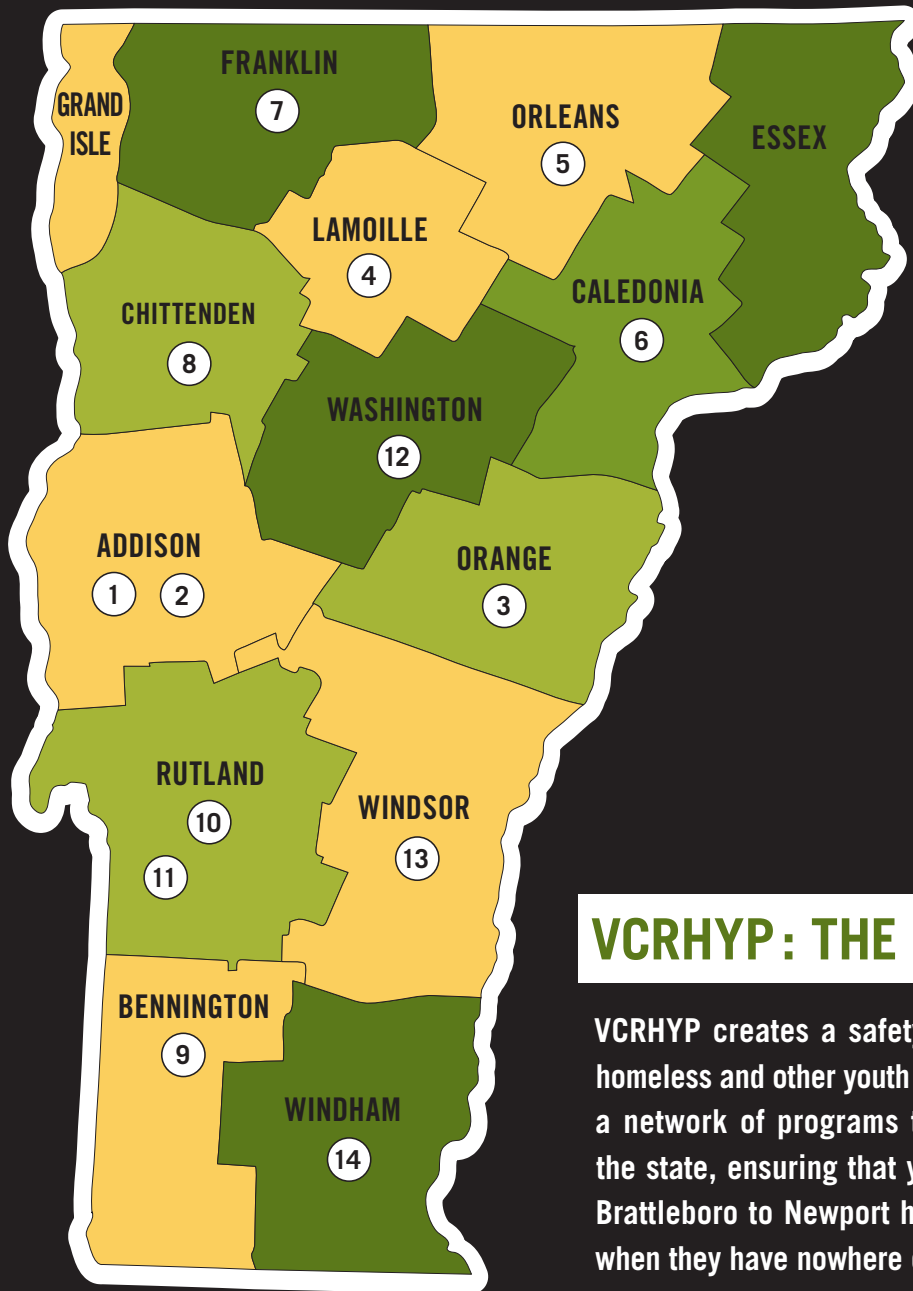




**VERMONT COALITION**  
of Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs

**ANNUAL REPORT FY2013**



## VCRHYP: THE COALITION

VCRHYP creates a safety net for runaway, homeless and other youth in distress through a network of programs that reach across the state, ensuring that young people from Brattleboro to Newport have a place to go when they have nowhere else to turn.

1. Addison County Parent Child Center, MIDDLEBURY
2. Counseling Services of Addison County, MIDDLEBURY
3. Clara Martin Center, RANDOLPH
4. Lamoille Family Center, MORRISVILLE
5. Northeast Kingdom Community Action, NEWPORT
6. Northeast Kingdom Youth Services, ST. JOHNSBURY
7. Northwestern Counseling & Support Services, ST. ALBANS
8. Spectrum Youth & Family Services, BURLINGTON
9. United Counseling Service of Bennington County, BENNINGTON
10. Vermont Achievement Center, RUTLAND
11. Rutland County Parent Child Center, RUTLAND
12. Washington County Youth Service Bureau Boys & Girls Club, MONTPELIER
13. Windsor County Youth Services, LUDLOW
14. Youth Services, Inc., BRATTLEBORO

Dear Friends:

A colleague recently shared the story of a woman who was approached in a parking lot by a young man asking for spare change. She thought about her purse and how unorganized it was, how if she opened it to give the boy a few dollars she might be making herself vulnerable. She said *"No,"* and walked quickly to her car. As she drove away, a flood of thoughts and emotions ran through her head: *"Why did I say no? What if he has nowhere to go, and nothing to eat? He looked harmless, I could have done something to help."* She felt guilt, shame, and concern but at the same time fear and helplessness.

I have had similar experiences and can remember feeling the same range of emotions. It can seem overwhelming to get involved; we have so many demands on our time, energy and resources, that it can be difficult to fathom how we can make a difference. It can also be disheartening to be faced with the number of youth that need help, and the complexity of their challenges. We may feel ill equipped to do anything. So, we get into our cars and drive away, hoping that everything works out.

The real problem with this uncertainty isn't that it deprives the youth of a few dollars; it's that it deprives us of an opportunity to make a connection with a remarkable young person looking for a connection, however brief. It's an honor to represent VCRHYP because every individual that works at a Coalition program believes in the value of the youth we serve, and in the power of the relationships that are formed through the work. This power doesn't just improve the lives of the youth we work with, it improves us as well.

Each year approximately 1.7 million runaway and homeless youth are victimized, sexually exploited, trafficked, killed, or become ensnared in the criminal justice system in the US. Our country spends approximately \$5.7 billion per year (\$240 per day) to incarcerate youth for non-violent offenses such as homelessness. Contrast that with VCRHYP programs that can permanently move a homeless youth off the street at a cost of less than \$5,000. The savings go beyond dollars, because these statistics represents real youth whose lives have changed, in part because someone paid the attention necessary to help them rise above life circumstances to a point where their own strength could sustain them.

Here's another true story, Josh is a young Vermonter who left home when he was 17 to escape abuse. He couch-surfed with friends, but found it impossible to attend school regularly or land a steady job. Josh entered a VCRHYP Transitional Living Program where he established goals to finish his GED and find employment. The program provided stable housing and the supports he needed. Josh recently moved into an efficiency apartment of his own with a new goal: to go to college and study social work, saying *"I want to help people the way they've helped me."*

I recently listened as Cory Booker, Senator from New Jersey, recognized that real heroes are not usually the people you see on TV, they are people concerned with the least glamorous of things creating what he called *"a vast conspiracy of love."* Creating a 'vast conspiracy of love' for marginalized youth in Vermont cannot be a solo mission for VCRHYP. We will only be successful with the partnership of every community member. Become familiar with the work of VCRHYP and when you feel the tug on your heart to do something for a youth that needs help, refer them to the Coalition agency in your community. Instead of feeling guilt, shame, fear, or helplessness I invite you to join our efforts to expand opportunities for youth in Vermont.

Be well,

Calvin Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Calvin Smith', written in a cursive style.

VCRHYP Director

# SERVICES FOR VERMONT YOUTH & THEIR FAMILIES

VCRHYP agencies help at-risk young people get back on their feet – and provide the supports they need to stay there.



## RUNAWAY & FAMILY STABILIZATION

This service helps stabilize families in crisis in order to prevent youth from running away from home, or help those who already have. The goal of this program is to resolve crisis, reunify families, and connect them with aftercare supports.

Youth are provided with 24-hour access to safe, temporary shelter, basic life needs, and a commitment to work with the youth and their families through counseling, mediation and supportive services.

In FY13, 404 youth participated in this program and at the conclusion of services less than **2%** were still on the run.



## TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

This program helps youth ages 16 to 22 that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless make the difficult transition into adulthood by helping them re-engage with education, increase employability, and build vital life skills.

Youth participating in this program receive housing supports while attending school or working, and they work with a case manager who helps them achieve sustainable self-sufficiency.

In FY13, 380 youth participated in VCRHYP transitional living programs. Over 90% secured safe & stable housing, and more than **60%** accomplished their educational or vocational goals.

# MEASURABLE OUTCOMES, SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

In FY 2013, VCRHYP agencies provided 784 Vermont youth with 27,468 nights of shelter, food, counseling, and emergency supports.

**95%**

Most importantly, **95%** of youth receiving services from VCRHYP agencies exited to a safe living situation.



In FY13 our youth care workers played an instrumental role in helping youth connect with a medical home:

**73%**

Only 44% had a dentist at intake – **73%** were connected to dental care at completion of services

56% of youth had a primary care physician at intake – **89%** had a primary care physician when they left programs

**89%**

**93%**

Only 60% of youth served had medical insurance at time of intake – **93%** of youth left our programs with medical insurance.

# BUILDING THE RESILIENCY OF VERMONT YOUTH

Coalition programs work with youth from a strengths-based perspective. Our practice model asserts that the more protective factors a youth possess, the less likely they are to engage in high risk behaviors, and the greater the probability they will successfully transition to adulthood as self-sufficient members of the community.

We demonstrate this commitment by measuring protective factors related to each youth's sense of Safety, Well-Being, Self-Sufficiency, and Permanent Connections. This innovative approach for measuring outcomes in terms of strengths, rather than deficits, helps youth build the skills and resiliency they need for a brighter future. Results from FY13 demonstrate that youth leave our programs stronger and better prepared for long-term success.

A sense of physical, emotional and mental safety ensures youth feel supported and protected from violence, abuse, harassment, and fear.

In FY13, **87%** of youth exiting our programs reported feeling safe about their living situation, community, and interpersonal relationships.

## SAFETY



Stable living arrangements, enriching educational experiences, access to healthcare, mental health stability, and social connectedness contribute to a youth's ability to care for themselves and promote the attainment of independent living skills.

In FY13, **93%** of youth left our programs with medical insurance, **89%** were connected to a primary care physician, **73%** were connected to dental care, and **88%** were engaged in healthy activities on a regular basis.



## WELL-BEING

## PERMANENT CONNECTIONS



Youth that have solid, healthy relationships with friends, family (*biological or not*), mentors and other significant people to whom they can turn in good times and bad are more likely to meet challenges and find long-term success.

In FY13, **80%** of youth exiting our programs possessed healthy relationships with adults and peers that they can rely on for support in good times and bad. Youths reported a **10%** increase in permanent connections such as a trusted adult they can rely on for support.



## SELF-SUFFICIENCY

In FY13, **78%** of youth left our programs with independent living skills needed to take care of themselves, get & stay employed, manage their finances, plan for the future, and contribute to their communities.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FY13 ENDING JUNE 30

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
Safe Housing & Crisis Intervention Services	\$1,342,192
Transitional Living Programs	\$1,264,006
Pregnancy Prevention	\$48,750
Youth Care Worker Trainings & Administrative Supports	\$345,214
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,000,162</b>

TOTAL FUNDING	
State of Vermont Global Commitment To Healthcare	\$2,313,062
Federal Grant for Transitional Living Programs	\$400,000
Federal Grant for Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs	\$200,000
Vermont OEO Emergency Shelter Grant	\$26,600
Vermont Community Foundation	\$8,000
Vermont Department of Health	\$52,500
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>\$3,000,162</b>

Our programs deliver services in an effective and efficient manner that helped the State of Vermont's balance sheet as well. Without VCRHYP programs, hundreds of Vermont youth would have ended up on the street, in foster care, or in juvenile detention – at an increased cost to the State of Vermont.

**\$40,000** — The average cost to Vermont for a youth in Juvenile Detention

**\$9,500** — The average cost to Vermont for a youth in foster care

**\$2,900** — The average cost to the State of Vermont for a youth served through VCRHYP programs.






The bottom line ... in addition to doing right for our youth, VCRHYP programs save Vermont money. In FY13, 675 youth were diverted from a course leading to foster care. As a result, VCRHYP saved the State of Vermont between **\$3-5 Million**.

# OUR ORGANIZATION

VCRHYP Board of Directors			
	<p><b>CONNIE SANDAHL</b> Northeast Kingdom Youth Services <i>St. Johnsbury</i></p>		<p><b>SCOTT JOHNSON</b> Lamoille Family Center <i>Morrisville</i></p>
	<p><b>CHERYL HUNTLEY</b> Counseling Services of Addison County <i>Middlebury</i></p>		<p><b>DONNA BAILEY</b> Addison County Parent Child Center <i>Middlebury</i></p>
	<p><b>LORNA MATTERN</b> United Counseling Service of Bennington County <i>Bennington</i></p>		<p><b>KATHY METRAS</b> Northeast Kingdom Community Action <i>Newport</i></p>
	<p><b>BRYONNE JOHNSON</b> Spectrum Youth &amp; Family Services <i>Burlington</i></p>		<p><b>JULIE DAVENSON</b> Youth Services, Inc. <i>Brattleboro</i></p>
	<p><b>MITCH GOLUB</b> VT Achievement Center PRIME Family Resources</p>		<p><b>CAPRICE HOVER</b> Rutland County Parent Child Center <i>Rutland</i></p>
	<p><b>TAMMY AUSTIN</b> Clara Martin Center <i>Randolph</i></p>		<p><b>JACKIE HANLON</b> Windsor County Youth Services <i>Ludlow</i></p>
	<p><b>DANIELLE LINDLEY</b> Northwestern Counseling &amp; Support Services <i>St. Albans</i></p>		<p><b>KREIG PINKHAM</b> Washington County Youth Service Bureau* <i>Montpelier</i></p>

\* VCRHYP contracts with the Washington County Youth Service Bureau to act as the Coalition's Fiscal Agent.

VCRHYP Administrative Team			
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			<p><b>JANE PARKER</b> <i>Administrative Support Specialist</i> (802) 229-9151 x235 jparker@vcrhyp.org</p>



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