

A year of being seen, thanks to you!

GRATITUDE REPORT 2020





Mark Redmond, Executive Director standing
outside the youth Drop-In Center in Burlington.

Dear Spectrum Family,

Your generosity this past year has been life-changing and, in some situations, **life-saving**.

In all honesty, 2020 was a heartbreaking year for so many young people in our community. When I asked our staff what challenges youth in our community faced, words like “scared,” “isolated,” “forgotten,” and “lonely” came up the most.

The truth is, the youth we serve often feel overlooked and left behind. And if you already feel socially distanced from your community, a pandemic only drives that point home.

As one staff person said:

“For most of the youth I’ve seen over the past year, Spectrum has been the only tether they have to a sense of community and family.”

Your support this past year kept our youth **tethered**. You helped our youth feel **safe and seen**.

After noticing how many people were sleeping outside and donating on the night of the Sleep Out, one teen wrote a note to **ALL OF YOU**: “Thank you for giving me the chance to pursue the vision I have for my life. Words could never express the **life-changing help** you deliver for me.”

Our youth are some of the most resilient and determined people I have ever met. And your unwavering commitment gives them the resources they need to overcome some of life’s most challenging obstacles. Even in a pandemic, even six feet apart.

Looking back on this last year, I know I will remember masks, hand sanitizer, the absence of hugs—and unspeakable loss. **But I will also remember how you showed up for our youth when it mattered most.**

I am grateful for you!



Mark Redmond, Executive Director

“I want to be what all of the caring people at Spectrum were for me – a rock to get me through some very tough situations.”

A YOUTH AT SPECTRUM



You showed up for our youth this year! This page, clockwise from left: You kept us stocked with food, love, and cleaning supplies. Bottom left: When the State began to house people who are homeless in hotels rather than shelters to keep infection rates down, our staff brought them 200 bags of food a day supplied by Feeding Chittenden. Right: Thanks to COTS' annual back-to-school drive, our youth started the school year with all the supplies they needed.





Basic Needs & Stable Homes

Thanks to your incredible generosity, the Burlington Drop-In Center was completely renovated in August 2020, and a new St. Albans Drop-In Center opened in March 2021 to serve more youth in our community.

At the Drop-In Centers, youth 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.

Shelter-in-place: You provided a safe space during the pandemic when teens and young adults didn't know where to go. Your gift helped to keep our doors open for youth who needed a hot meal, clean clothes, or a place to stay—all adapted to make our services as safe as possible during a pandemic.

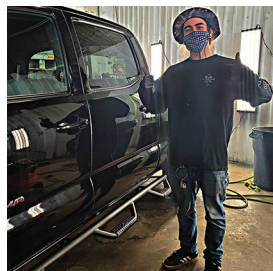
Your gift in action:

153 SERVED
Drop-In Center

38 SERVED
Youth Warming
Shelter
November–March

32 SERVED
The Landing
short-term housing

23 SERVED
Transitional
Housing
long-term housing



Thanks to you, young people are taking the lead in shaping their lives. Clockwise from top left: Josh polishes a car at Detail Works. Edgar celebrates a job well done. Lumiere, Shristy, and Nadine discuss what safety and belonging mean to them as part of the restorative justice project. At right: Multicultural Youth Program staff welcome new colleagues at a staff retreat.

“Thank you for all that you have done for me and the other youth at Spectrum. You are our inspiration and for that I am extremely grateful.”

A YOUTH AT SPECTRUM





MARELYN SECURA

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, develop critical life skills, and connect with their community.

Fighting for Equity: Because of you, a new restorative justice project was launched in Winooski schools to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in suspensions and students' involvement with the justice system. The project is facilitated by the Spectrum Multicultural Youth Program.

"We are excited to be working in Winooski to create an open and safe culture for restorative dialogue and practices, which focus on building and repairing relationships over punitive measures," said Remy Uwilingiyimana, who heads up the program. "It's a step in establishing an equitable community that reflects the diversity of Winooski."

Your gift in action:

139 SERVED
Youth Development Program
Youth in state custody

85 SERVED
JOBS:Jump on Board for Success
Howard Center partnership

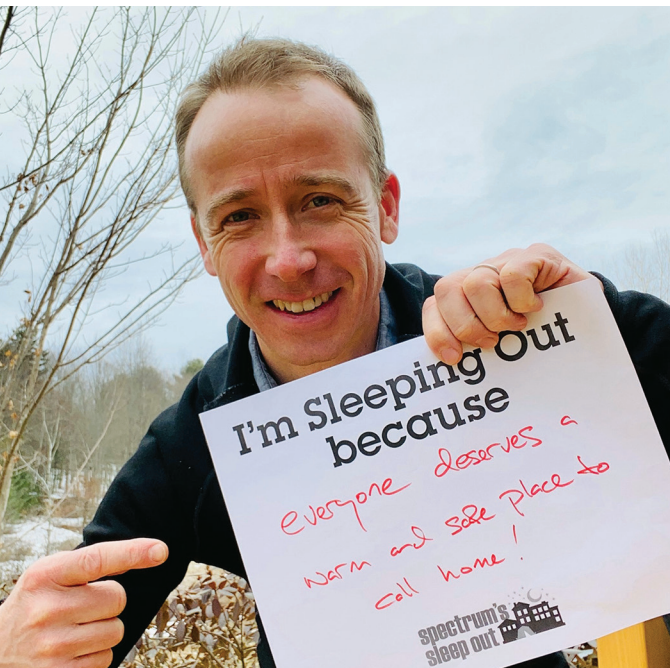
195 SERVED
Multicultural Youth Program

13 SERVED
Detail Works
Spectrum's car detailing business

“My favorite thing about Spectrum is that it gives me a chance to start a new life.” A YOUTH AT SPECTRUM



Thanks to you, youth had a friendly ear when they needed it most. Clockwise from top: The Browns River Middle School student Sleep Out team raised over \$20,000. Simeon Chapin from VSECU shows why he took part in the Spectrum Sleep Out. Riverstone Counseling staff express their gratitude to YOU for making their work possible. Mentoring pair Beal and Nichole stayed in touch through the pandemic with video chats. Mealtime is always popular with our youth.



Prevention & Intervention

Your gift made it possible for youth and young adults to get much needed support for their mental health. The coronavirus has had a devastating impact on youth's mental health with counselors seeing a dramatic increase in depression, anxiety, and suicidality.

Virtual Counseling: Thanks to you, teens and young adults have been able to meet with counselors via telehealth sessions, as well as some in-person sessions outdoors. Through this vital service, you are giving youth a place to be seen and heard.

Your gift in action:

67
SERVED
**Balanced &
Restorative
Justice Program**
*Burlington Community
Justice Center
Partnership*

274
SERVED
**Riverstone
Counseling**

118
SERVED
Mentoring

78
SERVED
Compass
*A crisis intervention
program*

JUSTYCE'S STORY

“You can’t give up because there’s people out there counting on you,” said Justyce.

However, there were moments in life when Justyce almost gave up.

“Growing up, I was physically, mentally, and emotionally abused in my household. My biggest bully was my stepfather, and my mom didn’t care about anything...ever. I was always the invisible child. I was always the one who got the most beatings from my stepdad. I was always blamed for everything.

Home was never a safe place.

“I tried everything to avoid going home... Anything that I could avoid getting hit again.”

“I was always bullied, and then being labeled a foster kid made things even worse. Which then made my self-harming worse, and my behavior

worse. Because no matter how hard I tried to communicate what was going on, no one ever listened to me.”

Justyce was moved a total of 25 times while in state custody, and attempted suicide multiple times. Justyce was living in a homeless shelter until about a year ago.

But you were there when Justyce needed it most.

Your compassionate support made sure Justyce was supported by a beautiful community of people. Slowly but surely, everything began to change.

Through a Spectrum program that helps foster kids aging out of the system, Justyce learned basic life-skills and found a safe place to work through the years of trauma. Justyce finally felt valued, seen, and heard, and has begun to heal from a childhood filled with abuse, bullying, and abandonment.

“No matter how much hardship comes in someone’s life, there’s always a way to make it better,”

said Justyce. And that’s exactly what your gift did. Now, Justyce is determined to show other youth that hardships can be overcome.

Thanks to you, Justyce is now thriving—studying hard on a bachelor’s degree in Psychology with a focus on Mental Health Counseling. Justyce’s goal is to achieve a master’s degree in Behavioral Health.

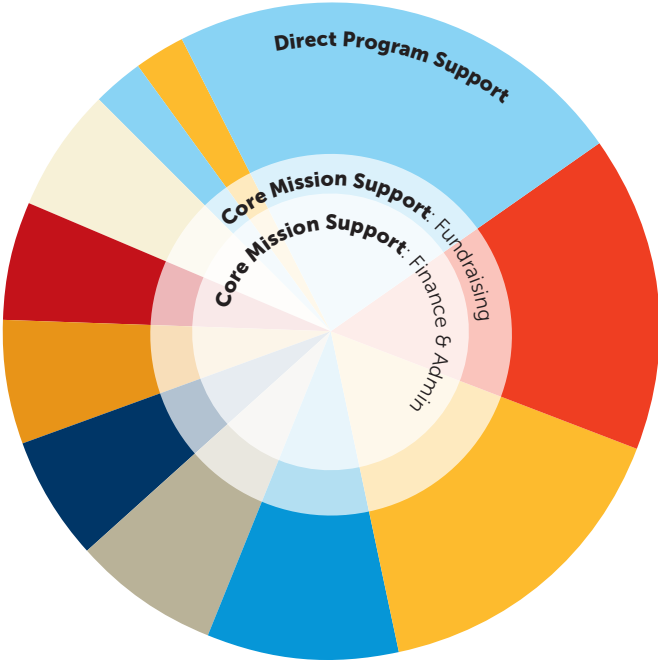
Without you, Justyce wouldn’t have found a voice or become an advocate for others who grew up in foster care. We are so in awe of Justyce’s resilience and courage, and for your help in making this incredible story possible.

Thanks to you, the new Drop-In Center in St. Albans will give youth like Justyce the support they need to reach their goals.

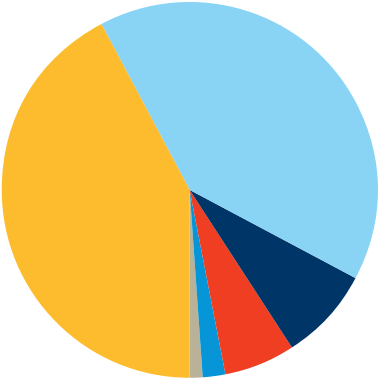


FINANCIALS

This wouldn't have been possible without YOU!



REVENUE	\$7,405,549
Private Donations	42%
Federal & State Funding	40%
Paycheck Protection Program	8%
Program Fees	6%
Investment Income	2%
United Way	1%



EXPENSES	\$6,993,406
Core Mission Support	
Finance & Admin	9%
Fundraising	7%
Direct Program Support	84%
Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)*	19%
Burlington Drop-in Center Renovation**	13%
Residential Programs	13%
Counseling	8%
Youth Development Program	6%
Compass	5%
Detail Works	5%
Burlington Drop-in Center	5%
Multicultural Youth Program	5%
JOBS	2%
Mentoring	2%

*SBIRT is a pass-through program for which Spectrum is the fiscal agent.
** Capital campaign costs will be expensed over the next 25 years per standard accounting practice.



You are amazing! Over the past year, over 4,600 people donated more than \$3.1 million to help teens and young adults at Spectrum during one of the most difficult crises we've ever had to face.

You gave generously to help Spectrum stay open and meet the immediate needs of young adults in our community. You also renovated the Burlington Drop-In Center, which is thankfully much better suited to staying open during a pandemic.

Because of your overwhelming support and the help of the Paycheck Protection Program, we ended the fiscal year on September 30th with \$412,143 more in revenue than expenses which will be invested back into our programs.

Thank you for making this possible!



**A safe place to rest,
thanks to you!**

The Burlington Drop-In Center was completely renovated to provide more space for youth to eat a hot meal, meet with a counselor or case manager, find a quiet place to sit, take a shower, and get help when they need it most.

“Spectrum is a safe space to rest my head and I really feel welcome here. And all the staff are super supportive and helpful.” A YOUTH AT SPECTRUM

BURLINGTON DROP-IN CENTER RENOVATION

Thanks to you, teens and young adults now have a brand new space designed especially for them.

The newly expanded and renovated Burlington Drop-In Center is better able to serve youth who need help.

In addition to a bigger kitchen that is equipped to serve 20-35 youth at a time, there are two floors of meeting space. Having the extra space was so critical when the coronavirus hit. The center now has enough space for youth to meet with case managers, counselors, and tutors all under one roof.



You provided a safe place to go!

ST. ALBANS DROP-IN CENTER GRAND OPENING

The new St. Albans Drop-In Center just opened at its Lake Street location, providing new access to services and support for young adults in Franklin County.

Your generous support made it possible to hire a new program director and new staff. Thanks to you, young people in Franklin County will have a beautiful, safe place to turn to for food, counseling, and other life-changing care. Because of the pandemic, the needs have been greater than ever, and your support provided an additional location to help even more youth.

**“No matter how much hardship
comes in someone’s life,
there’s always a way to make it better.”**

JUSTYCE, A YOUTH AT SPECTRUM



SPECTRUM

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A UNITED WAY AGENCY