



Annual **COMMUNITY** *Report*



Sunrise Family Resource Center
Strengthening Families

2021

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LETTER FROM SUNRISE'S BOARD CHAIR

Dear Sunrise Community,

This past year has proven to be both challenging and rewarding for Sunrise Family Resource Center. COVID-19 has continued to affect our community in ways that we never expected. Given the circumstances, our dedicated staff have more than risen to the occasion and proven their commitment to the individuals and families we serve in our tight knit community.

Personally, I had the pleasure of volunteering in the Sunrise Early Care & Education classrooms. I was pleased to witness a sampling of the extra measures that staff take on a daily basis, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children. These extra steps are being taken by all the wonderful employees at Sunrise, across the board. They have been working double duty to maintain excellence during these trying and stressful times. Above all, they have continued to deliver services and care with compassion and empathy. As the Board Chair, I could not be prouder.

I am confident that our community is better because of Sunrise. Our families are the bedrock of our community. Helping families stay together and gain independence is one of the most important things we can do for our community. Thank you for supporting Sunrise!

Sincerely,

Laurie Burdick



“Helping families stay together and gain independence is one of the most important things we can do for our community. Thank you for supporting Sunrise!”

Board Members, (back left to front right): Jonathan Cooper (new treasurer), Al Bashevkin (outgoing board member), Linda Bow, Sharon Cave, Laurie Burdick (chairperson), Kathy Thompson (secretary), Chandler Poling, and Peter Lawrence (vice chair).

LETTER FROM SUNRISE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Sunrise Community,

When I sat down to write this letter, I was thinking, "Wouldn't it be nice to not have to mention COVID in our Community Report?". Yet here I am again this year, and we are in the midst of an uptick that seems to be hitting very close to home. In the early days of the Pandemic, we were sanitizing our buildings every two hours and bumping elbows rather than shaking hands. We have made great strides since then, but COVID continues to occupy our everyday lives. We have witnessed and experienced great heartache in our relationships with families this past year. Families in our community are struggling with difficulties such as substance misuse, mental health, and a lack of available housing. Thankfully, we still find many reasons to celebrate with them. COVID aside, Sunrise continues to forge ahead and advocate for and support children, youth, families, and all individuals. We recently hosted an Open House and were encouraged by the amount of community members that attended: local legislators, select board members, Sunrise board members, community partners, friends, staffs' families, and program participants' families were all represented.

Over the past year, we have increased our on-site activities. Our newly renovated kitchen and resource space at 226 Union Street is being utilized as we had hoped. Families are cooking, learning,



connecting, and engaging with each other. Many would agree that the kitchen and mealtime is the center of family life; a time to bond with your children, and in this case, friends, and staff as well. In June, Sunrise hosted a week-long summer intensive, Cultural Cookery and Art, which was well received by the community youth that attended. One of the participants shared with me that she hoped we could continue to offer this program because she thought it was so great that other youth would like to join in. We

have also launched a monthly, family night, Making Meals and Memories, and it is off to a strong start. These opportunities, along with our parenting/caregiver workshops, education and support groups, playgroups and more, keep this welcoming space bustling with activity. Staff throughout the agency team up to bring these events to fruition and they are doing an admirable job.

Our new pantry was completed in May and opened to families in June. Sunrise program participants have been accessing it daily, and we offer support with food, household products,

diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products, clothing, and other goods and essentials, some of which our generous community donates to Sunrise. Looking forward, we will continue to make improvements to our facilities, with help from Capital and Program Improvement one-time funding that we received through the State, via our Parent Child Center status. We are eager to complete necessary upgrades and enhancements to our historic buildings.



Last year our organization adopted The National Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Supports. We have completed the self-evaluation phase of this framework and are currently developing a set of action steps. This coming year we will be placing a strong emphasis on parent involvement, as it pertains to leadership opportunities. We have established a new position to focus on this effort and make our aspirations reality.

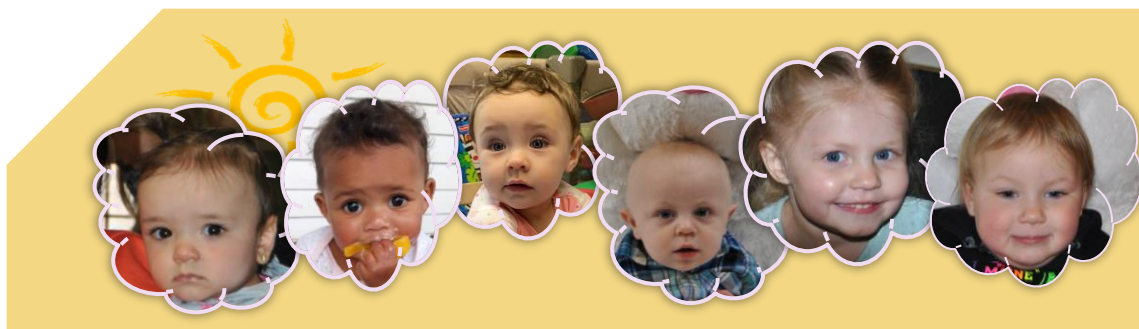


We are proud to say that we had seven students graduate this past June, through our Learning Together Program, previously called Opportunities. Two of those recent graduates are now enrolled at CCV, one is in a training program in the early care and education field, three others are employed, and one a stay-at-home mom. In this report, you will read about three former graduates, that are currently employed here at Sunrise and are all fantastic at their jobs. These stories are a true testament to our commitment to support all people in reaching their full potential.

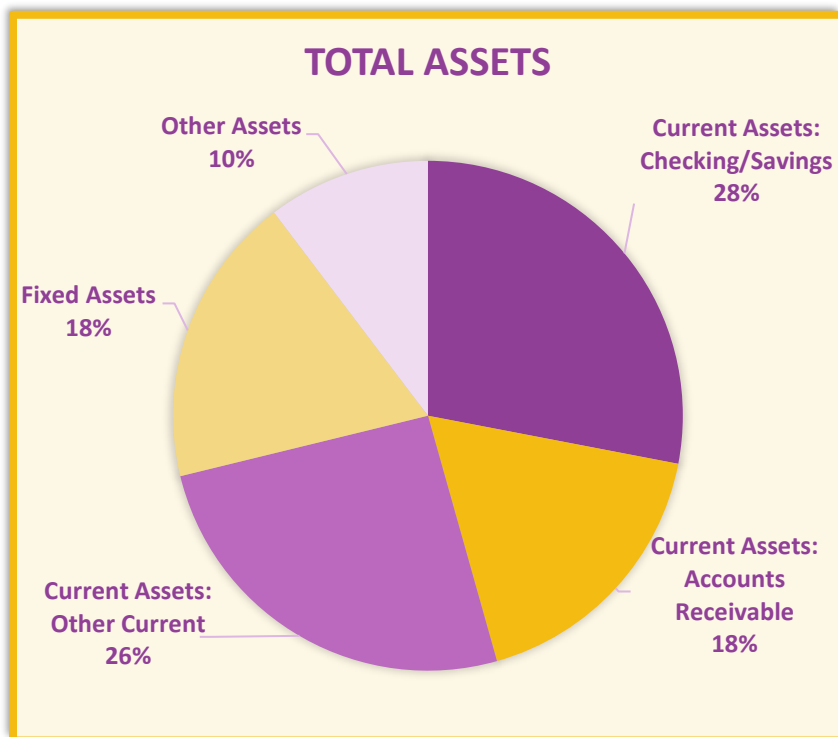
In the coming year, we look forward to continuing to support our vibrant community. Sunrise takes pride in building and maintaining relationships with the children, youth, families, and individuals that access our services. *We thank you for your commitment to help strengthen families in Bennington County! Together, we can ensure that our community remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.*

Sincerely,

Denise Main



2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021*



Current Assets:

Checking/Savings	\$525,590.72
Accounts Receivable	\$330,336.02
Other	\$479,330.41
Total Current Assets	\$1,335,257.15

Fixed Assets	\$346,918.11
Other Assets	\$193,520.00

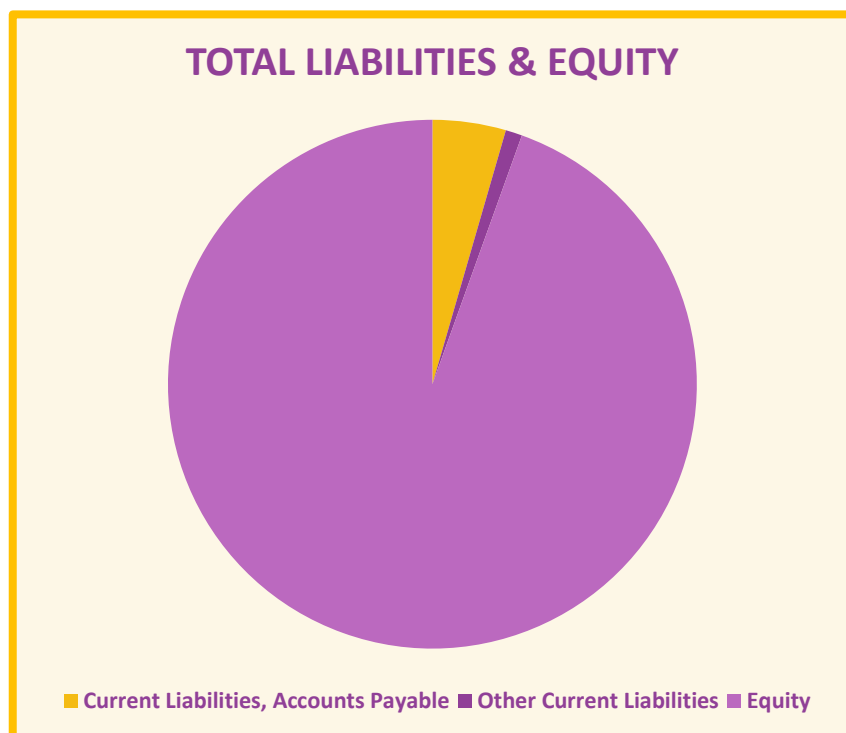
TOTAL ASSETS \$1,875,695.26

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$84,062.05
Other	\$19,016.14
Total Liabilities	\$103,976.17

Equity	\$1,771,719.09
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$1,875,695.26



*Unaudited

SPECIAL AWARDS Sunrise received from Grants, Foundations, Funds, and Towns:

- Vermont Community Foundation
- Vermont Foodbank
- Vermont Department of Agriculture
- Vermont Women's Fund
- Vermont Community Development Block Grant
- Town Fair Tire Foundation
- O'neil Foundation- Partnership Grant (BROC & Rutland PCC)
- Southern Vermont Health Center
- United Way of Rutland County
- Bennington College, Community Response Fund
- Stewarts Shops
- Parent Child Center, Inc.
- Vermont Country Store

"Thank you!"

Town Funding:

- Town of Arlington
- Town of Bennington
- Town of North Bennington
- Town of Pownal
- Town of Shaftsbury



"Thank You!" to our Generous Volunteers, Throughout the Year!

Griffin Briggs, Arunas Budnikas, Judy Cohen,
Matthew Gaghigh, James Hamilton, Mike
Hamilton, Jeff Houghton, Nicholas Houghton,
Art Kilburn, Bonnie Kilburn, James
Livingstone, Aaron Longtin, Connor Simonds,
Ethan Simonds, Tim Simonds, Skip Thomayer,
and Samuel Wickenden.



“THANK YOU!” TO OUR DONORS

Abbott, Kate
Adams, Pat
Ahearn, John & Karen
Alexander, Gorla
Amazon Smile
Anytime Fitness
Barber, Joe & Sherry
Becker, Dennis & Roberta Nissen
Bennington Cooling & Heating
Bennington Driving School
Bennington Early Childhood Center
Bennington Quakers
Bisaccio, Kevin & Sarah
Blanchard, Mark & Darlene
Bluto, Barbara
Bolton, Raymond
Borden, Jessica
Botzow, William
Boutin, Lene
Bradshaw, Douglas & Priscilla
Briggs, Gary & Debbie
Briggs, Margaret
Brownstein, Fred & Stella Ehrich
Budnikas, Arunas
Cady, Mary Trust
Carlson, Mary Anne
CL White
Cohen, Howard
Cohen, Judith
Colleen Gore
Colvin, James & Lodie
Cooper, Jonathan
Cormier, Anne, James
Creedy, Deborah
Cross, Pamela
Day, Michael
DeLucia Claude & Susan
Demasi, Mark & Theresa
Donigan, Linda
Donovan, Peter & Nancy
Scattergood
Dundas, G Richard & Bonita
Frangos, Judith
Franks, Tom
Freeman, Clinton & Margaret
Fricke, Inge
Gingo, Charles & Christine
Greater Heights Tree and Land
Mgmt.
Green Mountain Power
Green Mountain Tile

Gregg, ML
Guerrero, Richard & Patricia
Hannafor
Harrington, John & Sharron
Hayes, Kate
Haynes, Jean
Holland, Daniel & Patti
Holley, Jennifer
Hollister, Tyler & Denise
Howard, David & Diane
Howe, Bob & Cora May
Kenyon, Neil & Nadine Wisher
Kimball, Michel
Kopp, Charles & Jennifer Kern
Krawczyk, David & Kerry
Lamy, Jonathan
Lawrence, Peter & Wendy
Lerrigo, George & Janice
Loy, Frederick, Dr.
Lynch, Kevin
Main, Denise
Main, Patricia
Marks, Laura
McClure, Stephen & Catherine
McGovern, Joseph
McGowan, Stephanie
McGuinness, Mary
McKenna, Brian
McKenna, Don & Melanie
Missionary Alliance Church
Matheson, Michael & Judy
Montgomery, Joshua
Mook, Anne & Wesley
Mt. Anthony Country Club
Mulligan, Susan
Network for Good
Nolan, Sara
O'Connell, Mary
Orton, Judy, Dr.
Parent Child Center Inc
Parsons, Nora
Pearlman, Nancy
Peoples United Bank NA
Perrotta, Christopher
Peters, Stephannie
Petrelis, Beverly
Pini Robert & Miroslava Prazak
Plante, Leo & Susan
Plunkett, Genevieve

Poggi John
Poling, Chandler
Propp, Louis Dr.
Putney Charles & Linda
Ray, Albert & Virginia
Roan, Barbara
Rockwell, Daisy & Aaron York
Rogers, Dorothy
Rogge, Alison
Rose, Mildred & Martha
Rosen, Stanley & Jane Sobel
Rubin, Peter
Salem, Charles & Sarah Dahl
Schwartz, Judith Tony Eprile
Second Hand Rose
Sedgewick, Michael & Lynn
Simon, Teru
Smith, Lacy
Sobel, Jane
Sohn, Grace
Sperber Tool Works Inc.
Stanley, Tonya
Stark Hose Fire Company
Steffan, Thomas & Nancy
Stromgren, Alison
Sugarman, Robert
Tatro, Lisa
The Apple Barn
Thomayer, Cynthia
Thompson, Bernadette
Unitarian Fellowship Bennington
W&M Holdings, Inc
Wassick Tire Service
Waters, Charles
Welford, Mary
White, Nola
Wilkinson, Elizabeth
Winburn, Patrick, Esq.
Yunger, Lori



DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

JENNIE MOON, Early Intervention

Program Coordinator for Children's Integrated Services (CIS), housed at SVMC, has campaigned to improve and expand the CIS services available to all families throughout Bennington County. Since 2014 Jennie has worked tirelessly to understand and implement the ever-changing State Guidance governing CIS services in our community. Approaching the program parameters from a creative "out of the box" stance, she has strived to marry the VT State Guidance, with the ever-increasing needs of our community, while honoring her personal understanding of what families are feeling. She successfully brought two new support programs to Bennington County for children with autism: Green Mtn. Sprouts and the Learn Program. She has also successfully integrated Dr. Sanlounds- to provide developmental assessments/screenings for children. What began as a program supporting fifty children, has now expanded to one hundred seventy-eight children (currently). This is, in part, the result of Jennie's commitment, advocacy, and efficiency to the community of families served. She has done an outstanding job and deserves this recognition.

JANE NICHOLLS serves as a Guardian ad

Litem for children in our community and was assigned to one young person in particular, who has since aged out of the foster care system. Though Jane no longer has any obligation related to her role as a Guardian ad Litem, Jane has consistently continued to be there for this young woman with support, compassion, and encouragement. When the young person moved away for a period of time, Jane continued to send letters, gifts, and friendly reminders that she was there for her. Recently, Jane has assisted this young woman with purchasing a car and finding an apartment. This allowed her to grow and gain independence and all the while being there emotionally for her to lean on when needed. Jane has gone above and beyond in the level of guidance and direction she has provided to this young person, and they have grown to share a family like connection and relationship. It has been a wonderful opportunity to witness the level of commitment that Jane has given, and it is inspiring to see what a difference it can make in someone's life to have someone who cares like Jane does.

INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Pam Hubbs is the school counselor at Bennington Elementary School. Pam is very personable, extremely likeable, empathetic, and nonjudgmental. She works collaboratively with colleagues and community partners. We have had the pleasure of working closely with her over the past year. Pam works tirelessly to create trusting bonds with families. She worked very hard with a single dad to reestablish his trust with the school after a negative experience. She consistently keeps in contact with service providers and includes them in school meetings and other matters of importance for children to be productive at school.

Andrea Malinowski coordinated Veggie Van Go throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. She organized volunteers and safely distributed food to countless families with enthusiasm and her signature dance moves! She always has a positive attitude and that is exactly what many people needed, in addition to food, throughout 2020.



COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARDS

Cynthia Veazie is the Property Manager at Orchard Village apartments here in Bennington. Orchard Village Apartments contain many subsidized project-based units, making them a priority resource when helping homeless clients or clients with housing needs. As the Property Manager, Cynthia goes above and beyond her normal essential job functions to provide her tenants with a down to earth, empathetic, and genuinely caring approach.

Cynthia coordinates and puts forth an extensive amount of effort to serve her tenants and often takes on many qualities of a social worker in addition to a Property Manager, such as connecting clients to resources, providing additional support services (such as help with applications or accessing programs), and coordinating with social workers, case managers and outside services providers.

Dutchman's Tavern provided hot, delicious meals, to families in the community throughout the "lockdown" period of the Pandemic. Several Sunrise families were assisted with food, as there was a need. Staff at Dutchman's contacted Sunrise about availability of meals. We connected with families, picked up the meals (contactless), and delivered to families' doors. It was greatly appreciated by both staff and families.

Cynthia is mindful in both her connections with her tenants and other community partners. She is available and flexible to coordinate and works to make a tedious application process easily understandable and more fluid for clients and their corresponding service providers. Cynthia has actively chosen to work with vulnerable and at risk population in order to help the Bennington community. In particular, Cynthia and Shires Housing continue to be a valuable partner with Sunrise and Family Supported Housing, to house clients that might not have otherwise had the chance to exit homelessness. Over the past year, Cynthia has leased to nine homeless families enrolled in the Family Supported Housing Program to keep these clients successfully housed. Cynthia goes above and beyond the duties of a Property Manager, and consistently plays a vital role in helping the Bennington County community.

COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARDS *cont.*

Logan O’Grady Snow, Southern VT Public Affairs

Organizer, and Bennington’s Volunteer Team, of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, is nominated for the Community Partner Service Award.

In an effort to address Period Poverty in our community, Logan, with her team of volunteers and the support of community partners, established menstrual product banks across Bennington County. According to the Royal College of Nurses, Period Poverty is defined as the “lack of access to period products due to financial constraints.” Low or loss of income, homelessness, and/or lack of supply are some of the causes of Period Poverty and it can affect anyone who has a period. The stigma around periods makes Period Poverty an even greater challenge where people are unlikely to indicate that they are faced with the dilemma of choosing to purchase food for their family over menstrual products.

There are now four (4) Menstrual Product Banks located throughout Bennington County. You will find these banks at Sunrise, PAVE, Second Congregational Church, and the Federated Church of Arlington. The sign on each of the boxes states, “Menstrual Products for All. Donate here or take what you need.” The program has expanded across Vermont and at its height, there were fifty state-wide locations. Currently there are thirty Menstrual Product Banks around the state. Sunrise celebrates that it was home to Vermont’s first Menstrual Product Bank!

CELEBRATING SUNRISE EMPLOYEES' LONGEVITY AND DEDICATION

CELEBRATING RETIREMENT: LORI PINSONNEAULT & ROBIN STROMGREN

Sunrise would like to honor and congratulate two employees that recently retired: Lori Pinsonneault and Robin Stromgren. Both Lori and Robin dedicated their professional years to enhancing the lives of children and their families. Lori held various roles within the community and completed her 30+ years with Sunrise as our Parent Child Center Coordinator. After decades of commitment to the children of Vermont, Robin spent her final working years at Sunrise as the Building Bright Futures Coordinator. Their strong advocacy and friendly smiles will be missed, but we wish them well as their journeys continue!



Lori Pinsonneault, Robin Stromgren, and Kathy Cooper

SUNRISE CONGRATULATES KATHY COOPER ON HER RETIREMENT!

Kathy started her journey with Sunrise in the Early Care and Education Program as a “grandma” in the classroom working with the children. She then became the cook and created delicious meals for the children, staff, and sometimes the greater community. While her fun-loving presence will be missed in the kitchen at the ECE, the great meals she created, her wonderful sense of humor, and her genuine love for the children and their families ensures that she will not be forgotten anytime soon. We wish her all the best in her retirement!

SUNRISE WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW STAFF:

(Pictured Left to Right) Christine Lacroix-Coulter- CIS Child Care Coordinator, Tiffany Racicot- Parent Educator, Katherine Rose- ECE Teacher, Sarah Wood- ECE Floating Teacher, Bridgette Worthington- Administrative Assistant, Susannah Wright- Child Care Referral & Parent Involvement Specialist (new position at Sunrise!), Dan Cobb- Maintenance (new position at Sunrise!), and Cielo Cross, our Learning Together Intern.



2021 BONNIE PRENTISS MEMORIAL AWARD

Beginning in 2008, Sunrise employees have nominated one of the peers, annually, to be presented with The Bonnie Prentiss Memorial Award. This award was created to honor the memory of Bonnie Prentiss, Sunrise's beloved Early Care & Education Teacher, who died in 2007, from cancer. Staff members select a colleague that they believe best embodies the qualities that Bonnie possessed. **This year, this award is proudly presented to Carli Scribner, Family Advocate, who joined sunrise in 2017.**



I feel very honored to be presenting this year's Bonnie Prentiss Memorial Award to Carli Scribner. Since Carli began working at Sunrise in 2017 in the Family Advocacy Program, she has brought an admirable sense of energy and warm determination with her each day. She is often seen out and about, walking to home visits, participating in and advocating at school meetings, and assisting families with getting food and other essential donated items. Whether it's housing or community resources, Carli is also a wealth of knowledge and it's inspiring to hear about the accomplishments she has worked with families to achieve during announcements at staff meetings. Carli is also the first to volunteer to help watch any children during Sunrise family events or trainings for childcare staff, which speaks to the way Carli's nurturing spirit aligns with the beautiful qualities that were so appreciated in Bonnie Prentiss.

Recently, I have had the privilege of getting to know Carli a little better and got an understanding of how incredibly passionate she is in her day-to-day advocacy. With Carli's sincere compassion, ability to form lasting connections, and unwavering efforts against injustices and unfair systems, she is very clearly a role model here at Sunrise. I was fortunate to have Carli as a moving partner in assisting a client move into their apartment, and it was apparent that Carli is no stranger to helping people move large heavy furniture through small spaces, which is really a gift in itself :). During the drives with Carli, I also got a chance to listen to some of her upcoming plans, which had consisted of her taking clients she grew close with in a previous position to the fair, and she explained how it was something she started doing with them each year as they enjoyed and appreciated it so much. This says so much about Carli's character and her selflessness and care for others.

Carli, thank you so much for all that you do for Sunrise and for your work with families. It is so appreciated by all and deserves this special recognition.

-Written by Caitlin Harrington, Sunrise's 2020 Bonnie Prentiss Memorial Award Recipient.

SUNRISE STORIES OF SUCCESS:

From Classroom to Office

TIFFANY GAGHICH enrolled in Sunrise's Opportunities Program (now called Learning Together), in January of 2009. She was five months pregnant and halfway through her junior year at Mount Anthony High School. As a teen mom, she felt shunned by both her peers and the administration at the High School and was unsure about her future. Tiffany found a support system here at Sunrise and excelled in her studies while gaining practical work and life experience working with infants in our Early Care & Education Program. Her son was born shortly after completing her spring semester.

During the summer between her junior and senior year, Tiffany worked in the Sunrise Administrative Offices for six weeks while earning additional school credits in the afternoons, learning resume building skills. Sunrise was able to create a personalized plan for her to complete the accelerated math credits she needed, while she learned more job skills from our Business Manager. Tiffany completed her degree requirements a whole semester early, and with help from the VT Department of Labor, procured an on-the-job training position at PAVE. This developed into a full-time position, and Tiffany was able to

graduate with her classmates in June of 2010.

After spending four years at PAVE, Sunrise reached out to Tiffany and offered her a full-time position as Administrative Assistant and she happily accepted. Tiffany has been employed at Sunrise since December of 2014 and was recently promoted to Parent Child Center Coordinator. She wears many hats and juggles multiple tasks with ease and is a great asset to our team. Her son has grown up here at Sunrise and they are both a part of the Sunrise family. Tiffany shared that she is *"happy to be a part of an organization where she feels like she can give back to her community and help others, the way Sunrise helped her."*



TIFFANY RACICOT

was living and attending High School in Boston, MA, when she returned home to Bennington, VT to visit family. She was seventeen years old and found out she was pregnant with a baby girl. Tiffany decided to stay in Bennington and enrolled in Sunrise's Opportunities Program (now Learning Together). She was originally going to attend classes at the Tutorial Center and her doctors steered her towards Sunrise, expressing the importance of the wrap around services that Sunrise could provide.

Tiffany graduated high school early and established a strong relationship with her Sunrise Mentor (Family Support Worker). Her mentor helped her complete applications for health insurance, assisted her with resources for child care, and helped her find employment. She secured two jobs, one as a waitress at a local eatery and the second as the buyer/retailer at Panache. Sunrise facilitated her getting her driver's permit and her mentor



provided her personal vehicle so that Tiffany could practice for her road test. She succeeded in getting her driver's license!

Her mentor also helped secure housing so Tiffany could bring her daughter home to their first apartment. In a matter of a year, at the age of eighteen, Tiffany was living independently, supporting herself and her daughter. She

pursued her education and put herself through college to earn her bachelor's degree.

Tiffany's experience with Sunrise inspired her to want to work in community strengthening roles.

She worked at United Counseling Services, in Bennington, for years, and is now the Parent Educator at Sunrise. In this role, Tiffany facilitates Playgroups, a Walking Group, a Women's Coffee Club, personalized home visits for new parents, and many countywide parent/caregiver education offerings. Sunrise is proud to say that she is a valued employee, offering excellent services to our community.

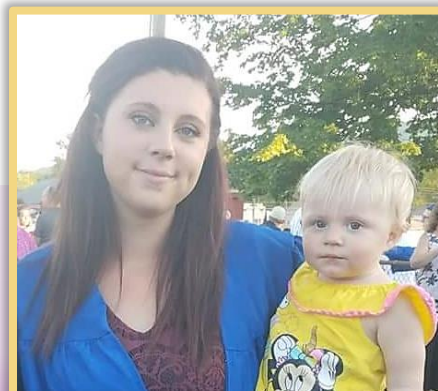
MCKALEIGH REYNOLDS' journey with Sunrise epitomizes our daily work.

She became a pregnant teen and withdrew from high school. When she attempted to reenroll as a full-time student, she was not permitted to as she was just a few credits shy of her degree requirements. McKaleigh joined our Learning Together Program where she accomplished her goal of obtaining her diploma while gaining a much-needed support structure. McKaleigh struggled with postpartum depression and did not have family or a partner to lean on. Her teacher encouraged her and helped her develop her parenting skills. She enrolled her child in our Early Care and Education (ECE) program and Sunrise became her second home. She contributed to our Café Program and learned valuable life skills. She participated in our Job Club and learned resume building and job application navigation. She bloomed as a young woman and parent.

Fast forward a few years later, and McKaleigh is thriving! She now has three beautiful children that she mothers with grace and confidence. We are proud to say that McKaleigh is a member of the Sunrise team, contributing to our ECE Program. She started as a part-time floating teacher and is now a full-time employee, flexing her time between being our lead cook and a floating teacher.



McKaleigh enjoys crafting healthy and creative meals for the children in our classrooms and has an affinity for baking delicious treats! McKaleigh has developed into a strong, confident woman, and shares her vibrant personality with all of the children here at Sunrise.



SUNRISE FAMILY STORIES:

Megan Daigneault and Children

Megan Daigneault is a thirty-two-year-old single mother, that resides in Bennington, VT. Meghan has four children: three-year-old twins, Jaxon and Mackenzie, four-year-old Jordon, and five-year-old Jayce. Sunrise Family Resource Center has been working with Meghan, on and off, since 2019.

Meghan first became involved with Sunrise's Family Advocacy Program (FAP), through a referral from the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Her children were at risk of being removed from the home, and they were eventually taken into DCF custody. Ashley Paquin, of our Child Care Financial Assistance Program, was able to procure child care subsidies for all four children, at the same child care center, while they were in DCF custody. Meghan worked with her Family Advocate, Lori Yunger, to receive a referral for therapy sessions for herself and her then partner (and father of her children), Jeremy.



Sunrise received a second referral from DCF, for Meghan, for reunification with her children. Lori supported Meghan in completing an application for a Rapid Rehousing Voucher and provided weekly developmental parenting strategies using the Parents as Teachers curriculum. After identifying needed services for her children, Lori referred Meghan to Sunrise's Children's Integrated Services Support Worker, Erin Reed, who was able to offer services for Early Childhood Family Mental Health (ECFMH). Erin facilitated Meghan's understanding of social, emotional, and behavioral health for the entire family. As time passed, Meghan found herself grappling with substance misuse and Lori helped Meghan enroll in rehab. Her case with Sunrise was closed while she was in treatment, as she was no longer in the community.

Meghan's third time coming to Sunrise was a self-referral. Meghan was healthy and ready to reunite with her children! Lori helped her attain housing and access COVID-19 relief funds, assisted her in accessing a Section 8 Family Unification Program, and provided age-appropriate books for her children. Sunrise worked with Meghan to set goals, attain children's therapy sessions, and referrals to a child development clinic. Meghan shared that *"I am so grateful that I can pick up the phone, at any time, and call Lori, with whatever questions I may have. She has been so helpful in navigating EVERYTHING that I have gone through over the last few years. Between DCF, rehab, child care, lawyers, and doctors... I don't know how to do these things and I wouldn't be able to get it all done without Lori and Sunrise."*

Over the years, Meghan has also participated in other programs that Sunrise has to offer, such as our 1234 Parents class, facilitated by Michelle Weyers, our Parent Child Center Educator at the time, now our Housing Navigator. She has continued with her therapy sessions, so she has an addiction counselor to help steer her in the right direction. She has maintained her weekly in-home visits with Lori, and Erin continues to work with her and her children in ECFMH. Meghan currently has conditional custody of her children but with Sunrise working as a team with Meghan, she is hopeful that she will have sole custody soon. Meghan shared that "Everything positive in my life over the last three years, involved Sunrise in one way or another. Our systems are complicated, and I know I can call Lori and Sunrise will help me navigate things and make me feel like things will be okay for me and my kids." In the future, Sunrise plans to form a Parent Advisory Committee, to partner with our board members and the community, and Meghan said, "I would like to be a part of it, to share what I've learned and to help others, the way Sunrise helped me."



"EVERYTHING POSITIVE IN MY LIFE OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS, INVOLVED SUNRISE IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. OUR SYSTEMS ARE COMPLICATED, AND I KNOW I CAN CALL LORI AND SUNRISE WILL HELP ME NAVIGATE THINGS AND MAKE ME FEEL LIKE THINGS WILL BE OKAY FOR ME AND MY KIDS."

SUNRISE SERVICES

CHILDREN'S INTEGRATED SERVICES

Sunrise is the fiscal agent for the Children's Integrated Services (CIS). We house the CIS Coordinator, Specialized Child Care Coordinator, and 2 Family Support Workers. These staff members provide family support, home visiting, and Early Childhood Family Mental Health to families with children, prenatal through age 6. Home visitors work closely with families to identify their strengths, support their children's growth and development, and locate community resources.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Sunrise serves youth, ages 14-23, as they transition from foster care to independent living. The YDP Coordinator works with individuals on life skills such as: cooking, budgeting, furnishing an apartment, driving, housing/job searches, applications for post-secondary education, parenting, and referrals.

LEARNING TOGETHER PROGRAM

A state-approved alternative high school completion program for pregnant or parenting teens and youth up to the age of 24. LTP offers a core curriculum, individualized instruction, and parenting/life skills education in a supportive setting.

PARENT EDUCATION & OFFERINGS

Sunrise's Parent Educator supports and promotes parent education and activities throughout the year, such as county wide playgroups and parent education classes.

FAMILY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

FSH reduces the incidence and duration of child and family homelessness by supporting homeless families with minor children needing to transition to, and sustain, stable housing through targeted case management, service coordination, and coordinated access to affordable housing. FSH provides intensive, customized case management services to families.

HOUSING NAVIGATION

Our Housing Navigator can help individuals and families with their housing search and placement. Our Navigator can also help with: direct service supports, documentation, filing and recertification, completion of rental applications, housing stability case management, and landlord-tenant mediation.

SERVICE COORDINATION FOR FAMILIES

Referrals from the Agency of Human Services Field Director for complex cases where families or individuals have multiple needs and/or service providers; commonly served are those at risk of becoming homeless or in need of housing.

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

A NAEYC-accredited 5 Stars child care program for infants and toddlers ages 6 weeks through 3 years. We have 22 infants and toddlers in our classrooms, playing and growing inside and outside with our dedicated staff.

CHILD CARE REFERRAL & CHILD CARE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Sunrise assists families in finding child care in regulated VT programs, registered/licensed Child Care Homes and licensed Child Care Centers. We also help eligible families access funding to pay for child care for children 6 weeks up to the age of 13 (or up until the age of 19 if the child has special needs).

FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

An intensive, home-based service for families at risk of having a child placed outside of the home. FAP also works with families that are working towards reunification with their child(ren). Families may be referred by The Department for Children and Families (DCF) or members of the community.

November 2021



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>1</p> <p>WOMEN'S COFFEE CLUB, 226 Union Street, 9 - 10 am For more information, contact Tiffany Racicot: 442-0058</p> <p>11</p> <p>PLAYGROUP, Solomon Wright Library, Pownal, 10:30 am -12pm For more information, contact Tiffany Racicot: 442-0058</p>	<p>2</p> <p>PLAYGROUP, Martha Canfield Library, Arlington, 10:30 am – 12 pm PARENT EDUCATION, <i>Bringing Home Baby</i> 226 Union St., 4:30 – 6:30 pm For more information, contact Tiffany Racicot: 442-0058</p>	<p>3</p> <p>HOUSING NAVIGATION 226 Union Street 10 - 11 am For more information, contact Lauren: 442-0005</p>	<p>4</p> <p>SUNRISE IS CLOSED</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PARENT'S AS TEACHERS (PAT) Group Connections, 226 Union Street 12 - 1 pm Call Kelly: 442-0054</p>
<p>8</p> <p>WOMEN'S COFFEE CLUB, 226 Union Street, 9 - 10 am</p> <p>11</p> <p>PLAYGROUP, Solomon Wright Library, Pownal, 10:30 am -12pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>PLAYGROUP, Martha Canfield Library, Arlington, 10:30 am – 12 pm PARENT EDUCATION, <i>Bringing Home Baby</i> 226 Union St., 4:30 – 6:30 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>SUNRISE IS CLOSED</p>	<p>11</p> <p>SUNRISE IS CLOSED</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>15</p> <p>WOMEN'S COFFEE CLUB, 226 Union Street, 9 - 10 am</p> <p>11</p> <p>PLAYGROUP, Solomon Wright Library, Pownal, 10:30 am -12pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>PLAYGROUP, Martha Canfield Library, Arlington, 10:30 am – 12 pm PARENT EDUCATION, <i>Bringing Home Baby</i> 226 Union St., 4:30 – 6:30 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>HOUSING NAVIGATION 226 Union Street 10 - 11 am COOKIES & CARDS 4 – 5:30pm 226 Union St.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PARENT'S AS TEACHERS (PAT) Group Connections, 226 Union Street 12 - 1 pm Call Kelly: 442-0054</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>22</p> <p>WOMEN'S COFFEE CLUB, 226 Union Street, 9 - 10 am</p> <p>11</p> <p>PLAYGROUP, Solomon Wright Library, Pownal, 10:30 am -12pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>PLAYGROUP, Martha Canfield Library, Arlington, 10:30 am – 12 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>SUNRISE IS CLOSED (for the Afternoon)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>SUNRISE IS CLOSED</p>	<p>26</p> <p>SUNRISE IS CLOSED</p>
<p>29</p> <p>WOMEN'S COFFEE CLUB, 226 Union Street, 9 - 10 am</p> <p>11</p> <p>PLAYGROUP, Solomon Wright Library, Pownal, 10:30 am -12pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>MAKING MEALS & MEMORIES 226 Union St., 4 – 6 pm For more info. or to register, contact Tiffany R.: 442-0058</p>			



SUNRISE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER is Bennington County's Parent Child Center, part of the Vermont Parent Child Center Network.

Check our website, SUNRISEPCC.COM, and our Facebook page for current news and updates!

244 UNION STREET
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802-442-6934

