



**In 2023, the Stratton Community Foundation distributed
a record \$750,000 into the community.**

**Read on to learn about our lead role in
executing programs and grant awards to support critical services.**

Started in 1996, the Stratton Community Foundation has grown to become a fundamental cornerstone to schools, organizations, the community, and most importantly, the lives of children. In more recent years, we have realized a significant gap in opportunities available to children in need which require our active leadership. We have taken on this charge with great fervor, balancing our community outreach and goodwill initiatives *which produce immediate impact*, with the investment of significant planning and administrative efforts, *which lead to long term outcomes*. By doing so, we pursue our ***mission to address the challenges that stand between a child in-need and the opportunity to thrive and learn***, while striving towards our ***vision to help children focus on their education and set them on a path to success and economic independence***.

As an active leader in the community, or role requires:

- Researching community needs
- Innovating program design
- Collaborating with partners and establishing buy-in
- Advocating for equal access
- Orchestrating key stakeholders
- Coordinating implementation

- Monitoring execution
- Inspiring enhancements and evolution
- Providing financial support
- Measuring impact
- Securing sustainability
- Expanding the scope of proven success

At our core, the Stratton Community Foundation is a grassroots community-based nonprofit that cares about the health and well-being of children and families in southern Vermont. ***Our major areas of focus*** include Hunger, Basic Necessities, (Oral and Mental), Health and Education.

67% of our granting requires the administration, leadership, and direct involvement by the Stratton Community Foundation. This document provides a description of the following programs.

- Head-to-Toe
- College & Career Scholarships
- Personal Life Plan Scholarships
- Feed the Community
- Children's In-School Dental Hygiene Services
- Early Literacy & Home-School Libraries
- Success Peer Mentorship
- Academic Intervention
- Mental Health First-Aid and Program Development
- Pass It On Clothing Drive & Community Distribution
- Emergency Assistance Gifts for Individuals & Families in Crisis

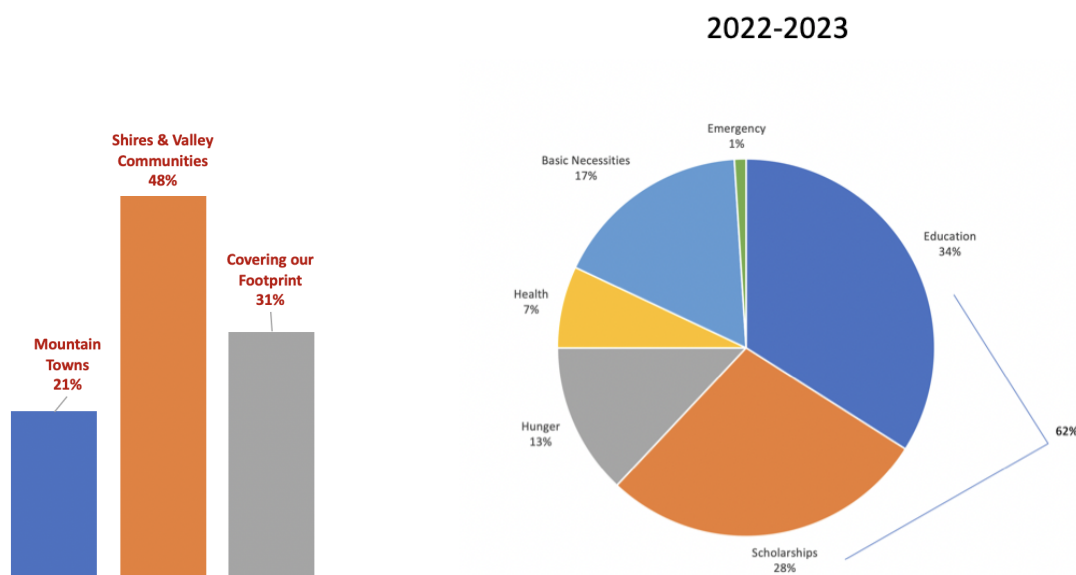
33% of the Stratton Community Foundation grants go to local organizations that execute critical services aligned with our mission and goals. This document provides a description of the grants awarded to area nonprofits, including program summary, targeted population, partners, and impact.

The foundation values ***Community, Compassion, Caring*** and ***Well-Being***. The Stratton Community Foundation is proud to be the stewards of donations, grant awards, and event proceeds to fulfill the mission to help those most vulnerable. Thank you to everyone who lends the trust of their philanthropy to the important work of the Stratton Community Foundation.

July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

Note: Grant applications are reviewed by a committee of board members and evaluated through the use of a rubric to measure Presentation, Project Qualifications, Organization & Mission, Project Narrative (need, purpose, etc.), Financials/Diligence, Impact/Success Story, Stakeholders and Partnerships.

- A. Scope & Reach of our programs and granting across our footprint July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.
- B. Distribution across our target areas of giving and support.



Mountain Towns: Bondville, Jamaica, Landgrove, Londonderry, Newfane-Newbrook, Peru, South Londonderry, Stratton, Townshend, Wardsboro, Weston, Windham, and Winhall.
Shires / Valley Towns: Arlington, Danby, Dorset, Manchester, Mettawee-Pawlet, Sunderland.

The Stratton Community Foundation has earned the shield of a 2023 Top-Rated Great Nonprofit. Read Testimonials: <https://greatnonprofits.org/org/stratton-community-foundation>



PROGRAMS & GRANTS AWARDED 2022-2023



EDUCATION - The Stratton Community Foundation supports innovative education programs that set youth on a path for success - from early literacy to helping teens develop a future vision of economic independence through college and trade school scholarships.

4-Year College Scholarships

Organization: Burr & Burton Academy, Long Trail School, Leland & Gray High-School

Population Served: Graduating seniors who are first-in family and first-generation college bound, and students demonstrating financial need.

Partners: Scholarship Donor Families and the Stratton Mountain Resort

Summary: Thanks to the generosity of 14-donor families and the Stratton Community Foundation, we are proud to present 17 graduating seniors with a four-year college scholarship.

Impact: Research shows that 'cash on hand' is one of the largest causal effects on the decision and ability to enroll in college for students from low-income families. The earning gap between college graduates and those with less education continues to widen.

Our Role: Every year the Stratton Community Foundation makes an ambitious effort to inspire donor families to make a 4-year pledge setting a goal to uplift future generations in pursuit of success and economic independence. Scholarships in 2023 value \$220,000.

Learn More! <https://strattonfoundation.org/college-scholarships>

Trade & Career Scholarships

Organization: Burr & Burton Academy

Population Served: Graduating seniors pursuing a skill-trade and in need of support for non-traditional education.

Partner: Charles S. & Millicent P. Brown Family Foundation

Summary: Launched in 2023, graduating seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to a trade-career choice and need schooling and or training in order to be able to enter their chosen field can apply for a one-time scholarship opportunity. \$20,000 in scholarships are available.

Impact: Up to 36% of the graduating Success seniors at BBA enter a trade or the workforce out of high school and do not have the resources for education, training or out-of-pocket expenses.

Our Role: The Stratton Community Foundation leads in creating this opportunity in partnership, funding and innovation.

Personal Life Plan Scholarships

Organization: Burr & Burton Academy

Population Served: 25-40+ low-income students in the Success Program

Partner: Charles S. & Millicent P. Brown Family Foundation

Summary: Personal Life Plan Scholarships (PLPs) are a fundamental cornerstone to the teachings of the Success Program at Burr and Burton Academy and instrumental to the Foundation's mission. Grant funds are used exclusively to pay for scholarship experiences; from a summer internship to intensives or college courses. Without this type of future-vision opportunity, the alternative would be to work with no hope of escaping or advancing in life. Whereas, teens seeking a work-based internship can learn in their desired field. Since then, over \$125,000 scholarships have supported 150 life-changing experiences.

Our Role: In 2017, the Charles S. & Millicent P. Brown Family Foundation inspired the innovation of PLP Scholarship in partnership with the Stratton Community Foundation to lead and monitor program design and execution with the Success Program.

In the news! <https://www.bbasuccess.org/stratton-foundation-brown-scholarships/2022-recipients/>

Journey Away

Organization: Leland & Gray MS-HS

Population Served: 271 students / 50% poverty rate - (30 students)

Partner: NA

Summary: To provide students at Leland & Gray Union High School with experiences that broaden their practical, intellectual, social and emotional lives while offering a framework to better understand their culture, identity and role in the community. Travel includes Vermont, Louisiana, Vietnam, and France.

Impact: There is little racial, ethnic or cultural diversity limiting students' ability to vision their futures. By having experiences outside Vermont that connect back to our landscapes, commodities and commerce, students will discover creative and innovative ways to address issues affecting their communities and add to the economic wellbeing. These programs foster a love of life-long learning, making Leland & Gray a distinct school that provides high quality and interesting academic experiences. Students participate more frequently in school, student leadership, and develop college and career related visions for their future.

Our Role: Grants Award (\$10,000 2022-2023) + \$15,000 (2023-2024) for expenses associated with travel= \$25,000.

Burr & Burton Academy Success Program

Organization: Burr & Burton Academy

Population Served: 252 (record-breaking enrollment) of low-income students age 13-18 (48 12th, 58 11th, 68 10th, 78 9th graders)

Partner: NA

Summary: The Student Success Program at BBA was founded in 2013 to help students living in poverty grow into successful young adults by embracing the program motto of "Goals, Habits, Growth".

Impact: The Success Program is dedicated to building relationships with students and families, fostering the development of a growth mindset, connecting families with much-needed resources, and creating a

sense of supportive community around each and every student. The Success Program has supported 600 students since 2012.

Our Role: In addition to a grant award of \$30,000, the Stratton Community Foundation has a strong, and daily relationship with the Success Program as a fundamental program to attain our mission, goals, values, and vision for hundreds, and reaching thousands of children and families from across southern Vermont. We have supported this program since 2012 valuing over \$300,000 in addition to supporting many program enhancements that include mentorships, personal life plan scholarships, career-trade and college scholarships.

In the News! <https://www.burrburton.org/news/the-view>

Taconic & Green Supervisory Union Success Camp

Organization : Taconic & Green Supervisory Union

Population Served: 60+ low income rising 7th and 8th grade from (5) sending schools in the union including: Flood Brook, Manchester Elementary-Middle School, Dorset, Currier, and Sunderland Elementary School.

Partner: The William J. & Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation to fund summer camp for rising 7th graders.

Summary: The T&G Success program makes the school environment a more positive, welcoming and comfortable experience for the students and parents from low income households and/or at-risk circumstances.

Impact: Starting the work of building social emotional/relationship skills in 7th grade, maintaining through middle school and then extending into high school generates a significant return on this investment for our students.

Our Role: The Stratton Community Foundation plays a major role as fiduciary agent for the T&G Supervisory Union Grant, and is directly involved in inspiring the high-school Success program expansion to the younger grades, fostering a mindset of goals, habits and growth in the middle-school. The Success Program is fundamental to the Foundation's strategic short and long term goals to end the cycle of generational poverty. Today, the Foundation funds the camp for rising 8th and 9th graders - including staffing, supplies, food, and transportation.

The combined grant award = \$50,000.

In the News! <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1017157585698797>

Academic Interventionist

Organization: Burr & Burton Academy

Population Served: 200+ low-income students

Partner: Charles S. & Millicent P. Brown Foundation

Summary: The Academic Interventionist position is responsible for collaborating closely with the Director of Success to mentor students within a program that provides engaging, vigorous learning experiences.

Impact: Students whose middle school years were deeply disrupted by the pandemic are entering high school with vastly increased challenges in academics, social/developmental areas, and executive function.

Our Role: Thanks to a matching grant and our aligned missions to support education, the AE has been an invaluable additional resource to students, staff and teachers completing a two-year commitment in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. Grant Award \$40,000.

Project Based Learning

Organization: Leland & Gray MS-HS

Population Served: 271 students / 50% poverty rate

Partner: NA

Summary: Each semester, students will choose a variety of PBL course offerings designed to address real world questions and challenges. Students must envision how they see their project taking shape, identify materials needed to implement the project and create a workflow timeline.

Impact: PBL courses encourage students to explore new interests and help them build their agency in their academic, social, and emotional lives, giving them a framework and confidence to pursue what they are curious about and develop patience for the process.

Our Role: Grant Award \$22,500 to fund field trips, transportation, materials and experts.

OWLS - Outdoor Wilderness Learning & Survival

Organization: Jamaica Village School

Population Served: 20 children / 90% poverty rate

Partner: NA

Summary: The Outdoor Wilderness Learning and Survival offers stimulating hands-on environmental programs, herbal medicine classes and workshops for children, adults, schools and organizations.

Impact: Children in low-income rural communities and schools do not have equal access or budget to experiential learning opportunities. Experiential learning yields strong outcomes. Students who participate in EL can develop improved knowledge and skill acquisition through practical application. EL provides an active learning environment that includes critical thinking and problem solving. Children develop greater abilities to communicate and collaborate, and develop personal growth. Children learn life-skills, giving each a sense of self-worth, trust and confidence.

Our Role: Grant Award of \$2,000 in 2023 and \$2,000 in 2024 to fund facilitators, materials and supplies.

Outdoor Education and After School Programming

Organization: Mountain School of Winhall

Population Served: 45 children PreK-8th grade

Partner: NA

Summary: To establish after school programming that challenges students to expand interest and experiences that will strengthen their confidence, leadership-skills, and competence in academic pursuits. MSW is the only K-8 school in the community that accepts all children, many of whom would qualify for free/reduced lunch if in a public school district.

Impact: The after school program is intended to eliminate the barriers of cost and transportation. Both students and families benefit; children's horizons are expanded and working parents have the ability to continue to work their jobs to support their families.

Our Role: Grant Award \$7,200 to assist in funding for van / transportation to and from programming.

Summer Camp & Extended Day Program

Organization: The Collaborative

Population Served: 30 low-income children

Partner: NA

Summary: The summer camp runs 5 weeks and aims to provide campers with well-rounded experiences that combine outdoor activities, team-building activities and social development. Both programs offer STEM/STEAM, arts and crafts, and other forms of creative expression and a love for learning.

Impact: To provide students and campers with a holistic experience that integrates engaging and entertaining activities. The EDP aims to create a secure and supportive environment where students can explore interests and creativity.

Our Role: Grant Award of \$7,500 to purchase materials and supplies, and individualized support.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Organization: Shires Kids

Population Served: 1,100 children across Bennington and Windham Counties

Partner: NA

Summary: By operating the Imagination Library locally, Shire Kids provides a new, age-appropriate book to all enrolled children every month from birth (or enrollment) until the child's fifth birthday. Books are mailed directly to the child's home.

Impact: By providing books at no cost to families, the Imagination Library increases childhood literacy rates, fosters a love of books, and promotes a culture of reading among all families in the rural communities of Vermont.

Our Role: Since 2019, the Stratton Community Foundation has inspired for this program to advance across our footprint and include children within its entire reach in southern Vermont touching Arlington, Danby, Dorset, Jamaica, Landgrove, Londonderry/ South Londonderry, Manchester, Newfane/ Newbrook, Peru, Stratton, Sunderland, Townshend, Wardsboro, Weston and Windham. This year, a grant of \$5,000 was awarded and funding since 2019 exceeds \$25,000.

Fostering Creativity Through Art

Organization: South Londonderry Free Library

Population Served: 180 low income children

Summary: The success story of this project will be that this small rural library is able to provide both educational and fun creative programs to the community. To provide a 12-month art program with a free book to each attendee relating to the workshop's theme.

Impact: To make activities accessible and free of charge to children and teens in the community, giving them an opportunity to participate in a meaningful group activity.

Our Role: Grant Award of \$4,700 to cover program fees and supplies.

Art Camp & Afterschool Scholarships

Organization: Southern Vermont Arts Center

Population Served: 40 low-income children ages 0-18

Partner: Todd B. Richter Endowment Fund Matching Grant Award 2022

Summary: Providing students from low-to-moderate income backgrounds the opportunity to participate in after school classes, camps and other transformative programs SVAC has to offer.

Impact: To provide children who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, and/or do not otherwise have the resources to participate in art activities, with a creative learning experience that expands critical thinking, fosters creativity, and builds inclusivity.

Our Role: Grant Awards totalling \$8,000 to provide partial-to-full scholarships.

Experiential Learning Opportunities

Organization: Townshend Elementary School

Population Served: 80 students / 50% poverty

Partner: NA

Summary: To provide opportunities around science based learning through Dinoman, Vermont EMS Academy, and visit the Montshire Museum to this rural and remote school.

Impact: Experiential Learning enables students and families who are struggling financially to engage in enrichment & educational activities.

Our Role: Grant Award of \$2,000 to fund field trip admission, buses for transportation, artist in residency assemblies.

Building A Home-Library

Organization: Wardsboro Elementary School

Population Served: 45 students / 40% poverty

Partner: Northshire Bookstore and funding by Marty & Jim Neumeister

Summary: To provide a new book to all students, PreK-6th grade for six months in December through May 2023.

Impact: 61% of low-income families have no books in their homes for their children. Books in the home are the single biggest indicator of academic success — surpassing income, parents' education, family composition, and all other factors. The program is designed to inspire a culture and habit of reading in the home, over the winter holiday breaks and summer during the months of greatest 'learning loss.'

Our Role: In addition to awarding a \$1,500 grant award to purchase books through a partnership and recommendations by the Northshire Bookstore, the Foundation manages orders and volunteer delivery to the school and inspires supporting donors with special philanthropy towards early literacy.



HUNGER - The Stratton Community Foundation supports food programs

that address food insecurity so that every child has access to nutritious meals, impacting their overall health, academic achievement and future prosperity.

Feed the Community

Organization: Working closely with more than 30 local organizations (schools, food pantries, churches, pediatricians, hospitals, counseling services, etc.) and those on the frontlines to reach our local children and families in need.

Partners: NA

Population Served: Thousands of children, seniors, and families struggling with food insecurity across our footprint of southern Vermont.

Summary: The Stratton Community Foundation orchestrated the distribution of gas and grocery cards to reach those who are struggling to afford food for their families and purchase items not available at food pantries due to increased demand, shortage of supply, and ending of temporary pandemic-state funded programs like Supplemental Assistance Program (SNAP) and 3SquaresVT.

Impact: The impact of the grocery and gas cards provided a hand-up to families to purchase toiletries, cleaning supplies, baby products, meat and dairy, fresh produce and items not available as food cupboards. The assistance also helped families to redirect their income to buy gas to travel to medical appointments or purchase prescriptions, etc.

Our Role: The Stratton Community Foundation's Feed the Community fundraising and programs support many food efforts. We actively seek solutions to reach those in need. Since 2022, we have purchased and distributed gas and grocery cards valued at over \$145,000.

Food After School

Organization: Blessings in a Backpack

Population Served: 111 low-income children attending schools in the Windham Supervisory Union

Partner: NA

Summary: The program provides shelf-stable FDA approved items that children can bring home for weekend breakfast and snacks.

Impact: To alleviate weekend food insecurity for children who get free meals at school during the week. Children feel cared for by their school and community, prepared and ready-to learn. Over 4,200 bags of food throughout the school year.

Our Role: Grant Award of \$10,000 to purchase food.

Everyone Eats 2.0

Organization: Manchester Food Cupboard

Population Served: 290 children, 430 low-income families

Partner: NA

Summary: 'Everyone Eats' provides nutritious ready-made meals to Vermonters in need of food assistance. The program engages 6 area local houses of worship and volunteers to create nutritious meals for families in need.

Impact: In March 2023, 3 Square Vermont, SNAP and Everyone Eats benefits ended. Additionally, the VFB is no longer giving CFC shelf-stable food items free of charge as they did during the pandemic. Many patrons are living in motels or campers, and lack available food.

Our Role: Grant Award \$10,000 to purchase food through the Vermont Food Bank, Sysco, local farmers and organizations.

Lunch For All

Organization: Long Trail School

Population Served: 13-20 low-income students

Partner: NA

Summary: To feed kids in need on a daily basis without calling attention to differences in payment method or check-out at school. Due to the limitations of the school facility and kitchen staff, the regulations and requirements of the federal free and reduced lunch program are prohibitive. The LTS Lunch Program will serve the lowest-income families by providing their children with a healthy and delicious lunch every school day. Students in need are all well-versed in coping with less, and with the unique concerns that come with making ends meet in the current economy. Some of these students are taking on the personal burden of supporting themselves. Others are negotiating family trauma associated with domestic violence, substance abuse, or parents with mental health challenges. Some have stable homes but lack the mental health support needed in association with anxiety, depression, self-esteem issues or learning disabilities.

Impact: Despite the burdens they carry, these students grow with support, flourish with encouragement, and emerge as leaders at Long Trail School.

Our Role: Grant Award \$10,000 to pay for lunches for 13-24 students for 180 days.

Weekend Food Backpacks for Schools

Organization: Blessings in a Backpack

Population Served: 111 grade and middle-school children across Windham County Schools.

Partner: NA

Summary: The program provides 111 children with food per week of 38 weeks of school.

Impact: To provide hunger-free weekends to kids facing food insecurity. Poor nutrition can result in a weaker immune system, increased hospitalization, lower IQ, shorter attention spans, and lower academic achievement. The purpose, and our success story, will be if we lessen the chance of those occurrences.

Our Role: Grant Award \$10,000 grant award and relationship with the union's home-school liaison.

Stocking the Food Shelf

Organization: Winhall Stratton Food Shelf

Population Served: 40 families, 15 children, and 10 low-income individuals.

Partner: NA

Summary: To purchase food and necessities for local families and children in need.

Impact: Address poverty and hunger / food insecurity.

Our Role: Grant Award \$5,000 for provisions.

School Snack Program

Organization: Manchester Community Food Cupboard (300 children)

Population Served: 300 children

Partner: NA

Summary: Schools utilize the MCFC to provide equal access to snacks for children attending elementary, middle, and high school across the Shires.

Impact: The impact of providing (5) schools with healthy snacks helps children who are hungry throughout the long days at school to stay focused on their education, giving equal access to those who cannot fend for themselves.

Our role: Grant award of \$5,000 to purchase healthy snacks that are delivered to schools as needed.

Farm To School

Organization: West River Modified Union Education District - Townshend Elementary School

Population Served: 80 students / 50% poverty

Partner: NA

Summary: To provide nutritious, scratch-made, wholesome options for students who need them most. The program provides hearty snacks and light meals to students who are food insecure and may not get another meal until breakfast the next morning.

Impact: To eradicate hunger from the youth in our community. Building a foundation of consistent nutrition is the first step in getting kids ready to learn and breaking the cycle of poverty.

Our Role: Grant Award of \$4,200 for the procurement of food, packaging and supplies.

Kids' Summer Lunch

Organization: Federated Church of East Arlington

Population Served: 70 low-income children from Arlington, Sandgate and Sunderland

Partner: NA

Summary: The Summer Lunch Program will provide a week's worth of lunch fixings along with fresh produce and a card for a half gallon of milk for 9 weeks over Summer 2023.

Impact: This project tackles poverty by ensuring that our community's most at-risk children are fed throughout the summer.

Our Role: Grant Award \$4,000 to purchase groceries that go into a child's bag each week.

Afterschool & Athletic Food Program

Organization: Leland & Gray Middle-High School

Population Served: 80 low-income children

Partner: NA

Summary: To support the school district to provide wholesome, nutritious options for the students who need them most.

Impact: The afterschool programming and athletics allows students to explore their interests, get physically active, and receive food before dinnertime. The program provides hearty snacks and light meals to students who are food insecure and may not get another meal until breakfast the next morning.

Our Role: Grant Award of \$3,500

Food During Summer School

Organization: Currier Memorial School

Population Served: 30 children (80-90% poverty and childhood trauma)

Partner: NA

Summary: To attain supplemental funding for the summer school program, limited in a variety of ways and due to decreased budgets. Breakfast and lunch was provided through a district based program but now neither is provided, including limited transportation. The service will provide healthy snacks and a meal when food is not provided from home.

Impact: To offer a free summer program accessible to all K-5th grade students and provide additional access and opportunities to food for students who face food insecurity within the home.

Our Role: Grant Award \$750 to fund staff, prep and cleanup of meals and purchase of food.



BASIC NECESSITIES - The Stratton Community Foundation

supports basic daily necessities so that every child has what they need as they grow and has the opportunity to develop a sense of pride, dignity, self-confidence, belonging, and a mindset beyond daily survival.

Head-to-Toe

Organization: Schools PreK-HS and Home-School families across our service area are eligible to enroll their students in Head-to-Toe.

Population Served: 500-600 low-income children across southern Vermont as identified by school staff and administration.

Partners: Alterra Mountain Company Community Foundation matching grant award.

Ordering, discounts and in-kind offered by: Equipe Sport, Shoes-that-Fit, Operation Warm, Bombas Socks, Smartwool, Kamik Boots, Stratton Mountain Retail.

Summary: The Stratton Community Foundation's Head-to-Toe provides basic necessities to needy children. Throughout the year, children are cared for and receive a school backpack full of required supplies, winter coat, snow pants - mittens - hats - socks, warm winter socks, dental kits and a new pair of sneakers in the spring.

Impact: The condition of what a child has or has-not are the most visible signs of poverty, impacting a child's life and overall well-being. Providing essentials helps children to have what they need to grow and learn, supports families in times of extreme economic crisis and eases the burden of teachers to protect the safety and well-being of their most vulnerable children. The program uplifts a child's dignity, confidence, self esteem and ability to learn and grow. The program relieves the cruelty of bullying, improves their attendance at school, impacts their mental health, and allows them to enjoy the joys of their childhood. The program also helps families to avoid falling deeper into poverty as their children grow.

Our role: The Stratton Community Foundation works with national and local partners to execute the program across more than 20 schools Pre-K through high school. The Foundation fundraises and seeks sponsors, coordinates volunteers, measures children, communicates with schools and families, orders all of the clothing and shoes, sorts by school, plans deliveries, manages exchanges and fulfillment. The Stratton Community Foundation's Head-to-Toe program is a \$120,000 program, and the Foundation also funds the administration of its execution.

Moving Mountains

Summary: As part of Head-to-Toe, the Stratton Community Foundation awards Moving Mountains grants directly to schools to have discretionary funds on hand to care for the daily urgent needs of their children and families in crisis. Schools are challenged with caring for the health, safety and well-being of their students, beyond education, and are often without resources to do so.

Impact: Schools report that these funds help them to care for their children on a daily basis, in ways that would not otherwise be possible. Funds have been used to purchase lice kits, laundromat cards for families living in campers or hotels, grocery and gas cards to get children to doctor's appointments, heat assistance, undergarments, toiletries, and more.

Our role: Moving Mountains grants of \$1,000-\$5,000 are awarded depending on school size and poverty rates. The Foundation monitors distribution of funds, use, and impact. In 2023, 10 schools and daycare facilities requested Moving Mountains grants totalling \$20,000 in 2023.

Expansion of Childcare

Organization: Arlington Child Care

Population Served: 60 low-income children living in Arlington

Partner: NA

Summary: Arlington Area Childcare is a community model of family advocacy and leadership. Programs engage families as advocates and leaders in their program activities, particularly through parents participating in decision-making, and activity organization in communities and sets to improve children's safety, health, development, and learning experiences.

Impact: The family advocate does many things to help improve these areas for students and community members such as providing food and hygiene products during crises and helping to support families during transitions, supporting with finding health or mental support within the community.

Our role: The grant award of \$5,000 will make funds available to not turn families away in need, providing meals, clothing, transportation support, diapers and wipes, and childcare scholarships.

Family Tree Program

Organization: Northshire Day School

Population Served: 90 low-income children / 45 families

Partner: NA

Summary: Through the Family Tree Program, NDS is providing equitable access to childhood and learning experiences. The program builds a culture that normalizes support and identifies a family's strengths to build resiliency and reduce the likelihood of neglect.

Impact: The use of funds are for transportation services to critical appointments, budgeting courses, parenting courses, translation and interpretation services and basic needs such as food, clothing, etc.

Our role: Grant Award of \$7,500.

Purchase of a Washer & Dryer

Organization: Townshend Elementary School

Population Served: 91 children / 25 families with children PreK-5th grade.

Partner: NA

Summary: To provide needed service to struggling families.

Impact: Providing a resource for washing clothing and bedding at school rather than having to pay / not being able to afford to pay for laundry services.

Our role: Grant award of \$1,700.



HEALTH - The Stratton Community Foundation supports physical and mental health programs crucial to a child's development and ability to thrive.

HS & Sending School Peer-To-Peer Mentorship

Organization: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont

Population Served: 66 children ages 7-18 years old attending schools across our footprint.

Partner: The Nathan M. Carreira Endowment Fund

Summary: The High School Bigs Mentoring Program provides a unique opportunity to build strong relationships and social/emotional learning (SEL) skills between different generations of students. The

program provides a carefully developed and planned curriculum with the support of a BBBS Staff Member for one-to-one mentoring matches that meet once every week in a school setting and Manchester Public Library.

Impact: Research demonstrates that having a good mentor and someone to look up to is one of the most important things in a child's life to help them build confidence, work through problems, learn valuable skills for decision making and make positive choices in life. We have worked very hard to build capacity by leveraging teenagers who demonstrate incredible leadership qualities, the desire to mentor, and are positive role models to help children who are struggling and emotionally at-risk. Through professionally supported 1-to-1 mentoring, both the younger and older students benefit from the development of a healthy friendship, building on their social capital.

Our role: In addition to funding with a \$30,000 grant award, the Stratton Community Foundation plays a major role in orchestrating the partnership between BBBSVT and our schools. We are proud to fund this opportunity in 2023-2024 through the **Nathan M. Carreira Endowment Fund** to support youth at Burr & Burton, Currier Memorial School, Manchester Elementary Middle School, Leland & Gray, Townshend Elementary, and Flood Brook Union School.

Taconic & Green Success Peer-To-Peer Mentorship

Organization: Taconic & Green Supervisory Union and Burr & Burton Academy

Population Served: 24 children ages 7-18 years old

Partner: The Nathan M. Carreira Endowment Fund

Summary: The Success Mentorship Program is an extremely valuable part of the overall Success Program, helping to extend the reach of the Success ethos into the younger grades and provide a deeply meaningful experience for mentors, who are able to stand as role models and pay it forward into their community. Success Mentors are matched with a Success Mentee for a two-year commitment as the mentors graduate and the mentees transition up to high-school. Mentors are paid a stipend and will receive a Nathan M. Carreira Mentorship-Leadership Scholarship in summer 2024.

Impact: Year after year, mentors have demonstrated how much they care and are invested in their individual mentee, and community. Mentees report feeling confident, talented, funny, athletic and capable because that is how their mentors see them and they reflect that with each interaction. Training sessions with the mentors occur monthly with check-ins and scheduled visits and activities.

Our role: This program was inspired by the Stratton Community Foundation in partnership with the Charles S. & Millicent P. Brown Foundation in 2018 to enhance the Success Program and bridge the relationships between schools, programs, and students. The program is fundamentally vital to the mental health and well-being of youth in our community, and we are proud to extend our ongoing support through the **Nathan M. Carreira Endowment Fund** with a \$22,000 grant for mentors and mentees at Burr & Burton, Currier Memorial School, Manchester Elementary Middle School, Leland & Gray, Townshend Elementary, and Flood Brook Union School.

Mental Health First Aid Training

Organization: 58 teaching professionals representing 24 schools within our footprint

Population Served: Thousands of children of all ages.

Partner: The Nathan M. Carreira Endowment Fund

Summary: Teaching professionals participated in a virtual mental health first aid training in partnership with the United Counseling Services and the Vermont Department of Education.

Impact: In the course, teachers learned risk factors and warning signs of mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations and where to turn for help.

Our role: The Stratton Community Foundation established partnerships, reached out to schools to inspire participation, measured impact and distributed a \$50 grocery card to teachers who participated.

Boosting Confidence through Rock Climbing

Organization: Newbrook School

Population Served: 100 children attending school, and children from surrounding Jamaica and Townshend (35% poverty)

Partner: NA

Summary: There are many challenges for the children living within this community, with many families dealing with food insecurity and lacking basic necessities. Some of the school population suffer from mental health needs, and some children require weekly social emotional learning support due to poverty, sometimes extreme poverty, difficult home dynamics and more recent COVID related stressors. Mental health has become an ever challenging issue within the school and for staff and those on the frontlines.

Impact: Studies show that rock climbing for kids is an outstanding way to give confidence, learn problem solving skills, build muscle and strength and improve communication.

Our role: The grant award of \$4,279 will train staff and wall-programming for after-school, PE, special events and winter sport options.

IN-SCHOOL DENTAL HYGIENE

Organizations: Mettawee Community School and Currier Memorial School

Population Served: Available to 200 children PreK-6th grade (48% and 65% poverty rates)

Partners: Agnes M. Lindsay Trust, VT 802 Smiles, SVAHEC Dental Coalition, Amy Meier, Dr. John Echterbach

Summary: Local hygienist, Amy Meier visits children at each school to provide a screening, fluoride varnish, sealant, and silver diamine fluoride when needed as the leading preventative practice under the direction of the Vermont State Department of Health.

Impact: Working closely with our schools as our closest line of defense to intervene and give children the resources they need to be healthy.

Low-income children have trends of missed appointments, no interest in good oral hygiene and lack the knowledge and values of health. Consequences of bad dental hygiene include - pain, bleeding, difficulty eating, infection, loss of oral function, disrupted sleep, poor appearance, low weight, poor performance in school, low self-esteem, poor quality of life, unemployment, poor academic performance, bad behavior, poor school attendance, overall poor health - and poverty.

Our role: The Stratton Community Foundation is the lead in bringing in-school dental hygiene to our region. We are a partner of the Vermont State 802 Network and work to coordinate a hygienist, consent forms, collaboration, training, communication, funding, dental kits, and necessary supplies and

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materials. The \$5,000 grant award is in shared funding from the Agnes M .Lindsay Trust and established partnerships, school principals/nurses/home-school liaisons, and the heads of the Supervisory Unions.

2,000 DENTAL KITS DISTRIBUTED

Our role: 2,000 dental kits were distributed across our entire footprint in partnership with the Southern Vermont Area Health Education and our role as a partner in the Southern Vermont Dental Coalition.

Being Kind to Your Mind - Mental Health In Schools

Organization: Wardsboro Elementary School & Jamaica Village School

Population Served: 75 low-income children

Partner: Alexina Federhen, Miss Vermont 2023

Summary: Miss Vermont's presentation highlights the importance of taking care of our minds and mental well-being.

Impact: Alexina educates kids about what is mental health, opens up dialogic, teaches tools to cope with emotions and leads interactive activities.

Our role: The Stratton Community Foundation funded Miss Vermont's presentation to two high-poverty, high-trauma, rural schools. \$1,500.



OTHER / EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GIFTS - The

Stratton Community extends financial assistance to individuals who experience hardship due to an emergency or crisis that prohibits them from caring for the needs of their family and children.

Support to a young family who lost their father out west and needed help to move their children back to Vermont in partnership with Neighborhood Connections.

Support to a single mother in need of good, reliable transportation to care for her young children, working closely with the home-school liaison of the WCSU.

The Nathan M. Carreira Endowment

- Support for a local child in crisis with 1-1 mental health services from domestic abuse through the Nathan M. Carreira Endowment Fund.
- Support of two individual low-income children with scholarships to attend life-changing camp opportunities to Camp Takodah and Philmont Scout Ranch.

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