

Child Care Resource

ANNUAL REPORT - July 2002 through June 2003

Red Balloon Child Care: Soaring to New Heights

By Elizabeth Meyer

Red Balloon Child Care is a place where children can thrive. The large, light, airy space is hung with children's art. The children are busily exploring, creating, and playing with each other. The teachers are involved in what the children are doing and ready to give a hug when needed. Outside the playground is full of what's needed to climb, pretend, and build. Nearby are woods for walking, discovering, and learning about the world.

I came to Red Balloon on a blustery fall day to meet Carolyn Riley, who had opened a child care program in a local church where two previous child care programs had struggled and closed. She told me her story over coffee in a nearby cafe. For seven years, she had run a child care program in her home. She loved cooking and nutritious meals were an important part of her child care. As a Child Care Food Program participant, she received valuable information and meal reimbursement to further support the children's nutrition. Her programs was well-known and respected by the Colchester families who came to by word of mouth. So, when the last child care center at the church closed, the Father of the church knew who to call.



Carolyn first visited the church space with CCR's Child Care Developer, Michelle Parent. The space had old food all over the floor, dirty toys, and filthy walls. In spite of the obstacles, they saw the possibilities. Over the next two months, Michelle worked with Carolyn to design a space that would set the stage for a quality child care program. Carolyn's community was there to help as well. Her husband and friends all pitched in to clean, paint, and build. Area businesses discounted and donated building materials and food to feed the hungry workers.

With the space almost ready to open, Michelle helped Carolyn recruit staff. Using a special IBM grant, Michelle placed an advertisement for staff and offered free, intensive training through Child Care Resource. Completion of the training would lead to a \$1,000 bonus offered by the State of Vermont Child Care Services Division. The response from applicants was great. Carolyn soon had the staff she needed.

Many of the families who came to Carolyn's home for care, came with her to the center. Child Care Resource Referral staff helped Carolyn find additional families to fill the remaining slots and Subsidy staff worked with these families to help them arrange payment for care.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 2002-June 2003

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It has been an exciting year at Child Care Resource. Serving as Board President has given me the opportunity to learn more about the many services Child Care Resource provides; it has also given me the opportunity to work with committed board members and outstanding staff.

Child Care Resource is one of those agencies that has an impact in so many ways; it has special meaning to each of us. To me, Child Care Resource has always meant *professional development*. The workshops and conferences offered by Child Care Resource educate so many child care providers in Chittenden County. Workshops are well known for their range of topics, quality instructors, and affordable price.

However, I've learned *professional development* is just one portion of Child Care Resource's contribution to our community. This year Child Care Resource adopted a new phrase, "Everything You Need to Know about Child Care." What a perfect description of the service provided! From *Child Care Referral* to *Consulting* to the *Child Care Food Program* to *Child Care Subsidy* to *assisting Children of Homeless Families*, Child Care Resource is there.

Read on to learn more about Child Care Resource in 2003.

Sincerely,

Laurel Bongiorno
President
Child Care Resource Board of Directors



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM 2002-2003



Reflections

Child Care Resource opened for business in 1984. This year, we begin our twentieth year celebration. Just like a growing person, a twenty-year old organization is well established yet has much to learn. We've learned so much just in the past year. Here are some of the highlights:

- Verizon Foundation awarded Child Care Resource a grant to expand our website so that parents could do on-line child care searches. This will be up and running by the end of 2003. Visit our website at www.childcareresource.org.
- IBM corporation, through WFD, awarded Child Care Resource a grant to enhance our child care recruitment and retention activities. With this grant, we had the opportunity to try every creative approach we could think of to recruit new child care providers, connect parents with each other to share care, and help existing providers expand and/or sustain their programs. It gave us the staff we needed to fully support providers through their decision-making about their businesses. We have since been awarded a grant by the Vermont Child Care Services Division to continue this work.
- Three highly experienced and skilled child care mentors – Laura Butler, Ellen Drolette, and Kari Ploof - began working in collaboration with Child Care Resource to bring their expertise and our Toy Van to providers throughout Chittenden County. Three days per week, one of newest staff members – Lucinda Ransom – also a very experienced child care provider – takes over at the mentors' programs, making it possible for them be out and about.

- A special grant from the Vermont Child Care Services Division helped us initiate a collaborative substitute program with five local child care centers. Child Care Resource hired part-time substitute staff who work at each of the five centers one day per week. The centers pay for half the cost and the state grant pays for the other half. This is a staff recruitment program as well. After a year of training in 3 of the centers, one of our substitutes was hired as a full time staff member at one of the centers and is now pursuing her Child Development Associate Credential.

In honor of our twentieth year we've renewed our promise to our community. We promise that Child Care Resource is the place to go for "Everything You Need to Know About Child Care". If we don't know, we'll find out who does.

I've had the pleasure of being the Executive Director of Child Care Resource since 1992. I work with a great staff, a supportive Board, and a wonderful community. There are many exciting possibilities for the future.

I look forward to our future.

Elizabeth Meyer
Executive Director, CCR





Accomplishments for FY03

Child Care Resource increased families' knowledge, skills, and opportunities to find, choose, and pay for child care that meets their needs:

- 1299 families were helped in their search for child care through our comprehensive information about child care for infants and preschoolers, after-school and vacation care, and summer camps.
- On a monthly basis, our Subsidy Specialists worked with a growing number of families. Over the year the number of families served each month grew from 1,029 in July 2002 to 1,208 in June 2003, a 17% increase.
- By the end of FY03, Child Care Resource was assisting 205 families in receiving child care subsidies because their children were at risk of abuse or neglect.

Child Care Resource increased the quality of child care by improving provider's knowledge, skills, and use of resources:

- 900 child care providers chose to participate in some way in the 375 hours of training and 135 hours of college level course work offered through Child Care Resource. The number of child care providers participating in training increased by 20% since the last year.
- On average, 860 children each month received nutritious meals in child care supported by federal funds because of our sponsorship of the Child Care Food Program.
- In the last four months of the year, 46 child care providers received mentoring visits.

Child Care Resource increased children's success in their child care settings:

- Each month, child care consultants worked with an average of 22 child care programs to improve the quality of their programs and/or to tailor their programs to children with special needs.
- On average, consultants worked with child care programs on behalf of 35 children each month. All of these children were presenting developmental, emotional or behavioral challenges. Many had been abused or neglected or were experiencing homelessness or poverty.



Financial Resources (as of 6/30/03):

Revenue

Federal/State	\$569,575
CCFP Provider Reim.	\$460,434
Corporate & Foundation (WF Rcs)	\$139,424
Fees	\$ 60,797
Fund Raising	\$ 67,766
Other	\$ 38,917
Total	\$1,336,913

Expenses

Personnel	\$678,619
Operating	\$655,151
Total	\$1,333,770

** This statement is based on audited statements.*

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Carolyn needed more equipment than she had for her new program. To help get started, Carolyn borrowed toys and equipment through the Child Care Resource Toy Van. Local child care mentor, Ellen Drolette, brought the Toy Van and gave Carolyn more ideas about space and program. This fall, Carolyn raised additional funds for equipment by selling Sally Foster gift wrap through Child Care Resource's cooperative fundraising program.



Red Balloon Child Care is off to a good start and Carolyn has ideas about how to make it even better. She'd like to develop a school age child care program in a nearby space. Michelle has helped her identify grant possibilities that would allow her to expand.



Carolyn grew up on a remote farm in the Northeast Kingdom surrounded by 5 siblings and loving parents. She had a happy childhood playing on the farm, riding horses, and going to catholic school. Her love for people was evident when she chose Human Services as her major at Lyndon State College. After college, she entered the corporate world and aspired to a management position. When her first child was born, her interests and priorities began to shift in a direction she had never imagined.

When you visit Red Balloon, Carolyn's caring for children is evident and you can tell that the children care for her as well. She takes good care of her staff. You can see that her staff like where they work by the smiles on their faces and the attention to the children in their care. We thank Carolyn for her vision and commitment to children and will continue to support her as her program grows.



Annual Report 2002-2003

Child Care Resource Supporters

Fiscal Year 2002-2003

Agency of Human Services
Andrea Senecal Day Care
Ben & Jerry's
Benoit Child Care Center
Laurel Bongiorno
David Brigante – Early Years Child Dev Center
Brown Animal Hospital
Burlington Free Press
Busy Bodies Child Care
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Catamount Children Ctr
Ceridian Corporation
Century 21 Advantage
Champlain Valley Agency on Aging
Chittenden Bank
Sue Corron
Day and Dance Center
Diane Hollwedel Day Care
Dino-Mite Day Care
Dorothy Alling Library – Workshop Space

Early Childhood Connection of Chittenden County
Ed-U-Care Children's Center
Essex Hollow Playschool
Tim & Kathleen Eustace
Jim & Lyn Feinson

Anna Graham
Green Mountain Underwriting Services
David Grenier
Shelley Henson
Kristen Hoben
IBM Employees Charitable Contribution Campaign

Tom & Ellen O'Connor
Old Brick Church, Williston – Workshop Space
Pal's Day Care
Pam Preston Child Care
Michelle Parent
Patti Lynn Roberts

SRS Child Care Services Div
Stacy Andrews Day Care
Joyce Stone
Constance Tancrell
Taralyn Thorne Day Care
The Children's Center
The Growing Place
Town of Jericho
Town of Shelburne
Town of Williston
United Way of Tri-State
Bill Vandeventer – The Physician's Computer Co
Verizon Foundation

Our mission is to strengthen the well-being, development, and education of children by providing consultation, education, and resources to families, professionals who care for and education our children, businesses, and communities. Thank you for your support!

Field of Dreams I
Field of Dreams II
Fletcher Allen Health Care
James & Barbara Flint
Fran Smith Day Care
Gallagher, Flynn & Co
Amy Golodetz & Greg Leech
Sue Grab
Matthew & Anna Grady

Kari Ploof Day Care
KidSafe Collaborative
Kinderworks
Morris Knight
Laura Butler Day Care
Little Feats Child Center
Little Things Day Care
Andrew MacKechnie
Merchants Bank
Steve & Deena Murphy
New England Performance Art Center

Play Care Center – Richmond
Joy Pratt
Primetime
Tom Reeves
Robin's Nest Children's Ctr
William & Liz Rogers
Sherry Hebert Day Care
Vicky Smith & David Porteous
Somerset Associates
Sports & Fitness Edge

Vermont Assoc of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies
Vermont Dept of Education
Vermont Dept of PATH
Vermont School Age Network
Vermont State Employees Association
WFD, Inc.
Williston Child Care Center
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