

Parent Child Center Network FY2022 Report Back on Funding



Thank you for your support for the Parent Child Centers with \$3.7m in General Fund one-time allocation for FY2022. We very much appreciate your work to get these funds directed to the PCCs and the families we serve, and we are happy to report that the funding made a real difference for those families we serve, our staff, and our Parent Child Centers as well.

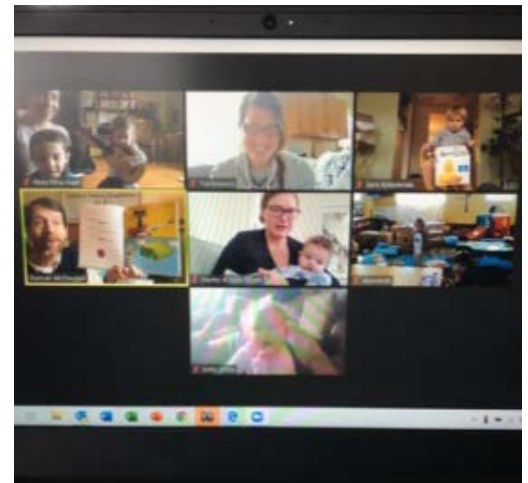
Also, we know we need more funding going forward to help families as the pandemic continues, and when we finally begin to recover from the crisis.

Thank you all for the part you played in helping to get this money to Parent Child Centers and the families we serve. We ask that you please support our request and our continued need for a second year of one-time funding of \$3.7m for FY2023 for the 15 Parent Child Centers so that we can continue to meet the increased needs of families related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Below you will find highlights from the innovations and challenges that were able to be met with this funding. Later in this document, you can find more information about how each PCC spent its funding.

Highlights:

At Addison County Parent Child Center, parents are valued as experts on their children’s needs, and to this end, we spent time helping families adapt, and the team doubled down and worked to enhance and strengthen parental resilience. Through a combination of phone calls, Zooms, WhatsApp and one-on-one visitations (meeting outside during the milder months and moving to porches and driveways) our Outreach team have been able to continue working with their families throughout the pandemic.



Family Place increased our capacity to distribute diapers, wipes, formula and emergency food boxes during the shut-down and beyond. During the shut-down, we ensured that there was a staff member on site each day available to provide supplies to families, and we had a weekly delivery route for families who were not able to pick items up from our facility. Photo below shows one of our staff receiving food donations.



At the Family Place: Music Together, an interactive music program for infants and toddlers and their caregivers is typically offered to families in our early care and education program each week. This activity was able to continue during the 2020 shutdown through weekly sing-along videos created for participants.



Brain Lab (at the Family Place) is a facilitated parent-child intervention designed by our staff to increase “serve and return” interactions between parents and infants/toddlers in families facing chronic adversity. Our virtual version of this activity did not engage parents effectively during the shutdown, so our team developed safety protocols to support the transition back to in-person. We used an outdoor classroom in September and October, then transitioned the activity to an indoor space. The number of participants has been limited by the need to keep numbers low enough for distancing, but we are pleased we have been able to keep offering this engaging program which parents seem to really love. Photos above.

At Lamoille Family Center: Parent Education, attendance at which was anticipated to diminish during the pandemic, actually increased in the virtual format and exploded the notion of “service area” or “region” to mean anyone with a modem anywhere could attend. *Flexible, one-time funding from the State and Federal levels and from philanthropy, enabled human services providers across the service continuum to pivot their focus to the need at hand. In a time of crisis, the value of flexible funding cannot be overstated.*

The Janet S. Munt Family Room held in-person computer literacy classes partnering up with Parent University and gave parents some much needed support in the technology department. We were also able to secure some grants to give parents new Chromebooks for them to take once they completed the course. This helped so many families with helping their children with school, tele-health and other resources that required computer access.



Family Place Walking playgroups: Playgroups were offered virtually during the shutdown and during the winter months between 2020 and 2021. Participation declined during this period. As soon as we were able to offer outdoor stroller walk playgroups, families began to re-engage. We have used these stroller walks to introduce families to some of the walking paths and parks around our service area that they may not be familiar with.



Family Place Week of the Young Child events included daily readings of children's books on our Facebook Page by members of The Family Place Board, Advisors, staff and our WOYC sponsors.

The Family Center of Washington County saw a 300% increase in food pantry usage, serving 512 families. 362 families received diapers and 627 meals were distributed (this does not include the 487 school lunches picked up and dispersed to families in the beginning of the pandemic). They have delivered 3,050 Everyone Eats meals.

Early Education Services provided full day childcare throughout the pandemic, beginning with Essential Childcare when the governor issued "Stay Home, Stay Safe" orders on March 24, 2020.



Family Place Activity Kits and feelings boxes: Children's activity kits were provided to families at walking playgroups and mailed to families who were more remote. The third picture is of "feelings baskets" which were distributed to families enrolled in our early care and education program. The contents of each basket were similar to what children find in the "feelings area" (comfort and calming area) in our classroom.



Milton Parent Child Center kept their food shelf open, despite not being able to have volunteers in the building--a big shift for staff and opened a self-select section of the food shelf outdoors during good weather. Second picture is a yoga class offered as part of an outdoor Wellness Workshops series.



NEKCA PCC: As families found themselves staying home for longer periods of time, items and quantity of PCC food boxes changed. Our Community Care Outreach Specialist ensured that families received just the right healthy and nutritious choices.

Lund PCC staff quickly pivoted when the stay at home order went into place to ensure families had continued connection to supports, resources and enriching opportunities for families to develop and maintain protective factors during the pandemic. We have learned being able to offer a variety of approaches to families has helped us to engage some families that had previously been harder to connect with.



NEKCA PCC: Combining classroom experiences with remote learning proved to be a successful formula during the ever-changing circumstances of a pandemic. Staff carefully balanced individual lessons, small pods and Zoom classrooms.



Pictures from the Family Center of Washington County Planting Seeds with Children Parent Event

More Detailed Report for all Parent Child Centers:

ADDISON COUNTY PCC

Parental resilience and social connections

- Quickly pivoted to ensure we stayed in close touch with even our hardest-to-reach families.
- Spent time helping families adapt, and the team doubled down and worked to enhance and strengthen parental resilience.
- Through a combination of phone calls, Zooms, WhatsApp and one-on-one visitations (meeting outside during the milder months and moving to porches and driveways) our Outreach team have been able to continue working with their families throughout the pandemic.
- Worked hard to maintain social connections within the team and our families.
- Followed the science and were guided by the local DOH on a safe return.
- Worked hard at encouraging socially distanced community events through art projects, gardening projects, and socially distanced drive-in events.
- Hired a new kitchen manager and were able to continue to serve breakfast and lunch daily throughout the year.
- Childcare fully opened in September 2020 (working in pods)
- Learning Together program reconvened with a smaller number of participants to accommodate the social distancing requirements.
- Celebrated several family holidays with our families, providing home cooked meals and food boxes.
- Continue to be guided by the Vermont DOH and are cautiously optimistic that by late August 2021 we will be fully operational, with a full complement of staff, families and children ready for Fall.

Concrete support in times of need

- Virtual nature walks, online storytelling, virtual show & tells, virtual tea parties
- In person one-on-ones between families and educators, eager to reassure and encourage.
- Focused on family fun for all, and offered food, gardening products, art materials, and ideas for family fun engagement during this very stressful time.
- Some families were struggling more than others, and beyond the emergency supplies of diapers, wipes, food and personal hygiene products being distributed to families, we recognized we needed to do more. We focused on simple pleasures: enabling children the opportunity to play away from the screens that have become part of everyday life, offering *traditional, old fashioned* yet tried-and-tested ways to re-focus and re-regulate during these strange and trying times.
- To maintain relationships with participants and families over the holiday season, we distributed 100+ gift cards/Middlebury Money/Bristol Bucks (value \$50.00 per card) to our hardest-to-reach families, tailor-made to meet each family's unique requirements. These modest monetary gifts helped families ensure the basics were covered.

Following the protocols

- Hired new staff
- Addressed all health protocols
- By late August 2020 the team started to work back in the building in pods
- Rates of COVID have remained low throughout, which in turn encouraged families to attend the center on a regular basis.

Knowledge of parenting and child development-business as (almost) usual

- We are committed to *place-based learning*, and value the importance of preparing our families and children for a future of hope and racial equity, recognizing that learning starts at home.
- Our Learning Together program continued as planned, with parents attending the center daily, participating in childcare, office assistance, culinary skills and working on their personal development plans.

New programs

- New program development has been one of the “silver linings” of COVID at the ACPCC. As a team, we have been very intentional to continue our personal self- development, training and supervision, and finding time to work on new programs.
- Considering the importance of racial and social justice and equity, the ACPCC team raised money and spent time developing an Equity and Social Justice Program which began in August 2020. By engaging with two outside consultants, RISE and Juniper Creatives, we developed a framework for discourse, reflection, and action beyond the performative, and have made some relevant changes to our organizational policies. This work is ongoing.
- Our therapeutic childcare and parent education services help families build healthy, nurturing relationships with their children. The pandemic has brought with it a new imperative to spend time outdoors and provided us the opportunity to re-think our childcare space. During summer and fall 2020 we adapted our provision to bring the ‘inside spaces’ outside, and we were excited to have the opportunity to dive into the link between therapeutic care and nature-based care. By engaging nature as a ‘co-teacher’ and working with children in a natural environment, we have watched children shine and flourish.
 - *“Being outside we feel more playful, vulnerable and connected, and if well supported, we can experience a relaxation response which helps decrease stress levels. We notice our learning and coping skills and strategies can be heightened, and aggression can lessen. This summer has been amazing in so many ways. It has been fun to watch the staff and children thrive and become increasingly confident in their abilities. We have found opportunities to build skills and watched the children grow more resilient through offering opportunities to take calculated risks. I have watched children and families to engage with their hearts, bodies, and minds, and I am so happy to report we have had such a wonderful summer playing and learning and growing outside!”* Jill O, Childcare Team
- Our county has a new MA cohort aligned with Castleton University, that sprung from the concept developed at the Addison County Parent/Child Center. This new MA program was created by a team of local ‘elders’ and practitioners aligned to ACPCC. It was developed as a response to help support the next generation of early care and learning leaders with the flexible and interdisciplinary skills required to adapt to a changing culture and environment. *The Policy and Practice of Nurturing Care* consists of seven community-designed and taught courses leading to a Certificate of Advanced Standing in Nurturing Care. Research about equitable practice is built into each of the courses as a way of driving positive systemic change. These seven courses aim to harness the power and experience of ECE professionals to increase equity across the board; for children, families, and care givers. Currently, five of our ACPCC staff are enrolled on the program, and we are confident that the learning and knowledge gained will filter throughout the organization and become embedded in our practice with the families and children we work with.

Finances

- Invested in people as well as items, including extra CIS hours for families, additional cleaning staff, and a COVID coordinator who helped us navigate the unfamiliar territory.
- Provided hazard pay for our key staff, and supplied extra PPE supports for our staff, parents and children.
- Funding covered additional food and meals for families, phone cards and IT connection, thermometers, Hepa filter fans for the office space, and a new fridge to replace the old one.
- For staff who were unable to return to the office, we ensured they had the required technology and connectivity at home.
- Invested in an online fundraising platform and held several small fundraisers, including an online auction over the holiday period to replace the annual in-person fundraiser we normally host.
- Erected a tent that we could use for outdoor meetings and gatherings and bought good quality winter clothing for our families and children.

Advocacy

- We have found that the pandemic has led to the legislature reaching out and being more consultative with us all as family service practitioners. As just one example, testimony via Zoom is efficient and easier to access, as it means that people do not have to drive long distances to attend meetings. This has been advantageous to us all, and we hope that the open dialogue between the state and the network will remain a regular feature. As we think about ‘what next’ we repeat the words of Ann Richards, former governor of Texas, *“If you are not at the table, then you are on the menu”* (1993).

LAMOILLE FAMILY CENTER (LFC)

At the level of Individual Families:

- The need for gas cards diminished even as the need for diapers, wipes, formula, masks, other PPE, cleaning supplies and family activities increased.
- Families grew more isolated, which required LFC to reach out in new and different ways, from “Driveway Visits” to virtual storytelling to art and recreation supplies tied to specific virtual group activities, often dropped off at the end of driveways.
- Some families withdrew from services altogether, which required LFC and other providers to become more creative in reaching out, to supply participants with IT equipment and the training necessary to utilize it effectively.
- Parent Education, attendance at which was anticipated to diminish during the pandemic, actually increased in the virtual format and exploded the notion of “service area” or “region” to mean anyone with a modem anywhere could attend.

At the systems level:

- Lamoille providers joined together to form LAH2S-RCC, which stands for the Lamoille Area Health and Human Services Response Command Center. This is a group of more than 30 area health and human services organizations that came together at the start of the pandemic to set and achieve goals to better serve our Lamoille+ area.
- This group identified gaps in services, new demands for services and identified lead agencies to address particular service needs and coordinate their delivery.
- Newly implemented homeless shelters were provided with case management and concrete services through LAH2S-RCC (lahs/rock).
- Homeless young families received diapers and other supplies and participated in virtual parent education, playgroups and individual family services.

Ongoing innovation efforts:

- Prior to the pandemic, collaboration among providers in order to provide better care to those we serve was already a shared value. What the pandemic did was to force the region to put into place infrastructure that will support ongoing and new collaborative efforts. LAH2S-RCC is an example of this, as is the Lamoille Health Partnership, a grant-funded effort to improve both health care and human services for families that are pregnant and have some identified areas of risk.
- Pandemic conditions led to LFC closing its child care center which had been for up to eight infants and toddlers. Child care for essential workers was a priority for the region, the unavailability of which had become a barrier to recruitment for positions ranging from Physicians to custodial staff. A number of organizations have come together and conducted a market study in an effort to stand up a new child care center, which they have agreed should be operated by Lamoille Family Center. LFC met with other regional child care providers and they are enthusiastic. The coalition comprises Copley Hospital, Lamoille Health Partners (our FQHC), Copley Manor, Lamoille County Mental Health, Lamoille Home Health and Hospice, the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe (JCOGS), along with LAH2S-RCC.

SUNRISE PARENT CHILD CENTER

- Renovated our Learning Together kitchen, resource space and added a food pantry at one of our buildings.
- Students, families and participants can now gather in a more socially responsible way.
- We added heat pumps in all our buildings to help with air quality and circulation in our aging facilities.
- All staff received bonuses for their commitment to continuously provide outstanding services to families during the pandemic.
- We expanded our own ability to virtually connect with families and were able to provide chrome books, tablets, laptops and printers to families as needed.

EARLY EDUCATION SERVICES OF WINDHAM COUNTY

- Provided full day childcare throughout the pandemic, beginning with Essential Childcare when the governor issued “Stay Home, Stay Safe” orders on March 24, 2020.
- Initially offered lunches for enrolled children who did not attend childcare, and we conducted a distribution of food, formula and diapers to our families, via pick-up at one of our sites or door to door delivery by an employee.
- One distribution event also provided arts, crafts and school supplies for children to use in agency hosted Zoom family activities.
- We continue to provide regular diaper distribution events, which was initiated early on in the pandemic.
- In November, our program partnered with parents and a Murder Mystery Theater Co. to provide a Zoom evening session of “Who Dunit?” filled with fun, laughter, a chance to attend virtually in costume, and a much needed opportunity to socialize.

LUND PARENT CHILD CENTER

- Ensured families had continued connection to supports, resources and enriching opportunities for families to develop and maintain protective factors during the pandemic
- While COVID had an impact on our ability to bring groups of families together in person for activities in ways we had previously, we were able to very quickly offer virtual and socially distanced individual and group opportunities for parents to engage and receive positive peer support as well as parent education, support, coaching and concrete supports
- During those very dark and isolated times for families at home with young children PCC staff were often a lifeline, keeping children and families safe and getting accc.
- As state and community resources and services changed and shifted in response to the pandemic our staff were often in the role of systems navigator.
- When state services and our communities began to re-open we pivoted again to offer services in socially distanced, often outdoor settings.
- We have learned being able to offer a variety of approaches to families has helped us to engage some families that had previously been harder to connect with.

MILTON FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER (MFCC)

- Extensive cleaning protocols, no staff- sharing between childcare rooms, daily health screenings (so much work for staff!)
- No parents in the building so: modified dropoff/pickup procedures, and needed to find new ways to connect with families
- Home visiting over Zoom
- Created and distributed activity boxes for families using Parents as Teachers curriculum
- Significant increase in financial support offered (gas cards, phone bills, utility bills, etc.)
- Significant increase in referrals (and assisting with applications) for various basic needs (housing stability, etc.)
- Became a mask distribution center
- Kept the food shelf open, despite not being able to have volunteers in the building--a big shift for staff
- Partnered with restaurants and other agencies to distribute ready-made meals, and in government food drops
- Shifted to an appointment-only model for the foodshelf, but kept it available 5 days/week.
- Opened a self-select section of the food shelf outdoors during good weather, so families may choose their own produce, even though they cannot enter the building to collect staples yet.
- Challenge of keeping connected with the community when our door must be locked and no one can come in the building. Flyers, facebook, website, moving food shelf materials outdoors.

PARENT CHILD CENTER OF NCSS

- Created a concrete supports delivery system with PCC staff to provide same or next day delivery of needed items for families.
- We created two perinatal support groups
- Brought the Dolly Imagination Library program to all kids 5 and under (free books each month until a child's 5th birthday)
- Developed postpartum depression educational handouts for families to understand what to look for and how to get help
- Developed an additional perinatal mental health clinician home visiting position
- Virtual playgroups
- Early intervention drop-in playground playgroups

ORANGE COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER

- Partnered with Capstone Community Action to provide fresh fruit and vegetable, frozen meals and non-perishable food boxes not only for our employees and child care families but for our greater community as well.

NEKCA PARENT CHILD CENTER – SOUTH

- Hybrid learning became the focus of parenting class opportunities. Combining classroom experiences with remote learning proved to be a successful formula during the ever-changing circumstances of a pandemic. Staff carefully balanced individual lessons, small pods and Zoom classrooms.
- Worked carefully to provide opportunities for families to be on site for playgroups. Keeping health and safety our top priority, families gained private access to the family playroom. The entire room was disinfected and cleaned thoroughly after each session.
- Zoom Play was a unique virtual playgroup experience for all. Families enjoyed gathering for a playgroup from the safety of their own homes. Crazy hair and rainbow colors were among popular themes and guest appearances (Music with Gabby) were a big hit! Zoom Play gave parents the opportunity to connect and provide much needed peer support.
- Family engagement activities went curbside!
- Families identified the need to access materials and opportunities of safe and healthy engagement during these difficult times. Staff thoughtfully created kits in a wide range of topics and focus areas. Stay Home, Stay Safe kits included Photo Scavenger Hunt, BackYard Camping, Adopt a Stuffy, Cookie Decorating and Lego Competition were family favorites. Kits were distributed in a curbside pick-up fashion.

Community Events:

- Staff coordinated many community events that allowed for fresh air, social distancing fun!
- A Turkey hunt, apple picking, fairy house walk, and winter sliding were great ways for families to be safely out and about.

Family Wellness:

- Wellness was on the forefront as families navigated physical and social emotional wellbeing. Yoga in the park, Home Cleaning kits, Adult Wellness kits, Children Wellness kits and Happy Baby kits complemented support groups and wellness coaching.
- Our diaper bank continued to provide diapers, wipes, formula, and baby food to all families in need. These items were distributed in a safe, curbside fashion.
- Staff were leaders in ensuring that families had access to masks, soaps, and hand sanitizers.

Food Insecurity:

- Our food shelf shifted into a drive through operation. Families were able to access food from the safety of their vehicle. As families found themselves staying home for longer periods of time, items and quantity of PCC food boxes changed. Our Community Care Outreach Specialist ensured that families received just the right healthy and nutritious choices.

NEKCA PARENT CHILD CENTER – NORTH

- Hybrid learning became the focus of parenting class opportunities. Combining classroom experiences with remote learning proved to be a successful formula during the ever-changing circumstances of a pandemic. Staff carefully balanced individual lessons, small pods and Zoom classrooms.
- A total of 78 individual parenting classes during the height of the pandemic and three sessions of Finance Literacy!
- Staff provided opportunities for parental and family contact for children who are placed in out of home care.
- Working closely with the Department of Children and Families, staff empowered parents to make decisions that will ensure safe, healthy, and positive family relationships.
- Family Time Coaching at the Parent Child Center filled a missing gap of services during the pandemic.
- Families gained private access to the family playroom. The entire room was disinfected and cleaned thoroughly after each session.

Family Engagement

- Families identified the need to access materials and opportunities of safe and healthy engagement during these difficult times. Staff thoughtfully created kits in a wide range of topics and focus areas. Stay Home, Stay Safe kits included Adopt a Stuffie, Keepsakes and Family Breakfast kits were family favorites. Kits were distributed in a curb side pick-up fashion, mailed, or delivered to homes.

Community Events

- Staff coordinated many community events that allowed for fresh air, social distancing fun!
- Dinosaur Egg hunt, apple picking, Story Walks and Build a Snowman were great ways for families to be safely out and about.

Family Wellness

- Wellness was on the forefront as families navigated physical and social emotional wellbeing
- Yoga in the park, Home Cleaning kits, Adult Wellness kits, Children Wellness kits and Happy Baby kits complemented support groups and wellness coaching.
- Our diaper bank continued to provide diapers, wipes, formula, and baby food to all families in need. These items were distributed in a safe, curbside fashion.
- Staff were leaders in ensuring that families had access to masks, soaps, and hand sanitizers.

Food Insecurity

- Our food shelf shifted into a curb side and/or delivery operation. As families found themselves staying home for longer periods of time, items and quantity of PCC food boxes changed. Our Community Care Outreach Specialist ensured that families received just right healthy and nutritious choices.

FAMILY CENTER OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

The importance of our mission remained especially true when the COVID-19 crisis impacted our community and disproportionately affected already vulnerable families.

Information and Assistance

- 313 families receiving information about our services including assistance finding childcare.
- 678 children and caregivers accessed our Food Pantry who received food and household items to help supplement their nutritional and basic needs.

Parent Education & Parent Support

We continue to offer parent support groups and check-ins with families in the following ways:

- Virtual support groups on a variety of topics
- Virtual caregiver daily check-ins
- Closed FB groups where families can connect with one another
- Websites and FB sites include various resources for families (activities, resources, supports on how to emotionally support children, navigating the benefits system, understanding the evolving state guidance and info, etc.)
- Virtual welcome baby supports

- Dads groups
- Gardening with families. Provided seed kits to families and support on gardening and food
- 48 and 59 Children adults received Parent Education services
- 448 adults received parent and family education and support
- 105 children who received diapers through our Diaper Bank
- 51 homeless or at-risk children and adults received assistance including support with life skills through our Family Housing programs
- 13 Youth or young adults under 24 received assistance with obtaining and maintaining housing as well as life skills in our Youth Homelessness program.
- 85 individuals who received Reach Up Job Development skills and hands-on work experience.
- 250 families participated in our Virtual Playgroups
- 280 families attended our virtual and in person Parent & Community Events
- 653 families who received Child Care Financial Assistance.

THE FAMILY PLACE (TFP)

Families Learning Together (virtual during shut down; resumed in-person June 2020 through present)

- Activities within FLT integrate intensive programming for parents with high-quality early care experiences for their young children. FLT is offered four days/week.
- Opportunities and supports for parents include: academic credits towards a high school diploma, support with transitions to college, work experience (through on-site worksites), high-quality full-day onsite child care, transportation (daily support, plus driver's education), nutritious meals, access to counseling, availability of crisis intervention, groups, and parenting education (weekly early childhood development class and our "Brain Lab" facilitated playtime).
- COVID: Participants were provided laptops so we could maintain our daily schedule of activities in virtual format during the statewide shut down. During this time, one of the participants who had been part of our "farm to bag" sewing studio workshop borrowed a sewing machine and shifted to mask-making from home.
- In June 2020, participants returned on-site, with activities held outdoors or in re-purposed indoor spaces to provide sufficient distancing.
- Brain Lab (mentioned above) is a facilitated parent-child intervention designed by our staff to increase "serve and return" interactions between parents and infants/toddlers in families facing chronic adversity. We used an outdoor classroom in September and October, then transitioned the activity to an indoor space. The number of participants has been limited by the need to keep numbers low enough for distancing, but we are pleased we have been able to keep offering this engaging program which parents seem to really love.

Other Parent Education and Support activities

- We partnered with the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) to offer a virtual storytelling event.
- Music Together, an interactive music program for infants and toddlers and their caregivers is typically offered to families in our early care and education program each week. This activity was able to continue during the 2020 shutdown through weekly sing-along videos created for participants.

Walking playgroups

- Playgroups were offered virtually during the shutdown and during the winter months between 2020 and 2021. Participation declined during this period.
- As soon as were able to offer outdoor stroller walk playgroups, families began to re-engage. We have used these stroller walks to introduce families to some of the walking paths and parks around our service area that they may not be familiar with.

Food and diaper distribution

- We increased our capacity to distribute diapers, wipes, formula and emergency food boxes during the shut-down and beyond.
- During the shut-down, we ensured that there was a staff member on site each day available to provide supplies to families, and we had a weekly delivery route for families who were not able to pick items up from our facility.

- Staff created “meal kits” including recipes, which were especially helpful for families who counted on eating at least one full nutritious meal each day at The Family Place.

Week of the Young Child events (2020 and 2021)

- Our “Week of the Young Child” celebrations for 2020 and 2021 were held as virtual celebrations. We celebrated early learning all week by sharing family activities on our website and through social media. Each day featured a family activity aligning with the NAEYC’s themes (Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, Family Friday). We also had daily readings of children’s books on our Facebook Page by members of The Family Place Board, Advisors, staff and our WOYC sponsors.

Activity Kits and feelings boxes

- Children’s activity kits were provided to families at walking playgroups and mailed to families who were more remote.

THE JANET S. MUNT FAMILY ROOM

Food Pantry and Concrete Supports.

- 11,200 meals from Everyone Eats prepared meals
- Approximately 56,000 meals in the form of fresh produce, rice, and other nutritious foods. We d
- Delivered to the homes of 140 families a week
- Food boxes contained: Culturally appropriate foods providing approximately 4 meals a week depending on family size
- Boxes included masks, sanitizer, soap, household goods, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, information regarding Covid testing and vaccines, additional food resources for families
- Continue to provide food and food resources to families. Feeding Chittenden adopted our food distribution and we have now handed this off to them and we continue to make referrals to this program. We had many amazing partners in this effort to make sure families had enough food.
- We added on Driveway Visits as a way to bridge concrete supports, home visiting and social connection. When dropping off food, we would meet with families outside, check in with them, see their kids, check in with them and just having a familiar friendly face for families to see was really important. Not to mention how it filled us up as staff to see, in person, the families we care about so much.

Virtual Playgroups

- Had a couple of our staff sing songs, read books, do storytelling and just give something for families and their children to connect with.
- Dropped off play kit materials, crafts and books and do activities with families virtually.

Virtual Parent Education and Support groups

- Continued our Strong Families moms group, albeit not in person, it again gave families a sense of familiarity and friendly faces that we all benefited from. Social connection was so hard to come by last year, so every little bit helped.

Computer Literacy

- Held in-person computer literacy classes partnering up with Parent University and gave parents some much needed support in the technology department
- Gave parents new Chromebooks for them to take once they completed the course. This helped so many families with helping their children with school, tele-health and other resources that required computer access.

Traveling Playgroups

- Singing, dancing, reading, movement and other fun activities
- Provided opportunities for social connection amongst different communities
- Purchased a van to get to different communities to hold our playgroups

SPRINGFIELD AREA PCC

- Virtual playgroups
- Bulk up concrete supports - diaper bank and wipes, formula, feminine hygiene products, food boxes, and GIFT CARDS!
- Activity bag program started with delivery of bags weekly
- Educational videos from PlayWorks teachers
- Curbside pickup
- Tele-health supports
- Altered our events to continue being interactive and fun for children - twas gift boxes, family festival handprints, virtual duck run, etc.
- Continued our programs from home by adapting to new technology, zoom meetings, etc
- Delivery of food to families with no transportation
- Weekly mailings around developmental activities for children with delays
- Outside home visits
- Take home parent engagement activities
- Virtual preschool
- Facebook video activities
- Added weekly individual check-ins with parent ed participants