

THE **CAMPAIGN** FOR

**Kids** Stratton Foundation

Your donations are significant and demonstrate to the children and families who benefit from your generosity, a most powerful expression of human compassion.

“The Mountains are calling and I must go...” is a quote made famous by John Muir, naturalist and a founding father of our national parks. It’s true, there is something magical about the way we are drawn to Stratton Mountain, like a mythical spirit calling to us each and every weekend. We hear from so many who say they have a greater sense of belonging, deeper friendships and closer neighbors here, than anywhere else. It’s hard to explain the force that bonds us all just in the simple pleasure of being *here*. We may not know the others in our gondola or on the lift, but we care because we all belong to this very special mountain community we call home.

Just off the mountain are our neighbors who live and work here year round. Off the mountain is a different world where, depending on the town, 40-90% of our families live in economic hardship and life is hard. Children go without daily basic necessities, like a warm winter coat or a meal in the evening after school. As you drive around in the winter, take notice to coolers set outside on porches that serve as refrigerators because many homes are without, or note the great distance you must travel to get anywhere. Teachers describe our children who live in poverty as being ‘lost,’ with no self esteem, lack of trust, nothing and no one to rely on, and no hope for the future beyond what they have, and what they don’t.

With your help, we are changing all that. By breaking down the barriers of poverty, our children can focus on their education, and through innovative and targeted programs, we can stop the cycle of generational poverty. You are their hope for the chance to thrive and succeed.

In a sea of philanthropic organizations, GoFundMe pages and global relief campaigns, we ask you to care here at home where your donation has a direct and meaningful impact on the lives of thousands of children from within our local community surrounding Stratton Mountain.

Please join us in the Campaign for Kids.

Sincerely,  
Steve Kerstein, Stratton Foundation President

**WHAT DOES IT COST TO CARE?**

\$2.50 provides a child with a healthy weekend snack

\$5 provides a lunch per day

\$15 provides weekly food during the summer

\$20 provides a child with basic necessities during school

\$50 gifts a new pair of sneakers

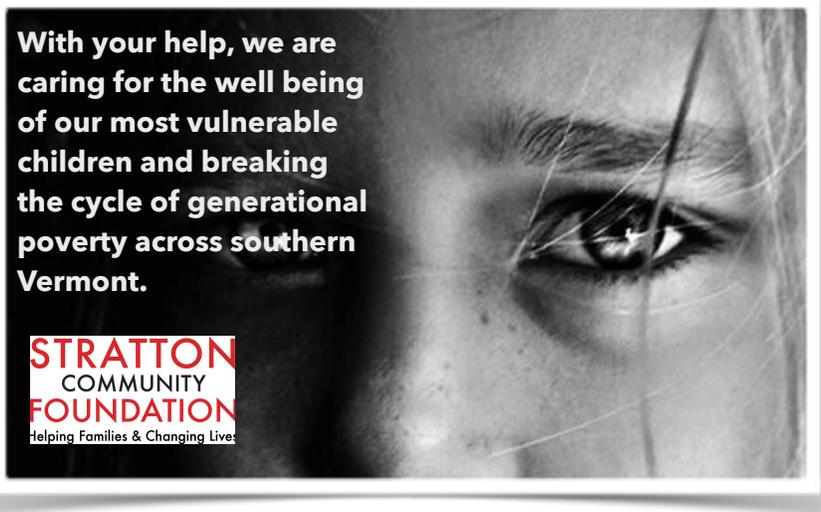
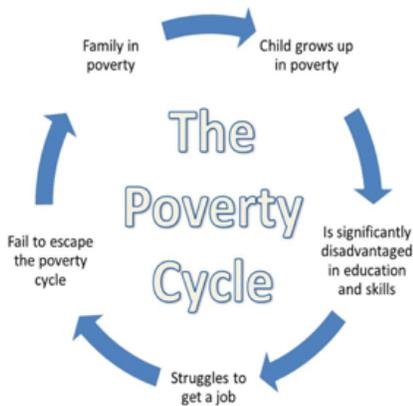
\$60 provides a child with in-school dental cleaning and care

\$75 gifts a pair of winter boots & socks

\$80 supports a child’s participation in education enrichment

We make sure that initiatives are thoughtful, sustainable, and have impact!

**Imagine** lacking sufficient income for basic needs such as warm clothing, a bed to sleep on, eating three-meals a day, or caring for your child’s health. Children born into poverty lack the ability to thrive all due to what their parents cannot afford, destined for a future of despair without the chance to succeed.



In Southern Vermont, poverty rates have been steadily increasing at a rate of 8-15% per year and household incomes have remained relatively stagnant for the past decade, with limited resources. **Here, families have lived in poverty generation after generation.**

As grassroots philanthropy, we are able to move quickly to make a direct and immediate impact, so that every child can grow up healthy, focus on education, and succeed through targeted education and life-changing opportunities. Our four primary categories of giving include:



**BASIC NECESSITIES**

- Coats & Clothing
- Boots & Sneakers
- Daily Needs
- Toiletries & Food
- Fuel & Warmth
- Emergency & Crisis



**FOOD & HUNGER**

- Weekends & Holiday Backpack Programs
- Kid’s Summer Food
- Community Pantries
- School Food Shelves
- School Breakfast & Lunch



**HEALTH**

- In-School Hygienist
- Children’s Dental Emergencies
- Support services for at-risk youth substance abuse & mental health
- Suicide Prevention



**EDUCATION**

- Summer Enrichment
- HS & MS Programs fostering a mindset of hope academic & future success
- Scholarships
- First-Generation Life Opportunities