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• [www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org)

**VCIL**

Vermont Center for

Independent Living

05201

ite 436

05301

ite 312

05401

ite 1

701

VERMONT C

INDEPEND

FY'23 Ann



port is dedicated  
nt living leaders  
t this past year.

ann 3/4/23

lac 2/23

m 8/23

as 12/22

lost to COVID-19



Artwork by Susan Sanderson

## CITIES AND TOWNS

Albany	Danby	Jay	
Arlington	Dummerston	Jericho	
Bakersfield	Duxbury	Leicester	
Barnet	E. Montpelier	Lemington	
Barre City	Eden	Lowell	
Barre Town	Elmore	Ludlow	
Belvidere	Fairfax	Maidstone	
Bennington	Fairlee	Manchester	
Berkshire	Fayston	Marshfield	
Bethel	Ferrisburgh	Middlesex	
Bloomfield	Fletcher	Middletown Springs	
Brattleboro	Glover	Monkton	
Bridport	Goshen	Montpelier	
Brighton	Grafton	Mount Holly	
Brookfield	Granby	Mount Tabor	
Brookline	Granville	New Haven	
Cabot	Greensboro	Newark	
Calais	Hartford	Newbury	
Cambridge	Hartland	Newfane	
Clarendon	Highgate	Northfield	
Corinth	Hubbardton	Peru	
Coventry	Isle La Motte	Pittsfield	
Craftsbury	Jamaica	Pittsford	

## Sponsors & Partners

Thank You to Our Sponsors and Partners for  
Making this Project Possible!



**New England  
Federal Credit Union**



✧ Renee's Garden ✧



## Our Mission



**Vermont Community**

**Foundation**

The mission of the Vermont Community Foundation is to empower Vermonters with the skills, knowledge, and resources to lead lives of communication, and attitudinal change, realizing our full human potential.

Together, we will build a better future for all.

- Achieve our human potential through access to services
- Have available ongoing opportunities for independent living
- Realize our power to change our own lives.

We join together to create a better future for all.



for dignity, independence, and civil rights

VCIL's FY2023 Annual Report.

usual and we apologize for that. the hardest we've experienced office was completely devastated y in the community, including e affected by this awful flood.

VCIL is the immense dedication ve in connection to the de.

remote based approach and all at the same time many were ver from the flooding. They have e community and offer up porting people with disabilities, rstand their responsibilities of bility community in rebuilding ng in weekly meetings with ur peers were supported during orts.

me Pandemic Equity team rose and we have proudly led the ve access to vaccines, masks

o offer programs including peer ome modifications, access to on wheels.

ensure that people with ssness have access to support e laws and systems more just.

our report this year is a bit advocacy continues to be strong

## Facebook Fu

Thank you to everyone for de donations in honor of your bi These fundraisers not only gi we are humbled by your gen

### **Martha Roberts**

Laurie & Keith Belton  
Janet Dermody  
Zachary Hughes  
Rose Mallow  
Shery Mead  
Lydia Richard  
Susan Roberts  
Nora Zablow

### **Kate Larose**

Lynne Cardozo  
Kate Larose  
Cameron McGlothlin  
Kara Rhoda

### **Cara Sachs**

Trudy Anderson  
Sarah Launderville

### **Kyle Bodge**

Cooper Anderson  
Cheryl Runion Bodge  
Kyle Bodge  
Cathy Torrey

### **Kathy Spinelli**

Jo Freedman  
Jim Kruidenier

### **Randi Miller**

Chad Graves  
Randi Miller

## to our donors

Masami Morigami  
National Life Group  
Patricia Neidel, *in memory*  
*of Judy Krum*  
Karin Nissen  
Patricia Parker, *in memory*  
*of Mike Charron*  
Thomas Pombar  
Lila Richardson  
Alban Richey  
Sherri & Stephen Ruggles  
Rutland County Restorative  
Justice Coalition  
Edward Schwaner, *in honor*  
*of Linda Schwaner*  
Linda Schwaner  
Ellen Schwartz  
Philip Scott  
Karen Seeger &  
Michael Birnbaum  
Rachel Siegal & Jules  
Fishelman  
Kathleen & Richard Smith  
Kathy Lowerby  
Beth Stern & R. Popp  
Swenson Granite Co.  
Kelly Timmons  
Town Fair Tire Foundation  
Hannah Towne  
Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Bennington  
Dennis Upham  
Vermont Eastern Star Home  
Washington Electric Coop.  
Joyce Werntgen, *in*  
*memory of Peg Franzen*  
Shawn Whitcomb  
Stephanie Woodward  
Robert & Dianna Wuacneaux

## Our Board of

Martha Roberts  
President  
  
Will Pendlebury  
Vice President  
  
Benjamin Wimett  
Treasurer  
  
John Pierce  
Secretary  
  
Maureen Mayo  
At-Large Member  
  
Zachary Hughes  
  
Tina Mason  
  
Ed Paquin, Jr.  
  
Bryan Pritchard  
  
Amber Schaeffler



## dependence

### ess Program (HAP)

ss Program  
nam and  
ne get work  
were talking  
sh I could  
alling in the  
room  
y few  
dified  
el like a



es a week. I also want to say  
so much. It's the best room in  
or you!!

### freedom Fund (SWFF)

e and bike, it made a huge  
and is trying to learn how to  
each time he doesn't feel well  
he trampoline with his siblings.  
n with other kids and siblings

ank you enough for all the  
our son, but my husband and  
port!"

he grant to purchase my stair  
end before Christmas and we  
enix". I am now able to get  
rcels on my lap to take with me  
bars at the bottom to assist in  
swivels and is no challenge. I  
pon others as much and can

Statements of Activities for the year
<b>CHANGE IN ASSETS W/O DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>
<b>REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>
Federal and State Grants Municipal support Contributions Fees and other income Insurance Proceeds Investment income (loss)  Net assets released from restrictions
<b>TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>
Program Services: Independent Living Resources Peer Advocacy Counseling Advocacy Other Programs Total Program Services
Support Services: General and administrative Marketing and development Flood related services Total Support Services
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS W/O DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>
<b>BEGINNING NET ASSETS W/O DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>
<b>ENDING NET ASSETS W/O DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>
Gifts and Grants Net assets released from restrictions
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>
<b>BEGINNING NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>
<b>ENDING NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>
<b>TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>

ETS		
	2023	2022(as restated)
	\$ 158,209	\$ 177,172
	754,738	604,930
	508,590	-
	37,006	39,787
	1,458,543	821,889
	184,530	206,514
	34,608	31,302
	63,975	72,092
	206,852	324,612
	305,435	428,006
	\$ 1,948,508	\$ 1,456,409
AND ASSETS		
	\$ 128,633	\$ 63,788
	178,569	135,823
	29,624	25,856
	22,656	31,000
	33,000	31,000
	392,482	292,467
	-	22,749
	30,975	36,092
	30,975	58,841
	423,457	351,308
	1,463,584	1,052,572
	<u>34 608</u>	<u>31 ,302</u>
	1,498,192	1,083,874
	<u>26,859</u>	<u>21,227</u>
	<u>1,525,051</u>	<u>1,105,101</u>
	<u>\$ 1,948,508</u>	<u>\$ 1,456.409</u>

## Rodney Rice HAP



VCIL. Before I received a ramp to help me get down the stairs and to get to the car. I can now trouble. Now that I have a ramp myself now getting out and about has honest, dependable, reliable working for them. They certainly

*This ramp was built in coordina*

## Fred Hill, Sue Williams Freed

"I'm wearing my new hearing a generous part. I am now empoo career in education. I have tau reach out to community resourc Thanks for doing the same for r



ss  
3 years of  
ng to  
told me  
s were  
I have  
ty every  
out now I  
happy to  
received



walker and husband and car  
and still fell several times. The  
ouse but now I feel free. Now  
my house without anxiety of  
and independent. If someone  
ne Access Program, I would tell  
This program is excellent. I  
o work for and with this  
nd are my angels. Thank you  
y life back by being made

## (MOW)

because I cannot cook in my  
e to large wheelchair) – so  
all day. If it wasn't for MOW I  
rom 212 to 127, but I am just

## 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.

In FY'23 VCIL received funding from several federal and state agencies and 121 (see page 10) whom are valuable partners. These individuals, businesses, contractors, organizations and partners that are active and successful.

Most importantly we thank the donors who help bring VCIL's independence and civil rights to Vermont. Your active participation and your continued support is what makes us who we are.

## THANK YOU TO OUR GRANTORS

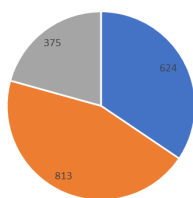
National Institute on Disability  
Independent Living & Rehabilitation  
Statewide Independent Living Council  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
VT Agency of Human Services  
VT Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living  
VT Department of Public Service  
VT Housing & Conservation Board



## DISABILITIES

al .....	74
Deafened .....	36
.....	120
.....	339
.....	696
.....	20
.....	371

Gender



Male Female Unknown

## AGES OF OUR PEERS

6 years & under.....	3
Ages 7-17.....	6
Ages 18-34.....	59
Ages 35-49.....	169
Ages 50-65.....	576
Over 65.....	363
*Unknown.....	612

## The Year i

### VT Prepared Meals Symposium

In October Our Meals on Wheels Coordinator, Allison Joyal presented at the symposium where participants discussed accessible paperwork with peers. How to make application easier for folks to fill out (fonts, layout and making things less w Other presenters discussed the as, "food is medicine".



Also in Oct specialist a Advocate a VCDR liste video invit

advocated on behalf of her peer concerns. A total of 42 people a helping to get a sense of what o support and serve individuals so opportunities for all Vermonters

In preparation for Montpelier's "Madness" event in October, Sara Launderville spoke with Montpel regards to changing the name o We were thrilled to give them a and our [#ACCESSWINFRIDAY](#) fo the name from "Moonlight Madr "Moonlight Magic"!! The new na magic of the town with nighttim performances of the event.

In appreciation and to participat VCIL reusable shopping bags fo Moonlight Magic treasures!

partake in the Montpelier's  
and an accessible and sensory-  
s and trick-or-treating that was



en window word search! For trick  
rs and anyone passing by

## STAFF

Sarah Launderville, Executive Director  
Peter Johnke, Deputy Director

### Financial Services

Sarah Fish, Finance & Operations Coordinator

### Admin. & Support Services

Randi Miller, Business Office Coordinator

Marla Hood, Receptionist

Susan Sanderson, Receptionist

Kevin Plant, Database Assistant

### Information, Referral & Assistance

Nick Parker, I, R&A Specialist

### Development/Fundraising

Linda Schwaner, Development Director

### Community Access

Cara Sachs, ADA Advocate

### Peer Advocacy (PAC) and Deaf Services

Colleen Arcodia, PAC, Bennington

Nate Besio, PAC Coordinator, Burlington

Jessie Butterfield, PAC, Rutland

Khol Hitchcock, PAC, Brattleboro

Val Hughes, Deaf Independence Project

Helena Kehne, PAC, Burlington

Wendy Lyons, PAC, Bennington

Alex Triumph, PAC, Montpelier

### Direct Service Programs

Susan Britto, Home Access Program

Krista Coombs, Long Covid Advocacy

Sefakor Komabu-Pomeyie, Youth Transition

Allison Joyal, Meals on Wheels Program

Kate Larose, Pandemic Equity Coordinator

Patricia Parker, Program Services Coordinator

Nick Parker, VT Telecommunication

Distribution Program (VTEDP) Specialist

ing us here to today to

y and universal design-  
that those with disabilities  
r benefits include a broader  
d friends of people with

eing and having interactions

ccessible these experiences

ommunity is made stronger  
inclusion and you've created  
ce today that stronger by  
g into an atmosphere of  
ion so that we can all  
ience something joyful and  
rful together.



## Introducing the Pandemic E



In November  
the addition  
Pandemic E

As we notice  
are moving  
to COVID-19  
know that p  
experiencing

been forced into situations beca  
seemed to move on.

In March we were pleased to an  
Long COVID Advocate Krista Co

Krista became sick in the first w  
SARS-COV-2 and has been mar  
COVID ever since, as a survivor  
parent of children with long CO

Krista has been focusing on unc  
post-viral illness, surveying eme  
research, and establishing reso

Here is just a sample of the wor

Tests distributed across the s

Home vaccines administered

Community vaccination even

Long COVID support group m

Garden club events for disab

Emergency Preparedness Tra

ADA Rights Trainings

Statehouse testimony

Care packages provided to lo  
disabled peers still isolating t  
selves during an ongoing par

tastic note from Yoshiko Dart,

gift of the 2023 calendar!

of your activities including  
in DC.

my daily thoughts and  
well! I am so proud of you all!

VCIL POWER! POWER OF

Valentine Phantom for showing  
in Valentines Day!



In September VCIL was excited



Brink has been  
Access Progr

Alyssa gradu  
with a Bache  
with a minor  
She is origina  
lived and trav  
and countries  
Vermont for t

years. She is so greatly excited  
Access Program at VCIL, as it a  
others through her passion of h  
more accessible world through

VCIL is thrilled that Alyssa has  
out more about the Home Acce  
programs visit

In late September 2023 Sarah  
Launderville spoke at the ribbo  
cutting ceremony at North Bran  
Nature Center for the grand op  
of their new Universal Access T  
new Nature Connection Trail!

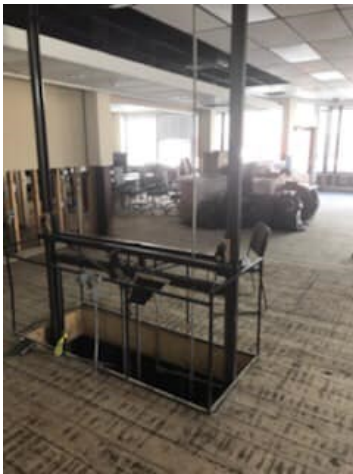
Sarah remarked, the late Judith  
Heumann, disability leader and  
never happens at the pace we  
over years of people joining to  
and pulling all the levers they p  
excruciatingly slowly, things sta  
suddenly, seemingly out of the



## the clean-up and demo

of VCIL, wall with mission  
t bottom cut from flood

ts Library.  
ow a hole  
moved up  
o  
undreds of



work area of the building  
e people who run our  
ams work. All a bare space,  
oring, walls partially removed.  
s covering spaces that need to  
paired.



here  
K.  
aces  
or



March 18, 2023  
anniversary since  
Deborah Lisi-B  
We also know  
Independent L  
impact our soc  
pause and rem  
us. We are stil  
our love to her  
first anniversa

Sarah Launderville shared, "I miss her wit and being able to talk to her and give her hugs. I have so many wonderful memories of ourselves to the white house fence about Universal Design, and feeling supported and mattered around her. Miss her a lot when I go to reach for the phone and I can't do that anymore."

Kim Rae, "I will always appreciate the JOY we shared in conversations and large tables. I also appreciate the annual calendar gifts of nature photos that still hang in the room. The 2023 bird calendar magically. For

#LOVEISA



April, The Education Justice Coalition of Vermont, one of our partners put on Vermont's first Imagining Schools and Building Communities Conference in honor of Deborah Lisi-Baker. Sefakor was honored to open the conference and talked about their work together with the Coalition. Sefakor discusses Issues of Identity and Disability as she worked closely with some who were impacted and stormed and built a new inclusion environment for all in Vermont.



The NDAA VT Chargers Memorial Plate Besio, of VCIL plays for the team. We want to thank all of our volunteers, officials, and staff for their help in the organization of power soccer in Rutland. We look forward to put on an event of this magnitude and we hope you had a hand in making it such a success.



Following the flood VCIL's Pandemic Preparedness plan: get 80,000 N95 masks and a hundred testing kits out to those in need.

We are deeply grateful for the support of the VCIL staff, and agencies that made this possible.

With special thanks to Project Nantuxet, Vermont National Guard, Vermont Department of Emergency Management!

Flood impacted communities and those in the state were able to easily access the supplies.



Later in July our Rutland office and the Americans with Disabilities Organization organized and participated in the town of Rutland's annual parade. Participants toured the town of Rutland and the parade was a great success.





### 3—The Flood

The flooding hit us hard along with so many other Montpelier businesses. .

We were able to transition to remote work fairly quickly and most staff in our Central office continue to work remotely while we decide how the best way for VCIL to move forward.

icated team at VCIL who came and clean up process. All were in ing collaborating on issues I then off to assess the ce and Operations Officer- contacting contractors, dealing Johnke, our Deputy Director- fe and getting our Server ment Director- Overall clean ecuring items and getting the IL WOWZA of the day and I'm e to accomplish.



VCIL was happy to be able to b fundraiser after a long 3 year h the improv group "Kamikaze Co Caldera, Mourning Fox, Chris Ja Saltus. These folks put on a gr time! The event was held at the



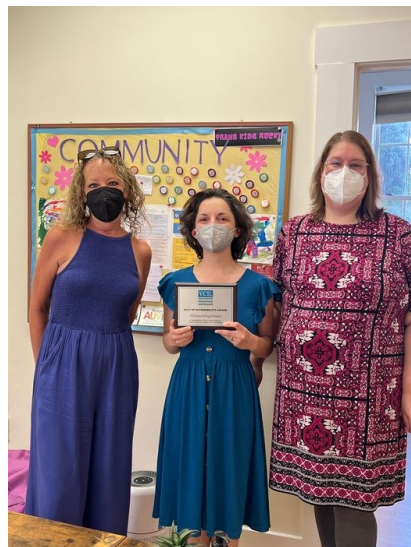
the Vermont Developmental Dis support of Disability Awareness

"Many solutions are needed, and those solutions are kicking disa out on the streets." Sarah Laur speaking at the press conferen the issue of the unsheltered.

On June 4th VCIL's Executive Director Sarah Launderville was honored with the Snelling Center for Government, Vermont Leadership Institute's Excellence in Leadership Award in Honor of Jan S. Eastman. The award is "in recognition of Vermont and its community leadership, and a fine next generation of

speech, Sarah highlighted the her family including her ren. She also shared "who are able to be and show up base of awful, messy and any of us come into our work se spaces. We take from our tively make change. We're r saying the things that many parts of our day so outside they can't yet get She emphasized the ers and how we "learn from s" and "we need youth in and mentor us".

work that we do at VCIL and L take on moments of helps people recognize their s."



In early business Award. T Matthew member Vermont knowledge community inclusion equity, an individual Executive when the becoming people w

where people can access medical Having been recognized is an honor

*"Thank you, All Brains Belong V priority at your "updated" Montp*

A farewell luncheon was on July Program Services Manager. Patricia almost 12 years! Her first five y Access Program Specialist, and position. Over the last decade, much hard work, dedication, joy organization. While bittersweet much success in her new endeavor

