



# YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE VERMONT BETTER



Vermont  
**Afterschool**

FY2023  
**ANNUAL REPORT**





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# Dear friends,

YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE VERMONT BETTER. These are the first words in Vermont Afterschool's newly drafted Commitment to Equity, a common refrain heard in our office, and the reason we often offer when asked, **"Why do this work?"**

Vermont Afterschool strengthens afterschool and summer learning programs through professional development, advocates for expanded access to these programs, and empowers the youth engaging in them. And even though youth are only explicitly named in one of those three facets of our work, they are most assuredly at the heart of all of them. We do this work because young people make Vermont better. And this core tenet of our work was never more evident than in the past year.

Our expanding access grants took major steps toward ensuring **every young Vermonter** is able to benefit from the power of afterschool and summer learning programs.

Linking Engineering to Life expanded to reach **more Vermont middle school girls and non-binary youth**, providing much-needed opportunities for career exploration in STEM fields to these underrepresented communities.

The Vermont Youth Project entered its next phase of coalition-building, youth councils, and youth-informed planning of **youth-friendly community spaces**.

We provided professional development to 1,200 program staff because we know an investment in youth workers is **an investment in young people**.

Maybe most notably, Vermont's historic State Youth Council took shape and promptly took flight, powered by the ideas, passion, and voices of its **28 young Vermonters**.

Through it all, Vermont's afterschool professionals, summer camp counselors, teen centers, and other youth-serving workers were right there beside us, continuing to make a positive impact in the lives of Vermont's youth every day. A positive impact that inspires and empowers Vermont's young people who, on their State Youth Council application, end up saying this: "I know being on this Council won't change the world overnight, but it will help someone. If I have the chance to do that then I want to take it."

Why do we do this work? **Because young people make Vermont better.** And we are so very thankful for them.

With gratitude,



Nicole Miller  
Executive Director

# GRATITUDE

## OUR MISSION

**Vermont Afterschool is dedicated to strengthening programs, building partnerships, and transforming communities so that all Vermont youth are active, engaged, connected, and heard.**

# IMPACT

**\$2,699,437**

in grant funds managed and distributed to programs, organizations, and people in FY23.



**20,065**

Children and youth in Vermont supported and/or impacted by Vermont Afterschool in FY23.



**1,192**

Afterschool and youth-serving program staff who participated in Vermont Afterschool initiatives in FY23.



**81%**

of VT towns with afterschool and youth-serving organizations supported and/or impacted by Vermont Afterschool in FY23.



**238**

Afterschool and youth-serving programs in every county supported and/or impacted by Vermont Afterschool in FY23.







Vermont and its communities are at their strongest when all voices— inclusive of every dimension of diversity, and most especially the voices of youth—are nourished, uplifted, and empowered.

In service to our values of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, Vermont Afterschool staff and board have pledged a continuous commitment of our collective time and resources to challenging the systems, services, and policies—both internally and throughout the third-space realm—that have created inequitable, oppressive, and disparate opportunities for historically marginalized communities.

# EQUITY

Beginning in 2022, VTA staff and board worked with Thrive Paradigm to develop a strategy to advance equity within our internal and external policies and practices. We recognize our commitment to this work is ongoing and requires us to be intentional, socially-responsive, and ever-evolving in our efforts.

Through actions kept up-to-date on our website, we will continuously strive to become a reflection of the children, families, professionals, communities we serve and support, as well as be a guiding light for those seeking to dismantle immediate and systemic inequities.





# ACCESS

*Last year, if my employee or I were sick, we'd have to close for the day. This grant has given us flexibility to pay for a teacher's aide, a full-time program coordinator and extra substitute teachers as needed, allowing us to care for more youth.*

**— Logan Radde, Community Campus Program Director**

Vermont's youth need a place to go when they're out of school. Through our Afterschool & Summer Expanding Access Grant and Room For Me Grant, we expanded programs and started new ones throughout the state.

For Woodstock's Community Campus, this grant funding meant the purchase of much-needed program supplies and payroll to fund supporting staff member positions, adding 13 spots available to families in the community as well as increasing the quality of care provided.

## FUNDING IMPACT

**\$4,945,406** grant funds awarded\*

**2,799** new slots created

**65** programs impacted

**12** counties served

\*Distributed in FY22 and FY23





“

*We were considering moving due to the lack of reliable child care options in the area. But thanks to the Community Campus, we've been able to stay in Woodstock and continue to enjoy all the wonderful things this community has to offer.*

**— Community Campus Parent**





# EMPOWERED

“

*Vermont is a special place that deserves to have people who are rooting for it and working to improve it. Youth are some of the most passionate people I know and this Council is an opportunity for us to collectively make Vermont better.*

—Nisha Hickok  
State Youth Council Member

“

*In the coming years, I believe the State Youth Council can become the powerful vehicle for change that it was created to be. But for that to happen, **Vermont must listen.***

—Jasper Lorian  
State Youth Council Chair

Established by the Vermont Legislature through Act 109 in 2022, the **Vermont State Youth Council** is a group of 28 Vermont youth from each county responsible for advising the Governor and General Assembly on policies that impact young persons today. In the fall of 2022, Vermont's Youth Services Advisory Council selected members of the first State Youth Council from a pool of 200 applicants.

Beginning in December 2022, Vermont Afterschool has facilitated monthly in-person and virtual meetings of the State Youth Council and its subcommittees on Youth Voice, Equity and Anti-Racism, Education, Climate Change, and Youth Mental Health, and has coordinated multiple meetings with statewide officials and legislative committees.





*We're coming together to make beneficial change and **our ideas matter**. We are growing up in a time that is so different from any other. The ways we think of solving things are fresh and creative.*

*It makes me really **hopeful** for the future.*

**—Harmony Devoe**  
**State Youth Council Member**






On March 11, 2023, Vermont Afterschool hosted **34 teams, 150 middle and high school students, and 1,000+ spectators** at the Champlain Valley Expo for the 15th Annual Jr Iron Chef VT competition, a career exploration program that teaches communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills by empowering youth to create locally sourced meals that promote Vermont's Farm to School efforts. **Jr Iron Chef VT is a recipe for empowering youth.**







Thanks to the support of STEM Next, Vermont Afterschool continued to offer **Linking Engineering to Life (LEL)** as part of the Million Girls Moonshot efforts. LEL is an exciting **hands-on engineering curriculum for middle school girls and non-binary youth** that provides opportunities for career exploration in STEM fields to these underrepresented communities. In the last year, VTA facilitated 10 programs at 8 sites, connecting 16 college mentors with 72 youth.

“

*What I like about the LEL program is it got more girls to like science **including me.***

**—Vermont middle school youth**







We dedicated significant resources to strengthening Vermont's out-of-school programs and professionals through trainings, workshops, field forums, quality coaching and technical assistance, leadership and networking opportunities, and the promotion of best practices, because we know **an investment in youth workers is an investment in young people**. In FY23, we offered **134 workshops to 1,192 afterschool and youth-serving program staff**, covering topics such as Creating a Culture of Youth Voice, Transformative Social Emotional Learning, Diversity and Inclusion, Resilience and Youth Wellness, and STEAM on a Shoestring.

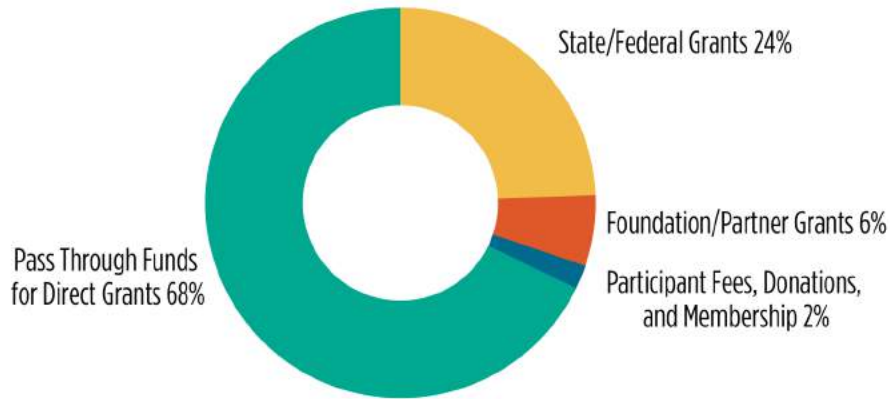
In October 2022, **160 third-space professionals gathered for our first in-person annual conference since 2019!** The day began with Brooklyn Raney's invigorating keynote on the role of third-space professionals in ensuring all youth have one trusted adult in their life. Participants then received four hours of professional development on a wide-range of topics. It was great to be back in person and to celebrate the critical work of Vermont's afterschool and summer learning professionals.



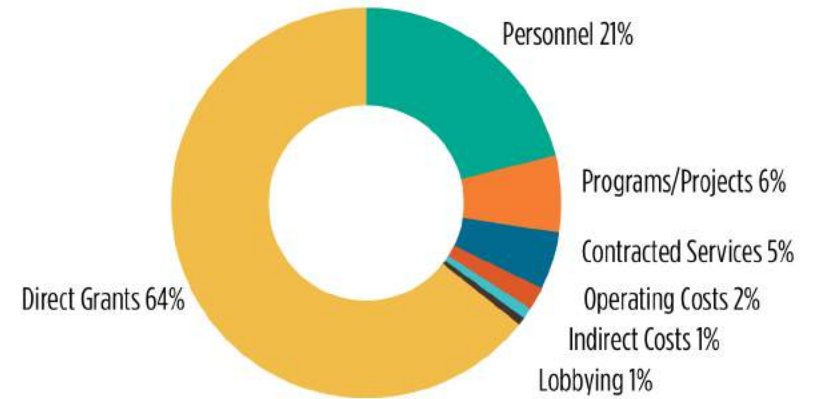


# IN TOTAL

**FY2023 Total Income\*: \$3,980,309**



**FY2023 Total Expenses: \$3,963,632**



\*Vermont Afterschool's FY2023 financial data has not yet been audited.

# WHO WE ARE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Becka Wilcke**  
*Operations & Events Assistant*

**Matt Wolf**  
*Senior Associate for Youth Empowerment*

## FUNDERS

Afterschool Alliance • Charles Stewart Mott Foundation • Overdeck Family Foundation • STEM Next Opportunity Fund • US Department of Education • Vermont Agency of Education • Vermont Community Foundation • Vermont Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division and Family Services Division • Vermont Department of Health Division of Family and Child Health and Division of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention



## COACHES & TRAINERS

Umesh Acharya  
John Amory  
Ben Ardel  
Mandy Chesley-Park  
Amber Leventry  
Beth Martell

Nicole Miller  
Katie O'Shea  
Tricia Pawlik  
Jess Rodrigues  
Matt Wolf

Everything we accomplished this year for Vermont's children, families, and third-space professionals, was made possible by you. By your continuing membership, your generous donations, your time, and your commitment.

# BECAUSE OF YOU

Vermont's youth workers and programs are strengthened, its families have access to more afterschool and summer learning programs, and its children and youth are more active, connected, engaged, and heard.

## Special thanks to the following DONORS:

Chris Abair  
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\*As of June 30, 2023





VTA's Afterschool Advisory Group worked with members of the Interagency Afterschool Task Force's Best Practices subcommittee to create the **Vermont Guidelines for Afterschool, Summer, and Youth Development Programs**, intended to support program administrators, staff, parents/caregivers, children, and youth in understanding what quality looks like for all out-of-school time programs in Vermont, and to set an aspirational vision for what we strive to achieve for Vermont's children and youth. More information will be shared in the fall of 2023.

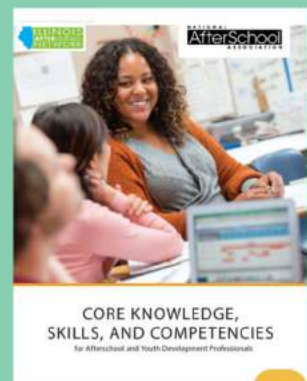


*I'm excited that we're able to make our community better. I've never been able to do something where **I can actually help out and make a difference.***

—VYP youth, age 12

VTA's **Vermont Youth Project** community coordinators in Barre, Bennington, Cabot, Rutland, and Franklin County have been building and strengthening local coalitions, organizing youth councils, and supporting the coalitions and councils through a process to create more youth-friendly community spaces. We can't wait to see what they create!

The Child Development Division approved the adoption of the National Afterschool Association's **Core Competencies and Knowledge Areas** to guide professionals in their professional growth and development. Stay tuned for more info in the fall of 2023.







**We are working to ensure every Vermont youth who wants to attend an afterschool and summer program has the opportunity to do so.**

**You can help.**

Scan with your camera app to make a gift today.



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**VermontAfterschool.org**  
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South Burlington, VT 05403