

Thank you for being a true believer

2016 GRATITUDE REPORT



SPECTRUM
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

31 Elmwood Avenue, Burlington, Vermont 05401 (802) 864-7423

www.spectrumvt.org

A UNITED WAY AGENCY



SPECTRUM
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES



At the Shelburne Student Sleep Out



Drop-in staff serving dinner

Thank you for being a true believer.

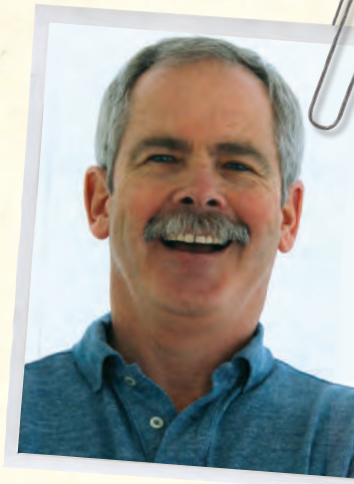
A few weeks ago, a young man who lives with us surprised me by saying, "Out of all of my supporters, my mom was my biggest one."

This is a youth who was removed from his home by the State because of his mother's drug abuse. A youth who struggles with having been abandoned, even though his mother is now sober.

So why wasn't his mother's belief in him enough?

The truth is, kids who are doing well have many believers. Their family, their friends, their coaches, and teachers. But kids facing a lot of hurdles often don't have this team of believers to push them through.

Maybe they come from extreme poverty. Maybe they are new to this country and need extra help navigating a new culture and its systems. Perhaps they have suffered a terrible loss, or been taken from their home. Or, maybe they themselves took a wrong turn and now need help finding their way.



For some of our youth, it's the "I've-got-your-back-no-matter-what" that's missing. The "I-will-never-leave-you." Or, the "I-see-you-and-accept-you-as-you-are."

One thing is for sure: it takes a village of believers. A teacher who says, "You can do this." A coach who says, "I see you." A case manager who says, "Let's help you carve out a life for yourself." A parent who says, "I love you the way you are."

And you, the donor, who says, "I want to make sure you have what you need. That you are taken care of."

It takes a village. **Thank you for being a part of our village of believers. Our youth need you.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Redmond".

Mark Redmond, Executive Director



Our 2016 Drop-In Staff

“Something I’m most proud of is staying 12 weeks sober to the day... I am proud of myself and that’s not something I say very often. Thank you for always staying by my side and not giving up on me.” M.M.

BASIC NEEDS & A STABLE HOME

Thanks to you, our Drop-In Center and Supportive Housing programs were open for teenagers and young adults who needed a hot meal, a shower, a place to sleep, or a friendly ear.

DROP-IN CENTER
579 served

THE LANDING (our shelter)
42 served

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
30 served

After a murder in a local camp used by people who are homeless, our youth told us that they had trouble finding a safe place to go on the weekends, particularly for those who want to remain sober. We asked for help from you to open our Drop-In Center on the weekends. And you came to the rescue. Today we serve lunch and dinner on all seven days, along with a self-serve breakfast.

Two young adults at our Multicultural Youth Leadership Conference



“In 3 years, I’ve learned enough English to navigate Vermont independently, get 5 diplomas and certificates of completion (including my high school diploma) and a paid electric apprenticeship. The Multicultural Youth Program helped me with a lot of this and believed in me the whole time.” E.T.

2016 saw the first full year of our Multicultural Youth Program, which we launched to better meet the needs of youth of color, refugees, and first-generation Americans who were in need of support but were not using Spectrum’s programs. This program has quickly become a go-to resource for multicultural youth who want help with a range of issues – finding a job, studying for the TOEFL or citizenship tests, getting into college, or deciding on a career path.

LIFE & SURVIVAL SKILLS

With your help, teenagers and young adults got coaching on how to find and keep a job, get in and pay for school, budget for and prepare food, and other critical life skills.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
145 served

JUMP ON BOARD FOR SUCCESS
128 served

MULTICULTURAL YOUTH PROGRAM
145 served

“Thank you for coming with me to my road test and thanks for helping me practice. You believed in me and I did it with your unconditional support.” J.A.

PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

Because of you, teenagers and young adults are working through substance use and mental health issues with our therapists, befriending positive adult role models in our mentoring program, and getting their health needs met.

COUNSELING

365 served

MENTORING

95 served

PEARL STREET YOUTH CLINIC

Operated by Community Health Centers of Burlington
878 served

We ask our mentors to commit to one year and four hours a month with each mentee, but we've found that 90% of mentor pairs are still together after a year and 83% pass the two-year mark. One mentee, when asked why he'd been able to stay sober among friends who were using, and to save a lot of his money from working, cited his mentor as helping him keep his eyes on his goals for the future.



ALEXANDRE SILBERMAN



Johara and Lee Ann, mentor pair for six years

Charles' Story

f When I was six, I would wake up alone in the dead of night. My mom would tell my aunt that she would take care of her baby and sneak out. I would wake up alone to a baby crying, and I would have to take care of her and me. A lot of people call me mature, but I grew up quicker than a lot of people. **It's not that I'm mature. It's that I didn't have a childhood.**

My mom, she had her issues, but she always made sure that I ate at night, I had a roof over my head. So no matter what she was going through, she always put me first. She just couldn't take care of me. When I was younger she dealt with drug addiction and alcoholism. And so when the State took me out of her custody, she stayed down that road for a little while and then she smartened up, got off drugs, and got visitation rights with me.

I never went through foster care thankfully. They told my mom, call someone who can take care of me, or they will put me through foster care. So she called a family friend (I call her my aunt) and said, "Hey, can you take him?" It took a long time to get over that. I was nine. I knew I was going to stay with my aunt for a little bit, I didn't realize I was going to be living there for the rest of my teenage life.

When I turned 18, I decided to go and visit my mom for the day and I didn't tell my aunt where I was going. When I got home, my aunt told me to pack my things up. I did and I was out that night.

I stayed with my friend for a month, crashed on his couch, and then I moved into Spectrum with the help of a teacher at my school.

I spent my first weekend cooped up in my room. I didn't want to deal with people. I was still trying to wrap my head around the whole thing. And then I was cooking downstairs because I didn't think anyone was home and one of the residents came

"It's nice to know that complete total strangers have the utmost faith in us, more than some of our own family has ever had. That there are people out there who believe in you and believe you can do better with your life."



Charles working at our new car detailing business

BRENDAN RUBION, PARENT CO

in and introduced himself and ended up showing me a different way of making chicken tacos. And we sat down and ate a bunch of chicken tacos and watched a show. I kind of came out of my shell after that. And now I've been here for about 2 years.

After my aunt kicked me out, I was in such a deep dark place. Without Spectrum, I honestly think I would have taken my own life a long time ago.

I was working at Price Chopper and I had a lady come through and we got on the subject of Spectrum, and she said, "Me and my husband are donors."

That made me realize these people are amazing people. **They don't have to donate to us. They could be like, "Oh you kids chose this life, you're on your own," like everybody else does.**

It's nice to know that complete total strangers have the utmost faith in us, more than some of our own family has ever had. That there are people out there who believe in you and believe you can do better with your life. Some of us have made stupid decisions. Some of us dropped out of school, some of us had problems with authority or drugs and alcohol.

They're willing to look past all our life choices and realize that we want a better future but we can't do it without their help. **”**



THANK YOU!

SPECTRUM
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

FINANCIALS

We asked for help...

In 2004, we received 1% of our funding from individual donors and private foundations. By the close of 2016, that number was 48%. As federal and state funding sources continue to dry up, people like YOU are stepping in to make sure our doors stay open for the next youth who needs help. Thank you!

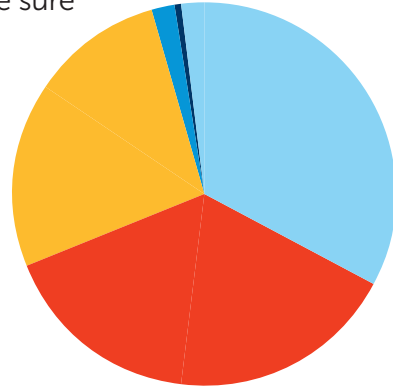
Core Mission Support

Finance & Admin..... 16%
Fundraising..... 11%

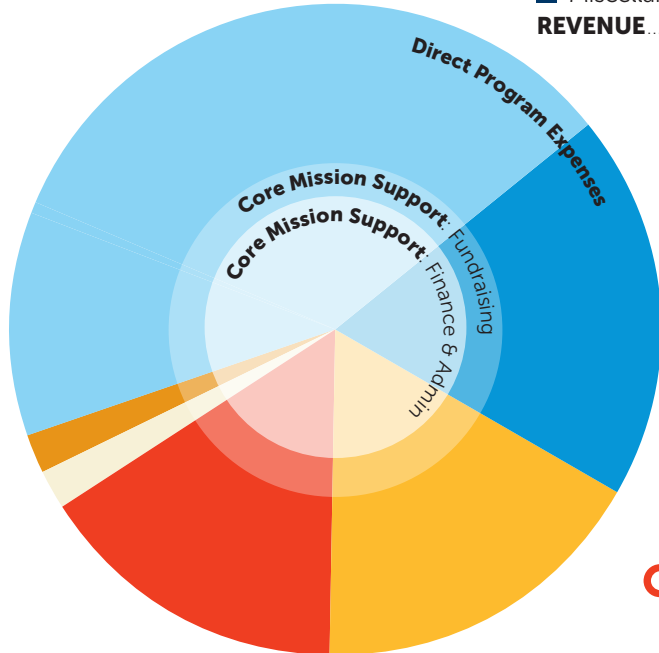
Direct Program Expenses.....73%

Residential Programs..... 36.5%
Skills Programs..... 21%
Counseling.....20%
Drop-In Center..... 14%
Multicultural Youth Program..5.5%
Mentoring..... 3%

EXPENSES.....\$3,195,889



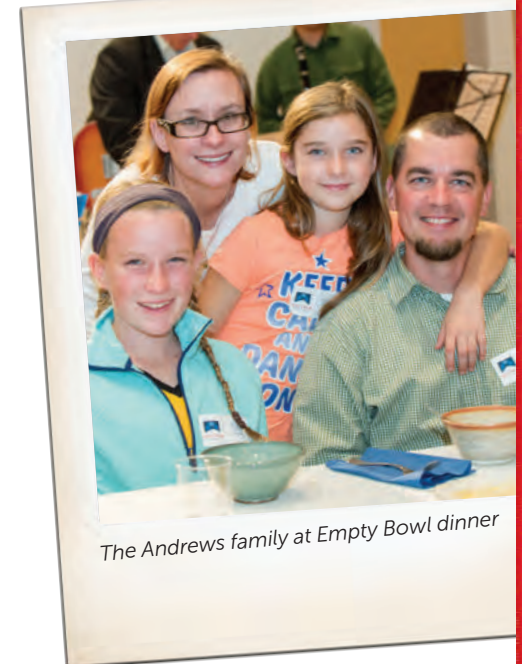
REVENUE.....\$3,171,402



...you answered our call.



City Hall park in spring



The Andrews family at Empty Bowl dinner