

Spectrum Sun

Your gifts at work for teenagers & young adults

THANK YOU

This issue of the *Spectrum Sun* features stories of youth who are thriving today because of your generous support!

Isaac was sleeping in his car while trying to finish high school. But your support gave him a safe place to sleep and the stability he needed to graduate.

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SPECTRUM
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

You Helped Isaac Overcome Homelessness to Graduate

Thanks to you, he's building a future.

When Isaac moved to Vermont from the Democratic Republic of Congo, he spoke “zero English.” He worked for nearly a year before making a decision that would change his life: he wanted to go back to school to get his high school diploma.

“School gives me more opportunity to do more things,” Isaac said.

But choosing high school over

working full time meant Isaac could no longer live at home.

For six months, he slept inside a local church. When that was no longer an option, he slept in his car.

“It hurt me. Very hurt me.”

Still, Isaac made sure he got to his classes. But eventually, he began to wonder if he could keep going.

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THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING SAFETY, W



MARK'S MISSION MOMENT

A Community That Shows Up

You don't always know how far one connection will reach. That's one thing I've learned over my years at Spectrum.

In May, I attended a memorial service for Bob Hallowell, the first board member I recruited to Spectrum in 2003. Bob served on our board for nine years and mentored a teenage boy through our mentoring program.

When Bob passed away, his daughter asked if I could find his former mentee, David, after all these years. I did and he wrote back:

"Bob was a great man. He really played a big part of my life growing up. He shaped me into the man I am today."

That's what Spectrum is all about: a community of people showing up for each other long after someone first reaches out for help.

Bob was part of that community. So was David. **And so are you.**

Thank you for showing up for our young people, year after year.

With gratitude,

Mark

Mark Redmond
Executive Director



Bob with his mentee, David (2008)

You Gave Teens More to Look Forward to This Summer

Your support gave local teens an opportunity they otherwise may not have had.

This summer, teens in Spectrum's Multicultural Youth Program spent five weeks learning how to fix bikes through an apprenticeship with Old Spokes Home.

They learned bike maintenance and repair, gained hands-on job experience, and earned a \$90 weekly stipend. Transportation and lunch were also provided.

And at the end of the five weeks, each young person took home the bike they had worked on.

The apprenticeship was just one part of MYP's summer activities.

"Many young people see their classmates taking part in summer activities that can be out of reach for the youth we work with," MYP Coordinator Daris said. "We try to break down those barriers so they can have some of those same experiences."



An MYP youth with the bike he repaired during this summer's apprenticeship.

One youth in the program put it simply:

"If I hadn't signed up, I wouldn't have had anything to do this summer."

Because of you, they did. Thanks for helping MYP youth experience a real Vermont summer! 🌻

Special thanks to Old Spokes Home for partnering with Spectrum and to the Richard Tom Foundation for helping make the program possible.

WARMTH, AND CARE TO YOUTH IN NEED

A Lasting Connection, Thanks to You

Your support connected Kamea to a mentor and a friendship that's grown ever since.

Five years ago, Kamea was 14 years old, shy, and looking for a reason to get out of the house.

After school, she would usually head straight home. So when she learned she could get a mentor through Spectrum, she was excited.

"I needed to do something with my life and get out and do something in the world."

Because of your support, she met Julia.

Kamea was nervous about meeting someone new, but the two quickly connected.

Five years later, they're still getting together.

They get ice cream, go to movies, kayak, take cooking classes, and have an annual tradition of going to Olive Garden for Kamea's birthday.

Kamea says having Julia in her life helped her get out into the community and become more comfortable building connections.

For Julia, mentoring has never been about having all the answers. "You're really just spending time together," she said.

Thanks to you, a shy 14-year-old looking for connection found someone who kept showing up and a friendship that's still going strong. 🌟

Want to make a lasting connection with a young person? Become a mentor at spectrumvt.org/mentoring.



You Helped Isaac Reach His Goal

Continued from pg. 1

Thanks to you, Isaac found a safe place to sleep at Spectrum's Nightly Shelter and people who encouraged him not to give up on school.

Through Spectrum's JOBS Program, he also received help with work, housing, and other basic needs.

With people like you in his corner, Isaac graduated high school.

"The day I graduated high school, I felt like I had everything," Isaac said. "I'm proud of myself."

Today, Isaac works at a local glass company, lives in his own apartment, and is taking college classes.

After everything Isaac's been through, he finds ways to help young people in Congo.

"The way I see Spectrum help me, I feel I can help other kids too," Isaac said.

Because of you, homelessness didn't keep Isaac from getting a high school diploma.

Thank you for giving young people the safety and stability they need when they need it most. 🌟

Learn how you can provide
safety, warmth, & care 3

Your gift of \$11.49 provides a day of safety, warmth, and care for a young person in need.



Provide a Local Teen Safety, Warmth, and Care Today

A young person experiencing homelessness needs your help today.

As the weather gets colder, having a safe and warm place to go becomes even more important.

For just \$11.49, you can provide one full day of safety, warmth, and care for a local teen or young adult in need.

clean clothes, a safe place to rest, and support from caring staff.

Your generosity can be the first step for a young person to find stability and get back on their feet.

Thanks to you, they'll have the safety, warmth, and care they need when they need it most.

And it all starts with your gift today.

Your gift provides warm meals,

Did You Know?

If you have a retirement account with a required minimum distribution, you can lower your taxes **AND make a difference for young people in our community** by donating all or part to Spectrum through a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

To learn more, contact Sarah at swoodard@spectrumvt.org (802) 864-7423 x350



SPECTRUM
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

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(802) 864-7423
SpectrumVT.org

To protect the privacy of the youth you have helped, photos, names, and other identifying details may have been changed.

PROVIDE SAFETY, WARMTH, AND CARE TODAY!

☒ **YES! Mark, I want to provide a young person with safety, warmth, and care.**

Here is my gift of:

- ☐ \$34.47 to provide 3 days of safety, warmth, & care
- ☐ **\$80.43 to provide 1 week of safety, warmth, & care**
- ☐ \$160.86 to provide 2 weeks of safety, warmth, & care
- ☐ \$344.70 to provide 1 month of safety, warmth, & care
- ☐ \$_____ to provide as much help as possible

Gift Details

- ☐ Enclosed is my check payable to Spectrum
- ☐ Please charge my credit card:

- ☐ One-time Gift
- ☐ Monthly Gift



Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____