



Family Center
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY



It's always about the family.

IMPACT



REPORT

2022 - 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our dedicated team of staff for their unwavering commitment throughout the challenges of this year. It has been a difficult time for everyone, but our staff has shown perseverance in delivering essential services to families and children across our communities.

“Our heartfelt gratitude to ALL of you who help make this possible. ..we are able to make strides each day in realizing our mission thanks to the ongoing support from our *Vermont Strong* communities.”

Claire & Joe
Co-Directors

Thank you to our dedicated legislators and state partners for working together to pass the 2023 Child Care Bill. This significant accomplishment marks a turning point in Vermont's child care sector, guaranteeing improved services for all families. Thanks to the unwavering efforts of advocates and organizations, access to high-quality child care is now more accessible and affordable. The bill prioritizes funding, early education, caregiver training, and enhances overall accessibility. The Family Center takes immense pride in our contribution to this movement and will continue supporting families in their child care needs. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved, and let us all join in celebrating this momentous achievement for our children and community.

**Thank you to our Community
and State partners and our
Vermont
Legislators for their support!**



OUR STORY SO FAR

OUR MISSION

Building resourceful families and healthy children to create a strong community. Our community is better off with every successful child and every successful parent. For over the last 40 years, the Family Center has been helping families grow stronger and thrive- one family at a time.

OUR VISION

Acceptance and hope for all families.
We are a member of the Vermont
Parent Child Center Network:

Across the state, we deliver critical and essential state services to families with young children. **We believe that the voice and experience of every parent matters.**

Research has proven that prevention services targeted at reducing and treating Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can dramatically reduce long term health care costs. Parent Child Centers use a family-centered, multi-generational strengths-based approach that both treats and prevents ACEs in families.

WHO WE ARE

The Family Center of Washington County provides services and resources to all children and families in our region. We are the state-designated Parent Child Center for Central Vermont.

We are a service hub for families with young children - an actual place in the local community where families are always welcome and can always get the support they need, regardless of economic or family status.

We have a staff of 40 professionals, an engaged board of 6 community members, and a budget of \$3.1 million.

OUR HISTORY

The Family Center of Washington County began as a preschool at Norwich University's Early Childhood program in 1972. Over 10 years later, in 1986, the Barre-based Washington County Parent Child Center began offering playgroups and parent education programs. Norwich University closed its education department in 1993, and in 1994 these two programs merged to form the Family Center of Washington County.

2,529
**INDIVIDUALS &
FAMILIES SERVED**

INTRODUCTION

The Family Center of Washington County provides services and resources to all children and families in the Central Vermont region.



Childcare & Early Learning Supports

- Early Learning & Education
- Early Intervention
- Childcare Connection Supports
- Childcare Assistance Supports



Parenting

- Home Visits
- Parent Supports
- Parent Education
- Playgroups



Community Programs

- Community Events like Family Fun Fest, Touch-A-Truck, Family Movie Night, Around the World, and more
- Information & Referrals
- Partner Collaborations
- Social Media Supports



Essentials

- Housing Navigation
- Housing Case Management
- Housing Supports
- Food & Resource Pantry
- Diaper Bank
- Emergent Needs
- Workforce Development
- Budgeting & Financial Literacy



The Family Center is dedicated to empowering parents and equipping them with the necessary skills, confidence, and resilience to be the best parent they can be. Thanks to ongoing support from our community, we are able to make a lasting positive difference on families by providing critical resources and supports. By working hand in hand with parents, we strive to ensure that families have access to the tools they need to grow and thrive. At the Family Center, we are making a difference one family at a time.

RESPONDING TO A CHANGING WORLD

HOME VISITS

- Services to all families, including in person visits while offering accessibility of support via telephone, video (Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, etc.), or text
- Increased Frequency of home visits as caregivers and families navigated weather events
- Welcome Baby supports.
- Referrals & support for Mental Health Substance Use Disorders, & Domestic Violence
- CIS programming - including Strong Families Vt Family Support, Early Intervention, Specialized Child Care, Early Childhood & Family Mental Health

PARENT EDUCATION

We provide parent education and enrichment through a variety of programs, including...

- Parenting courses and workshops on a variety of topics
- Nurturing Parents workshop in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
- Parenting Child Course
- Parent Resilience Course including discussion of protective factors

CONCRETE SUPPORTS

We offered supports to families through support of needs or connection to outside agencies for additional supports, like...

- General: Phone, gas and grocery cards, personal hygiene items and feminine products, baby items (diapers, wipes, formula, cribs, strollers, carriers, books, toys, etc.)
- Housing: Support in paying rent & utilities, helping families to access supportive housing, household hygiene and sanitation items
- Food Security: Grocery shopping, meal prep and delivery, food pantry access, and grocery cards

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Supporting childcare families and/or childcare providers and the early childhood system through...

- Specialized childcare supports
- Daily emails, calls, and curriculum for childcare families
- Story time and connection with families
- Check-ins with providers to help families navigate system changes
- Connecting with childcare providers to identify families that may be in need of extra support

PARENT SUPPORT

We continue to offer support for parents and check-ins with families through a variety of programs, like...

- Support groups on topics including Moms in Recovery Group
- Facebook groups where families can connect with one another
- Family resources including various activities and supports on emotionally supporting children, navigating the benefits system, and other information
- Welcome Baby supports
- Moms Matter & Tuesdays Together
- Gardening with families through provided seed kits and the Family Center Community Garden

PLAYGROUPS

We provided playgroup opportunities on a regular and ongoing basis, like...

- Dad & Kids Playgroup for children birth to age 5 and their male, male identifying or non-binary caregivers
- Barre City Playgroup, in collaboration with Aldrich Public Library, for children birth to age 5 with their grown-ups to play and explore
- Saturday Morning Playgroup for children birth to age 6 and their caregivers

INFORMATION & REFERRAL

- Childcare financial assistance support
- Referrals to programming and connection to outside service providers, either regionally or state-wide
- Assist families in navigating changes to the early childhood system
- Assist families in navigating changes to the benefits system
- Adjust programming and resources to be inclusive to any parent or caregiver
- Flood response & resources for affected or displaced families, either in the form of extra support or outside referrals

EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS & SUPPORTS

As a result of the pandemic, Vermont saw an unprecedented increase in the need for services and supports, especially food & housing. In response to this recognized increase in family needs in Central Vermont, the Family Center expanded existing programs and resources to better serve our community as a whole. Programs like Tuesdays Together, a weekly program including Moms Matter and Cooking with Heart, began as a way to respond to family needs and better meet families where they are at and creating communities where all families are accepted. In collaboration with community and state partners, the Family Center is better able to meet local needs and provide increased supports and resources to more families.

OUR IMPACT

Unwavering Commitment

The importance of our mission held fast as our community continued to navigate a return to work and school following the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the rising cost of food, housing and basic needs.

FOOD PANTRY

317 Children and caregivers received food and household items to help supplement their nutritional and basic needs

INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

134 Families received information about our services including assistance finding childcare

DIAPER BANK

212 Children received diapers

CHILD CARE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

416 Families received financial assistance covering the cost of childcare

EARLY EDUCATION

31 Children attended our Early Childhood Program

PLAYGROUPS

137 Children and 141 parents and caregivers attended weekly playgroups

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS & FAMILY HOUSING

304 Children, teens, young adults, and adults received assistance with obtaining and maintaining housing as well as life skills

JOB DEVELOPMENT

22 Individuals received job skills development and hands-on work experience

HOME VISITING

518 Families received additional support through home visits

COMMUNITY EVENTS

238 Children and their parents and caregivers attended FC events

PARENT EDUCATION & SUPPORT

40 Children and their caregivers accessed resources and support through our enrichment programs

94% of families reported our services had a positive impact on their family

85% of parents felt they received the help or support they needed

"It's nice to know that you have someone on your side.

My FC worker has been a very important support system for me."

"My granddaughter loves to come to playgroup!"

"Great place and great people there to help you whenever you need the help."

"The staff works beautifully as a team at FCWC, they are all knowledgeable about my foster son and his needs and treat him respectfully and politely."

The Family Center is dedicated to providing support for children with a wide range of needs and challenges. We understand that many children and families require additional assistance in order to help children with special needs thrive. At the Family Center, we recognize the unique strengths of each child and provide them with the necessary tools to succeed. Our goal is to empower children and families by equipping them with the education and resources they need to grow, learn, and flourish. We offer crucial early education services as well as parenting support and connections. Through our programs, parents gain greater resilience, enhanced skills, and increased confidence in parenting as well as advocating for their child's needs. Our early childhood services have proven successful, with program graduates showing significant skill improvement, while parents are assured of a reliable source of support during challenging times.

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DIAPER DRIVE



Over 1,600 diapers were donated during our 6th Annual Diaper Drive to support our Diaper Bank and central Vermont families

WEEKLY PLAYGROUPS



Weekly playgroups held throughout Central Vermont for children ages birth to 5, older siblings, parents, and caregivers

COMMUNITY GARDEN



Children, staff, families, and volunteers prepared the FC Community Garden, which supports programs like Cooking with Heart, playgroup dinners, and more

ALL AROUND THE WORLD SOCIAL



Children, families, community members, and staff celebrated a variety of cultures and traditions with food, clothing, and artwork from various countries

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



Children and their grown-ups enjoyed dinner and a movie night with the Family Center

MILK & COOKIES NIGHT



Caregivers, children, and teachers gathered for a fun-filled evening of cookie decorating and storytime

FLOOD RESPONSE



The Family Center hosted a Flood Goods Giveaway to assist families affected by the devastating flooding access basic necessities

FAMILY FUN FEST



Families, friends, and community members joined us for our 2nd Annual Family Fun Fest, including family activities like storytime, music, face painting, pony rides, and more

WE ARE VT STRONG

FAMILY CENTER PARENT TESTIMONIALS



Sawyer's Story

There are children born with medical complications each day, just like Sawyer. Sawyer's birth was traumatic and life threatening. Medical advances were able to keep him alive, but he will have special needs potentially throughout his life, including liquid feeding and learning disabilities. It is crucial

for Sawyer to get the educational supports he needs in his early years to help with his development and his chances of catching up with his peers.

Sawyer's medical needs means he needs extra care during the day. Sawyer's family is a two-parent income household, so mom needed to go back to work. Early Intervention & Education helped increase Sawyer's chances of success.

"The Family Center was willing to accommodate Sawyer's medical needs to allow me to go back to work and for Sawyer to get the social interactions he needs. The educational skills the Family Center staff have established helps Sawyer's development to grow and increase in all areas of development. The Early Intervention Team was right there for us, the EI Team jumped right in to his developmental skills and he has flourished because of that. My hope for Sawyer is that one day he starts eating orally and that he learns to talk. Thank you to the Family Center for your support and encouragement!"

- Meaghan P., Sawyer's Mom

Early Intervention & Education provided by the Family Center can help increase Sawyer's chances of success. We see the strengths in every child and provide the tools to support families in getting the education and resources they need to help their children grow, learn, and thrive by providing critical early education services and parenting support and connections.

"I was given support for my child and myself as well as a chance to develop into a fully comprehensive parent. I am happy to be able to give back to the Family Center in any way possible because I am so thankful for the support I received." - A Parent Advisory Committee member on why they volunteer with the Family Center



Kayla's Story

"Before I started working with the program, I left a tough relationship and was in need of some help getting back on my feet. Without your help, I don't know where I would have gone or what I would have done. There was a lot of stress at times, but you helped us move into a beautiful apartment. I'm now hoping to go back to school to pursue a nursing career, and the Family Center is helping me do that."

- Kayla, program participant

The Family Center supports children and families in Central Vermont, just like Kayla & her son. Together, we can continue to have a lasting positive impact on generations by working with both parents and children.

"They are young adults and doing great things with their lives. The Family Center laid the foundation for where they are in their lives right now. I'd like to help to instill the same foundation in my son and other children that the Family Center laid for my older children."

- Parent Advisory Committee member describing how his two older children attended the Family Center Early Childhood Program and what it meant for his family

Jamie & Sage's Story

After the birth of their son, Aryton, Jamie & Sage experienced homelessness. At times, they were forced to separate from each other, staying with friends, family, and then later, in a motel. They began working with the Family Center and were assigned a Housing Case Manager and Employment Advisor. Within three weeks of working with Family Center staff, Jamie & Sage were able to secure a one-bedroom apartment in Montpelier. Jamie was placed on a work experience site, allowing him to gain on-the-job experience and enhance his resume. Their family soon outgrew the one-bedroom apartment, and the Family Center assisted them in securing a two-bedroom apartment. Sage obtained her High School Diploma and after that accomplishment, both Sage & Jamie are now attending Community College of Vermont.

"The Family Center helps you build resilience. Family Center staff are very reliable and supportive and made my third attempt at college successful. The Family Center has helped our family form connections to gain permanent housing and maintain our education goals." - Jamie, Sage, & Aryton

Family Supportive Housing supports provided by the Family Center helped Jamie, Sage, & Aryton go from being homeless to being housed. We helped provide Jamie & Sage with the needed tools to start them on the path to employment and education. We provide families with the resources needed to help their children grow, learn, and thrive by providing case management, job coaching, life skill building, and parenting education and support.

"Jamie and Sage are tenacious and resilient. They are really proud of the good grades they are getting. They managed to open a savings account with their stimulus funds and are adding to it whenever they can... their strong family bond keeps them forging forward." - Gwen Schuyler, Family Center Staff



OUR 2022 SUPPORT

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all of our generous supporters!

We are incredibly appreciative of each and every one of our donors, as well as our community business supporters, sponsors, and foundation support. It is because of you that we are able to continue our mission of building resourceful families and promoting the health and well-being of children within our community.

**Your continued support is invaluable to us,
and we cannot thank you enough for your generosity!**

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Vermont Foodbank
Vermont Community Foundation
Vermont Mutual Insurance Group
W. Scott Blanchard
Washington Electric CoOp
Wayside Restaurant
William & Sandra Ricker



Leadership & Management

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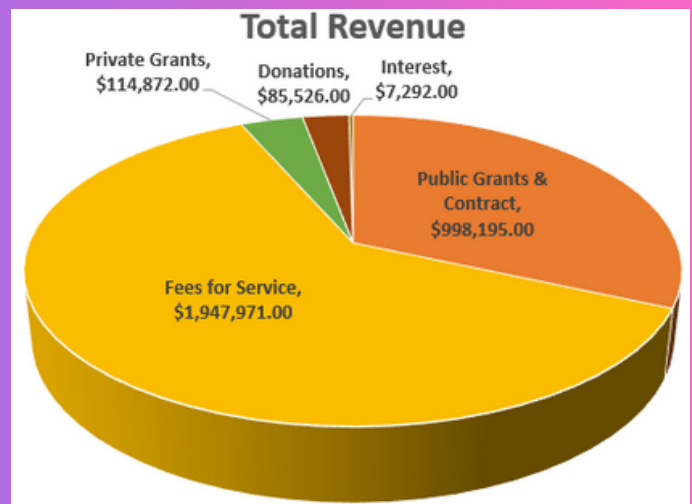
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE	Public Grants & Contracts	\$998,195
	Fees for Service	\$1,947,971
	Private Grants	\$114,872
	Donations	\$85,526
	Interest & Other	\$7,292
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,153,856

EXPENSES	Programs & Services	\$2,508,164
	Administration	\$203,677
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,711,841





WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



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OF WASHINGTON COUNTY



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