

Many people drive or walk by Spectrum One Stop on Pearl St. in Burlington, see young people in our drop-in center, and think that *that* is Spectrum. Most are therefore shocked to learn that Spectrum has over 80 full-time staff members working in five locations, including the Northeast Kingdom, Bennington and Brattleboro, and that we're celebrating our 40th anniversary next year!

A few blocks away from the Spectrum One Stop and our drop-in center is our Elmwood Avenue building, which houses our administrative offices, the Youth Development Program, Violence Intervention and Prevention Programs, and most recently our Counseling Program (which was previously located at the Spectrum One Stop). Our Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counseling Program is comprised of three Masters-level, licensed clinicians: Andrea Meier (supervisor), Justin Tauscher and Caitlin Wagner. Our clinical director, Annie Ramniceanu, has hired the counseling team over her ten-year tenure at Spectrum, and they are an extremely skilled and talented group.

*My child was addicted to drugs, and we took him/her to many programs, and then we heard about Spectrum, and your counselors made the difference ...*

The Spectrum counselors' specialty is working with kids who suffer from substance abuse, as well as what is known as co-occurring disorders (substance abuse combined with a mental health diagnosis). Our Counseling Program helps hundreds of kids from across the county, many from middle-class and wealthy families, who are abusing substances and require professional counseling for help.

I cannot tell you how many times, just in the eight years I have lived in Vermont, I will mention that I work at Spectrum, and the response will be, "My child was addicted to drugs, and we took him/her to many programs, and then we heard about Spectrum, and your counselors made the difference when so many others could not." It's exciting to hear that from community members, and to know that we have people working at Spectrum who are literally saving lives and making a difference for kids and their families.

I love working here for many reasons, especially knowing that we are saving lives every day. When it comes to substance abuse and mental health concerns, lives can dramatically be changed. I know, because I've witnessed that through the efforts of our Counseling Program.



Mark Redmond, Executive Director

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