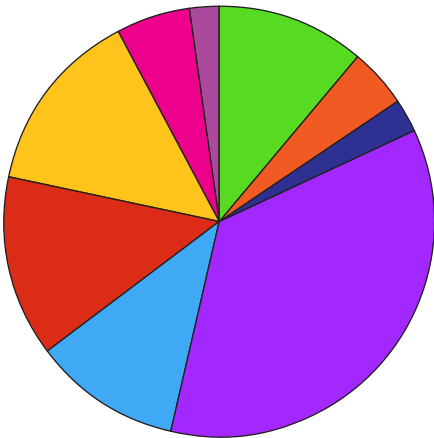
- Parent

**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**

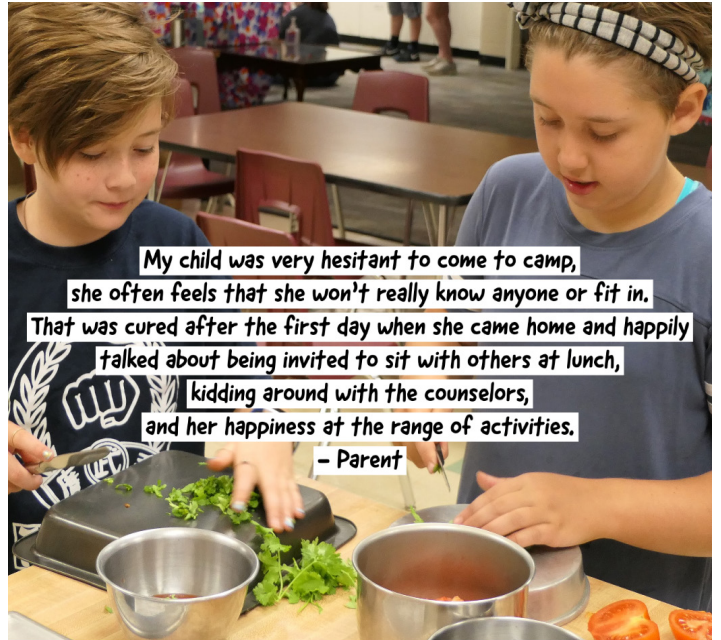
AG Supermarkets

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](http://ourcommunitycarescamp.org)



[occcvermont@gmail.com](mailto:occcvermont@gmail.com)



[facebook.com/OCCCVT](https://facebook.com/OCCCVT)



on our website or by mail - thank you!



# Our Community Cares Camp

Summer Food Service Program & Enrichment Camp  
Serving Eastern Chittenden County, Vermont

## **Mission: Creating a caring, nourishing community for Chittenden East children where every child can find success.**

Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC) is committed to feed and provide continuity of care in the summer to children and families most in need. OCCC works in close connection with the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District to identify and connect with families who lack access to food and/or to summer enrichment activities due to economic, geographical, and/or high-needs behavioral barriers. OCCC provides food and enrichment programs that are easily accessible to families who benefit most from them. Each summer OCCC campers experience supportive stable relationships with caregivers who are sensitive and responsive to their signals and needs. This allows children to continue to grow and maintain their learning during the summer. By hiring former campers as interns and counselors, the camp supports youth through adolescence and into young adulthood.

### **Nutrition:**

OCCC serves two meals a day to campers and at three other food sites in the district for eligible youth. Meals are prepared with fresh, high-quality food, encouraging kids to make healthy choices. In 2019, OCCC served 6,800 meals and reached 45% of those eligible for free and reduced lunch.

### **Community:**

Fostering an inter-generational community of inclusiveness and service, OCCC partners with organizations and seniors from the community. This practice helps build connections among generations and encourages kids to engage in community service.

### **Opportunity & Discovery**

OCCC offers access to activities such as art, music, sports, creative play, gardening, and cooking. Programming partners include: Radiate Art Space, the Children's Literacy Foundation, Kids on the Ball, and the Audubon Center. OCCC summer staff also includes music and art teachers. These partnerships and staffing choices support each child in discovering new talents and

### **Racial Equity:**

In 2020, OCCC leadership has begun work to understand, see, and disrupt racism in OCCC specifically as well as within our community.

### **Encouragement & Empowerment**

In 2019, nearly half of the paid counselors on staff were former OCCC campers. This and other camp practices inspire children to envision their future and work for the common good.

### **Accessibility:**

OCCC is offered at no cost to families. The referral process is done in close collaboration with each school in the district. This process ensures that the families most in need have access to programming and support from school staff in registering. Transportation is also free when the extended school year program is operating at the schools.

learning to recognize their potential.

## ***Find out more:***

***Phone: (802) 434-6006***

***Email: [occcvermont@gmail.com](mailto:occcvermont@gmail.com)***

***Visit: [ourcommunitycarescamp.org](http://ourcommunitycarescamp.org)***

***Watch: [https://youtu.be/\\_dDmvUVZdd0](https://youtu.be/_dDmvUVZdd0)***