



Committee for AIDS Resources, Education & Services

# Annual Report 2011



## A Summary of our Successes, Leadership, Supporters, and Finances for Fiscal Year 2011

*Pictured above: Vermont CARES supporters photographed summer of 2011*

Vermont CARES P.O. Box 5248 Burlington, VT 05402

[www.vtcares.org](http://www.vtcares.org) 800/649-2437

# “Until we are no longer necessary”: Vermont CARES Plans for Healthy Futures

We hope the following bullets energize you as they do us. We proudly present Vermont CARES’ strategic goals for the next three years:

- ◆ Be a leading model of care for HIV-positive people receiving treatment and support services
- ◆ Reduce the number of new HIV infections in Vermont, and the health and social impacts of HIV infection
- ◆ Be Vermont’s leading voice on HIV/AIDS
- ◆ Strengthen Vermont CARES for success until we are no longer necessary

These represent the culmination of a nine-month process wherein many facets of our organization gathered, reflected, shared feedback, and determined what Vermont CARES does well, what we can improve, and to what we can aspire in the future. These goal posts were designed to reflect an organization that has, at its core, a commitment to broad, holistic, and real HIV health.

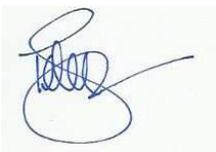
As explained in Melissa Farr’s services report on page four of this report, Vermont’s HIV care network has recently been recognized as a model of rural HIV health management. We hope that as we share some of our best practices with peer organizations, we simultaneously can improve our work each year.

I am particularly drawn to the language our organization’s leadership selected for the final line, wherein we realize this organization—supporting people each day who are struggling against the stigma of HIV and how it is transmitted—may not always be necessary. If Vermont CARES is doing its job effectively, and thinking long-term, then we sincerely hope the stigma around HIV will dissipate and allow HIV to be treated like other chronic long-term medical conditions.

Until our vision of decoupling HIV and social stigma is realized, we work every day in all our communities to provide medical, social, and economic support to all those confronting HIV’s myths, misunderstandings, and misgivings.

We hope this report gives some insight into who we are, what we can do—because of your support—to be leaders in Vermont’s efforts to end the impacts of this virus.

Thank you for your support and passion,



Peter Jacobsen  
Executive Director

# Volunteers and Donors Help Vermont CARES Reach Thousands



Volunteers continue to be the real leaders of Vermont CARES' HIV/AIDS programming, contributing 3,000 hours to help reach people living with or at risk of HIV across Vermont.

This year, volunteers led our testing program, our education program, our syringe exchange, as well as a variety of fundraisers throughout the state. The more people involved, the easier it is to spread vital HIV information to those who need resources and support.



Clockwise from top left: Gathering at a World AIDS Day Vigil at Burlington's City Hall, the House of LeMay at Leunig's restaurant fundraiser for CARES, Champ Riders underway, Board members at Burlington's Art Hop, red-jacketed auctioneer from our spring auction in action, volunteer from South Burlington High School organizing personal care items for Vermonters with HIV/AIDS experiencing homelessness, Vermont CARES' volunteers marching at Vermont Pride parade, the unveiling reception of our Portrait Project, and Champ Riders gather pre-Ride.

## Vermont CARES' HIV Prevention Programs

2011 was another wonderful year for the HIV Prevention program at Vermont CARES. We continue to provide the highest quality rapid HIV testing experience for Vermonters all around the state. Our Anti-Stigma community education program educates over 5,000 Vermonters each year with the goal of fostering compassion, knowledge, and self-awareness about HIV/AIDS. At our St. Johnsbury Syringe Exchange Program, demand and desire for services grows steadily each month. We are particularly proud of the work we are doing with this high risk population of injection drug users and remain committed to progressive, cutting edge HIV prevention work on all fronts.

In 2011, Vermont CARES continued our contractual work with the Rutland Treatment Court (drug court) through monthly visits to local substance abuse treatment centers Evergreen and Serenity House. Attendance at the education session provided by a certified Vermont CARES Educator/Tester is mandatory for participants in phase one of the treatment court program. Participants attend the presentation and receive a certificate to present to the judge during their court appearances. In addition, participants may choose to learn of their personal HIV status by accessing anonymous, free testing during these monthly visits. This partnership allows us the opportunity to reach over 200 high risk Rutlanders each year with strong HIV prevention messages and techniques. - By Shayne Galloway, Prevention Director

## Vermont CARES' HIV/AIDS Services

We have had a busy but incredibly rewarding year in the Services Program! We hosted a visit from Health Resources and Services Administration, the federal agency that governs the Vermont Department of Health's funding and actions. Our conversation with them proved incredibly rewarding, as we learned that Vermont CARES is essentially a model of rural medical case management.

We have taken this observation as a challenge to further improve our services and continue to seek excellence in meeting clients where they are at, geographically and with relation to their wellbeing needs. We hope to continue to reach this goal through both continued professional development and community outreach to increase points of access for people living with or impacted by HIV.

With that in mind, we launched a thorough assessment of training needs of medical case managers for the next couple years. Our clients are experiencing such an array of issues that impact their ability to seek or sustain HIV care, that we want to work toward having more tools and resources available to them when we see them. The topics of the trainings completed and planned include (but are not limited to); Bridges Out of Poverty, Sexual Violence, Medicare, Money Literacy, Cultural Competency, Multiple Diagnoses, Addiction, Long Term Care and Housing and Conflict Resolution. These trainings supplement ongoing professional development through supervision, clinical meetings, and trainings that MCMS seek on their own.

In addition, the Service Program director continues to meet with service agencies throughout the state to introduce our new services brochure and most importantly to continue to build personal relationships with potential caregivers. We look forward to working with many more agencies in order to see more hard to reach clients get into care more quickly and successfully. - By Melissa Farr, Services Director

## Community Partners

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont	BAART Behavioral Health Service
HIV/HCV Resource Center	Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Twin States Network	Vermont Center for Independent Living
VT People with AIDS Coalition	Champlain Valley Agency on Aging
Vermont Department of Health	Vermont Respite House
Vermont Housing & Conservation Board	Visiting Nurse Association
Champlain Housing Trust	Healthcare is a Human Right Campaign
Burlington Housing Authority	Vermont Workers' Center
Vermont State Housing Authority	Meals on Wheels
Committee on Temporary Shelter	Area Food Shelves
Recycle North	Vermont Foodbank
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity	Joint Urban Ministries Program
Fletcher Allen Healthcare	Salvation Army
Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center	St. Joseph's House
Rutland Regional Medical Center	HOPE Works (Formerly known as Women's Rape Crisis Center)
Northeastern Vermont Medical Center	Lions Club
Community Health Center	Social Security Administration
Howard Mental Health	Veteran's Affairs Offices and Hospital
The Office of Senator Bernie Sanders	Planned Parenthood: Northern New England
The Office of Senator Patrick Leahy	Women Helping Battered Women
The Office of Congressman Peter Welch	Umbrella
Outright Vermont	SafeSpace
RU12? Community Center	First Congregational Churches
Vermont Trans Action	United Universalist Church
Vermont Freedom to Marry	University of Vermont
Maple Leaf Farms	St. Michael's College
Rutland Drug Court	Middlebury College
Serenity House	Green Mountain College
Evergreen Substance Abuse Ctr	Castleton State College
	Johnson State College

## Board of Directors

Anise Richey — Chair  
Charlotte McCorkel — Vice Chair  
Dok Wright — Treasurer  
Beth DeBernardi — Secretary  
Jace Sheppard — At-Large Board Member  
Anne Van Donsel — Board Member  
Deb Choma — Board Member  
Sondra E. Solomon — Hon. Board Member  
Steven Cooley — Board Member\*  
Rodrigo Ibanez diaz de Sandi — Board Member\*

## Vermont CARES Staff

Peter Jacobsen — Executive Director  
Shayne Galloway — Prevention Director  
Melissa Farr — Services Director  
Wendy Kenny — Financial Consultant\*\*  
Carol Altobelli — Program Assistant/Bookkeeper  
Roy Belcher — Anti-Stigma Specialist  
Mary Kathryn Charbonneau — Program Specialist  
Kara Casey — Program Specialist  
Jose Davila — Program Specialist  
Penni Cleverley — Program Specialist  
Kathy Hennis — Program Specialist

\* Term Expired After Fiscal Year End

\*\*Staff no longer with Vermont CARES

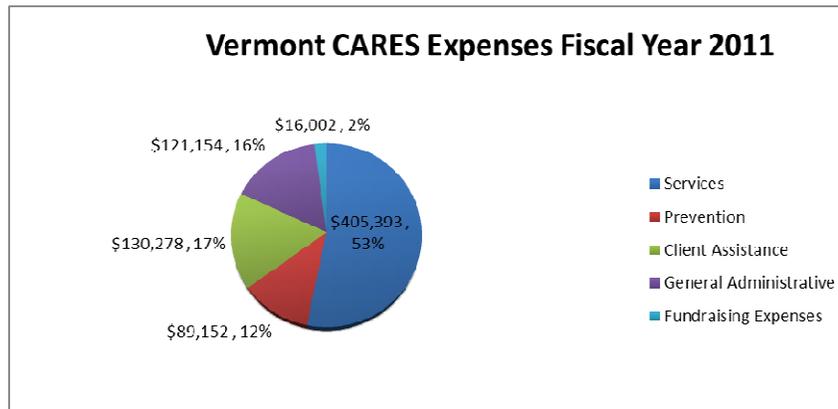
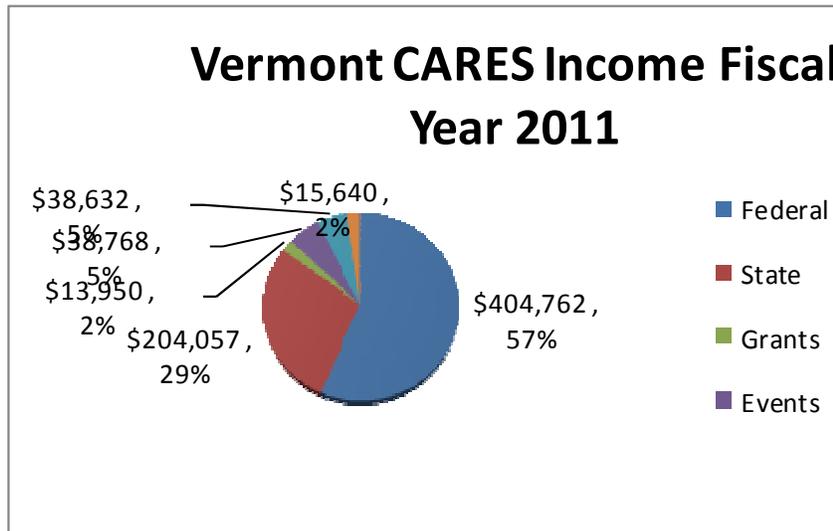
## Vermont CARES Administrative Contact Info

For inquiries about this report, our outcomes, or our finances from Fiscal Year 2011, please contact our Burlington office at 187 St. Paul Street (P. O. Box 5248) Burlington, VT 05402.

Much of our financial and accountability information is listed on our website at [www.vtcares.org](http://www.vtcares.org), including past annual reports, audited financial records, and many of our publications.

Our phone number for such inquiries is 802/863.2437.

# Financial Results FY2011\*



## Preliminary Financial Analysis FY2011\*

An overview of Vermont CARES' finances reflect a challenging year of fundraising, although most other support remained steady. Our two main events in the spring of 2011 fell short of their budgets, and this resulted in a negative cash flow for the year. Probably the most significant difference between this fiscal year and last was that CARES spent \$50,000 more in client financial assistance than in FY2010. The economy has increased financial insecurity for those we serve, and we took seriously the need to keep them housed, fed, and on their medications. Cutting a position in the agency did help with some losses in the middle of the fiscal year, and we have a solid plan to maintain solid financial footing in FY2012.

Strict financial policies and procedures are led by the Board of Directors, management staff, and an outside auditing firm. These help us ensure grant and contract compliance, fiduciary responsibility, and the stability of programs to the thousands of Vermonters we serve annually. We are proud to report that one in nine dollars raised directly supports emergency assistance of some sort for people with HIV/AIDS. Because our Board of Directors and other volunteers are taking leadership roles in fundraising, this means we can focus more resources on programs and advocacy, and our overhead costs (fundraising and administrative expenses) are down considerably this year over last year.

\* As of publication we are awaiting final audited financials from our auditors, JMM Associates in Burlington, VT. These are due by March 15, 2012. We will repost and publish a final version of this report with audited financials upon completion of that report. Annually, we also post our audited financials online, at [www.vtcares.org](http://www.vtcares.org).