Reflections from the Director’s Desk
Leisa Pollander, Executive Director

“Each child is an adventure into a better life – an opportunity to change the old pattern and make it new.”
Hubert H. Humphrey

This summer has been all about adventure! From the beaches of Lake Champlain to the reaches of the Missisquoi River delta; from the halls of Fletcher Allen Health Care (a field trip, thankfully...NOT an emergency room visit!!!) to the classrooms of Burlington High School; from Fletcher Free Library to Shelburne Farms; from a Circus Smircus performance to sailing lessons with the Lake Champlain Sailing Center – the children enrolled in the Center’s summer programming have had an action packed summer. The Center is gifted with a truly AWESOME, committed staff, all of whom go the extra mile to ensure that kids are exposed to learning opportunities in a variety of venues. My hat is off to each and every one of these precious people who contribute in immeasurable ways to the lives of some of this community’s most vulnerable citizens. And, these adventures would not happen without the support of you, our donors. Your belief in the mission and the work that happens through the Center instills hope and creates joy in ways you may never see. May this newsletter serve as your eye to the exciting opportunities available during the summer of 2010!

Creating Connections Mentoring Program

We have a number of children currently waiting to be matched with a mentor.

Becoming a mentor takes no particular talent. If you have an hour a week to “share what you know,” you can become a mentor. A mentor is a caring, adult friend who devotes time to a young person. All mentors have the same goal in common: to help young people achieve their potential and discover their strengths. By sharing fun activities, being a good listener, and exposing a youth to new experiences, a mentor encourages positive choices, promotes high self-esteem, supports academic achievement, and introduces the young person to new ideas. Mentors are not meant to replace a parent, guardian or teacher, but rather be a part of a team of caring adults in that child’s life.

If you have decided that you do have an hour a week for at least a year (consistency is important in the life of a child), please contact Nansea Cassler at mentoring@saraholbrookcc.org.

When you support mentoring, you help strengthen people, families and our community.
New Arrivals

The New Arrivals program had a wonderfully busy summer! For five weeks, students preschool through grade 8 from all over Chittenden County focused on the theme of “our community.” Each grade level learned about what their community offers through a wide variety of field trips, literature, and classroom activities. Students spent an exciting week at Shelburne Farms and had hands on experiences with all the farm has to offer! Fletcher Free Library visited the classrooms to encourage reading with the Make a SPLASH, READ! summer reading program. Students practiced reading, writing, and math skills in fun and creative ways. Some of the highlights included building a model city with parks, vocabulary building games, and many varieties of the beloved game BINGO! The students and teachers truly enjoyed the 5 weeks of learning, growing, and having an amazing time together!

Bob & Maggie Green Youth Adventure Program

The Teen Program jumped into summer this year with the Summer Youth Adventure Program. We have traveled far and wide, from The Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge in Swanton where we saw Bald Eagles and Soft Shell Turtles on a guided boat tour to Smuggler’s Notch in the Stowe Valley where we climbed up and down massive boulders and marveled at the amazing cliffs. We have rock climbed, berry picked, mountain biked, canoed, hiked, gone swimming, eaten a good dose of creemees and much more! The kids have been able to discover many aspects, not only of Vermont, but also of themselves, all while making great friends and having a fantastic time.
**Summer World Academy**

The Summer World Academy campers adventured out and about in town participating in a number of fun activities on top of their usual North Beach exploration. 60 children enrolled in the six week long program. They performed at the WigWag Festival at the Integrated Arts Academy, created art to wear and paraded down Church Street in the Cardboard Box Parade, learned how to sail with the Community Sailing Center, read with the Fletcher Free Library, made lots of arts & crafts and much more.

**Burlington Middle School Summer Program**

In its 13th year, the Burlington Middle School Summer Program had over 200 youth taking part in 52 programs from June 28th to July 30th. The program is run by the New North End Youth Center and is open to all Burlington middle schoolers free of charge. Kids explored VT with Kate Jesdale & Cara Cabler-Sawtell; sailed with the Community Sailing Center; learned to design fashions with Claudia Venon; played soccer with Mike Facy & Maxine Dunn; Geo-cached with Kathy Hevey; sculpted pottery with City Arts Clay Studio; worked on the North Ave Walking Map; braided Rugs with Judy Dow; made stained glass with Terry Zigmond, learned digital photography with Cara Cabler-Sawtell, delved into forensics, dairy farming and environmental science with 4H, learned to swim with Boys & Girls Club; explored drawing, painting, paper mache and recycle art with Angie Ianuzzo; made paper with Lori Shelton; wrote creative stories with Kim Chase; skateboarded with Scottie Raymond; rock climbed with Maribeth & Caitlyn Long, fly fished with Fred Jackson, bait fished with Wayne Pecor and so much more. The kids had a blast and parents were very pleased that their middle schoolers participated in activities that encouraged their interests.
The Sara Holbrook Community Center’s fiscal calendar begins April 1st and closes March 31st of the following year. The following financial information reflects the 2009-2010 fiscal year. For the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the Center’s total agency income was $494,516.98. The chart below identifies the Center’s income sources and actual totals for each source.

**Thank you!**

Our programs are made possible thanks to the generous support of the community. The following individuals, corporations, and foundations have contributed to our success. The following donors made their gifts between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010.

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At the Center, we do our best to recognize those who have supported us; we try to ensure this list is as accurate as possible. If you find an error or omission, please accept our apology and contact Leisa at (802)862-0080. Thank you for understanding.

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