



Road worthy advice

What's worse than not having a car? Owning one that you can't afford. Vermont Car Coach staff Eileen Nooney and Patricia Cunningham travel with colleague John Lynch around the state preaching the gospel of smart car ownership to low income Vermonters needing transportation for school or for work. Many folks don't realize what a big money decision it is to own a car and fail to consider the costs of maintenance and repair. Sometimes the best decision about buying a car is to wait and find other temporary options until there are sufficient resources to keep it on the road.

True grit

Jillian Abraham owner, of Small Step Farm, grows greens and vegetables for customers and restaurants in the Mad River Valley and Montpelier. Her leased land in Waitsfield was flooded during Irene, and again in July 2013. Community Economic Development staff helped her access a business recovery grant that helped her replace and repair her farm equipment, rebuild her business infrastructure, and relocate to land near her home in Roxbury.



Keeping kids safe

It's not just about nutrition for the Child Care Food Program's home visitors. Home safety is critical. In partnership with the VT Department of Public Safety, CCFP staff hosted 3 fire safety events this year where 54 providers learned the proper use of extinguishers and other essential safety strategies to protect the children in their care.



Saving money, staying warm

Students at the Essex Technical Center try their hands at using a single-part foam gun, cutting flashing to create a "dam" around a chimney, and cutting and installing rigid insulation as part of their career exploration. In addition to weatherizing homes, CVCAC's Weatherization team educates homeowners, contractors and students about the latest in home energy efficiency technology and strategies. Our traveling Home Energy Makeover exhibit offers a valuable hands-on experience that allows us to provide show-and-tell demonstrations using props and cross sections of walls, windows and cellars—typical problematic areas and opportunities for home energy savings.



Saving for their future

CVCAC's Individual Development Accounts program is partnering with the University of Vermont Extension to provide financial literacy and matched savings opportunities for youth who seek careers in agriculture.



Annual Report for FY2013

Home to Barre



On July 2, 2013, the Central Vermont Community Action Council opened the doors of its new central office and Washington County direct service facility in downtown Barre, Vermont.

CVCAC, 20 Gable Place, Barre, VT 05641. (802) 479-1053/(800)639-1053. www.cvcac.org

Dear Friends,

Visionary. Dynamic. Strategic. Nimble. These are among the attributes associated with the Central Vermont Community Action Council by our key stakeholders. And, these are characteristics I connect most with members of the CVCAC family—from direct service providers to program directors, from the administrative team and finance department, to our Board of Directors and Policy Council. An agency can only be as successful, innovative, and resilient as the people who staff it and the partners who support its endeavors. I am reminded of this truth every day.

This past year we began working with communications and marketing professionals to help us better understand and strengthen the agency's "brand." Our consultants interviewed participants, state agency staff and board members, lawmakers, program partners, and private funders to document a 360-degree viewpoint on the nature and quality of our staff, programming, and leadership. The ultimate goal of this work is to raise the agency's profile among policy makers, funders, and our participants to more closely reflect the statewide impact of our work and to leave us well-positioned to continue and expand the agency's reach and impact.

Despite sequestration of federal funds, which impacted some program budgets more than others, and the temporary government shut down, CVCAC programs and services still reached 17,753 Vermonters in 9,264 households through local and statewide initiatives. We completed two successful multi-year statewide programs: Vermont Green, our three-year workforce development program, and Vermont Family Matters, our five-year program for Head Start/Early Head Start parents. Both of these highly competitive federally funded initiatives brought substantial resources to Vermont and helping raise CVCAC's visibility and credibility as one of the state's leading human service organizations.

CVCAC began a number of new initiatives this year, some of which are highlighted elsewhere in this report:

- Housing counseling, assistance and support for veterans and their families who have served our country in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Connecting Vermont businesses impacted by Tropical Storm Irene with grants from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Energy efficiency coaching for households on the Weatherization Assistance Program waiting list.
- Helping Vermonters access insurance through the new Vermont Health Connect exchange.
- Financial literacy training and Individual Development Accounts for youth pursuing careers in agriculture.
- Workforce development training and job placement for Vermonters seeking careers in the food service industry.

Perhaps the most significant change for CVCAC this year was the relocation of our Washington County offices to a single facility in downtown Barre. Our new building was completed on time and even under budget with several key CVCAC staff spending hundreds of hours working with consultants, architects, engineers, general contractors, federal agencies, and funders. Countless hours of planning and a cadre of interdepartmental agency volunteers ensured that this transition went as smoothly as possible—a classic example of the power of teamwork.

Throughout its history CVCAC has been at the forefront of the anti-poverty movement developing new programs and services to meet the ever changing and increasingly complex needs of Vermonters throughout the state. As we approach our 50th anniversary, I look forward to seeing continued excellence throughout all of our departments, collaborations, and partnerships, as well as the new opportunities and innovations that lie ahead.

Connected. Professional. Inspiring. Compassionate. These are some other attributes key stakeholders are saying about CVCAC's staff and leadership. Together we are making Vermont communities stronger, helping families become more resilient, and challenging policymakers to make more equitable rules and regulations. I remain inspired by what we have accomplished together and our collective commitment to the ongoing mission of community action.

Warm regards,



Hal Cohen, Executive Director



Photo courtesy of Stefan Hard/ The Times Argus .

In service to our Nation's veterans



As a veteran of the Vermont Army National Guard, Denise Hinckley has a passion for helping very low income veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Post traumatic stress and brain trauma are common among the people she serves. She works one-on-one to create individualized service plans with the goal of securing long-term stabilized housing. Nationally, there's a 2-year backlog of veterans in need of critical services. But that doesn't get in her way. She'll go the extra mile to help those men and women who have made great sacrifices for our country.



Sowing seeds for the future

Teen parents from Head Start's Family Literacy Center shared the fruits of their labor with family and friends at a harvest celebration this summer. Parents studied nutrition, farming, cooking, herbalism and leadership as part of a collaborative program with Food Works, *Nourishing Transitions*. At the Two Rivers Center farm, parents together planned a garden, started seedlings, and tended a vegetable garden throughout the growing season. They learned to harvest and cook fresh vegetables for their families, made their own organic baby food, and created herbal remedies to supplement a healthy diet.



Recipe for success

CVCAC Senior Chef Instructor Jamie Eisenberg and Assistant Chef Instructor Dave Moyer of the Vermont Food Bank graduated their first class of the Barre Community Kitchen Academy. During a 13-week culinary arts workforce development program, students are learning practical food prep skills, recipe development, menu planning, budgeting, and health and safety best practices, along with job search and interview skills. Students also produce prepared meals distributed through the CVCAC food shelf.

CVCAC Impact

Our year in numbers:

- ◆ **17,753** Vermonters in **9,264** households were assisted by agency programs and services locally and statewide.
- ◆ **5,756** hungry individuals visited our food shelves.
- ◆ **1,756** Vermonters got help finding and keeping safe, secure housing.
- ◆ **106** individuals in **41** households impacted by Irene received case management assistance.
- ◆ **40** businesses impacted by Irene and other floods accessed **\$963,060** in federal grants for their recovery efforts.
- ◆ **382** Vermonters in need of transportation participated in the Vermont Car Coach programs.
- ◆ **415** entrepreneurs received training and technical assistance from the Micro Business Development Program or the Vermont Women's Business Center.
- ◆ **23** taxpayers accessed the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic to resolve IRS issues.
- ◆ **442** children and **1,527** family members benefitted from Head Start, Early Head Start, and Family Literacy Center programs.
- ◆ **60** child care providers were reimbursed for the healthy meals and snacks served to **804** children in their care.
- ◆ **281** individuals attended classes or met with a financial counselor to address credit issues and plan for family financial needs.
- ◆ **241** homes were weatherized making them warmer and more energy efficient.
- ◆ **8** unemployed and underemployed Vermonters began studying for a career in the food service industry.



Our Mission

CVCAC provides comprehensive services to help people achieve economic well-being with dignity and develops partnerships to strengthen Vermont communities.

Our commitment is:

- To alleviate the suffering caused by poverty,**
- To work with individuals and families to move out of poverty, and**
- To advocate for economic justice for all Vermonters.**



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CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL, INC. Comparative Statements of Financial Position Fiscal Years Ending September 30, 2013 and 2012		
	2013	2012
ASSETS		
Cash	1,257,919	1,680,195
Receivables	1,801,385	1,638,995
Capital Campaign Grants & Pledges	135,649	275,635
Prepaid Expenses	130,204	107,365
Inventory	122,213	137,714
Construction in Process	-	359,653
Property, Plant, & Equipment	6,240,480	2,513,365
Restricted Cash	435,064	512,884
Other Assets	8,482	28,416
TOTAL ASSETS	10,131,396	7,254,222
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	1,546,260	1,311,892
Refundable Advances	1,080,766	1,004,112
Notes Payable	2,589,319	595,437
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,216,345	2,911,441
NET ASSETS	4,915,051	4,342,781
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	10,131,396	7,254,222
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES		
REVENUE		
Grants and Contracts	14,539,842	18,933,022
Fees, Rents and Other	908,027	1,398,487
Capital Campaign Grants & Contributions	400,709	213,155
Donations	323,819	976,414
TOTAL REVENUE	16,172,397	21,521,078
EXPENSES		
Program Services:		
Housing	111,908	134,891
Early Childhood and Family Development	3,740,030	4,410,366
Family and Community Support Services	3,847,707	3,256,159
Community Economic Development	2,804,995	1,795,129
Weatherization	3,353,854	7,365,941
Workforce Development	15,803	1,417,140
Car Transportation Initiative	137,682	139,102
Flood Relief for Businesses	43,765	413,458
Consulting Services Program	80,577	-
Community Services/Plant Fund	154,056	167,577
Total Program Services	14,290,377	19,099,764
Supporting Activities:		
Fundraising	51,131	49,865
General and Administrative	1,546,306	1,496,381
TOTAL EXPENSES	15,887,814	20,646,010
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PRIOR TO GAINS/(LOSSES) AND INSURANCE PROCEEDS	284,584	875,068
Insurance Proceeds for Prior Year Losses	-	66,144
Gains/(Losses) on Sales or Disposal of Property	287,686	-
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS¹	572,270	941,212
¹ 2013 and 2012 increases in net assets are due in large part to grants and contributions raised to build CVCAC's new centralized campus at Gable Place in Barre. *Note: Amounts for the year ending September 30, 2013 are preliminary numbers, prior to the annual audit. Final audited financial statements will be available at CVCAC's main office at 20 Gable Place, Barre, VT 05641; (802) 479-1053. Amounts for the year ending September 30, 2012 are based on audited financial statements.		

CVCAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013-2015

Officers

Board President
Michael Sherman, Montpelier
(1/10, 10/11)

Board Vice President
Lori Belding, Barre (9/06)

Board Secretary
Rubin Bennett, East Montpelier (10/07)

Board Treasurer
Eileen Bradley, Northfield (03/13)

Members

Rosaire Bisson, Barre (10/13)

Jay Isakson, Barre (03/13)

Deb Markowitz, Middlesex (8/99)

Carol O'Neill, Waterbury (7/97)

Michele Packard, Randolph (10/11; 10/13)

Adam Rosen, Middlesex (03/13)

Donna Sherlaw, Morrisville (10/13)

Patricia Thompson, Morrisville (10/13)

Alternates

Edie Connellee, Waitsfield (10/13)

Tammy McKenzie, Granville (10/13)

Rebecca McLeod, Johnson (10/13)

Heather Musick, Berlin (10/13)

Sean Noonan, Stowe (10/13)

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