



The Stratton Foundation is a community-based nonprofit that cares about the health and well-being of children and families in southern Vermont. **Our role** in the community is to respond to the needs that arise as a result of crisis, economic challenges, and quality of life for families who live, work, and raise their children within the shires and mountain towns of our footprint. **Our mission** is to address the challenges that stand between a child in need and the opportunity to be healthy, safe, and prepared to learn. **Our major areas of focus** include Hunger, Basic Necessities, Oral Health, Mental Health and Education. **Our vision** is to break the cycle of generational poverty.

In 2021-2022, the Stratton Foundation distributed over \$680,500 into the community.

****NOT In this document:**

60% - The Stratton Foundation creates programs, funds, and executes efforts by building strategic partnerships, which are not presented in this document. Such programs include:

- Head-to-Toe
- Feed the Community
- Pass It On Clothing Drive & Community Distribution
- Access to Education School Supplies Distribution
- Children's Oral Health Efforts
- Two & Four Year College Scholarships
- Career & Personal Life Plan Scholarships
- Success Peer Mentorship Program
- Teacher's Mental Health First Aid Training Initiative
- Emergency Assistance Gifts for Individuals & Families in Crisis

****In this document:**

40% - In addition, the Stratton Foundation awards grants to local organizations that execute critical services aligned in mission. This document provides a description of the grants awarded to area nonprofits, including a summary of the need/purpose and the direct impact through the use of Foundation funds.

Grant applications are reviewed by a committee 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.

The Stratton Foundation is proud to be the stewards of donations, grant awards, and event proceeds to fulfill the mission to help those most vulnerable

_____2021-2022 GRANTS

AWARDED _____

Organization: Jamaica Village School

Project : Experiential Learning & Education - Dinoman

Pillar Served: Mental Health and Education

Need: Children living in our rural mountain towns do not get the experiences of live performances, theater or field trips due to expense and geography.

Impact: During COVID, a day of 'joy' and 'education' brought laughter, happiness, and education to at-risk kids.

Specific Use of Foundation FundsFunds were used to pay for the performance of 'Dinoman' - dinosaurs, fossils, play, etc. .

Organization: Windham Central Supervisory Union

Project: New Brook Summer Camp

Pillar Served: Education

Summary: The WCSU NewBrook Summer Camp is a five-week program serving elementary students residing in rural Vermont. The camp addresses 'summer learning loss' while providing enriching and engaging activities. Because the camp serves multiple towns, it is always a wonderful opportunity for our children to meet others that they may normally not come into contact with, promoting further social engagement.

Specific Use of Foundation FundsCover program fees for families who are unable to pay in full and costs of field trips and transportation fees.

Organization: Wardsboro Elementary School

Project: Home Library

Pillar Served: Education

Summary: To provide a new book to all 45 students, PreK-6th grade for six months starting in December and running through May 2022. The goal is 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.'

Specific Use of Foundation FundsTo purchase books each month.

Collaborations: Northshire Bookstore

Funding Partners: Marty & Jim Neumeister

Organization: Carlos G. Otis Healthcare Center * Grace Cottage Hospital

Project: Reach Out and Read Program

Pillar Served: Education

Summary: Grace Cottage Family Health, the primary care clinic at Grace Cottage in Townshend, was accepted as a Reach Out and Read (ROR) program site. This means that Grace Cottage is committed to supporting the brain development of its youngest patients by giving an age-appropriate book to every child age six months to five years old who comes to Grace Cottage for a Well-Child Visit. Children who enjoy reading will do better in school, which in turn will provide them with skills they will need to build a successful working life as an adult.

Specific Use of Foundation FundsFunds will cover the cost of books for the first 2 years of the project.

Collaborations: Extended outreach with Shires Kids Imagination Library

Organization: Southern Vermont Arts Center

Project: After School & Summer Scholarships

Pillar Served: Education

Summary: Through dynamic arts education programs for youth ages 2-18, Southern Vermont Arts Center (SVAC) provides access to the arts, engages in creativity and artistic expression, and supports youth in feeling connected with the community, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is 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.

Specific Use of Foundation FundsFunds would be used to provide partial-to-full scholarships for 40 students participating in SVAC's after-school classes and camps

Organization: West River Montessori School

Project: Education Materials

Pillar Served: Education

Summary: This project consists of purchasing new educational materials for our classrooms. The purpose of this project is to provide developmentally appropriate materials that can be accessed by all children, of all abilities, in order to provide an equitable education for all. The materials we intend to purchase will help develop fine and gross motor skills necessary for future academic success.

Specific Use of Foundation Funds: Funds will be used directly to purchase educational and classroom materials.

Organization: Currier Memorial School

Project: Experiential Learning Trips

Pillar Served: Education

Summary: Children attending our rural schools do not get many life experiences. To travel to Manchester, be given the freedom to purchase something they choose for the summer, with the gift of a treat, is a treat beyond measure. This project will provide children with an enriching field trip to the Northshire Bookstore. To be able to travel to Manchester, shop at the bookstore for a book, and then enjoy cookies and lemonade at Bonnet and Main will be a gift to our students. Our purpose is to support education beyond the classroom and to celebrate reading. These life experiences will be new for many of our students and, when we have a chance to explore our world, we are able to see ourselves more clearly and learn about the world around us.

Specific Use of Foundation Funds: Requested funding will cover transportation costs, book purchases, and snack expenses. **Collaborations:** Northshire Bookstore

Organization: Shires Kids

Project: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Pillar Served: Education-Early Literacy

Summary: Shire Kids is requesting funds to support the operation of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Bennington County and the town of Danby. 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.

Specific Use of Foundation Funds: Funds will be used to pay monthly invoice from the Dollywood Foundation for books.

Collaborations: The Stratton Foundation advanced this program to include children within its entire footprint, expanding the program to include children living in Jamaica, Londonderry/

South Londonderry, Newfane/ Newbrook, Stratton, Townshend, Wardsboro, Weston and Windham

Organization: Northshire Day School

Project: Tuition Assistance

Pillar Served: Education

Summary: This project will partially subsidize tuition for the 2021-2022 school year so that low-income families have access to high-quality childcare. It will cover the difference between what a family can afford and their tuition payment. Families in crisis will also be eligible for emergency tuition assistance to maintain continuity of care for young children and to help families when they are suffering from loss of income.

Specific Use of Foundation Funds: Funds will be applied toward tuition. Emergency tuition assistance will be awarded as needed and applied to weekly tuition bills.

Organization : Taconic & Green Supervisory Union

Project: Success Camp

Pillar Served: Education

Summary: The T&G Success program will make the school environment a more positive, welcoming and comfortable experience for the students and parents from low income households and/or at-risk circumstances. While this program has had to pivot and reimagine many of its aspects over the past two years, it has also been a wealth of learning the value in extending the summer camp program to both 7th and 8th graders.

Specific Use of Foundation Funds: Funds will be used to specifically support the camp for rising 8th graders - including staffing, supplies, food, and transportation.

Funding Partners: The William J. & Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation

Organization: Burr & Burton Academy

Project: Success Program

Pillar Served: Education

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". The Success Program overwhelmingly runs on people power, with two staff members currently dedicated to building relationships with 230 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.

Specific Use of Foundation Funds: Funds will support the general budget of the Success Program, two-thirds of which goes to fund the cost of our two existing full-time staff members.

Organization: Burr & Burton Academy

Project: Academic Interventionist

Pillar Served: Education

Summary

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. Existing staff at BBA have taken on academic intervention responsibilities in addition to their full-time roles, but it is clear that a more focused set of intervention responsibilities would allow for greater impact and use of available resources. Burr and Burton's Student Success Program seeks a two-year funding commitment to support 40+ hours per week of academic intervention targeting all grade levels, but with an emphasis on rising freshmen and sophomores.

Specific Use of Funds: Funds would go to paying for the costs of this full-time roll.

Funding Partners: The Charles S. & Millicent P. Brown Foundation

Organization: Flood Brook Union School

Project: 7th Grade Radical Reset Retreat

Pillar Served: Mental Health

Summary: Flood Brook Middle School is engaging students in a "Radical Reset." The teachers of the 7th and 8th grades are planning an outdoor educational experience where students will engage in facilitated conversations about the mission of our middle school, the development of community expectations, and the health and well-being of members of our learning community. During this immersive off-campus experience students will debrief the results from their student surveys about the launch of the 2021-2022 school year, they will work towards building and regaining a positive climate in the middle school after the challenges of COVID, and they will work to define what a successful school experience would look like.

Specific Use of Funds: Funds would help support the food and health resources necessary to ensure a safe student environment in this immersive experience.

Organization: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont

Project: Peer Mentoring

Pillar Served: Mental Health

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. 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.

Specific Use of Foundation Funds: Funds will support staffing and the general mechanics of the program.

Collaborations: Burr & Burton , Currier Memorial School, Manchester Elementary Middle School, Leland & Gray, Townshend Elementary

Organization: Long Trail School

Project: Lunch & Food For All

Pillar Served: Hunger

Summary: Due to the limitations of our facility and kitchen staff, the regulations and requirements of the federal free and reduced lunch program are prohibitive. Therefore, we have been funding students who qualify for free lunch with a combination of budgeted operations costs, private donations, and grants. The LTS Lunch Program will serve our lowest-income families by providing their children with a healthy and delicious lunch every school day.

Specific Use of Foundation Funds: Funds will provide lunch to 24 students for 180 days and recipients will be credited \$100 per year so they can charge a drink or snack at the school food store.

Organization: Arlington Federated Church

Project: Kids' Summer Lunches

Pillar Served: Hunger

Summary: The Arlington/Sandgate/Sunderland 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 approximately 70 children for 9 weeks over Summer 2022. This project tackles poverty by ensuring that our community's most at-risk children are fed throughout the summer.

Specific Use of Foundation FundsFunding will be used to purchase groceries that go in the bags each week.

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¹ For more information contact: [Tammy@Stratton Foundation.org](mailto:Tammy@StrattonFoundation.org).
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