REFLECTIONS FROM THE DIRECTORS DESK
Leisa Pollander, Executive Director

A long time ago, while interviewing for a job I was asked the question “If you could have dinner this evening with anyone, living or dead, who would you invite to the table?” I would need to rent a banquet hall! Along with my huge extended Irish Catholic/French Canadian/Vermont Yankee family and my motley collection of friends from all walks of life, I would invite Sara M. Holbrook. I would love to have the opportunity to hear the nitty-gritty details about what it took to get this agency established in 1937. I would like to know what the day-to-day duties of her job were. I would like to have her reaction to the face of Burlington in 2012 – and what she thinks about the Center’s work today.

My guess is that the Center operates much like it did under her watch. The SHCC has a reputation of being “lean and mean”, operating with a very small administrative footprint. We rely heavily on individual volunteers, communities of faith, small businesses and large corporations, non-profit and educational partners, institutions of higher ed., individual donors and family and corporate foundations to help support the mission. The Center is too small to go it alone; but working in conjunction with others, it makes a difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable citizens in our community.

Dealing with the impact that poverty has on the lives of kids, families, and elders is part of the daily work here. Lack of food, shelter, unemployment or underemployment, mental and physical health issues are realities in the lives of those who are intertwined with this tiny organization. No one entity can do this work alone – but working together, we can make progress. Thank you all for the support you have given in the past to help make the future a little brighter for those who need the SHCC’s services.

SHCC MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Sara Holbrook Community Center is to develop responsible and productive children, youth and families through social development, educational and recreational opportunities. The Center serves Chittenden County primarily focusing on the North End of Burlington.
Preschool
The Sara Holbrook Preschool had a wonderful year. It was a pleasure to watch 15 little ones learn and grow throughout the months. This year, with a grant from the Vermont Arts Council, the preschool program participated in a residency with the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts. Tracy Martin, the teaching artist, gleefully presented several movement games, taught the kids how to make their bodies into shapes, and lead the class through the process of acting out stories. The children continued these creative movement techniques throughout the year during reading and dramatic play. The Preschool also had a very successful year working with family members as partners in their children’s learning. Through home visits, family conferences, parent committee meetings, literacy workshops, and parent volunteering in the classroom, the partnerships grew creating a wonderful learning environment. Two parents lead the preschoolers in engaging activities this year including a Monet lesson and making animals out of shapes.

After School
The Elementary After School Program was busy this year engaging 36 kids in healthy activities. On top of our usual offerings such as homework help, free play, arts & crafts, big group games, computer time, and more, Louise Prunell from the University of Vermont Extension reached out to the kids and taught a weekly nutrition class. Each week she introduced healthy food choices and helped the kids prepare a delicious snack based on those choices. To build upon the theme of leading a healthy lifestyle, local community members and the Flynn Center offered the children healthy physical activity by providing gymnastics and a chance to learn how to problem solve. Children would tumble and move their bodies letting out the extra energy that age group exudes as well as learning how to twist their bodies in different ways. Our vacation camp kept kids active with trips to the Edge’s pool and waterslide, Leddy Park’s ice skating arena, and Champlain Lanes’ Bowling Alley.

Middle School After School Enrichment
In collaboration with the Burlington School District After School Program and in conjunction with the New North End Youth Center (an SHCC program), middle schoolers at Lyman C. Hunt Middle School explored over 135 enrichment activities giving them the chance to: discover new activities they might pick up as a lifelong hobby; practice a new skill they might be able to turn into a career; or simply investigate something they might not have had the chance to delve into because of their socio-economic situation. Some of the activities included: drawing, rock climbing, Thai cooking, piano lessons, Native American beading, stepping, yoga, a jazz club, bowling, a book club, DJ & music production, pottery, special occasion baking, and many more. The program was free of charge and offered free snack and dinner to ensure that children were able to receive the proper nutrition to be healthy and productive. 100% of all Hunt students were served in afterschool and New North End Youth Center drop-in programs.

Teen Drop-In
It’s been a fantastic year at Sara Holbrook’s New North End Youth Center! Over 525 middle and high schooler’s have had some experiences to remember. Whether it was one of the memorable dodgeball tournaments, the tie-dying of t-shirts, the “dougie” contests at the Friday evening dances or just relaxing to the latest Justin Bieber hit, there was truly something for everyone this year. “I love it here,” exclaimed one sixth grader, “...I can be myself!” Similar sentiments were expressed amongst the sixth, seventh and eighth graders who daily attend the center located next to Hunt Middle School at the Robert Miller Center. Other participants cheerily yelled about art projects (and who can make the longest “box stitch” with the colorful lanyard), intense pick-up basketball games and ping-pong tournaments. In the evenings the Teen Center hosts a variety of high school students who enjoy open-gym, fooseball and Friday night trips to local parks, BBQs, and the all-time favorite, Pizza Putt! Some of the graduating seniors have been coming to NNEYC for seven years!
Bob & Maggie Green
Youth Adventure Program
Oh, the places we've been! What an amazing summer it’s been with the Youth Adventure Program. Every day, shine or rain, 10-15 middle-schoolers would hop in a van and explore all that Northern Vermont had to offer. Fishing? Alpine Sliding? Mountain Biking? Yes, we did all of that and more! The goal of the program is to expose young people, who wouldn’t normally get out of Burlington, to the sounds and excitement of Vermont; to be tourists in their own state. Shouts of “This is awesome!” and “Wow!” intermingled with “Can we do that again?”. Of all the exciting trips ventured on, the favorite was kayaking on the Waterbury Reservoir. For pre-teens who had never been on a boat before, we sure had some natural talent on the water! Another highlight was Circus Smirkus which inspired some of our campers to proclaim they would be joining the circus next summer. The summer of 2012 is one that will go down in the books as being “THE BEST SUMMER EVER!!”.

Burlington Middle School Summer Program
The Burlington Middle School Summer Program offers Burlington’s youth a summer full of activities where middle schoolers can discover what are their gifts and interests. Youth can explore many programs to either deepen their interests, or try something that simply sounds like fun. 260 youth took part in 5 weeks of summer programming- free of charge for all middle school aged youth within the city of Burlington. Youth were able to choose from 44 program offerings. These rigorous programs ranged from one or two week, half or full day sessions to five week intensive half or full day activities. A sample of the programs offered were: sailing, movie making, website design, pottery, silk screening, acrylic painting, drawing, water rocketry, acoustic & electric guitar, two math classes (which earned the students high school math credit), a five week farm to table program, basketball, soccer, hiking, exploring Vermont, and many more. Youth were offered breakfast and lunch to ensure they were nutritionally ready for such demanding endeavors.

New Arrivals
The New Arrivals program brings together students from Chittenden County who need additional English Language Learning (ELL) to bridge the summer vacation gap. 65 preschoolers through eighth graders representing 9 countries spent 5 weeks preparing academically to begin or resume school in the fall. With the theme of Passport to the World, K-8 classrooms studied the cultures and land features of the world with a focus on each of the seven continents. Essential academic vocabulary, based on Vermont’s Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities History and Social Studies Grade Expectations, was identified collaboratively by the K-8 teachers. K-2 students explored and used new vocabulary through read alouds, art, and theater projects. 3-5 students engaged in exploratory learning through cultural cooking projects, guided reading, and a final small group country report. 6-8th graders learned mapping skills and new vocabulary related to geography, culminating in a small group research project creating a wall map of the major land features of each continent. Theme learning goals were also supported by our partners at the Fletcher Free Library and Shelburne Farms where the students spent an entire week. Determined by pre and post tests, on average, students increased their mastery of essential vocabulary by 30% at the close of the program.

Summer World Academy
The Summer World Academy offered 63 elementary school aged children the opportunity to enjoy the ‘days of summer’ in a 6 week long summer camp. Kids explored ecology through a tour at the Ethan Allen Homestead. Fourth and Fifth graders got a chance to go to the new waterslide park at Jay Peak. The UVM Morgan Horse Farm invited children to learn all about the horses and their work. Seven campers nurtured their folk music and dance curiosity by attending Trad Camp. Outfits were made and worn for Burlington’s Box Parade. A rendition of the theatrical performance Peter Pan was practiced and performed with the help of the Very Merry Theater. Fletcher Free Library boosted the kids reading skills through their Dream Big reading program. Children ventured out to various recreational paths on bike tours. Lastly, the kids enjoyed the usual– the beautiful waters and beaches of Lake Champlain, arts and crafts, big group games, board games, soccer matches, basketball tournaments, and much more.
Thank You Volunteers!!

The Sara Holbrook Community Center would like to acknowledge the fact that we could not run our programs without the help of volunteers. We greatly appreciate all the work that volunteers do for us. Thank you volunteers for spending your time with SHCC kids!

The Business Section

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 2011-2012 fiscal year. For the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the Center’s total agency income per our draft audit was $605,429. The chart above identifies the Center’s income sources and actual totals for each source.
Thank you!

Our programs are made possible by 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, 2011 and March 31, 2012.
The following loved ones were honored with a gift to the Center:

Jessica Andreola
Josephine Burke
Buster, Tess & Emma
Sarah Carroll
Dr. Peter Casson
Tracy D'Amato
Twedis Walker-Merrell
Williston Central School's Full House Teachers (Tracy D'Amato, Tad Dipple, Al Fletcher, and Kathy Rossier)

The following loved ones were remembered with gifts to the Center:

Cynthia Antell
Bernard L. Boutin
Margaret Larrow Carter
Lyle Derouiche
Buddy Floyd
Maggie Green
Reverand Robert Lee
John C. Lynch
Gary C. Mathon
Todd Murphy
Will Parker
Theresa Roberts
Tom Shafran
Joel Thomas
Edith Van Wagner
John Ward

SHCC does 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 an omission, please accept our apology and contact Leisa at (802)862-0080. Thank you for understanding.

This publication was produced with the help of Duncan Wisniewski Architecture.
Saturday, September 15, 2012
at Battery Park, 10am-2pm
FREE OF CHARGE • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • FAMILY ORIENTED

ACTIVITIES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- TOUCH-A-TRUCK
- LOCAL FOOD VENDORS
- ICE CREAM
- COTTON CANDY
- SAVORY TREATS
- TREAT DECORATING
- FACE PAINTING
- BALLOON ARTISTRY
- PERFORMANCES

OVER 15 TRUCKS/CARS TO EXPLORE!

For more information call 802.862.6342
or go to our website
www.saraholbrookcc.org

Sponsored by: Bissonette Properties & Northfield Savings Bank