



Child Care Resource

2007/2008 Annual Report



Congratulations!

The **Williston Children's Center** received national recognition with accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). *Parents Magazine* called NAEYC accreditation the "gold standard of approval" since only 8% of child care centers nationwide achieve this level of accreditation. The recognition of quality followed a six-month process of documentation and portfolio development by the Williston Children's Center, led by Program Director Andrea Viets.

Bringing Food to Hungry Children Since 1985

People are often surprised to learn that Child Care Resource has addressed childhood hunger since 1985. Last year, CCR made possible 25,525 nutritious meals for 750 children each month in local home-based child care programs! Children consume 75% of their daily food intake during a full day in child care and healthy food choices encourage the development of healthy eating habits.

The Child Care Food Program is broader than the School Lunch Program because of the time children spend in care. It can include funding for breakfast, lunch, snacks, and even dinner to participating providers who serve meals. Each year Child Care Resource administers about \$325,000 in federal meal dollars for home-based early care and education programs in Chittenden County. Food Program staff help and encourage providers through nutrition education, site visits and assistance with menu planning.

More Meals for More Children

In 2008, Child Care Resource began a new initiative to bring more federal dollars to Chittenden County and more meals to children in early care and education programs. We learned that only a few center-based early care and education programs in Chittenden County receive federal dollars to provide meals for hungry children.

Working with the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, CCR offered to help reduce the two major obstacles to participation: administrative time required, and the cost of providing meals. As the umbrella agency, CCR will expand its food program by creating a Child Care Food Network, with the following goals:

- Encourage more centers to participate in the federal program by assisting with the required paperwork.
- Help centers reduce food costs by developing a bulk-buying and distribution system.

With the help of a special grant from United Way, the new program is being set up for the current school year. The Child Care Food Network's goal is to bring at least \$150,000 in new federal dollars into our community to help feed hungry children in 2009.

Photos - above left: Josey McDonald's child care is one of ten programs that received fresh fruits and vegetables every week June-September, thanks to CCR's Food To Grow On program.

right: Anna Graham, Director of Child Nutrition Programs, sorts and packs weekly CSA farm shares for delivery. Shares were purchased from the student-run Common Ground farm at UVM.

*Each month
CCR's Food
Program makes
possible 25,525
nutritious meals
for 750 children
in Chittenden
County!*



Child Care Resource Mission Statement

We commit to strengthening the well-being, development and education of children in Chittenden County by providing consultation, education and resources to families and professionals who care for and educate our children, businesses and communities.



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Compassion and Partnership

Middle income Vermonters are faced with the challenges of paying for heat, the commute to work, child care and the rising cost of basic needs -- food and medical care. The media reports that wages aren't keeping up with inflation, and every day job layoffs are in the paper. At Child Care Resource, we see first-hand the struggles of families trying to make ends meet, and the almost impossible situations of low-income families who were struggling before the economy took a downturn.



Child care providers in turn are feeling the strain. More families are relying on decreased state assistance to pay for child care, and that assistance is not enough to keep providers stable and in business. Providers play an important role in supporting families under stress. Often, the stress becomes overwhelming and providers close, destabilizing families further.

While Child Care Resource can't change the state of the economy, we are working hard to do what we can to help families and providers get through another day, week, or year. We extend our hand in partnership and compassion, and do what we can to make the future better for families. In all of our efforts, children's well-being, development, and education are the top priorities.

In this Annual Report you will learn about new CCR efforts: expanding the child care food program to reach more hungry children and helping family child care providers improve quality in their pre-k programs. Your support of Child Care Resource is an investment in the future, and we are so grateful for it. ☀

Ellen M. Drolette

Ellen M. Drolette
President, Board of Directors



Our Preschool Initiative: Family Home Providers

Child Care Resource has been breaking new ground in supporting the participation of home-based family child care programs in Vermont's preschool initiative. Here's the progress to date:

2007 - Vermont legislature passed landmark early care and education legislation (Act 62).

2008 - CCR identified local needs and worked closely with the Vermont Preschool Collaborative Project and a number of home-based programs to develop a pilot project, starting up in the current school year.

2009 - The pilot project will demonstrate how full-day home-based programs can provide quality preschool education to meet or exceed the Vermont Early Learning Standards. The results will provide school districts throughout Vermont with important information for broader preschool education plans.

Child Care Resource is grateful to South Burlington School Superintendent John Everitt for supporting and co-chairing this project, and to Fran Williams of the Chittenden South Supervisory Union for her support and participation. ☀



Poorer Than Poor

by Elizabeth Meyer, Executive Director

Child care tuition assistance is a piece of the economic puzzle that protects many children from hunger and homelessness. Child Care Resource awards child care tuition assistance to 1,300 financially-challenged families each year. Without our help, these parents could not make ends meet.

All too often, CCR can't help families enough or at all because of the current state guidelines for tuition assistance eligibility. A Vermont family must be poorer than poor to qualify for the maximum amount of child care tuition assistance (subsidy). For example, a single parent with two children cannot earn more than \$14,000 to qualify, while the federal poverty level for this family is \$17,600. The recommended livable wage¹ for this family is \$54,288. Until last spring, the Vermont income eligibility guidelines for child care tuition assistance had not been increased since 1999.

During the last legislative session the Vermont legislature took a step toward increasing support for low income working families. As a result of hard work by a statewide coalition of advocates including CCR and frustrated parents, they allocated over \$800,000 and raised the child care assistance income eligibility to the year 2000 levels. In spite of that effort, families continue to struggle.

How can you help? Please pay attention to the next legislative session. Support efforts to increase the income eligibility guidelines for tuition assistance. Contact your state legislators by phone, email, postcard or letter to encourage them to vote for Vermont's neediest children. Our actions can help stabilize Vermont's current workforce and strengthen the future of its children. ☀

¹State of Vermont Joint Fiscal Office (2008).

A livable wage is the hourly wage or annual income sufficient to meet an individual or family's basic needs plus all applicable federal and state taxes. The basic needs budgets estimate what it costs to live in Vermont for six different Vermont urban and rural family sizes. Therefore, there is no one livable wage number. These figures are intended to be a guide for compensation based on how much it costs to meet basic needs in our state.



2007-2008 Financial Resources*

Revenue

Federal and State.....	820,394
CCFP Provider Reimbursement.....	323,055
Child Care Tuition.....	256,995
Training & Referral Fees.....	135,687
Corporate, Foundation & Fundraising.....	91,381
Other.....	43,012

Total Revenue	1,670,524
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Expenses

Referrals, Subsidy, Direct Services.....	1,208,574
Child Care Center.....	278,564
Administration & Fundraising.....	188,601

Total Expenses	1,675,739
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Net Contribution to Reserves	(5,216)
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*Audit of FY 2007-2008 Financials still in process at time of publication.



“It is important that the care a child receives during the first five years of life be of high quality, because 90% of brain development occurs during those years.”

Linda K. Smith
Executive Director/NACCRRA





Child Care Resource

181 Commerce Street,
Williston, VT 05495

Check out our updated website!
www.childcareresource.org



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A Lifeline for Families and Children

The phone rings almost constantly at Child Care Resource (CCR), and we never know who might need us on the other end of the line -- it could be a parent, a child care provider, or a concerned community member. CCR offers a lifeline to families and child care providers, and here are just two stories of clients who came to us for help last year:

- A deaf, widowed mother came to CCR. Her three year-old daughter had normal hearing, but her speech wasn't developing normally. Using a pen and paper to communicate with CCR staff, this mother shared her goal. "I want my daughter to have her own voice," she wrote. We worked closely with her to find a provider who had sign language skills and could give the child what the mother couldn't.
- For two years, a young single mother had been receiving child care tuition assistance through CCR. With child care in place, she was able to receive the training she needed to earn enough money to support her family's basic needs. After a year in training, and another year in an entry level job, she called CCR to thank us and to share her good news. She had been promoted at work, and would no longer need assistance paying for her child's care.

Parents want what is best for their children, yet all too often they feel alone and unsupported as they try to balance their work life with raising a family. Since 1984, we have helped match more than 30,000 families with child care programs that meet their needs, no matter how complex or unique. ☀

