

# Ewen Freewelling

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you on behalf of the Rutland County Parent Child Center. I speak to you as their board member, a parent, a young professional, and a community member.

I am so proud of all the tremendous community and resource partnership efforts that are shaping this community. From efforts such as project vision, the police department, and the economic development initiative . . . just to name a few. There is a lot of great things happening in Rutland and this state. We are shaping the future of our community for the better.

However in all this great effort I ask that we not forget the importance of the children that are at the heart of some of our toughest community challenges.

Early childhood development is so critical in breaking the cycles that challenge our community. Having come from a cycle of poverty myself I know firsthand about the barriers of breaking that cycle. Unfortunately for our families the challenge is far deeper than just poverty.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's)

1. Physical Abuse
2. Sexual Abuse
3. Emotional Abuse
4. Physical Neglect
5. Emotional Neglect
6. Mother Treated violently
7. Household Substance abuse
8. Household mental illness
9. Parental separation or divorce
10. Household member incarceration

57% of Vermonters have one or more and 22% have three or more

What PCC's have to offer to break these cycles:

Home visits, Early Childhood services, Parent Education, Information and referral services, Playgroups, and Parent support groups.

What do PCC's need to help break these cycles:

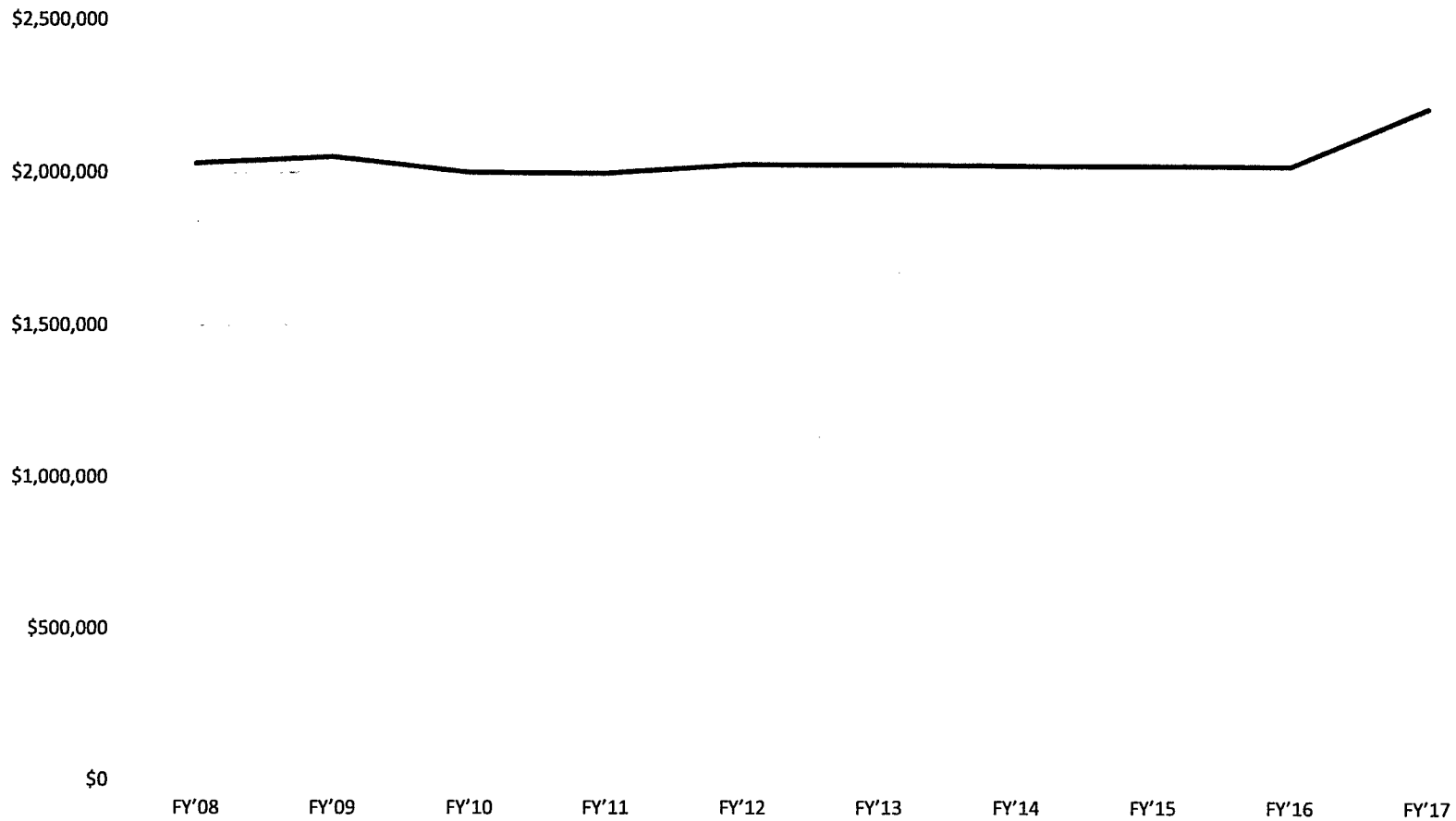
Increased funding for staffing. The wages are 30% below market when compared to education or state government positions even when they are held to the same standards.

As a business owner – my greatest asset is my people. We need to utilize and support our assets. These people are smart, they are compassionate, and hard working. They deserve our support!

Increased Medicaid and additional general fund dollars to ensure that those families that are in critical need receive the strength and support that is necessary to build a new path and break the cycle.

Let's do this and do this right. . . Lets really invest in a two-generation approach that aims to create opportunities for families by simultaneously equipping parents and kids with the tools they need to thrive! Let's remove the obstacles in their way. Break the cycle! Please full fund the Parent Child Centers at 10 Million dollars.

## CDD Master Grant Funding for Parent Child Centers



#1 Note: The Master Grant represents four funding streams totaling \$2,200,000 that were combined into one grant in FY'17

#2 Note: The Master Grant received a \$190,000 legislative increase in FY'17 for the first time in 10 years representing less than 1% per year growth.

#3 Note: PCCs provide a total of \$24,000,000 in services from state, federal and private grant funding sources that have approximated the same level funding over the past ten years.