

# VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING FY'18 Annual Report



Photo credit Boston Red Sox

**This annual report is dedicated  
to the independent living leaders  
who we sadly lost this past year.**

*Patrick Fitzgerald*

*Peter Kriff*

*Will Reil*

*Lenny Burke*

*Merle Buckland*



Artwork by Susan Sanderson

Dear Friends,

It is with great pride that we present the FY2018 Annual Report.

VCIL has been part of some extraordinary adventures this year, while maintaining the important and solid foundation of offering services and supports critical to independent living. Throughout the year we provided over 3,000 people with services and supports through our programming.

In March, I had the honor of traveling to Japan for 15 days, where I learned about their robust program for attendant services. I also presented in Tokyo and Matsuyama on the independent living movement and psychiatric disabilities. The exchange of ideas and information was the beginning of what we hope to be a longtime friendship based on independent living. The folks from CIL Hoshizora, our kindred spirits, came to Vermont to visit for a few days in July as we continued our shared learning and celebration of international disability rights.

As we look toward the next year, we will be celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have so much to celebrate and look forward to working with you to share our stories of independent living in Vermont!

In Solidarity,

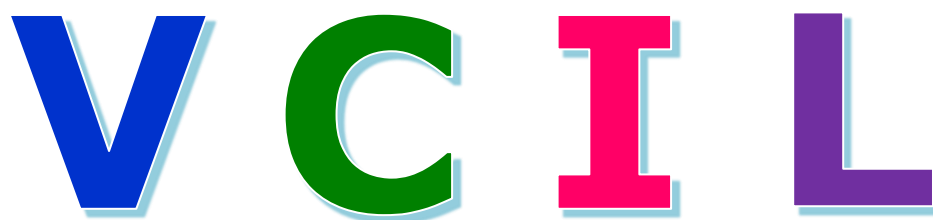


Sarah Launderville  
Executive Director

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## Our Mission

### Vermont Center for Independent Living

The mission of the Vermont Center for Independent Living is to empower Vermonters with disabilities, Deaf Vermonters, and others to tear down the physical, communication, and attitudinal barriers that keep us from realizing our full human potential.

Together, we will build communities to:

- Achieve our human and civil rights and equal access to services and opportunities
- Have available ongoing resources and options for independent living.
- Realize our power to control and direct our own lives.

We join together to celebrate our diversity and the common goal for the full inclusion of all persons in the life of our communities.

## WHO WE ARE

The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL), a statewide nonprofit organization directed and staffed by people with disabilities, promotes the dignity, independence and civil rights of Vermonters with disabilities. Founded in 1979, VCIL was the first organization in the state to have a majority of board and staff with disabilities. In FY'18, 83 percent of our staff and 100 percent of our board were people with significant disabilities. We understand what it takes to help others.

VCIL's central office is in Montpelier with five branch offices in Bennington, Brattleboro, Burlington, Morrisville and Rutland.

## INFORMATION, REFERRAL AND ASSISTANCE (IR&A)



VCIL's Information, Referral and Assistance (IR&A)

Coordinator provides quality referrals and information to people seeking assistance on a variety of issues. Our IR&A Coordinator is also responsible for the intake process of applications for the Peer Advocacy Counseling Program (PAC). In FY'18 VCIL provided 3,405 individuals with IR&A services.

## PEER ADVOCACY COUNSELING PROGRAM (PAC)

Our Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) offer individual and group support, skills training, guidance for self-advocacy and resource development. PACs help peers define their individual interests and needs, develop and work toward personal goals, learn specific skills that enhance their ability to live independently and access available resources in their communities. In FY'18, VCIL served 324 individuals through the peer advocacy counseling program.

## Deaf Independence Program



The Deaf Independence Program (DIP) provides individual and group skills training to people who are culturally Deaf throughout Vermont.

## VT Interpreter Referral Service

The Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (VIRS) provides American Sign Language (ASL)/spoken English interpreter referral services statewide for medical, legal, employment, educational, civil and recreational situations. VIRS also provides education and advocacy about Deaf people explaining to



requesters their obligation to provide equal access to communication under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In FY'18, VIRS referred interpreters who provided 4,737 hours of interpretation throughout the state of Vermont.

### Youth Transition Program

- Workshop series on how to prepare for life after high school. With topics on confidence, communication, social media, self-advocacy and interviewing.
- Opportunity to interact with someone who has lived experience with a disability.
- Q&A time with presenters to discuss particular situations and experiences.

**Your future is just ahead!**



### SUE WILLIAMS FREEDOM FUND



The Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provides funding for services and equipment to help people with disabilities achieve or maintain independence in their own homes. Thanks to a grant from the VT

Statewide Independent Living Council in FY'18 SWFF spent \$35,000 to help 50 people obtain services or equipment and leveraged an additional \$33,346.61.

### Vermont AgrAbility

The Vermont AgrAbility program provides education and assistance as well as peer support at no cost to farmers, their families and farm workers with disabilities who are engaged in production agriculture and want to continue farming. Farmers and their families eligible for Vermont AgrAbility services may have any type of acquired or traumatic disability—physical, cognitive or sensory.



### MEALS ON WHEELS

VCIL's Meals on Wheels Program (MOW) serves people with significant disabilities who are younger than 60 years of age. The program is statewide and serves people from all counties. It is coordinated from our main office in Montpelier. In FY'18 VCIL contracted with 37 meal sites across the state to prepare and deliver one meal a day to program participants. A total of 57,239 meals were funded through this program during FY'18 to a total of 516 peers.



## VT Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP)

VCIL is home to the VT Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP), previously housed at the VT Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The VTEDP helps income eligible Vermonters who have trouble using a traditional telephone and need adaptive equipment. This includes those with physical and/or speech disabilities. The VTEDP will provide up to \$750 of equipment for qualified individuals. In FY'18 VCIL provided 42 individuals with adaptive equipment.

**\*\*VTEDP still has money available** for adaptive equipment. Do you know someone that cannot use a conventional telephone and would benefit from our program? Please have them contact us! We can help! 1-800-659-1522, or ASL 802-275-0099. \*\*

## HOME ACCESS PROGRAM

VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) provides home entry and bathroom accessibility modifications for low-income Vermonters with physical disabilities. The Home Access Program receives funding each year to help people with disabilities make accessibility modifications so they can continue



to live independently and remain in their communities. In FY'18 the HAP

program provided one platform lift, one hoist lift, 38 households had ramps or entrance modifications and made 42 bathrooms accessible!

## COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM

VCIL's Community Access Program works to improve access to buildings, services and programs. Program specialists provide technical assistance and training on the ADA regulations and standards to Vermont cities, towns, employers and businesses.

**got access?**

In FY'18 the program held eight trainings with 376 attendees. The program responded to 218 calls for technical assistance from peers, businesses and municipalities. Over 2,600 informational materials and documents were disseminated statewide, including federal ADA fact sheets and guidance, ADA Checklists for Existing Facilities and ADA Newsletters. In addition, ADA committees in Burlington, Barre and Rutland received ongoing support.



## WELLNESS WORKFORCE COALITION (WWC)

The Wellness Workforce Coalition (WWC) is a statewide coalition of peer-run organizations supporting training and advocacy for Vermont's peer workforce. The WWC's mission is to create a statewide coalition of peer-run organizations that supports training and advocacy for Vermont's peer workforce while preserving the autonomy, character, and contributions of each member organization.



## SHARING THE POWER OF LIVED EXPERIENCE

*Advocacy and training for Vermonters using a peer approach*

A word cloud graphic with a light yellow background. The words are arranged in a horizontal, slightly curved shape. The most prominent words are "informed by lived experience" in a large, dark green font at the bottom. Other words in various sizes and colors (green, blue, yellow, orange) include: wellness, collaboration, transformative, trauma-informed, equanimity, innovation, unified vision, community, power, peer-directed, accessible, non-judgmental, shared goals, inclusion, pride, moving toward, uniting, pioneers, non-biased, connection, leadership, hopeful, empowerment, knowledge, open, support, self-determination, solutions-focused, supportive, coalition, workforce, ground-breaking, non-traditional, and progressive. The phrase "peer-run" is also visible at the top.

## GET INVOLVED

### Support our Efforts!



We've made donating even easier! **You can now donate right from our Facebook page**, or check out our **Network for Good** site and become a **monthly** supporter. It's easy to do and easier on the finances! Won't you consider a monthly contribution? Of course you can still give a one-time donation by sending the enclosed envelope directly to VCIL or continue giving through your local United Way. And as always your donations are tax-deductible.

When shopping on Amazon, go to AmazonSmile and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to VCIL. Bookmark the link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-0271000> and support us every time you shop!



### Groups & Events

VCIL's regional offices offer a range of groups and/or activities based on the needs of that community. A schedule of meeting dates and locations can be found on our website or by contacting our I,R&A Department at: 1-800-639-1522.

## Become a Member!

VCIL is a member-supported organization. We welcome all people who support our mission and have an interest in our programs and services. Membership is **FREE** and becoming a member affords you a copy of The Independent (VCIL's news journal), quarterly newsletter and free loan of books and movies from VCIL's extensive library.

To join, please go to our website – [www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org) – or, if you received a hard copy of this report, complete the membership form on page 43 and return it in the donor envelope provided.

### VCIL Website:

Check out the VCIL website at [www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org). From that site you can gain access to our Facebook, Network for Good, Twitter and YouTube pages.

### Facebook:

We invite you to join our ongoing discussions and post upcoming events. Check out our page at: [www.facebook.com/VTcil](http://www.facebook.com/VTcil).

follow us on  
twitter



### Twitter:

VCIL invites you to follow us on Twitter, which is updated at least weekly by Sarah Launderville.

## PEER SUCCESS STORIES

### Maude Barker, Rutland County, HAP



This project was an extraordinary collaboration of a wide variety of funding sources, all in an effort to help Maude receive a bathroom modification. VCIL

PACs Jessie and Glenn in our Rutland office pulled together a phenomenal funding package to make this happen. A big shout-out to the organizations that contributed to Maude's bathroom, including, Vermont Eastern Star Home, Inc., Castleton Cares, Castleton Lions Club American Legion Auxiliary Unit 50, Crippen Fellows Post No. 50, Sons of the American Legion Post 50 and Fair Haven Aerie #3907. This modification has allowed Maude to continue living independently in her own home and stay out of a nursing home.

### Ken Wheeler, Rutland County, HAP



One of the reasons VCIL started looking at the QRamp was for its portability and

this story is a great example of that. Our HAP staff received a phone call from a peer's family who had a QRamp installed at their home in Bennington but had recently passed away and the family now wanted the ramp to be removed. The ramp was removed by the original contractor and relocated to Ken Wheeler's home in Rutland. The remaining parts were donated to COVER Home Repair in White River Junction.

### Janelle Dunklee, Windsor County, MOW

"Thank you so very much for taking care of me when I could not take care of myself. In December, 2016 I survived a massive bilateral pulmonary embolism, blood clots passed through my heart filling all arteries in my lungs. I was at death's door for a long time after. I live all alone with no family and no help, unable to take care of myself. Thank God for the Meals on Wheels program and all the volunteers who came every day! I would not have survived without this most important program and the volunteers who came every day! They not only fed me when I could not feed myself, they checked on me every day and that



in itself was such a relief and got me through the horrid days of my recovery! Today the volunteer who brought me food also shoveled my deck! I am forever grateful for this program and the volunteers who so selflessly take time out of their busy lives to help others in need. There are simply no words to express my deepest gratitude!

I survived what should have killed me and I will spend whatever days I have left doing the same, helping others!!! Nothing more rewarding than to know you've made a difference in someone else's life! God bless you all!"

### **Anonymous, Lamoille County, AgrAbility**

A farmer who has multiple sclerosis (MS) and wanted to continue farming reached out to VCIL to see if we could help - again. He had contacted the AgrAbility program a few years ago when his MS was causing him to have "foot drop" in addition to trouble walking. Our AgrAbility program helped him obtain an electronic shocking device that was attached to the muscle in his leg. When he started to walk, the device would deliver a shock that would cause his foot to come up.

Last May, VCIL and the Vermont Farm Health Task Force conducted

a farm assessment at his farm. During which they discovered that the peer was using a side-by-side four-wheeler, and he had to pick his foot up with his hand to move it from the gas to the brake. He was also using a walker and wheelchair because he could no longer walk without them. This was causing him to experience depression over the fact that his MS was moving so rapidly and he couldn't do the things that he wanted to or needed.

The farmer and his family met with VCIL AgrAbility staff Tom Younkman to discuss some of the assistive technology devices that might help, including hand controls for his side-by-side power chair and a truck with a mounted lift and hand controls. This way he could transfer from his wheelchair to the hydraulic lift and put himself in the driver seat of the truck and drive to wherever he needs to go. This would also help him transfer to his tractors that he needed to be able to operate on the farm. After viewing these assistive technology devices on the national AgrAbility webpage, he decided that they were good recommendations and he wanted to move forward with them. At that point we suggested putting together a team of different organizations to help with purchasing the assistive



technology devices and also managing his health with MS. Farm First was contacted and we requested a Farm First mental health counselor who also has with MS. This proved to be very beneficial to the peer; as the counselor was very experienced with the MS Society and all the things they could do to help. We also asked for a counselor from Vocational Rehabilitation to join the team for financial assistance. We contacted his primary physician and asked for one of their social workers to be part of the team.

The peer had no idea so many services were available to him. He'd been to his doctors and no one ever had suggested any devices or help that might be available. The team continued to meet regularly with the peer and his wife. They helped him apply for grants from the MS Society, which offered considerable contributions to the bathroom modification and the power wheelchair. They worked with the Life Essentials out of Gary, Indiana, to modify a truck and lift that would work for the peer's needs and it was shipped to him by transport. Even though milk prices were at an all-time low, the peer was able to handle the financing for the new truck himself through the farm. It is

hoped the peer will be able to continue farming with his two sons for many years to come.

### **Anonymous, Windsor County, PAC**

In December, our Rutland office received a call from a peer requesting to work with a PAC as he was residing in a Level III Residential Care home and was not happy there. The peer, in his 80s, had gone blind over the last 10 years, is hard-of-hearing and has a seizure disorder.

When a PAC met with the peer, it was learned that he had previously been homeless in California, had been beaten and robbed on one occasion, and had been moved back to Vermont by family members who then placed him in the Level III Residential Care home. He had no friends or family available for support and was feeling extremely isolated and depressed. The peer's family had not been in contact with him for a year at that point and he was adamant that he wanted to live in a more independent situation. The peer was informed about adult family care homes and he decided to pursue this option as he was not comfortable living completely alone. In order to do so, he first had to apply and be approved for Choices for Care/Long-Term Medicaid. This

was an arduous process, as the peer was nervous about making any changes in his health care coverage (Medicare) but by summer, the peer applied and was approved for Choices for Care and the search for an adult family care home began.

By October, a home for the peer in Vergennes had been secured. He met with the couple who owned the home, had a good rapport with them, and by early November the peer had made the move out of the Level III Residential Care home and into his new home and he was thrilled.

### **Irena Anderson, Lamoille, HAP**



"Now that I have a modified bathroom, I can bathe without fear of falling, which in the past, I had close calls. The tub was too high to climb over. Now I can bathe every day."

### **Mary Mougey, Administer, Ethan Allen Residence**

"Thank you so much for your continued support. It means so much to us. You have allowed us to complete three projects that we would not have been able to do on our own. It is said that it takes a village to raise a child but we believe that it takes no less to

uphold our elders. Thank you again."

### **Mary Hoague, Franklin County, HAP**



"Before I received the ramp, I had to have help getting my wheelchair in and out of my trailer. There were weeks at a time that I couldn't go outside. Now I feel more independent. I can be outside whenever I want. I have a better quality of life. I don't feel trapped inside. (This) helped my depression."

### **Christine Watkins, Rutland County, HAP**



"If someone doesn't know about VCIL's Home Access Program yet, I would tell them it's a great program because it gives you your independence, dignity and your ability back to do things for yourself again. I also want to say thanks to the program for the ramp that made my life a lot more easier and less stress, so I can do more for myself now."

### **Anonymous, Woodford, PAC**

Our Bennington office worked with a woman who needed dentures because a seizure medication eroded the enamel on her teeth

causing their loss. She is very low income, living in a camp on the mountain without running water. She said that one day she hoped to smile again. With the help of the Sue Williams Freedom Fund and some additional leverage funding from VT Eastern Star and Bennington Fuel and Food Fund's she had the necessary funding to obtain dentures.

### **Chris Jacobs, Chittenden County, SWFF**



"I am disabled, on a fixed income, count on Social Security disability, and have a very difficult time making ends meet. I rely on my lift chair on a daily basis.

Without it, my health would suffer greatly. Recently, my chair broke and had to be replaced. There certainly is no money in my budget to purchase a new chair. VCIL suggested I apply to the Sue Williams freedom fund. Thank goodness! Because of the quick work by Jake and Michelle. With additional help from the Visiting Nurse Association and Wendell's Furniture, I had my chair replaced within a week. Unbelievable! Please know that I am eternally grateful from the bottom of my

heart and will never forget such a generous act.

Thank you so much to Sue Williams and all she did to help Vermonters achieve and maintain independence in their homes. I will never forget her, I hope others won't either."

### **Bradley House, Windham County, HAP**



Thanks to the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) VCIL received a grant of six \$5,000 accessibility grants for nonprofit housing organizations and Bradley House was the recipient of one of those in FY'18. The grant indicates VCIL spend six \$5,000 grants to help make units in nonprofit housing more accessible.

## EMPLOYEE STORY

### Mike Charron

Michael was born in the Northeast Kingdom, to a large family who are very supportive. After attending local schools, gaining a degree in behavioral science from Lyndon State College, and getting married, Mike worked for a short time for the federal government. A startup member of what was then called the Governors Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped, Mike also worked for VCIL as a PAC after having been involved in the disability movement when it was very small, yet vocal in Vermont.

After a time, Mike left VCIL and the disability movement, beginning a career with mental health in a number of areas in the state including the Northeast Kingdom, Central Vermont and Rutland County.

Becoming severely injured while working for mental health, Mike was on disability for number of years, during which time he married his second wife, after the passing of his first spouse. During his 10-year marriage, Mike worked in the radio advertising business, as well as in the arena of news delivery. He operated a motor route delivering newspapers.



*VCIL Community Access Specialist Mike Charron was the first person in the country to complete the ADA Coordinator Certification for the University of Missouri, pictured here with his certificate.*

Shortly after his second marriage ended in divorce, Mike moved in with his daughter who had become ill with cancer, to assist in caring for her and moving her to recovery. When she did recover, Mike moved on, and out of his daughter's place to a place of his own.

Mike married for the third time (three times is a charm!!), and remains happily married to date. Mike went to work for the state of Vermont in the Information Center Division, working on the interstate in the rest areas. He worked for the state of Vermont for a number of years and retired when some of the areas were closed.

Mike was home for about a year, and after driving Joy (his wife) said, "go and find something to do!" When an opening came up at the Vermont Center for Independent Living, Mike applied for the position, after learning of this opportunity through the local vocational rehabilitation office. Happily, Mike was hired in the position of Civil Rights/Community



Access Specialist. Gaining this position completed the circle and brought Mike back to the independent living movement and to his VCIL family and friends. He became a certified ADA coordinator, holding certificate number 001, through a national certification program, and continues to be very happy to be actively involved in improving access for all persons with disabilities to our communities, activities, services and daily living.

Some of my proudest moments in the independent living movement and with the Vermont Center for Independent Living include successful graduation from college, becoming the first certified ADA coordinator in the country, all of the work that VCIL has done to improve community access over the years and being again a part of this important and life-changing work each day.



## ABOUT OUR PEERS



## GENDER

Female .....	1110
Male.....	874
Unknown .....	33

## INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY COUNTY

Addison.....	41
Bennington.....	292
Caledonia.....	105
Chittenden.....	290
Essex.....	32
Franklin.....	113
Grand Isle.....	15
Lamoille.....	77
Orange.....	59
Orleans.....	93
Rutland.....	233
Washington.....	183
Windham.....	144
Windsor.....	133
*Out of State or unknown.....	207

## OUR DISABILITIES

Developmental & Intellectual .....	46
Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened .....	99
Psychiatric .....	99
Multiple .....	427
Physical .....	728
Blind/Visual .....	11
*Unknown .....	607

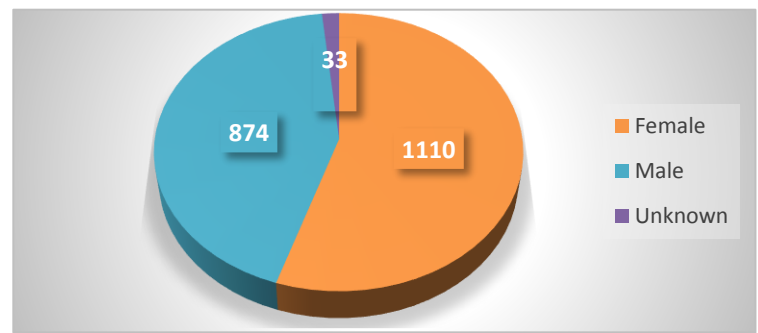
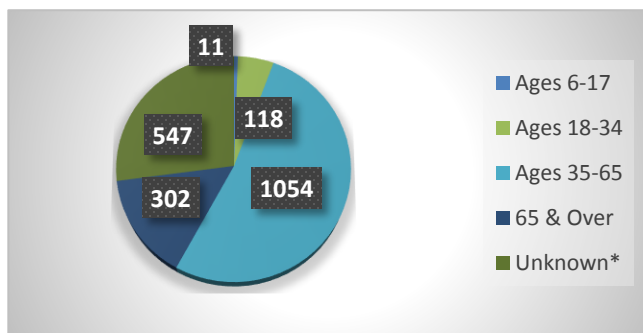
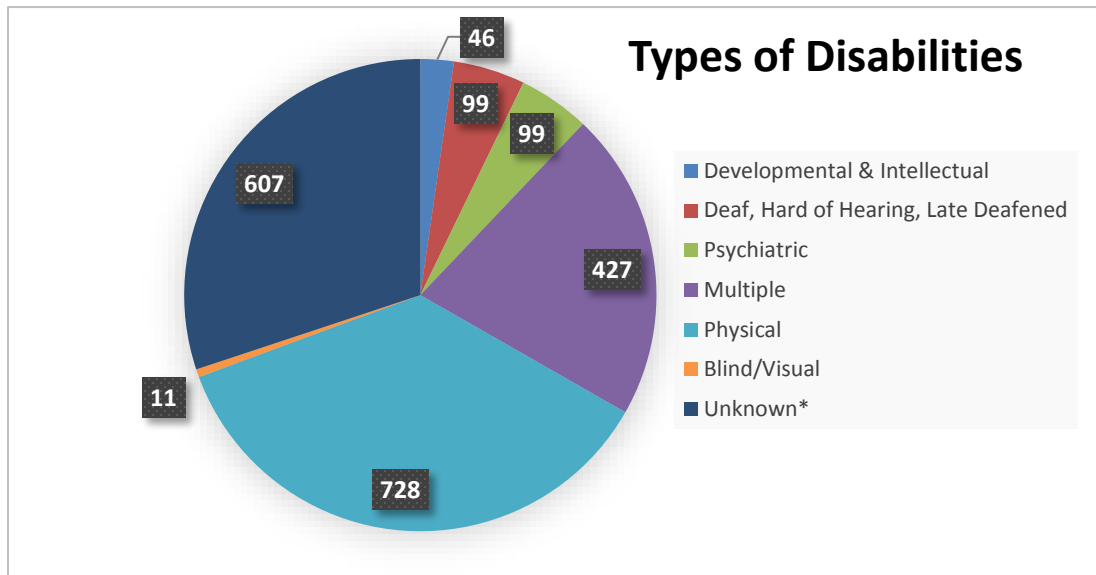
## AGES OF OUR PEERS

Under 6 years .....	3
Ages 6-17.....	8
Ages 18-34.....	103
Ages 35-64.....	1054
65 and over .....	302
*Unknown .....	547

\*Much of the data represented is from IR&A calls where people do not always disclose their age or type of disability.



## SERVICES AT A GLANCE



### Information, Referral & Assistance (I,R&A)

3,405 peers and organizations contacted VCIL for I,R&A!

### Home Access Program (HAP)

1 hooyer lift, 1 platform lift, 38 ramps or entrance modifications and 42 bathrooms accessible!

### Peer Advocacy Counseling (PAC)

324 peers served!

### Meals on Wheels (MOW)

518 peers and 57,239 meals!

### Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)

50 peers received assistive technology!

### VT Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VT EDP)

42 Deaf, Deaf-Blind, or Hard of Hearing peers received adaptive telephone equipment!

### VT Interpreter Referral Service

Interpreters provided 4,737 hours of interpretation!

## FY'18 HIGHLIGHTS

### Visitors from Japan

In July, five members from CIL Hoshizora came to visit us here in Vermont after meeting Sarah when she visited Japan in March. Hearing that they were coming to Vermont got VCIL's PAC Rose Martellaro very excited; this was a perfect opportunity to connect with people from another culture and dust off the Japanese language skills she had learned as a teenager! The Hoshizora team was expected to arrive at 11:30 p.m. on a



Wednesday night. A group of staff and family from VCIL gathered in anticipation for the arrival

of our Japanese counterparts. Sarah's children stood holding welcome signs they decorated after researching how to write "Welcome to Vermont" in Japanese. The late hour started to wear on some of the welcome crew who were struggling to stay awake while waiting at the gate. Unbeknownst to them our visitors were already downstairs by baggage claim so as they headed down and Rose began repeating a Japanese greeting in her head. She ran down the escalators to welcome

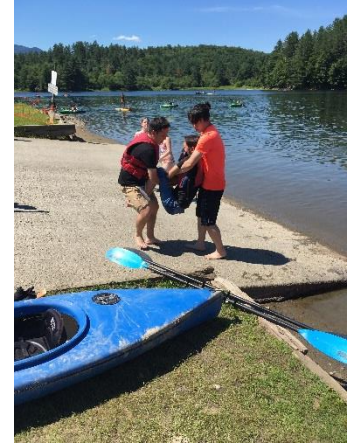
our guests along with the rest of the group followed with the kids and their signs. The mix-up was comical for everyone involved and the Hoshizora team cheered and were excited to greet Sarah and her family. We took some group photos and then quickly exited the airport so everyone could rest before the fun the following day.

Their itinerary was full and included lunch at Three Penny Taproom, tour of the State House and meeting with Lt. Gov. Zuckerman ending with a pot luck dinner at VCIL and that was just day one! The next day we all celebrated the anniversary of the ADA with a picnic at Waterbury Reservoir. It was a beautiful day and all of our visitors tried kayaking, paddleboarding, ladder golf and a few even went swimming.

Their last night was dinner at Gaku Ramen on Church Street and their trip wouldn't be complete without a Vermont creme of course! Then they were off to New York City the next morning. We had so much fun with all of them and hope to see them again soon!







## Kinney Drugs Foundation



We are so appreciative to have received a donation from Kinney Drugs as they celebration their grand

opening at their new Montpelier location. The donation allows us to further our mission of working together with people with disabilities for dignity, independence and civil rights!

## Red Sox Foundation IMPACT Award

In July VCIL won the Red Sox Foundation's \$10,000 first-place IMPACT Award. We received the most online votes of the Vermont nonprofits that were in the running and were honored for our dedication to social justice, diversity and inclusivity.

"I was so touched and grateful when I received the phone call from the Red Sox Foundation official that I literally cried," said Sarah. And then to find out it was our members and people throughout Vermont that made this happen, it really warms your heart. Guidelines for the award were that organizations must demonstrate a tangible impact to improve social justice, diversity and inclusivity. Doesn't that sound like VCIL?!"

Sarah, her son Evan, Michelle Grubb our CFO and Linda Meleady, Development Coordinator headed down to Boston on July 9 to receive the award. It was a beautiful summer afternoon and we were treated to a tour of Fenway Park by personal friend, Ron Abel, Fenway's executive chef. We were quite impressed with the rooftop gardens that supply most of the produce used at the park. After an amazing meal we went down to the field and waited for our turn to go out for the check presentation which was videoed and put on the jumbo-tron. It was quite a moment to take in, being out on the field of Fenway Park!! We are all so grateful not only for the generous grant but the once in a lifetime experience. Oh, and the Red Sox won 5-0 against the Texas Rangers.







*Chef Ron Abel and the rooftop gardens.*



*Are we really this close to the Fenway field??*

*Sarah speaks to the crowd about VCIL..*



*Our seats in the Green Monster section and Sarah in the famous Fenway booth!*



*The first pitch!*

*The ride home...zzzz!*



## FY'18 EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

### Ally of Accessibility

#### Oldcastle Theatre



In December, Sam Liss, Charlie Murphy, Linda Meleady and Sarah Launderville presented the theater with an Ally of

Accessibility Award for its commitment to accessibility. The theater was nominated for the award because of its efforts to improve access to events for all, including adding a lift, movable seating, an accessible restroom and a hearing assistance system.

Eric Peterson, the theater's producing artistic director, said, "We are honored to receive this award. It was important as we were renovating our building and making it into an intimate theater that it be accessible. Rarely do we have a performance here when the lift is not used. It has allowed many to attend plays and other events here who, without the lift, would not have been able and it also allows us to have actors, musicians and other performers work here who have mobility issues." He added, "Your organization does important, necessary work and we are delighted to be recognized by such a group."

### Unitarian Church of Montpelier

In April we recognized the Unitarian Church of Montpelier for also being welcoming and inclusive.

Sarah Launderville said, "We are pleased to be honoring the Unitarian Church as they have done an excellent job in making their space more inclusive. Since this church is used as community space we are thrilled to have more accessible options!"



The church has installed a new, more accessible bathroom, repaired a ramp at the rear of the building and installed a loop system for the benefit of hard of hearing people. The church has also repaved its parking lot and added a designated, accessible parking spot. In addition, the School Street entrance has been reconfigured, including installing a mechanized door as well as push buttons on both the inside and outside of the doorway. The church has even wired sound into a room in the basement that could benefit people with psychiatric and/or developmental disabilities who appreciate less crowded spaces.

And that's not all the Unitarian Church has done to show its



commitment to promoting accessibility. Liz Benjamin, chairperson of the church's Accessibility Committee, said, "This past Sunday [April 15, 2018] the congregation voted to hire an architect to give a preliminary report on how to make the building fully accessible, among other goals. Also, the congregation has been accepted into a program of the Unitarian Universalist Association called the Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry. We are working on choosing activities which will earn us this credential."

"The first line of our congregation's mission statement is 'We Welcome All.' To fully welcome all, we know we need to make our building as accessible as possible to all people, including people with disabilities," said the Rev. Joan Javier-Duval. "We live our values in this way because creating the inclusive and welcoming world we desire is a joyful act and it is the right thing to do."



## Red Hen Bakery

In June we presented an Ally of Accessibility Award to Red Hen Baking Company owners Eliza Cain and Randy George, as well as the former owners of the Red Hen building, Donny and Lise Wexler of Strider Development. Red Hen is not only a bakery and café but a retail store that sells specialty grocery items. David Sagi, who also happened to be the ADA program manager for the state of Vermont, nominated Red Hen for the award. He had been a café

customer for many years. He said, "The old access ramp was a challenge, especially in the wintertime. The new entrance is pretty much on grade and covered, making it really easy to enter the bakery and restaurant. They've done an excellent job with the new entrance and access. It's now so easy for both myself and other customers who may have mobility problems to enter. I appreciate their awareness and wanting to make the bakery accessible to everyone." Sagi added that the staff at the Red Hen is wonderful. "They will bring food to the table for me and are very friendly and courteous." Eliza Cain said, "Our wonderful ramp and accessible bathroom is a result of [the



*Rev. Joan, Mary Alice Bisbee and Sarah outside the church.*

Wexlers'] values in constructing the building that we rent for the bakery. We are thrilled that this mattered to them in designing a public space for customers. We are so happy to have this wonderful space to rent and share with our customers."

### **Deborah Lisi-Baker Youth Leader Awards**



Congratulations to our own Jacob Lavigne who received the Deborah Lisi-Baker Youth Leader Award! We had a

nice presentation ceremony where Deborah was able to present the award to Jake and deliver a lovely speech.

In December Sarah Launderville, Linda Meleady and Deborah Lisi-Baker presented the Deborah Lisi-Baker Youth Leader award at VCIL's Bennington Holiday Open House. Deborah gave out awards to two students who are helping to make a difference on their Southern Vermont College campus for their work advocating and helping people with disabilities. Amber Archer, who was not able to attend the ceremony, was nominated for giving aid to members of the deaf community, and making sure that they are able to be an equal part of the school and larger community. Alyvia Metcalfe was chosen for her

advocacy for increased educational and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.



"Both young advocates are skilled at bringing people together," said Sarah.

The Youth Leader Award is named after VCIL's former director, Deborah Lisi-Baker who "has such a vision as to how we continue the movement," said Sarah, "which is through young people."

### **Disability Awareness Day**

Over 350 people flocked to the Statehouse on Feb. 28 for Disability Awareness Day. They spread the word about the event's theme: "Our Community, Our Health, Our Well-Being." Members of the Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights let lawmakers know that health begins where people live, learn, work and play.

Sarah remarked, "Disability Awareness Day is a day of solidarity for the disability community. We share stories, teach and learn from one another, testify and advocate. There are so many concerns we have as a coalition this year and we were happy to have the opportunity to share those concerns with lawmakers."

Those concerns include some aspects of the governor's proposed budget, such as the elimination of the Attendant Services Program, which helps some of Vermont's most vulnerable citizens hire personal care attendants to help with essential daily tasks such as bathing and getting dressed. Advocates also sounded the alarm about a proposed 2 percent cut to developmental services and about proposed changes to special education funding.

There was a graduation ceremony for graduates of the 2018 Vermont Leadership Series, which trains Vermonters with developmental disabilities, and their family members, to be advocates for positive social change.

The keynote address by Caroline Whiddon, executive director of the Me2/Orchestra, the world's only classical music organization dedicated to erasing the stigma surrounding mental illness. Me2/ was founded in Burlington in 2011 and recently relocated their headquarters to Boston, Mass. The Me2/Orchestra includes people with and without mental health issues working side-by-side in a supportive atmosphere. Whiddon shared the story of how the idea for the Me2/Orchestra was born after her brilliant orchestral conductor husband (who at the time was a friend and colleague of Whiddon)

encountered fear and ignorance after his then-coworkers learned about his bipolar disorder diagnosis. What resulted was a lawsuit (which Whiddon's husband won) and the creation of an orchestra that offers a safe space for everyone, no matter what challenges they may be living with.

Whiddon said, "We're working on building an affiliate network around the country because we heard from so many other people who want to have access not only to music but to a stigma-free zone. I mean, think about it. How many stigma-free zones do any of us have in our lives? Not very many if any at all."

The two dozen member organizations and allies of VCDR hold Disability Awareness Day every year, bringing together disability



*Caroline Whiddon, left, gives the keynote address on Disability Awareness Day. Deaf interpreter Patrick Harris is pictured at right.*



advocates, family providers and policy-makers from across the state.

The Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights is a cross-disability advocacy organization. VCDR member organizations, staff members and



volunteers engage individuals with disabilities and family members in Vermont's legislative and

policy activities, enabling them to have a voice in the administrative and legislative decisions that affect their daily lives and civil rights.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Comedy Night

In May at the Fresh Tracks Farm



and Vineyard, we hosted our 4<sup>th</sup> annual comedy night fundraiser.

This year we welcomed back MC extraordinaire

– Chris Parker, Kamikaze Comedy (featuring: Heather Caldera, Mourning Fox, Chris Jarvis, Rick Peck and Matt Saltus), Nilima Abrams, Tracy Dolan, Gladys Downing and Carmen Lagala! Once again all the comedians donated their time and provided us with an evening of laughs and a successful fundraiser!

Our next comedy night is on the books for Friday, June 7, 2019 at

Fresh Tracks. It will be a little different this year as it will be by donation only; and weather permitting be outdoors. If you haven't made it to the last four, don't miss the **fifth annual show**.

#### Candace Stoumen Retires

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, folks from our Montpelier office caravanned to Brattleboro to celebrate Candace Stoumen's retirement at the Whetstone Station Restaurant & Brewery. Candace had been with VCIL for eighteen years and is what Sarah likes to call "the Mayor of Brattleboro."



Colleen Arcodia, Charlie Murphy, Joyce Werntgen, Stefanie Monte, Candace Stoumen, Karin Nissan, Erin Sanders-Sigmon, Peter Johnke, Sarah Launderville, seated: Lynn Mazza, Missy Boothroyd, Bridget McBride, Sue Booth and Linda Meleady.



*Candace (center) with her daughter Amanda Burrows and grandson Peter Sorensen.*



## Extempo

ex•tem•po•ra•ne•ous: carefully prepared but delivered without notes or text



In August, Lovejoy Dole coordinated a fantastic evening of storytelling for guests at the Bridgeside Book Store and adjoining Stowe

Street Café. Extempo brings together folks who share their stories with the audience who throughout the show vote on their favorites by placing money in the coordinating persons "sap bucket." We heard stories from Rowly Brucken, Recille Hamrell, Kate Harbaugh, Craig Jarvis, David Kelley, Larry Novins, Bill Rice and Mark Stein.

These folks all graciously donated their time to help us raise money and we asked our attendees to vote and vote they did! It turned out to be one of our most successful FUNdraisers last year. A special shout-out to Hiata Defoe, Bridgeside's owner, who donated the use of the space, Stowe Street Café for staying open a little later and providing some snacks and drinks, Lovejoy (Extempo's founder) for lining up the performers and space and Jim Higgins for manning the "voting room!"



Lovejoy, our awesome "MC"

## Rosemary J. Miller Dining for All Awards

### Butch and Babe's



Cleary Buckley and co-owner Kortnee Bush.

In November, Sarah and Linda presented Burlington's Butch and Babe's co-owner Kortnee Bush with the Rosemary J. Miller Dining for

All Award for its commitment to accessibility. Cleary Buckley, a local architect who nominated the restaurant for the award, commented on the eatery's accessible bar seating. "I especially think they did a great job creating a seated height bar that feels comfortable and welcoming to all — and not just a mandatory three-foot section like I see at so many other bars."

Bush pointed out that sometimes people who do not have physical disabilities take access for granted. But she looks at bars and restaurants with an eye toward accessibility, in part because of a longtime customer who has crutches and eats at Butch & Babe's two or three nights a week. "It's also just being part of



the community. You want to be accessible to everyone in the community," Bush said, adding that this encompasses everything from the menu to physical access.

## Burger King

In December we presented Burger King on the Barre-Montpelier Road with the Rosemary J. Miller Dining for All Award. One of the restaurants Miller most likes to frequent is the Burger King in Berlin. Last summer, the restaurant built a new store in approximately the same location. The new state-of-the-art building is about the same size and is slightly closer to the road. Miller is impressed with the increased accessibility, including wider entrance doors, a spacious bathroom and a level entrance.

Sarah said, "We are pleased to present this award as Burger King has completed their renovation, which includes broader accessibility for folks with disabilities. We honor Burger King for access in the restaurant, closeness to the bus route and customer service being



*Sarah Launderville,  
Tavian Plant, RGM,  
David Richardson, AGM,  
and Rosie Miller.*

supportive to the disability community."

David Richardson, assistant general manager, said, "We are happy and proud to have a new restaurant that's updated and accessible to everyone."

The award is named for VCIL's longtime receptionist, who retired in 2011. Miller, who was born with cerebral palsy, has never let her disability slow her down. She can often be seen out and about in central Vermont, whether she is eating out, shopping or advocating for disability rights.

Sarah said, "With this award we honor Rosemary Miller, who was on the front lines of VCIL for over 30 years, and her love for our community and good food. I think of a time when it was legal to kick people out of restaurants simply because they had a disability. We've come a long way from that, but not all businesses take care in insuring real inclusion."



## Contractor Training

Every year, VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) holds a contractor training in different parts of the state. Last March, trainings were held in St. Johnsbury and Rutland and were open to all interested contractors. Trainings cover how to bid these particular projects, how to follow the VCIL Scope and how to work with people who have disabilities, among other topics.

VCIL is always looking for additional contractors who are not familiar with our organization and who want work doing what we do. If you or someone you know is interested in these trainings they are held in the Spring each year. Call VCIL at 1-800-639-1522 or look for details on our website: [www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org)

## NCIL Conference

Sam Liss, (VCIL board vice president) right, accepts the 2018 National Council on Independent Living Annual Conference Region 1 Advocacy Award. Presenting the award were Steve Higgins, center, executive director of Independence Associates, and Hindley Williams, a NCIL youth fellow.



*Photo by Michael Clegg*



*Our remarkable HAP Staff: (L) Susan Britto, HAP Specialist and Patricia Tedesco, HAP Coordinator*



*Sam Liss, Sarah Launderville and Karen Topper at NCIL.*



## It's been a busy year!



*In February, Joyce Werntgen long time employee and volunteer was given the Volunteer of the Month award by the Green Mountain United Way. Joyce began volunteering at the Vermont Center for Independent Living when she retired in 2015. Werntgen's volunteer service started with a fondness for the organization, a natural curiosity about volunteering and the desire to continue to serve her community even after retirement.*

*Stephen Lawler (son of former VCIL employee and improv comic genius, Matt Saltus) was born with spina bifida and went from a young boy who couldn't ski or walk like most kids, to an elite athlete competing in February in Pyeong Chang, Korea for the Olympics. Steven tried skiing for the first time at age 6 and went on to become the first adaptive ski racer in Vermont to represent a high school ski team in competition. At the Olympics he placed 18th in the Downhill and 22nd in the Super G and said ""Not as good as I'm used to but with everything that's gone on and how hard I worked to get here, I'm happy enough with it."*



*In Bennington Patrick Harris, Shelley Bevins, Candace Stoumen, Katrina Hagen and Missy Boothroyd (not pictured) celebrated March birthdays.*



*Thank you to everyone that returned their "spring wishes" shapes from our mud season match for our front window display! They brought a little cheer into a tough time of year!*



*Thanks to the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts who donated two pairs of tickets we held a raffle last April to win a pair of tickets to the Gaelynn Lea concert on May 11. Maureen Mayo and Ericka Reil had the winning tickets that were drawn on April 27.*





*In April, VCIL was proud to be a cosponsor of the Vermont International Film Festival Global Roots Film Festival which focused on disability! Hope you had a chance to take in some of the festival.*



*So proud of our Bennington PAC Coordinator Charlie Murphy who traveled all the way to Montpelier to testify at the State hearing on healthcare and shared stories of peers he works with.*



*Thanks to these folks for representing VCIL at the Corporate Cup in May! Peter, Patricia and Rose, you guys rock! Thanks to Jennifer Tedesco for the awesome photos and to Helen Johnke for cheering them on.*



*VCIL's Ericka Reil and Disability Rights Vermont's Ed Paquin teamed up and registered people to vote at Woodridge Rehabilitation Nursing.*



*Missy Boothroyd, Deaf PAC, and Will Alden (left) from our Brattleboro office attended the annual Buddy Walk which helped raise money for the Special Olympics. The event features live music, lunch, games, prizes and vendors that support inclusion for individuals of all abilities including us, VocRehab and the Inclusion Center.*

*Missy Boothroyd Deaf PAC from our Brattleboro office (left), Kimberly Colville, PAC in our Burlington office, and Rose Martellaro, PAC in Montpelier, attend the Language Access & Communication Expo: "Working with limited English-speaking patients, the Deaf community and beyond." Over 400 people including nurses, social workers, Deaf people, Deaf immigrants, doctors and UVM students attended and there were 36 exhibits.*





*In July, VCIL in Rutland tabled at Friday Night Live. A local organization called the Adaptive Martial Arts Association offered a demo in front of our table. The man on the left is the founder of this local organization, Jason Davis and his demo partner on the right is Patrick Boynton.*



*In August, VCIL and Rights and Democracy co-hosted the Be A Hero Tour with Ady Barkan, nationally known disability rights advocate, and Senator Bernie Sanders, a tireless healthcare advocate. Ady and Bernie urged us to "Be A Hero" by demanding improved Medicare for all - healthcare as a human right! Ady has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and wants to make a difference in the time he has left and Bernie is helping him ask folks to stand up for our health care, raising the minimum wage, paid family leave, racial justice and our country!*

## **BOARD of DIRECTORS**

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 Samuel E. Liss, Vice President  
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 John Pierce, Secretary  
 Henry Demar, At-Large Member  
 Ronni Allard  
 Zachary Hughes  
 Sefakor Komabu-Pomeyie  
 Maureen Mayo  
 Irving Payne  
 Bryan Pritchard  
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Sarah Launderville, Exec. Director  
 Peter Johnke, Deputy Director

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Michelle Grubb, Finance &  
 Operations Officer

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 Sue Booth, Bus. Office Coordinator  
 Stefanie Monte, Executive Assistant

## **Information, Referral & Assistance (IR&A)**

Jacob Lavigne, I,R&A

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Linda Meleady, Development Coord.

## **Community Access**

Mike Charron, Civil Rights Specialist

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 Colleen Arcodia, PAC, Bennington  
 Nate Besio, PAC, Burlington  
 Missy Boothroyd, Deaf Independence  
 Program Coord., Brattleboro  
 Jessie Butterfield, PAC, Rutland  
 Tom Hamilton, PAC Coord., Mont.  
 Rose Martellaro, PAC, Montpelier  
 Lynn Mazza, PAC, Bennington  
 Charlie Murphy, PAC Coord., Benn.  
 Kevin Plant, Database Ass't., Burl.  
 Glenn Reed, PAC Coordinator, Rutland  
 Franklin Shiner, Advocacy Spec., Mont.  
 Candace Stoumen, PAC, Brattleboro  
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 Chanda Beun, MOW Program Ass't,  
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 Specialist  
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## **VT Interpreter Referral Service**

Bridget McBride, Program Coord.  
 Erin Sanders-Sigmon, Program Spec.

## **Wellness Workforce Coalition**

Ericka Reil, Coordinator

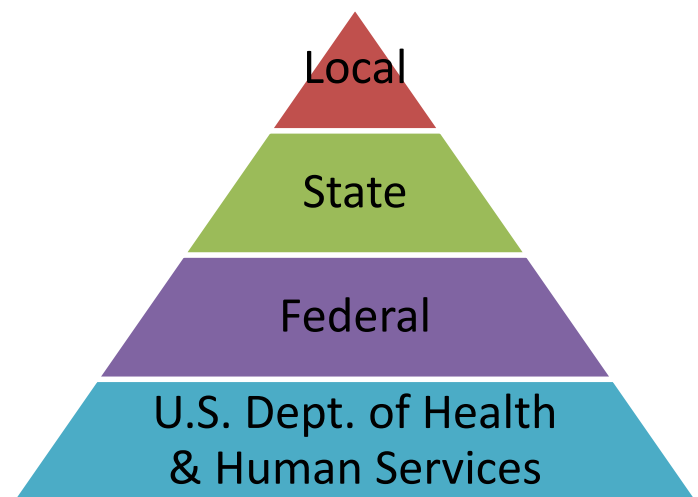
## ABOUT OUR FUNDING

Most of VCIL's funding comes from a variety of federal, state and local sources. VCIL's primary funding comes from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

The Department of Education funding helps us provide Peer Advocacy Counseling, skills training services, community advocacy activities, and information, referral and assistance services.

In FY'18 VCIL received funding from several federal and state agencies and 134 cities and towns, all of whom are valuable partners. We thank all of the individuals, businesses, contractors, community organizations and partners that help keep our programs active and successful.

Most importantly we thank the volunteers and individual donors who help bring VCIL's mission of dignity, independence and civil rights to every community in Vermont. Your active participation in this movement and your continued support is what makes our work possible.





**VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING  
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 AND 2016**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash - unrestricted	\$ 286,015	\$ 220,565
Accounts and grants receivable	349,461	328,834
Prepaid expenses	50,155	42,471
	<u>685,631</u>	<u>591,870</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>296,689</u>	<u>309,790</u>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPEMENT, net</b>		
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Restricted cash – building reserve	24,831	21,535
Investments	220,793	305,494
	<u>245,624</u>	<u>327,029</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 1,227,944</u>	<u>\$ 1,228,689</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Current portion of mortgage note payable	\$ 26,000	\$ 24,000
Accounts payable	99,957	84,503
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	71,136	80,359
Accrued vacation	30,781	35,901
Contract advances	<u>--</u>	<u>9,000</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>227,874</u>	<u>233,763</u>
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>		
Mortgage note payable, net of current portion	<u>137,701</u>	<u>163,927</u>
<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>	<u>137,701</u>	<u>163,927</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>365,575</u>	<u>397,690</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted – undesignated	829,971	800,500
Board designated – building reserve fund	24,831	21,535
Subtotal – unrestricted	<u>854,802</u>	<u>822,035</u>
Temporarily restricted	<u>7,567</u>	<u>8,964</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<u>862,369</u>	<u>830,999</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 1,227,944</u>	<u>\$ 1,228,689</u>

**VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING  
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 AND 2017**

**CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS  
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT**

	<u><b>2018</b></u>	<u><b>2017</b></u>
Federal and State Grants	\$ 2,471,879	\$ 2,336,203
Contributions	34,399	26,849
Municipalities	50,371	50,926
Fees and other income	89,540	78,644
Investment Income (loss)	20,019	32,757
United Way	-	-
	<u>2,666,208</u>	<u>2,525,379</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>3,225</u>	<u>4,343</u>

<b>TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>	<u><b>\$ 2,669,433</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 2,529,722</b></u>
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**EXPENSES**

**Program Services:**

Independent Living Resources	1,298,164	1,117,926
Peer Advocacy Counseling	602,847	533,651
Advocacy	124,263	142,727
Other Programs	<u>278,077</u>	<u>352,744</u>

Total Program Services	<u>2,303,351</u>	<u>2,147,048</u>
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**Support Services:**

General and Administrative	275,198	289,468
Marketing and Development	<u>58,117</u>	<u>57,493</u>

Total Support Services	<u>333,315</u>	<u>346,961</u>
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<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u><b>\$ 2,636,666</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 2,494,009</b></u>
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<b>CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	32,767	35,713
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<b>BEGINNING UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<u>822,035</u>	<u>786,322</u>
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<b>ENDING UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>\$ 854,802</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 822,035</b></u>
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**CHANGE IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS  
SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

Gifts and Grants	<u>\$ 1,828</u>	<u>\$ 5,147</u>
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	1,828	5,147
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(3,225)</u>	<u>(4,343)</u>

<b>CHANGE IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	(1,397)	804
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<b>BEGINNING TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<u>8,964</u>	<u>8,160</u>
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<b>ENDING TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>\$ 7,567</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 8,964</b></u>
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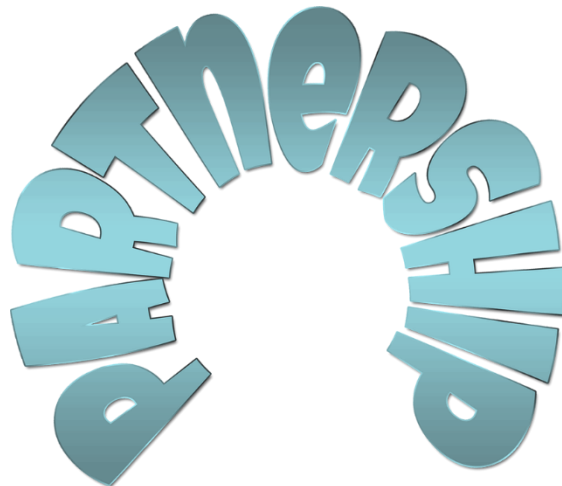
<b>TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>\$ 31,370</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 36,517</b></u>
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## THANK YOU TO OUR GRANTORS

Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
National Institute on Disability,  
Independent Living & Rehabilitation  
Research  
Statewide Independent Living Council  
VT Association of Area Agencies  
on Aging (VT4A)  
U.S. Department of Health &  
Human Services  
VT Department of Disabilities,  
Aging and Independent Living  
VT Department of Mental Health  
VT Department of Public Service  
VT Housing & Conservation Board



*VCIL wishes to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our project partners that we have worked with throughout the years. Without these valued relationships our mission would not be possible.*



**\*\***These lists reflect Individual, Business, Organization and Grantor contributions and/or partnerships for FY'18. Our deepest apology to any agency, organization or individual we may have inadvertently omitted. **\*\***

## CITIES AND TOWNS

Albany	Essex	Milton	Shrewsbury
Alburgh	Fairfax	Monkton	St. Albans
Arlington	Fairlee	Montpelier	St. George
Bakersfield	Fayston	Mount Holly	Stannard
Barnet	Ferrisburgh	Mount Tabor	Stockbridge
Barre City	Fletcher	New Haven	Stowe
Barre Town	Glover	Newark	Strafford
Belvidere	Goshen	Newbury	Stratton
Bennington	Grafton	Newfane	Sudbury
Berkshire	Granby	North Hero	Sutton
Berlin	Granville	Northfield	Swanton
Bethel	Greensboro	Peru	Thetford
Bloomfield	Hartford	Pittsfield	Tinmouth
Brattleboro	Hartland	Pittsford	Townshend
Bridport	Highgate	Plainfield	Tunbridge
Brighton	Hubbardton	Plymouth	Underhill
Brookfield	Huntington	Poultney	Victory
Brookline	Jamaica	Pownal	Waitsfield
Cabot	Jay	Proctor	Walden
Calais	Jericho	Randolph	Wallingford
Cambridge	Leicester	Readsboro	Waltham
Charlotte	Lemington	Richmond	Warren
Clarendon	Lowell	Royalton	Washington
Coventry	Ludlow	Rupert	Waterbury
Craftsbury	Lunenburg	Rutland	Weathersfield
Danby	Maidstone	Ryegate	Wells
Duxbury	Manchester	Sandgate	West Fairlee
E. Montpelier	Marshfield	Searsburg	West Windsor
Eden	Middlesex	Shaftsbury	Westfield
Elmore	Middletown	Sheffield	Westminster
Enosburg	Springs	Sheldon	Westmore
			Weston
			Wheelock
			Williamstown
			Williston
			Woodford
			Worcester





## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

AARP

Emily Abbott

Katherine Alarie

Amazon Smile

Anonymous

Anonymous, *in honor of Sue Booth*

Anonymous, *in memory of  
Ned Gaunce*

Anonymous, *in honor of  
Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Mercedes Avila, *in honor of  
Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Paul & Anne Bakeman

Anne Barbano, *in honor of  
Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Laurie Belton

Jeffrey Bernstein

Mary Alice Bisbee

Sue Booth

Bill & Ruth Botzow

Sally Bouffard, *in honor of  
Rosemary Miller's birthday*

Richard Bower

Wendy Boyd

Annette Boyle

Steve Bradley, *in honor of  
Martha Robert's birthday*

Brattleboro Rotary Club

Susan Britto, *in honor of  
Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Susan Britto, *in memory of Will Reil*

Paul & Laura Brundage

Janet, Bill & Julia Bruner

Susie Anne Bunnell

Canadian Club

Capitol Plaza

Lynne Cardozo, *in honor of  
Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Lynn Cardozo, *in honor of  
Rosemary Miller's birthday*

Jim & Andrea Chandler

John Chard, *in memory  
of Nancy Chard*

Michael & Joy Charron

Rance & Helene Chilafox, *in honor  
of Marcy Ryan*

Dan & Betsy Chodorkoff

Chroma Technology Corporation

Annamarie Cioffari, *in honor of  
Rosemary Miller's birthday*

Alaina Clements, *in memory of  
Patrick Fitzgerald*

Alaina Clements, *in memory of  
Will Reil*

Alaina Clements, *in honor of  
Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Alaina Clements, *in honor of  
Rosemary Miller's birthday*

Bill & Nancy Clements, *in honor  
of Alaina Clements*

Daniela Cockwill, *in memory of  
Will Reil*

Lori Cohen

Commando, LLC

Judy Collins, *in honor of  
Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Congregational Church of S. Hero

Bethany Creaser, *in memory of  
Will Reil*

E.M. Cushing, *in memory of  
F. Clarke Abbott*

Eric Darious

Janet & John Dattilio

Janice Dawley, *in honor of  
Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Janet Dattillio

Rick DeAngelis and Ariane Kissam

Janet Dermody, *in honor of  
Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Janet Dermody, *in memory of Will Reil*

Janet Dermody, *in honor of  
Rosemary Miller's birthday*

Janet Dermody., *in honor of  
Jessie Butterfield's birthday*

Nancy Dickison

Tyler Dion, *in memory of Will Reil*

Thank  
You

William Doelger & Linda Normandeau  
 Carol Delores Douglas, *in memory of*  
*Trudy Belgard*

Bill Doyle, *in memory of the*  
*Doyle Family*

Eagle Eye Farm, Inc,

M. Jean Erno

Thomas Faris

Sheridan Farr, *in memory of*  
*Will Reil*

Daisy Feidt, *in honor of*  
*Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Ellen Fein, *in honor of*  
*Rosemary Miller's birthday*

Steve & Marty Feltus

Ferrisburgh Grange

First Unitarian Universalist  
 Society of Burlington

Daniel Fisher, *in honor of*  
*Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Patricia Fontaine

Nat Frothingham

Julie B. George

Eileen Gillies

Mary Gordon

Richard Graham

Green Mountain Power

Fred & Michelle Grubb, *in honor of*  
*Jessie Butterfield's birthday*

Harmon Foundation

Joseph Hart

John & Lisa Harvey, *in memory of*  
*Will Reil*

James Haslam, *in honor of*  
*Sarah Launderville's birthday*

John Hemond

Linda Henzel

Eva Hess

Richard & Mary Himmer

Jayne Hubener

Andy Imparato, *in honor of*  
*Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Cathy Jenness

Christopher & Margaret Katuki



Kathleen Keenan, *in memory of*  
*Michael Cahill*

Joseph & Amy Kiefer, *in memory*  
*of Ann and Joe Kiefer*

Bobby & Sally King

Kinney Drugs Foundation

Bruce & Donna Laffan

Gregory LaFlower

Heideh Larijani, *in memory of*  
*my parents*

Russ & Lucille Launderville, *in honor of*  
*Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Thad & Sarah Launderville

Paul and Elizabeth Levy

Deborah Lisi-Baker, *in honor of*  
*Sarah Launderville's birthday*

Deborah Lisi-Baker, *in honor of*  
*Martha Robert's birthday*

Deborah Lisi-Baker, *in memory of*  
*Will Reil*

Deborah Lisi-Baker, *in honor of*  
*Rosemary Miller's birthday*

Samuel Liss, *in memory of Peter Kriff*

Jason Lorber, *in honor of Sarah*  
*Launderville's birthday*

Jean Lowell, *in honor of Sarah*  
*Launderville's birthday*

Main Street Family Dentistry

Main Street Landing

Maureen Mayo

Preston & Cynthia McAdoo

Bridget McBride

Katie McCarthy

Jay & Joan McEvoy

Linda Meleady, *in honor of Sarah*  
*Launderville's birthday*

Linda Meleady, *in memory of Will Reil*

Linda Meleady, *in honor of Rosemary*  
*Miller's birthday*

Linda Meleady, *in honor of*  
*Jessie Butterfield's birthday*

Metrowest Center for Indep. Living  
 Gloria Miller

Rosemary Miller, *in honor of Sarah  
Launderville's birthday*  
 Rosemary Miller, *in memory of  
Will Reil*  
 Stefanie Monte, *in honor of Sarah  
Launderville's birthday*  
 Stefanie Monte, *in honor of Rosemary  
Miller's birthday*  
 American Legion Post #3, Montpelier  
 Rosalie Morgan  
 Loretta Nelson, *in honor of  
Mike Charron*  
 Raymond Netherwood  
 Karin Nissen  
 Maggie Novack & Alan Taplow  
 Jill Olson-Mazza, *in honor of Sarah  
Launderville's birthday*  
 Ormsby's Computer Systems  
 Nancy Osborne  
 Danielle Pakradooni, *in memory of  
Sue Williams*  
 Edward Paquin & Gini Milkey  
 James & Susan Paustian  
 Stanton K. & Jean Payne  
 Rene' & Joan Pellerin  
 Siobhan Perricone, *in memory of  
Will Reil*  
 Victoria Peters  
 John Pierce, *in honor of Sarah  
Launderville's birthday*  
 John Pierce, *in honor of  
Rosemary Miller's birthday*  
 Thomas and Carol Pombar  
 Lucia Port  
 Anne Proctor  
 Roxanna Quero  
 Michael Racine, *in memory of  
Hector Racine*  
 Mary & Billy Joe Rainer  
 Jennifer Raney  
 Jennifer Raney, *in memory of  
Patrick Fitzgerald*  
 Harriotte Ranvig  
 Mark Raymond

Red Sox Foundation  
 Glenn Reed, *in memory of  
Will Reil*  
 Ericka Reil, *in honor of Sarah  
Launderville's birthday*  
 Janet Ressler  
 David & Nancy Reynolds, *in  
memory of Sue Williams*  
 Lila Richardson and Allen Gilbert  
 Alban & Margaret Richey  
 Andy Robinson  
 Susan Roberts, *in honor of  
Martha Robert's birthday*  
 Deborah Roberts, *in honor of  
Martha Robert's birthday*  
 Jim Ross  
 Laura Ross  
 Phyllis Rubenstein  
 John Runyan, *in memory of Will Reil*  
 Michael Sabourin, *in honor of  
Sarah Launderville's birthday*  
 Michael Sabourin, *in memory of  
Will Reil*  
 Joseph Sanville  
 Susan Sanderson, *in memory of  
Will Reil*  
 Peter Savage  
 Edward Schwaner, *in honor  
of Linda Meleady*  
 Rachel Siegel & Jules Fishelman  
 Neal Silver  
 Wendy Lee Simperts  
 Neal Smith  
 Kathy Sowerby, *in memory of  
Mildred Moran*  
 Kathy Sowerby, *in honor of  
Allison Girouard*  
 Pamela Sprague  
 David & Susan Squires  
 Pamela and Robert Stanton  
 Glenellen Stefaniak, *in honor of  
Gwen Evans*  
 Francis Strayer, *in memory of  
Nancy Groff*



Jen Swiatocha, *in honor of Susan Sanderson's birthday*  
 Patricia Tedesco, *in honor of Sarah Launderville's birthday*  
 Patricia Tedesco, *in memory of Will Reil*  
 Charles Teske & Rhoda Lush, *in memory of all those lost in 2017*  
 Charles Teske & Rhoda Lush, *in memory of Sue Williams*  
 Cheryl Tetreault  
 Nanette Tewksbury, *in honor of Martha Robert's birthday*  
 Karen Todd  
 True Colors Blinds & Designs  
 Mitzi Unger, *in memory of John J. Unger*  
 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bennington  
 Francis & Ellen Voigt  
 VT Community Foundation

### **In Kind/Volunteers**

Kathy Achilles  
 Adaptive Martial Arts Assoc. participants  
 Colleen Arcodia  
 Bernie and Celia Bandman, SpeakSooner.org  
 Bath Fitter  
 Larry Betit  
 Missy Boothroyd  
 Charles Brashear  
 Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity  
 Mike Charron  
 Virginia Clark  
 Coughlin, Inc.  
 Cover Home Repair  
 Dale Coppin and the Twilight Program  
 Lisa Deysenroth

VT Eastern Star Home  
 VT Lake Monsters  
 Chani Waterhouse & Carter Stowell  
 Gale Wendell  
 Walmart, Bennington  
 Price Chopper, Bennington  
 Eric Weiss  
 Gale Wendell  
 Joyce Werntgen, *in memory of Peg Franzen*  
 Joyce Werntgen, *in honor of Sarah Launderville's birthday*  
 Joyce Werntgen, *in honor of Rosemary Miller's birthday*  
 John Wilkins  
 Richard Williams  
 Amy Wright & W.G. Livingston  
 Tom Younkman



Tracy Dorman  
 The Flynn Center  
 Elizabeth Fox  
 Fresh Tracks Farm & Vineyard  
 Paul Fusco  
 Mary Gerisch  
 Tom Haley  
 Hannaford's, Bennington  
 Hannaford's, Rutland  
 Marci Hardy  
 Tiffany Heath  
 Ron Hemenway  
 Melissa Hoellerich  
 Doug Krause  
 Fred Lance  
 Jessica LeBlanc  
 Andrea Malinowski, RiseVT  
 Erica May  
 Lynn Mazza



**In Kind/Volunteers (cont.)**

Kathleen McBrien  
 McDonalds, Rutland  
 Elaine Morse  
 NeighborWorks of Western Vermont  
 Bennington office  
 NEK Habitat for Humanity  
 Arielle Oechsle  
 Ormsby's Computer Systems  
 Meredith Parker  
 Ed Paquin  
 Andre Pellerin  
 Joan Pellerin  
 People's Trust Company  
 Merry Potemski, VT Legal Aid  
 Price Chopper, Barre  
 Price Chopper, Rutland  
 QRamp  
 Glenn Reed  
 Rose Reed-Denardo  
 Ericka Reil  
 Rural Edge  
 Rutland Area Food Cooperative  
 Jane Schaeffer, The Yoga Place  
 Jennifer Schoerke  
 Seventh Day Adventist Church  
 Laura Siegel  
 The Speakeasy Café

Smuggler's Notch  
 Grace Tate  
 Jack Trainor  
 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
 of Bennington  
 Kathy Velon  
 Walmart, Berlin  
 Joyce Werntgen  
 Heather Winkler  
 Ren Van Wagner  
 Carol Wood  
 Emily Wood  
 Yankee Medical



\*\*Our deepest apology to any individuals or organizations we may have omitted.\*\*

## MEMBERSHIP

As a member supported organization we welcome all people who support our mission and have an interest in our programs and services to join us. Many of our members are people with disabilities or have family members or friends with a disability along with business members, community leaders, educators, healthcare professionals and other concerned citizens who support the work we do.

For those who are interested, **VCIL's membership is FREE!** Of course, we gladly accept donations of any size that you can give. Becoming a member affords you a copy of The Independent (VCIL's news journal), quarterly newsletter, free loan of books from VCIL's library, free attendance at scheduled community group meetings, and invitations to various VCIL sponsored conferences and trainings throughout the year. And, remember, when you become a VCIL member you automatically become a member of a national movement that fights the barriers to independent living and supports a high quality of life for Vermonters. You do not have to be a member to receive VCIL services.

To join, please go to our website - [www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org) - or, complete the attached membership form, and send it to:

### VCIL

11 East State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

**For more information call: 1-800-639-1522**

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I believe in equal rights for people with disabilities! I want to be a member of VCIL.

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

My address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (**newsletter**): \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** mail to address above ☐

Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I am including a donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

**VCIL will not share or sell personal or identifying information with any other organization.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
Membership Card # (office use): \_\_\_\_\_



February 13, 2019 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VCIL.

On May 24, 2019 we will celebrate this momentous occasion with a gala dinner in the Condor room at National Life. We will be selling tickets to the event which will include entertainment, a silent auction and our amazing keynote speaker; internationally recognized leader in the disability rights community, Judy Heumann.

We hope you will join us.

For tickets: buy on-line: <https://vcil.wufoo.com/forms/vcils-40th/> or call Linda @ (802)224-1819 or e-mail [lindam@vcil.org](mailto:lindam@vcil.org)





**Vermont Center for  
Independent Living**

**VCIL – Montpelier**

11 East State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602  
802-229-0501 (voice and TTY)  
800-639-1522 (voice and TTY)  
Email: [info@vcil.org](mailto:info@vcil.org)

**VCIL – Bennington**

601 Main Street  
P.O. Box 82  
Bennington, Vermont 05201  
802-447-0574 (voice and TTY)  
802-681-9096 (video phone)

**VCIL – Brattleboro**

28 Vernon Street, Suite 412  
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301  
802-254-6851 (voice)  
802-275-0099 (video phone)  
802-246-0328 (TTY)

**VCIL – Burlington**

7 Kilburn Street, Suite 312  
Burlington, Vermont 05401  
802-861-2896 (voice and TTY)  
802-881-0138 (video phone)

**VCIL – Morrisville**

85 Portland Street, Suite 3  
P.O. Box 1622  
Morrisville, Vermont 05661  
802-888-2180

**VCIL – Rutland**

60 Center Street, Suite 1  
Rutland, Vermont 05701  
802-779-9021  
802-779-0265 (video phone)