

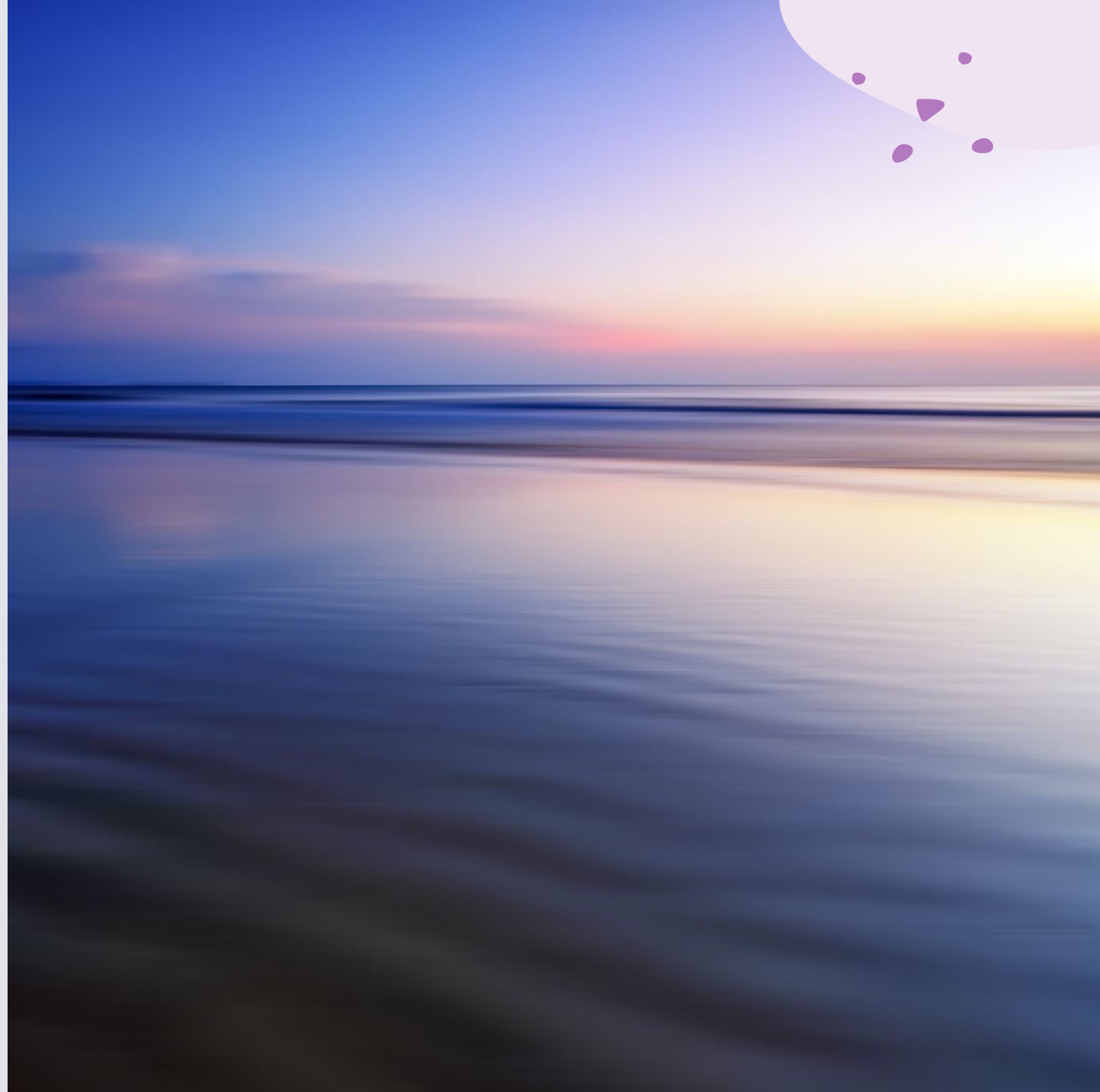
# *VT Child Welfare Training Partnership*

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*Providing Education & Resources  
to Vermont's Foster Parents*

*since 1995*

*Sarah Ward, Director*





# *Vermont Child Welfare Training Partnership*

A 25+ year partnership between Vermont Department for Children & Families, Family Service Division (FSD) and The UVM College of Education and Social Services





# Who We Serve

**MSW Students** with IVE Scholarships - which are then “repaid” with a commitment to work for VT Family Services Division for 3 years (4-5 Scholarships each academic year)

- 191 have completed their degrees 30% were FSD Staff returning to school.

## **Family Services Division (FSD) staff**

- Foundations for new employees
- Advanced training topics
- Leadership Development & Coaching skills
- Coaching 1:1 and in teams with District FSD staff across VT

Warm handoff to coaches from MSW





# *Who we serve*

**Foster, Adoptive & Kinship parents** pre-licensed & licensed by the state of Vermont FSD to care for children and youth who are in DCF custody for child abuse, neglect and delinquency.

- Pre and post licensure required Foundations Training (Online and In person)
- Advanced courses
- RPC+ (Trauma informed care)
- Adoption requirements
- Advanced Adoption

## **Community Partners who work with FSD**

- Easter Seals of Vermont
- Community Mental Health Providers
- Northeast Family Institute
- Health Care & Rehab Services
- Residential program staff
- Project Family and Post Permanency Staff
- Guardian Ad Litem, Attorneys, Judges
- Others as identified by FSD



# ***SYSTEMS CHANGES THE IVE PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS***



- § Early Service training to pre-service training
- § Developing an orientation for Foster Parents & pre-placement foundations
- § Development of Safety Culture after Lara Sobel's murder in 2015
- § Embedding trauma-informed care into foster homes & now residential programs
- § Identifying competencies and standards for child protection & youth justice professionals and Foster Parents across VT

# *How many Foster Parents completed training through VT CWTP?*

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FY20 (July 2019-June 2020)

- 480 Caregivers completed Orientation
- 770 Caregivers completed Foundations
- 246 Caregivers completed Fostering to Forever
- 254 Caregivers completed Advanced Caregiver Training

[VT CWTP Annual Report 2020](#)



# *Resource Parent Curriculum PLUS Trauma Informed Parenting Skills (RPC+TIPS)*

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97% of resource parents completing the Resource Parent Curriculum plus Trauma informed Parenting Skills (RPC+TIPS) training stated that they were less likely to request a placement change for a child in their care in the future ." - *Placement Stability Project, Executive Summary*

Since 2014 over **560** foster, adoptive and kin caregivers in Vermont have graduated from **RPC+ TIPS for Tuning In**

<https://youtu.be/T6iJx2Zxluw>

10-week workshop that educates foster, adoptive and kin caregivers about the impact of trauma on the development, attachment, emotions and behaviors of the children & youth in their care. The workshop provides:

concrete strategies to manage daily and ongoing challenges, enhance relationships with their children and build a network of support and connections with fellow caregivers.

# *Feedback from Foster Parents*

## *RPC+TIPS*

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**Foster mom of young children:** *"By increasing our understanding of trauma and being positive, sometimes it takes a bit more for these traumatized children in our care. As we are reminded in this class, the more positive feedback and praise given, the more the behavior will change. Turn things around and you will be surprised on how well it really does work! This class reminded me to look for the positive and by giving these kids more control. They will feel safe and comfortable, and will act in a more positive way. I've been practicing it and it works!"*

**Foster father of teen boys:** *"It's easy for us who have not lived through trauma to forget that something innocuous can ignite the fuse to a ticking time bomb, it's classes like this that help us defuse that bomb or help to put the pieces back after it has gone off."*

**Pre-Adoptive Parent:** *"I thoroughly enjoyed this class, it was much better than I was expecting. Usually I don't go to these kinds of trainings because I think they are boring and your sitting behind a desk all day not retaining the information. This course was not like that, it was engaging and filled with great real-life material and skills."*



# *Where can caregivers access RPC+TIPS?*



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VT CWTP has trained MH Designated Agencies in all 12 Districts served by FSD using a Training of Trainer model with coaching and mentoring. FSD has financially supported the DAs classes, paying for manuals, childcare and space.

VT CWTP continues to offer 1-2 sessions per year for specific groups:

FY21 we offered:

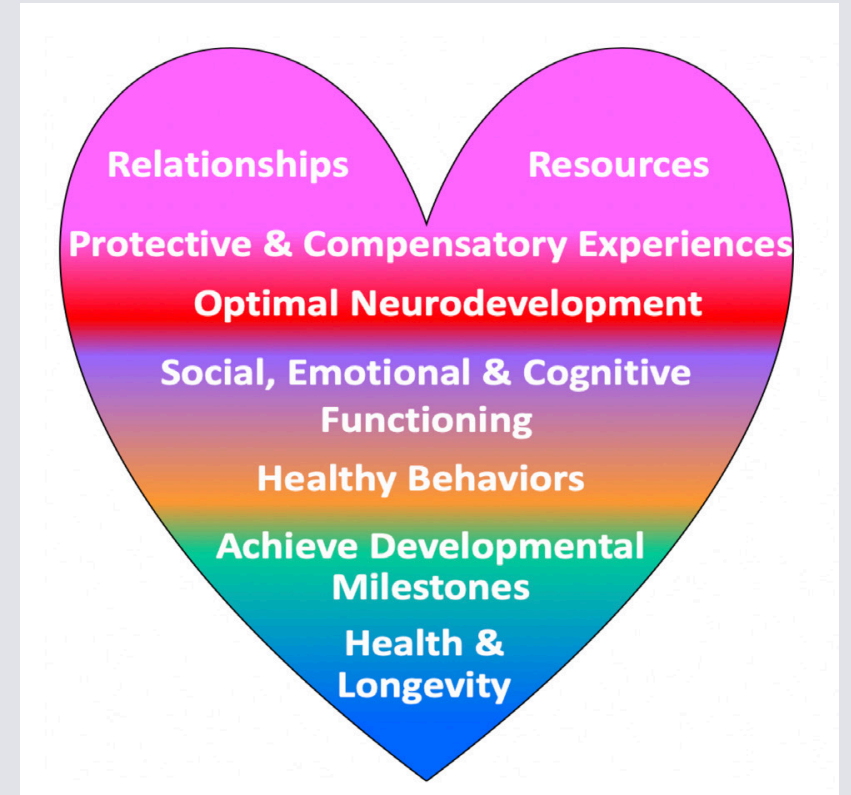
- 2 sessions for adoptive parents and;
- a session to the VT Coalition of Residential Programs; 20 staff from 12 different residential programs completed the course and the TOT workshop and will begin teaching their staff this fall.

# *Other Advanced Training (Deeper Dives) that are Trauma Informed*

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- Mental Health
  - Substance Use/Misuse
  - Vicarious Trauma & Self-care
  - PACES

In development:

- Racial Equity
- Caregiving Youth





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# *Thank you!*

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