Reflected in the Director's Desk

Leisa Pollander, Executive Director

The long-awaited construction project is finally underway! The two duplexes at 58 and 56 North Avenue were leveled this past May and our ground-breaking ceremony on June 4th was well-attended by long-standing supporters, dignitaries, community partners, board members, staff, and children.

This campaign for our much needed new building was initiated in 2013 through a strategic planning process. Christine Graham, our stalwart mentor and coach, orchestrated our feasibility study and helped design the campaign and has been steadily cheering us on. The SHCC board selected Connor Contracting Inc. from St. Albans to serve as Construction Manager. The Connor Contracting team has been coordinating the multitude of trades that will make the Center’s new facility a reality. The increase in construction cost leaves us with $929,000 to raise.

If you know the world of child care, especially those programs that serve a preponderance of low income children and families, funding is tenuous at best. The Center starts every fiscal year with a zero-based budget and builds from there. To assure the viability of our programs we are striving to have NO mortgage. Please consider partnering with the Center to make quality services in a newly renovated and expanded building a reality for some of our community’s most vulnerable children and families. An investment in quality care is an investment in everyone’s future.

If you would like to come and take a tour or check out construction progress, please feel free to connect with me at lpollander@saraholbrookcc.org or 802-862-0080 – I’d love to give you an overview and see how you can help make dreams a reality!

Pictured right:

Frank & Ducky Donath, two of the project’s most avid supporters, attended the ground-breaking event; Frank spoke eloquently to his support of and belief in the need for the Center’s expansion.
PRESCHOOL

Our 5-STAR preschool program provided a rich learning environment for 22 preschoolers, and what a pleasure it was to watch them grow! The program is organized to allow for individual differences in pace, style, and a range of learning interests. As much as possible, our teachers strive to provide each child with a variety of experiences that are creative, intellectual, artistic and physical. Learning is encouraged through exploration, inquiry, and experimenting. Our preschool program is a collaboration with Champlain Valley Head Start (CVHS). Head Start provides assistance with teaching, family support services, health education and screening, services for children with special needs, professional development, food service and educational consumables.
Elementary Afterschool Program

The numbers increased over 30% for the 2018-2019 school year with an average of 20 children per day with 33 registered. The Winter Vacation Camp showed an increase of 20%. Sara Holbrook celebrates a diverse population in the afterschool program serving children from Nepal, Tanzania, Bhutan, Kenya, Italy, D.R. Congo, and Burundi with as many languages spoken.

The program benefited from local colleges bringing creative curriculum. The colleges included Saint Michaels, University of Vermont and Middlebury College. The curriculum included Team Building, Community Service Projects, Sports (rugby), and Arts & Crafts activities. We had additional volunteers from the community, Sara Holbrook board, and local high schools that also helped to support the program. One of the favorite volunteers was a therapy dog named Lucy.

The children attended each day from four Burlington elementary schools. They had the opportunity for physical exercise, outdoor play, board games, arts & crafts, homework help, dancing, gymnastics, quiet play, and socialization. The list goes on!

Winter Vacation Camp enjoyed field trips every day. The children enjoyed snowshoeing, bowling, swimming, ice skating, and explored ECHO Children’s Museum. We embraced our Vermont winter through snow bocce, snow basketball, and sledding.

The afterschool staff enhanced their skills while attending the Vermont Afterschool Conference participating in several trainings that they implemented in the afterschool program. The Director also took courses and attended trainings to receive her Afterschool Professional Credential.

Teen Afterschool Program

Our Hunt Middle School Afterschool Program is a collaboration with the Burlington School District. Middle school aged children are offered a broad range of opportunities to explore new and enriching activities and delve deeper into areas of interest that can develop into new hobbies and potential career paths. 352 Burlington and Winooski students participated in 5-week sessions throughout the year, which included sailing, jewelry-making, cycling, watercolor painting, electronics, rocket-making, metal working, gardening with cooking, bike mechanics and filmmaking. Students also did a presentation for the annual Afterschool Advocacy Day at the VT State House.

The Sara Holbrook Teen Center located at the Robert Miller Community Recreation Center in the New North End of Burlington, provides a safe, supportive and inclusive space for middle school students to participate in a variety of activities ranging from basketball, soccer and dodgeball to pool, foosball, and ping-pong as well as board games, arts and crafts projects, and music and dance classes.

The Teen Center is open exclusively to high school students later in the evening where they can receive staff support with homework, job and college applications, or helpful advice on how to navigate the challenges of young adulthood. There is also a gym that students can utilize for more competitive games of basketball and soccer. The Teen Center served a total of 656 students in the 2018-2019 school year.

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Summer Enrichment and Youth Adventure Program (YAP)

2018 proved to be yet another highly successful summer for the Burlington-Winooski Middle School Summer Program. This year supported 237 middle school students from Burlington and Winooski during what can often be one of the least productive, unsafe, and uneventful times of the year for youth. Participants engaged in 80 classes encompassing Art, Technology, Music, Community Service, Sports, and Recreation throughout the five week period, including four academic-based classes including Pre-Algebra for 8th graders headed to high school, Math Review and Literacy for a wide range of students, Geometry for 7th and 8th graders, and English Language Learning. These classes were designed to promote growth in graduate expectations of critical thinking and problem solving, effective communication, cross-cultural understanding and civic engagement, personal development, persistence and well-being, and curiosity and creativity.

Daily attendance averaged between 100 to 120 students throughout the program and so many friendships arose from this. In addition to engaging classes and learning opportunities, the program also provided free transportation and two healthy meals to all students each day. Breakfast and lunch were served to the program and open to the community at large free of charge ensuring the youth had access to healthy food throughout much of the summer.


Partnerships such as the Lake Champlain Sailing Center, Very Merry Theatre, Petra Cliffs, Spare Time, Generator, and Channel 17 TV in addition to local artists Stephanie Zuppo, Joanne Kalisz, Jane Frank, and Carol MacDonald, supported students accessing their local community first hand.

Fun with firefighters!

Great gardening adventures!

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NEW ARRIVALS

Our New Arrivals program is a partnership with the Burlington and Winooski School Districts, allowing Sara Holbrook Center the ability to increase services to the community’s thriving New American population. Serving preschoolers up through 9th graders, our program enrolled 75 children from 10 different nations. Somalia, Nepal, Bhutan, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Yemen, Ethiopia, Peru and India were represented.

This six-week program of both academics and recreation helped students retain and increase English language skills and other academic knowledge. Students in every age group developed and deepened friendships, increased confidence and mastery thorough academic skill building, and enriching recreational activities. Every class spent a week at Shelburne Farms—a favorite fieldtrip that includes contact with domestic farm animals, organic farming, hiking, swimming, and field exploration.

BARNES SUMMER WORLD ACADEMY

Summer Camp was held at Sustainability Academy in collaboration with Burlington, Parks, Rec and Waterfront. They fund a co-director position as well as transportation. The camp can accommodate up to 65 children.

Children had the chance to go to North Beach three afternoons a week. We explored Niquette Bay State Park with a hike in the woods and a swim in the bay. They took part in the Annual Card Board Box Parade that ended with a Magic Show! The Children enjoyed listening to musicians from Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival.

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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 to the following volunteers for sharing your talents and time with/or on behalf of SHCC kids!

Emily Benz
June Bond
Jabez Boyd
Karen Bresnahan
Dick Brunelle
Bruce Chattman
Diane Chattman
Ducky Donath
Ross Fenderson
Allison Fischthal
Ahmed Foco
Janet Hayden
Lindsay Hennekey
Rachel Kahn-Fogel
Margie Kehr
Debbie LaRosa
Bob Maritano
Ashton McGuire
Lucy—Therapy Dog
Sandy McGuire
Samantha Mills
Michele Patton
Jorge Rios Garcia
Mariah Robin
Allysa Russell
Kathy Schirling
Chip Spillane
Henry Stayduhar
Catherine Symchych
Connie Wendeln
James Whitley

Students from the following Schools & Universities:

- Burlington High School
- Champlain Valley Union HS
- Middlebury College
- Rice High School
- University of Vermont

SHCC Food Pantry

More than 250 households rely on monthly visits to our food pantry. We continue to be extremely grateful to our community members who donate all year long at the North Avenue Hannaford grocery store where the Center has a food donation bin. During the Holiday Season, many of their customers purchased Hannaford Helps Fight Hunger food boxes, which the Center was able to distribute to families. Hannaford’s corporate office also helped the Center’s food pantry manage increased usage by selecting the Center as a recipient for several of its community outreach programs.

THINKING of YOU!

The following loved ones were remembered with a gift to the center: Cynthia Antell, Bill Carpenter, Kristen Charlebois, David Gretkowski, Sally Hand, Lyn Leavitt, John Nolan, and Liz Swim

Gifts were made in honor of: Mary Ann Blaisdell, Janet Breen, Anna Carey, Bruce & Diane Chattman, Ducky Donath, Frank Donath, Leisa Pollander

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Thank you!

Our programs are made possible by the generous support of the community. The following individuals, corporations, businesses, and foundations have contributed to our success. The following donors made their gifts between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018.

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Financial Report

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 2018-2019 fiscal year. This statement is a combined and condensed unaudited balance sheet and profit & loss statement. Upon completion, a set of audited financial statements will be available upon request. Total Income $717,989, Total Expense $653,531.

Income

- United Way: $42,270 (6%)
- Contributions: $110,065 (15%)
- Grants: $193,113 (27%)
- Program Service fees: $292,895 (41%)
- Investment: $13,096 (2%)
- Misc: $550 (0%)
- Special events: $27,867 (4%)
- Rental Income: $38,133 (5%)
- Program: $125,025 (19%)
- Rental Properties: $21,132 (3%)
- Fundraising Fees: $5,087 (1%)
- Outside Contract: $18,045 (3%)
- Payroll: $484,242 (74%)

Expenses