2021 Annual Report

BRIDGING THE GAPS
Health and rights for key populations

A YEAR OF GROWTH & LEARNING
SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Dear friends of Vermont CARES,

Organizations like Vermont CARES were forged in the fire of public health crises. At its founding in 1986, this organization was a collection of friends and loved ones gathering to build a full-throated response to an unknown virus that was taking the lives of family and lovers alike. Certainly the way we view HIV has changed in the last 35 years, as has the expansive breadth of the work we are able to do. The core of our work remains the same. When Vermont needs our staff and volunteers, we step in, we engage, and we lead in compassionate harm-reduction focused health impacts.

This year was no different. Except, of course, for all the ways this year was completely different. Vermont CARES’ staff and HIV positive leaders stepped resolutely into roles to advance conversations about COVID-19, racial justice, and health care access & housing needs. We struggled just the same as any organization or employer as our COVID-19 responses adapted through this year, but we remained steadfast in our commitment to serving thousands of Vermonters in need.

You made this past year possible. Our communities support our clients and participants, volunteer in thoughtful and impactful ways, and turn to us when questions arise: all this engagement meant that we were able to navigate a complicated health, social, and financial landscape with confidence and forward motion. Many of our programs, in fact, expanded this last year because need for supportive case management, housing, and comprehensive syringe services programs, was felt so deeply by so many.

This full annual report details what we were able to achieve this past year, in spite of, and through, so many pivots required by COVID-19 on top of Vermont’s HIV healthcare structure and our solutions to an expanding substance use, and overdose crisis.

Through all our day to day efforts and outreach, we remain focused on a strong future as well. One where every Vermonter has meaningful access to comprehensive harm reduction services, HIV healthcare, equitable housing, and sexual and substance use education, free of stigma or judgment.

If you would like to join in our work, you can always reach out to one of us to learn more. I can be reached at 802-863-2437 or at peter@vtcares.org if you would like to learn more about how to be a part of this movement.

Sincerely,

Peter Jacobsen
Executive Director
Together we have made a difference in the lives of thousands.

Lives have been saved and lives have been lost, but we never give up. We have expanded our reach and increased access, especially in our rural communities.

Your support has been vital in our continued work as the state’s leader in Harm Reduction and HIV services.

**HIV CARE and SERVICES**
- 179 Vermonters living with HIV accessed case management to support housing, transportation, food security, psycho-social needs and health care needs.
- $95,314 in emergency funds were accessed by people living with HIV to help with rent, utilities, food security, personal protective equipment, hygiene care and transportation.

**HIV PREVENTION and SAFER SEX SERVICES**
- 32 HIV or HEP C screening test were provided between July & Sept. 2021
- 6300 condoms were distributed
- 38 PrEP referrals were made to higher risk individuals
- 500+ PrEP and HIV Basics education were provided through pamphlets

**HARM REDUCTION and SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAMMING**
- 218 new people engaged with services of the 502 people we served
- 2046 visits to access services across all of our sites
- 720,982 syringes were provided vs 447,572 in 2019
- 2673 doses of Narcan (naloxone) were provided vs 1004 in 2019
- 2923 Fentanyl Test Strips were provided vs 1632 in 2019
- 148 Overdose reversals were reported to us vs 80 in 2019

**MOBILE HARM REDUCTION SERVICES**
- 318 Mobile services were provided
- 150 people across 29 different towns were served
- 11 of 14 counties were traveled to
- We delivered harm reduction supplies and provided transportation to other services

**EDUCATION and AWARENESS EVENTS**
- 434 people attended one of two trainings on Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention
- Attendees were from diverse sectors of human services, public health, the recovery community and public safety
- We participated in or hosted 20 different awareness events around Vermont to reduce stigma about HIV and substance use and distributed harm reduction supplies
- Over 3000 people attended community events

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Program Impacts 2020/2021
"Vermont CARES has helped in many ways on my journey through addiction and to the other side to recovery. First and foremost it gave me a place to feel comfortable accessing clean and safe supplies. That had always been a challenge in the past. They were always fantastic and didn’t make me feel less than. I never felt good about myself using so having people that were kind and caring made it more likely for me to access their services. A lot of times I just couldn’t make it to their office for various reasons and they were great about working with MY schedule so that I could get what I needed. Throughout my struggles I continued to look into different treatment options. I was aided along the way and have been advocated for on many levels by employees in Vermont CARES. That eventually led me to getting off the medicaiton assisted treatment I had been on and finding a better option. I knew I didn’t want to be on an opioid medication any longer and was able to transition to Vivitrol. Continuing thru the recovery process I was able to get different blood tests done by Vermont CARES at their Barre office. These would have been very pricey if I were to go anywhere else. Once again I was not looked down upon and was able to get results back within the half hour. All together Vermont CARES has been very advantageous to me while I was struggling and also now that I’m back on the road to recovery."

Best, M

""The presentation you and your colleague gave yesterday was wonderful. The information was so relevant and accessible. I am just blown away by the resources available to protect people’s lives and how they are delivered in such a sweet, kind and shame free way."

What do others have to say? 2020/2021
Expenses
Direct Services $390,356
Client Assistance $94,334
Prevention $369,713
Fundraising $28,026
Administration $138,849

Total Expenses $1,021,277

Net Income $3,958

Statement of Financial Position at End of 2021 Fiscal Year*

Current Assets
Cash $10,617
Accounts Receivable $111,559
Other Current Assets $2,000

Total Current Assets $124,177

Fixed Assets $1,758
Equipment/Vehicles $127,124

Total Assets $178,125

Current Liabilities
Accounts Payable $0
Other Liabilities $123,820
Payroll Liabilities $35,643
Total Current Liabilities $159,463

Current Equity
Fund Balances $14,704
Net Income $3,958
Total Equity $18,662

Total Liabilities & Equity $178,125

Vermont CARES is committed to strengthening our financial standing as we look forward into a future with many new program prospects, as well as new revenue options. We have diversified our funding, and will continue to do so, and are proud of this fiscal year, with continued earned income opportunities arising.

*Unaudited at time of publication. Audited results will be available on www.vtcares.org in early 2022.
DONORS & CONTRIBUTORS
2020/2021

State & Federal Funds
Vermont Department of Health
VT Housing & Conservation Board
Burlington Housing Authority
United States Dept. of Agriculture

$5000 and Above
Central Vermont Medical Center
Gamma Mu Foundation
Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital
Broadway CARES
MAC AIDS
Chembio Diagnostic Systems, INC
Margaret Skinner
Gilead

$2000 to $5000
The Vermont Community Foundation
RTI International
ESOX
Pfizer
Elizabeth Steele

$1000 to $2000
Anonymous Donors Total
Bruce and Lillian Venner
David & Michelle Rath
Arthur B. Hull
Patricia Fontaine
Richard Alther

$500 to $1000
Gay & Lesbian Fund of Vermont
Bob Bolyard
P.A. Cooley
Devon Kerry
Mahan-Nelson Charitable Fund
Town of Williston
Town of Jericho
Nathaniel T. Winthrop

$200 to $500
Tim Palmer
Elizabeth & Daniel Fife
John O. Olson Jr.
IBM Employee Services Center
Betty-Ann Scott
Town of Leicester
Amazon Smile Foundation
Jean & Charles Siegchrist
Soul Strength PLC
Liz Shayne and Tiffany Bluemle
Julia Shaw
Quinlan Gilbert
Lynn Coddington
Ansley Harralson
Andrea Rogers and R. Avery Hall
Bill Lippert
Dawn Lebaron
Greg Desautels
Michael Conley
Sandra Clayton-Gagnon
Town of Bridport
Town of Wells
Jeffrey Trumbower and Chris French
Peter Jack Tkatch
Gregory Roughton
Darren Perron and Kris Boyd
Jeanette Johnson & David Johnson

$100 to $200
Mr. Timothy Barritt
Tony Rahn
Town of East Montpelier
Lydia Winter
Jennifer Brennan
Stephanie Zuppo
Spectrum
Kevin Moss and Ernest McLeod
Jessica McNeil
Laurel and Daniel Ahmsbrak
William Cross
Vermont Gynecology PC
United Church of Underhill
Charlie and Katharine Tipper

Every year, thousands of Vermonters and supporters nationwide join in to keep Vermont CARES strong.

Thank you.
In addition to our donors, we appreciate the stalwart support of our many volunteers annually, who help deliver programs, offer outreach, serve on our Board of Directors, and staff events.

You all make so much good possible.
EVENTS & COMMUNITY BUILDING
2020/2021
OUR STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020/2021

Burlington Office Staff

Peter Jacobsen, Executive Director
Lindsey Baldwin, Case Manager
Mary-Alyssa (Mac) Chambers, Case Manager
Jose Davila, Case Manager
Carol Altobelli, Bookkeeper
Theresa Vezina, Associate Director

Regional Office Staff

Mina Ganguly-Kiefner, Harm Reduction Specialist, Rutland
Mary Kathryn Charbonneau, Case Manager Rutland
Kim Jacobs, Case Manager & SSP Site Coordinator
Kelly Arbor, Education & Testing Program Mgr.

Board of Directors

Tony Rahn, Chair
Winooski, VT

Greg Desautels, Treasurer
Burlington, VT

Bhuttu Mathews, Member
Burlington, VT

Jen Lyon-Horne, Member
Colchester, VT

* Departed during the fiscal year: Clinton Sears-Secretary, Sara Longo, Becki Tenagila, Sebastian Araujo

Martina Anderson, Harm Reduction Program Mgr.

Emily Soskin, Case Manager St. Johnsbury
Ann Byron, Harm Reduction Specialist, St. Johnsbury

*Departed during the fiscal year: Joshua Hayes-High, Ryan Murphy, Katie Narey
WHAT’S NEW AT CARES 2020/2021

New Office in Barre

New Office in Rutland

Development of our Harm Reduction Mobile App

This project has been funded by:

- USDA Rural Development
- Central VT Hospital
- Health Resources & Services Administration
- Vermont Department of Health
- NS804

This new mobile application will increase access, create better, more efficient ways to get connected to services, and is an excellent tool for making referrals to Vermont CARES harm reduction services.

It is free to all Vermonter.

Coming in 2022
Vermont CARES provides life-saving harm reduction services, education and resources to Vermonters affected by HIV, Hepatitis C and substance use by increasing access to care, reducing social stigmas and building relationships.

Our Vision:

Celebrate every small change.
Accept people where they are at.
Respect individual choice and welcome diversity.
Envision compassionate communities.
Stand up for the rights of those we serve

www.vtcares.org
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802–528–1139

Saint Johnsbury
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St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
802–748–9061

Rutland
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