“It is a comfort to know that Spectrum still exists for the next kid like me that needs help. It is all we want... a chance. Just one person out there to believe in us.”
Dear Friend,

Every day I come to work, I see the changes you make possible. This year, you gave young people at Spectrum a voice, you helped them believe in themselves, and you showed them that there are people in their community who are rooting for them.

Our youth are not dealt the best of hands. Yet they are some of the most determined, courageous, resilient, and hopeful people I have ever met.

Whether they’re transitioning to adulthood after living in foster care, or pushing to get through school in a foreign language, or trying to overcome a childhood of trauma, they are determined to build a life for themselves in spite of the odds.

Because of you, our youth have the courage to believe in themselves. Because of you, our youth have the determination to take on their world every day. Because of you, our youth have the resilience to keep trying. Because of you, our youth have the hope they need to reach for their goals.

As one of our youth put it, “I have another chance. I’m just really grateful for the program because you guys don’t have to do it, and the fact that the community supports this organization is just amazing to me.”

It’s amazing to us, too.

Thank you for sharing your heart, generosity, and commitment with our youth at Spectrum.

Thanks for being a game changer!

With gratitude,

Mark Redmond
Executive Director
Basic Needs & Stable Homes

Thanks to your big heart, our Drop-In Center and Supportive Housing programs were open for teenagers and young adults who needed a hot meal, clean clothes, or a place to stay.

More than a Meal: 72% of youth who use the Drop-In Center come in for more than a meal, a shower, or laundry. They also come in for help with substance use, job applications or prepping for interviews, or finding emergency or long-term housing.

But most of all, they are looking for a friendly ear, particularly if they are in crisis, such as having suicidal thoughts or becoming newly homeless.

“Even when I thought I was alone, I wasn’t alone. Now I know that there are people out there that care, it just makes living each day even better and it makes me want to do the best that I can.”

SAM SIMON

243 SERVED
Drop-In Center

58 SERVED
Youth Warming Shelter
November–March

34 SERVED
The Landing
short-term housing

19 SERVED
Transitional Housing
long-term housing
Life & Survival Skills

With your help, teenagers and young adults learned how to find and keep a job, get into and pay for school, budget for an apartment, and build other critical life skills.

Bringing Their ‘A’ Game: We launched Detail Works, Spectrum’s car detailing business, when we realized that our youth needed more training in soft skills than an employer in the community can usually offer—reflected by the fact that only 41% of youth in our JOBS program who got jobs were able to keep them for at least 90 days.

By employing the youth ourselves, we can offer on-the-job intensive coaching and mentoring on such topics as attitude, attire, and accountability to help them thrive in their next job. Of the youth employed by Detail Works, 86% were still working after 90 days.

“You have to work really hard to get what you want. It’s not going to come straight to you. So yeah, some days I don’t want to come to work, but I do it anyway.”

144 SERVED Youth Development Program Youth in state custody
123 SERVED JOBS: Jump on Board for Success in partnership with the Howard Center
277 SERVED Multicultural Youth Program
21 SERVED Detail Works Spectrum’s car detailing business
Prevention & Intervention

Because you show up for our youth in spades, they are working through substance use and mental health challenges with our therapists, befriending positive adult role models in our mentoring program, and practicing self-care at the health clinic housed in our building.

Raising the Stakes: In the summer of 2019, the Vermont Department of Children and Families asked us to undertake a new program called Balanced and Restorative Justice in partnership with the Burlington Community Justice Center. Through this program, we offer alternatives to traditional sentencing for youth with certain criminal charges—a way to repair the harm their actions have caused and get the support they need to move forward.

“I’m so proud of going to counseling and talking about my problems. I’m getting help and I’m not as messy inside as I am outside.”

Burlington’s 2019 Pride Parade with Spectrum staff and youth and Governor Scott.
You are the “angels among us”

This story is written by an anonymous parent of a youth at Spectrum.

When you are the adoptive parent of a teen struggling with depression, mood swings, alcoholism, and an eating disorder, your world is turned upside down. Instead of family Yahtzee games on a Friday night, you end up driving around looking for your daughter who has run away from home yet again. There is no respite from the fear of losing your child to dangerous choices.

Night after night, month after month, for years, her dad and I tried every intervention, including residential stays for her. Whenever she could, she would run away and we would be left in paralyzing fear for weeks on end until she’d call from points unknown and we’d send her a bus ticket home.

Throughout this time, I always prayed that she’d meet caring souls along the way who would literally offer her shelter. These are the angels among us.

There was a kind female police officer in Syracuse who bought her a meal, a person in Texas who found her wallet and mailed it back to us, a mechanic in California who gave her a dog to keep her safe, a doctor in Louisiana who called me. And finally, when she came back to Burlington, she went to the Spectrum shelter for a short time. What a relief to know someone out there cared!

The staff was warm, concerned, and offered her just what she needed—a respite and a good dollop of respect. I was impressed then with the work that they did on behalf of at-risk teens and my admiration for their work has grown over the years.

With so much dysfunction in our toxic world, Spectrum is a voice for the disenfranchised of our teens (for whom there are far too few services).

Thank you Spectrum supporters, for being the angels among us!

Epilogue: Our daughter is now in a long-term committed relationship raising a beautiful son. She no longer runs from the world but instead has gone back to college and is getting straight A’s!”
You did it! Over the past year, over 3,000 people donated more than $2.1 million to change the game and help teens and young adults at Spectrum reach for their goals.

Laying Our Cards on the Table: Each year for the past decade, we have gotten word that another source of federal or state funding is ending. In 2019, a steep Medicaid cut threatened our housing programs. But YOU stepped in to bridge the gap. You made it possible for us to greet our youth with open arms and say, “We’re here for you. What do you need?” Thank you.

You stacked the odds for the success of our youth!

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Thank you.
Thank you to our Legacy Society

The Legacy Society is a group of loyal donors who have included Spectrum in their will or made Spectrum a beneficiary of a retirement or life insurance account. Members of the Legacy Society ensure that young people get the help they need—shelter, food, and support to build a life for themselves—long into the future.

For more information on the Legacy Society, contact Sarah Woodard at (802) 864-7423 ext.350 or swoodard@spectrumvt.org.

“‘We’re including Spectrum in our estate planning because we believe in the work being done and want to see young people cared for even when we are no longer here.’” BILL & MARION MOHRI

Monthly Donors

We’re so grateful to our passionate and committed monthly donors who are on a mission to make sure every teen and young adult has what they need to thrive.

Thank you for being “all in.”

If you’d like to become a monthly donor, go to donate.spectrumvt.org/monthly or call Bridget Everts at (802) 864-7423 ext.222 or beverts@spectrumvt.org.

“‘When Spectrum isn’t saving lives, it’s changing lives. That’s why we always give to Spectrum.’” CHRIS BOHJALIAN

PLAYING IT FORWARD

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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“‘When Spectrum isn’t saving lives, it’s changing lives. That’s why we always give to Spectrum.’” CHRIS BOHJALIAN
Thank you for dealing us in!

This year, we asked you to help us expand and renovate our Drop-In Center to better serve youth who need our help. And you said, “Yes!”

In addition to a bigger kitchen that is equipped to serve 20-35 youth at a time, we are creating two floors of meeting space out of one large, unused room: the Vault. Located behind Drop-In, the Vault was a fireproof room for storing fur coats years ago. (See next page for photos.)

Work has already begun on the renovation. By the end of summer, the space will be complete, and youth will be able to meet with case managers, counselors, and tutors all under one roof.

Most importantly, youth will have a brand-new space designed especially for them—thanks to you.

“If it wasn’t for walking into Drop-In and seeing Justin’s face greet me at the door, I most likely would have died. It is a comfort to know that Drop-In exists for the next kid like me that needs help.”
Didn’t get a chance to participate? We are still accepting gifts for the renovation. You can donate online at: donate.spectrumvt.org/dealusin

“Thank you very much. Y’all are literally saving lives. I would be dead if it weren’t for Spectrum. Thank you for keeping low-income youth alive.”

Clockwise from top left: Detail Works’ youth staff member detailing a car. Thato Rasebe, Assistant Director & Programs Manager at the Association of Africans Living in Vermont (AALV), serving soup at the Empty Bowl Dinner. The Multicultural Youth Program team.