

# MILTON FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER

*Strengthening Families Since 1985*



MILTON FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER

July 1, 2007 ~ June 30, 2008

# ANNUAL REPORT

[www.miltonfamilycenter.org](http://www.miltonfamilycenter.org)

# OUR VISION

The Milton Family Community Center strives to be the champion for all families. We believe that all families need respect and support to thrive and succeed. We are committed to delivering innovative, quality programs & increasing access to information and resources.

The Milton Family Community Center's mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to build family self-esteem and self-sufficiency.

# OUR MISSION

# OUR GOALS

To Strengthen Families  
To Create Easier Access to Services  
To Promote a Sense of Community Belonging  
To Promote Positive Parent and Child Interaction

## *A Message to the Community*



### **Dear Friends of the Center**

This has been a very special year at Milton Family Community Center. It has been a year of growth and a year of expanding our territory. Our vision remains unchanged. We renew our commitment to be "the champion for all families." Our goal and our purpose is to strengthen families and help them assume a positive, productive role in our community. Our Child Care Program has received the highest possible rating from both the state of Vermont and the NAEYC. We thank Jen Golding and her staff for their "going beyond" to make us one of the premier Child Care Facilities in the country. We welcomed "Families Together" to our repertoire of programs this year. This county wide program provides supervised visits for families where there has been domestic violence or other extenuating circumstances. Through the good work of Brett Chornyak, our Executive Director and the effort of our Board of Directors we have taken major steps toward expanding our facility and improving our information systems. We take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our many valued partners whose grant funds have made our programs a success this year. Thank you first of all, to our staff for doing such an outstanding job this year. Without you there would be no Center. Thank you to the MFCC Board, volunteers and donors. Together we are making a difference in the lives of children and families.

Sincerely,  
Robert L. Emery  
President, Board of Directors



### **A Letter from the Executive Director**

This Annual Report marks my first full year here at the Milton Family Community Center (MFCC) and it has been a year of learning for me about the programs, the staff, meeting partners and other agency staff that we work with in providing services. It quickly became very evident that MFCC truly is the hub of the community, providing services to all community members, striving

to meet the needs of families and individuals. The staff of MFCC are always looking for ways to provide services that match our mission statement and programming to reach our goals. The staff of MFCC quickly respond to the needs of community members that have experienced a personal tragedy or are in need of services in a very timely manner. The knowledge of resources, the care and professional services provided and the timeliness of services by the staff of the center all contribute to the excellence of programming offered at the Center. I hope you enjoy reading our Annual Report. If you have any questions, would like to learn more about the services offered through the Center or would like a tour, and meet some of the staff please contact us to set up a meeting.

Sincerely,  
Brett Chornyak  
Executive Director

A Member of  
**United Way of  
Chittenden County**



# Together - we can make a difference

## MILTON FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER

### Staff Members



2008

**Back Row (left to right):** Dawn Nelson, Janet Richards, Brett Chornyak, Debra Sadlier, Anjali Root, Holly Ford, Jennifer Golding, Erin Marcelino, Ron Pinard

**Front Row (left to right):** Laura Olsen, Brenda Tourangeau, Laurie Darling, Katharina Badger, Martha Nolin, Lindsay Hill, Vikki Patterson, Charlotte Parot, Noreen Nichols  
Joining us - Sam, Kennedy, Bailey, C.J., Sam and Hayden

Badger, Katharina	Infant Toddler Teacher
Bedard, Janet	CVS Office Staff
Bevet, Stan	VT Adult Learning Teacher
Bordeaux, Jessie	Substitute (cook/front office)
Brown, Tammy	Food Service Cook
Chornyak, Brett	Executive Director
Darling, Laurie	Administrative Assistant / PR
Dellinger, Kimberly	MCYC Executive Director
Dupont, Marie	Custodian
Dusablon, Carla	MASK Staff
Dusablon, Karly	MASK Teacher
Emery, Molly	MASK Staff
Ford, Holly	Full Day Preschool Teacher
Gervais, Erika	TYKES Coordinator
Golding, Jennifer	Early Childhood Teaching Director
Gary, Beth	Food Service Chef, Bus Driver
Hess, Jeff	Teen Activities Coordinator
Hill, Lindsay	Infant Toddler Teacher
Hill, Sondra	Vermont Associates Worker
Howard, Erica	Head Start Teacher
Hughes, Kelly	ECP Substitute
Marcelino, Erin	Full Day Preschool Coordinator
Marshall, Donny	CVS Office Staff
Melton, Terry	MCYC Activities Coordinator
Montgomery, Jane	Infant Toddler Teacher
Nelson, Dawn	Front Office/Playgroup
Nichols, Noreen	Reach Up Case Manager
Nolin, Martha	Infant Toddler Teacher
Olsen, Laura	Reach Up Case Manager
Parot, Charlotte	Family Services Coordinator
Patterson, Vikki	Reach Up Case Manager
Pinard, Ron	Bus Driver
Remmey, Jessica	Welcome Baby Coordinator
Richards, Janet	Finance Manager
Root, Anjali	Individual Aide
Rosenberger, Jackie	MASK Teacher
Sadlier, Debra	Full Day Preschool Teacher
St. John, Jamie	TYKES Teacher
Tourangeau, Brenda	MASK Coordinator
Tourangeau, Jen	MASK Teacher
Townsend, Brian	Families Together Coordinator
Vibbert, Bill	Reach Up Van Driver

## MILTON FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER 2007-2008 Board of Directors

**President:** Bob Emery  
**Vice President:** Lynn Delaney  
**Treasurer:** Jeanne O'Bryan  
**Secretary:** Tammy Sweet

Michael Lane • Fran Tougas  
Cathy Printon • Jim Barrett  
Wes McClellan • Brian Wooten  
Kevin Endres • Christina Pingert  
Robin Woods-Brisson



### - Board of Directors 2008 Photo -

**Back Row (left to right):** Lynn Delaney, Jeanne O'Bryan, Bob Emery, Cathy Printon, Fran Tougas, Mike Lane  
**Front Row (left to right):** Christina Pingert, Tammy Sweet, Brian Wooten.

# Friends and Volunteers of MFCC

## 2007-2008 Support - We Thank You All.

4-H ULTIMATE  
A. MARCELINO  
A-1 PRINTING  
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH grades 3-5  
AFLAC / DAN PATTERSON  
ALL CYCLE  
ALL-WAYS HAIR  
ALWINE, CHERYL  
ARROWHEAD EAGLES 4218 F.O.E.  
ARROWHEAD SENIOR CENTER  
AVALON POOLS AND SPAS  
BARR, DIANE  
BARRETT, JAMES & DENISE  
BARSALOW INSURANCE AGENCY  
BEAN, FRANBERGER, BETHANY  
BOB'S CENTRAL HEATING & PLUMBING, INC  
BORDEAUX, SIS  
BRAULT, PHILIP & ELIZABETH  
BROMLEY, LISA & RONALD  
BROOKS PHARMACY (RITE-AID)  
BROWNIE TROOP #685  
BURLINGTON DRUG  
CABAN, GEORGE & KATHY  
CABRAL, STEPHEN  
CARTER & PINGERT PC  
CENTURY 21 JACK ASSOC.  
CHINA PEARL  
CHITTENDEN BANK  
COCA COLA BOTTLING CO. of N.E.  
COOK, AMY  
COOK, JEFF & GAVIN  
CORNERSTONE CHURCH  
COSTCO  
COURTYARD MARRIOTT, BURLINGTON  
COUTURE, ED  
CPYou!  
CREATIVE HABITAT at BEN FRANKLIN  
CURVES  
CYR LUMBER  
DARLING, LAURIE  
DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA  
DELANEY, STEPHEN & LYNN  
DOCKMAN, GLENN & LISA  
DOROTHY'S TAX & ACCOUNTING BUSINESS, LLC  
DOUGLAS, GOVERNOR JIM  
DOUSE, HAROLD & KOOKIE  
DROLETTE, APRIL  
DUCHESNEAU, SISTER IRENE  
DUKE'S CREEMEES  
DUPONT, DICK & MARIE  
DWIGHT'S AUTO REPAIR  
EAGLES CLUB  
ELM HILL FARMS  
EMERY, BOB & ANN  
ENDRES, KEVIN & FAMILY  
EQUINOX RESORT & SPA  
EVANS, MERIDITH  
EXCEL PHYSICAL THERAPY  
FEDERAL EXPRESS (WILLISTON)  
FEELEY, GAY  
FOUR SEASONS REAL ESTATE, INC.  
FRENCHY'S MEATS  
FROG'S LEAP FARM  
GADUE, DON "PAPA"  
GENFOOT AMERICA, INC.  
HALNON, SHARON  
HANNAFORD SUPERMARKET-MILTON  
HATCH, AL & SUE  
HAYDEN, DAVID & SARA  
HAYES, NANCY  
HOYT, JOHN & MARGARET  
HUSKY INJECTION MOLDING SYSTEMS  
IBM  
JC IMAGE  
JERICHO FOODSHELF/ELAINE BEGIN  
JOSEPH J. MAROTTI CO., INC.  
KELLEY, DAVID  
KENNETH R. ADAMS, INC.  
KEYBANK  
KINNEY DRUGS  
LAKE CHAMPLAIN MONSTERS / CHAMP  
LAKE VIEW HOUSE RESTAURANT  
LANE, JULIE  
LANE, MICHAEL & KELLY  
LANG, CELESTE  
LAVALLEE FAMILY  
LEHNEMAN, DIANE & JAMES  
LINCO ENTERTAINMENT  
LITTLE, DAVID & CYNTHIA  
LONE WOLF ATHLETICS  
M.P. HALNON GARAGE DOOR CO.  
MALCOLM SMITH CLU  
MARKS, ERICA  
McARDLE, LOUISE -TRUST  
McINTYRE, SALLY  
MCKENZIE MEATS  
MCRAE'S AUTO SERVICE & TOWING  
MGV ASSOCIATES, INC.  
MHS HONOR SOCIETY  
MHS STUDENT COUNCIL  
MILLER, BARBARA & JAMES  
MILO, MIKE  
MILTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
MILTON CHIROPRACTIC CENTER  
MILTON DENTAL ASSOCIATES  
MILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOOD DRIVES  
MILTON FAMILY PRACTICE  
MILTON FIRE & RESCUE  
MILTON GRANGE  
MILTON INDEPENDENT  
MILTON JR. HIGH / HIGH FOOD DRIVES  
MILTON McDONALDS RESTAURANT  
MILTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MILTON POST OFFICE  
MILTON PTA/ MARY KNIGHT  
MILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY/MILLIE'S BUS  
MILTON SALES & RENTAL CENTER  
MILTON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MILTON TOWN CLERK OFFICE  
MILTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL  
MILTON/COLCHESTER ROTARY  
MORGAN, RONALD  
MORTON, MARIE  
MOSSON, MAJOR FRANCIS  
MT. TRANSIT  
MUNGER, MAY  
MYERS, RAYMOND & NANCY  
NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
NOLIN TRUCKING  
NORRIS, KATHERINE  
O'BRYAN, JEANNE & MARK  
O'NEILL, HERBERT & MARY ELLEN  
O'REILLY, VALERIE  
OMEGA AUTO SALES  
ORDER of the EASTERN STAR  
PACK #43 BEAR DEN 1  
PACK #43 WOLF DEN  
PACK # 431  
PACK # 631  
PARENT, JAMIE  
PAROT, ARNIE  
PEPSI BOTTLING CO.  
PERSITZ, CHERYL  
POMERLEAU REAL ESTATE  
PRIEVE, JESSICA  
PRINTON, CATHY & FAMILY  
PUISTO, DENISE  
PUSKAR, SIMONE  
R.C. UERZ & ASSOCIATES, LLC  
REACH THE MARK TRAINING  
REDMAN, KATHY  
REMMEY, JESSICA & FAMILY  
RHINO FOODS  
RUTZ, JULIE  
RYEA, LELAND & ROSE MARIE  
SACRED SPACE  
SALMINEN, KARLO & CAROLYN  
SANKUS, DEB  
SANTA CLAUS and his ELVES  
SECRET GARDEN  
SEPHORA  
SHAW'S / COLCHESTER  
SHEAR CLASSIC HAIR  
SMITH, CHRISTINA  
ST. ANN CHURCH  
STERLING WOMENS' CLUB & FRIENDS  
STITCHING GALS  
SWEET, TAMMY  
THE CROWNING TOUCH  
THE UPS STORE  
TOUGAS, FRAN  
TOUGAS, JAKE  
TOURANGEAU, DONALD  
TRANSPARENT OFFICE CENTER/UNICEL  
TRUE, MITCH  
TURNER, DON JR.  
TURNER, ED  
TWIN STATE BUILDING SUPPLY  
UNITED CHURCH OF MILTON  
VERMONT NURSES ASSOCIATION (VNA)  
WALFORD, W. JAS & DEBORAH  
WATSON GLASS  
WCAX-TV  
WESTFORD FOOD SHELF/LAUREN CURRY  
WETTER, REBECCA  
WINDY HOLLOW STUDIO  
WOKO 98.9 FM  
WOMEN with PURPOSE GROUP (MFCC)  
WOOD, BETH  
WOOTEN, BRIAN & FAMILY  
WRIGHT, ALICE LEE  
ZACHARYS PIZZA

# NEW SUPERVISORY VISITATION PROGRAM



## FAMILIES TOGETHER

SUPERVISED VISITATION & SAFE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

## FAMILIES TOGETHER

### The Families Together Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program

is a new addition to the many programs offered at the center and is the only program of its kind offered in Chittenden County. The mission of the Families Together program is to provide a neutral, safe and secure environment for non-residential parents to maintain and/or re-establish a connection with their children. The program started providing services to parents and children in January 2008. In the first three months of operation we quickly reached capacity. The program has established a strong collaborative nature with the Chittenden County Family Court, Women Helping Battered Women, Kids Safe Collaboration to work together in meeting the great need for these types of services to be offered in Chittenden County. For more information about this program please contact Brett Chornyak.

*“The family is one of nature's masterpieces.”*

- George Santayana  
Philosopher, poet, cultural critic

# Moving On.....



## The Early Childhood Program

would like to take a moment to recognize the hard work and countless contributions over the past few years from two individuals, Jessica Remmey, former TYKES and Welcome Baby Coordinator, and Tammy Brown, former Child Care Program Cook, who left our employment this year.

*We wish you both the best!*

# PROGRAM REVIEWS *July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008*

The Milton Family Community Center (MFCC) provides services and programs to meet the needs of the community.

With the increase in food costs, gas, heating oil it puts a tremendous challenge on many families to pay the rent, food expenses, medical and utility bills. As Milton continues to grow this puts more demand on services provided by the Center. MFCC has provided services to over 1,000 individuals living in Milton and surrounding communities. The services provided at MFCC are funded by either the federal government, state of Vermont, the generous support of private foundations and/or fundraising from individuals who share the same values as MFCC. Along with the staff providing services, MFCC enjoys a large number of individuals, company sponsorships and families that volunteer their time to help out with many projects including fundraisers, holiday assistance programs, the food drives and maintenance of the building. The following program descriptions describe the programming provided by MFCC staff and volunteers in the continuous effort to provide services that meet our goals and mission of the Center.

## *Program Descriptions*

### **The Early Childhood Programs at MFCC**

Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children since May 2002, this program serves up to 54 children from 6 weeks to 5 years and their families. We offer a play-based curriculum that is developmentally appropriate and facilitated by experienced educators. Our program participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program offering nutritious meals to enrolled children daily. The Early Childhood Program has been recognized by the Child Development Division for earning 5-of-5 STARS in the quality initiative, the Step Ahead Recognition System, and for offering a respectful yet professional environment, a commitment to the profession, and a willingness to stand as a model for other programs.

#### **Infant/Toddler Program – 11 infants and toddlers served.**

This full-day, year-round childcare program for children 6 weeks to 3 years offers a nurturing, child-centered atmosphere for young children to explore relationships with themselves, each other, and their environment.



#### **Full Day Preschool/Head Start Collaborative Classroom – 21 preschool age children served.**

Full-day, year-round childcare program for children ages 3-5 years. Hands-on activities enrich each child's fine and gross motor skills, sensory experiences,

language development and social relationship while also promoting self-esteem, self-respect, and respect for others.

#### **TYKES –**

**28 preschool age children served.**

Funded partially with the Department of Education's Early Education Initiative grant, this part-day, school year pre-kindergarten enrichment program serves up to 28 children ages 3-5.



## *Program Descriptions*

### **MASK (Milton After School Kids) – 82 children served ages 6-12.**

**Goal:** To provide supervised fun and educational care and enrichment for school-aged children during the vulnerable after school hours and also during school and summer vacation. Staff has worked hard this past year on our quest for a STARS rating by increasing our trainings for staff and conducting a parent survey. We also started a snack program to ensure that our children had a healthy snack after a long day at school. We are looking forward to seeing the results.

#### **MASK HIGHLIGHTS:**

##### **Make A Difference Day Food Drive**

Challenged the Milton Community to collect as much food as possible for the MFCC food shelf. The children were very proud with the final result of 705 pounds of food donated to the MFCC food shelf!

##### **Governor's Fit & Healthy Kids Challenge**

This was the 3rd consecutive year of participation.

##### **MASK and Milton Family Practice Collaboration**

Milton Family Practice doctors and interns visit MASK on a monthly basis to teach children nutrition, physical fitness and about being healthy. In April 2008 we also wrote a garden grant together and began planting and taking care of their garden which is located at the Milton Family Practice on Centre Drive.



### **MFCC Teen Programs & Milton Community Youth Coalition - 1376 individuals served.**

**Goal:** "Our mission is to foster a community that values youth by reaching out to, educating, and supporting families in making positive and healthy choices." The Milton Community Youth Coalition is made up of community business owners, teachers, community residents, and parents. The MFCC Teen Program continually provides substance free activities at the MFCC Teen Space during drop in hours. The MCYC offers Guiding Good Choices, Staying Connected with Your Teen and Life Skills training for youth grades 3-8 in the Milton School District.

### **Welcome Baby Home Visiting – 116 families served.**

**Goal:** To welcome the newest members of our community with the latest information and services that are offered at the Center, in our community, and in the surrounding areas. Parent newborns are offered a home visit with provided information, resources, and support services to be more successful in parenting children.

### **Healthy Babies, Kids and Families (HBKF) – 53 individuals served.**

**Goal:** It is during the first few years of life that children learn more and at a faster pace than at any other time in their life. Parents help to shape their child's future through the kinds of experiences they provide. Through the HBKF program, MFCC is able to help parents with their role of being their child's first and most important teacher. MFCC partners with the Lund Family Center, Visiting Nurse Association, and the Vermont Department of Health to provide this valuable service. MFCC provides to families enrolled in the HBKF program personalized visits from a Family Support Worker who specializes in early childhood and family development.

### **Playgroup (Open Age, Parent & Child) – 57 individuals served.**

**Goal:** To provide an environment for both children and parents to socialize, interact and share parenting ideas. Our playgroup gives children birth to age five the chance to explore, experiment and create. Playgroup participants enjoy the time with each other to share experiences and learn from each other. Playgroups meet twice weekly.

**Milton Resource Network/Patch** **Goal:** To bring agencies, local organizations, and community members together each month to learn and share information about programs, services, and opportunities available to Milton and surrounding area residents. Representatives from health care providers, the Milton school district, fraternal organizations, and faith based organizations, the MFCC, local fire, rescue, and police department, adult learning, mentoring, and recreation programs are included. The purpose is to facilitate access to services and programs and maximize resources.



## *Program Descriptions*

### **Reach Up - 328 individuals served**

**Goal:** To help young parents receiving Reach Up financial assistance (rufa) access training, support, education and job skills necessary to obtain work and ultimately become independent of welfare services. Each MFCC case manager works in partnership with each of her participants to create an individualized family development plan that maps out specific work goals and the steps needed to achieve them. Goals on a plan could include: looking for a job; getting a GED or high school diploma; attending job training; pursuing higher education; looking for permanent and affordable housing, or getting on-the-job training/work experience.

### **Learning Together – 34 individuals served.**

**Goal:** Learning Together is designed to help young families reach their full potential by providing parenting support and education. We provide intensive services to young moms (teens - 25 yrs old) during their pregnancy and while they are parenting. Their children come to group with them and are also provided services. Services include weekly peer support group, parenting education, early childhood education, health education, mental health referrals, home visits, transportation, credits for high school students, access to adult education, job skills and readiness, and guest speakers from a variety of different agencies. The majority of families we serve are dealing with or are at risk for domestic violence, homelessness, substance abuse, dropping out of high school and/or not finishing adult education, child abuse and/or neglect..



### **Grandparents As Parents**

**(GAP) – 51 children and kinship care providers served.**

**Goal:** To provide information and support for families providing kinship care. Resources and referral information on topics including court and legal proceedings, emotional and mental health services for adults and children, resources to obtain basic needs including food, housing, clothing, financial assistance, and child care are provided. As a member of Vermont Kin As Parents, we provide families with current legislative updates and advocate for kinship families' needs. The group meets weekly and encourages open discussion and sharing of kinship care experiences.

### **Information and Referral – 258 families served.**

**Goal:** To provide information and resources to individuals seeking support and guidance on a variety of issues such as employment, individual and family mental health counseling, education and training opportunities to name a few. All staff of MFCC provide information and referral to people seeking services. The need for information and referral has become greater due to many families and individuals experiencing a greater hardship to pay for the increased prices of food, gas, utilities and fuel oil. Individuals and families get support and hope from the information and referral service that is provided.

## *Program Descriptions*

### **Community Service Volunteers-**

**21 individuals served**

**Goal:** As one of only a few secular non-profits located in Milton, it is our pleasure to provide individuals with the opportunity to contribute their service to their neighbors. Volunteers range from teens to retired individuals, all wanting to give back to this place they call home. Service is performed by high school students wishing to complete graduation requirements, and the Milton Reparative Board offers volunteering with us as an alternative to more punitive action. Volunteers are welcome on a weekly basis or as special needs occur, such as holiday assistance, annual yard sales and fund-raising. Come visit and see what we do and let us know what skills you'd like to share with us. Your support is sincerely appreciated.



### **Emergency Food Shelf - 504 individuals served (unduplicated)**

**Goal:** To provide quality food and give support to hunger relief for families in need in Milton and our surrounding communities. Healthy food and monetary contributions from our community are a significant source of donations to our food bank. With the number of food shelf visits on the rise at MFCC in the past year, we have seen an increase in the usage of our emergency food shelf. This has made food donations become tremendously important year round. The Center is seeing an average of 50-60 families coming through the door in any given month. With the help of community members, we have started accepting fresh local produce from our local farmers and gardeners.



Volunteers are always welcome and encouraged to organize and/or assist food drives, and sort food arriving at the MFCC food shelf.

#### **MFCC Food Shelf Hours:**

##### **Hours for drop off donations:**

- 7:30am-5:00pm •
- Weekdays only

##### **Hours for pick up:**

Please call ahead 893-1457 to make arrangements for pick up.

Food Shelf closed on weekends and holidays

# Commitment to FAMILIES

## Early Childhood Programs Earn High Quality Achievement Recognition!



After 18+ months of extensive program evaluation, staff training, and documenting over 400 criteria related to best practice for child care centers, MFCC has successfully become re-accredited with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). We were visited by a Validator representing NAEYC Academy, which is based in Washington, D.C., in October 2007. Our program was one of the first in the country to be re-accredited using the revised NAEYC system. We received high marks for all ten standards, notably relationships, teaching, and the physical environment. We scored over 100% in meeting criteria for Community Relationships and Early Childhood Program Leadership & Management. Kudos to all Early Childhood Program Staff for your hard work and continued efforts.

While being nationally recognized is a huge part of our collaboration with federally funded programs, such as Head Start, our program also strives to be a leader in the local child care community. The State of Vermont recognized our program with 5-of-5 STARS in it's quality initiative, the Step Ahead Recognition System. A Five-Star rating signifies a program's commitment to the profession and a willingness to stand as a model of that profession.

### *Early Childhood Legislative Day*

Once again, ECP program staff visited Montpelier to discuss critical issues affecting early care and education. This year's topic: increasing eligibility guidelines for the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program. We heard from parents and programs that are struggling to make payments; this is an issue familiar to us, as many of our own participants are facing tough economic choices. We met with local representatives to talk about important issues surrounding early childhood education. It appears as though our Legislators were successful in increasing the eligibility guidelines from 1999 to 2000 poverty level, a small yet important step forward! Thank you, Legislators!

### *Milton Community Preschool Collaboration*

Last year, we asked the Legislators to consider universal access to pre-kindergarten education. Act 62 was signed by Governor Douglas in June 2007, and many communities across the state are developing their own rules to determine how including three and four year olds in the Average Daily Membership (ADM) would work. Would this work in our community? The Vermont Community Preschool Collaborative awarded over \$24,000 for two years to MFCC to work with the Milton Town School District to answer this question. We will be collecting data, promoting quality initiatives in private preschool programs, and hosting several discussions for the community regarding this issue. Stay tuned for more information!

*"The MASK staff are wonderful. They sincerely care about the growth and development of our children. They also want our children to have fun, experience new things while being safe."*  
-- MASK program parent

*"You do a great job! [My child] has become so smart and enjoys everyday there. Keep up the good work and thank you all!"*

--Full Day Preschool program parent

# DEDICATION & LEADERSHIP



## **VAL O'REILLY Award 2007-2008**

### *Laurie Darling*

Every year MFCC staff recognizes an exemplary community member for unwavering commitment and dedication to improving the lives of children and families at the Milton Family Community Center.



## **MICHAEL W. LANE Quest for Excellence Award 2007-2008**

### *Erica Marks*

This award recognizes an individual who strives for excellence, exhibits exceptional leadership, and is committed to promoting the positive growth and overall vision of the Milton Family Community Center.



## **MFCC WISH LIST** 2008/2009

### **CHILDCARE PROGRAM ITEMS**

Digital Camera (new or used with software)  
Pack N Play  
Dust Free Sand  
Consumable Art Products (glue sticks, paper, paint, etc)  
Spoke-Free Tricycles/New Bike Helmets  
Preschool Size Garden Tools  
Balls  
Sand Toys /Outdoor Push Toys for Toddlers  
Area Rugs in great condition  
Clorox Any Surface Spray

### **CRAFT SUPPLIES**

Glitter  
Glue Sticks  
Fiskars Scissors  
Washable Paints/ Washable Colored Markers  
Assorted Colored Construction Paper  
Paint Brushes  
Crayons

### **HOLIDAY ITEMS**

Turkeys for Thanksgiving/Christmas  
New Toys for Children and Teens  
Gift Certificates for Teens  
Gift Cards for Families  
Artificial Christmas Trees with Lights  
Wicker Baskets  
Holiday Ribbons  
Cellophane Wrap/Shrink Wrap  
Tissue Paper (various colors)  
Festive Wrapping Paper

### **GENERAL BUILDING and OFFICE SUPPLIES**

Acrylic Latex Paints  
Letter Size Copy Paper  
Paper Plates, Cups and Napkins  
Masking & Scotch Tape  
Sticky Notes/ Note Pads  
Uncoated Card Stock  
Legal Pads (letter size)  
Steno Notebooks  
Dry Erase Markers / Board  
20" x 30" Foamboard  
Colored Markers  
Wall Shelves / Book Cases  
Industrial Hallway Mats  
Non-Antibacterial Soap  
First Aid Supplies  
Dishwasher Detergent  
Clorox / Disinfectants  
Tools (hammer, wrench, etc)  
Snow Shovels  
Office (desk) Chairs  
Printing Calculator  
Acrylic Brochure Holders

### **TEEN PROGRAM ITEMS**

Area Rugs  
DVD Player  
DVD's (PG-13 rated only)  
Digital Camcorder  
Elison Leather Press  
Teen Literature Books

### **FOOD SHELF ITEMS**

Paper Bags with handles  
Simple Recipes  
Diapers  
Non-Perishable Foods  
Freezer Items (meals, vegetables)  
Misc. Toiletries  
Fresh Garden Vegetables

### **GARDENING SUPPLIES**

Rototiller  
Storage Shed  
Garden Gloves  
Composter  
6 Bales of Hay

### **VOLUNTEERS**

#### **skilled in:**

Carpentry  
Plumbing  
Electrical  
Musicians  
Crafts

*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."*

~Anne Frank

# 2007/2008 COMMITTEE REPORTS

## **Development Committee Report 2007/2008**

**Members: Lynn Delaney, Charlotte Parot, Vikki Patterson, Bob Emery, Tammy Sweet, Laurie Darling Brian Wooten, Brett Chornyak**

Teamwork and partnerships are the key ingredients for successful fundraising. And the Development Committee wasn't short on either one this year.

MFCC staff, board members, local and area businesses, community and church groups, and the Colchester Milton Rotary worked in partnership to help us reach our \$10,000 goal for our biggest fundraiser of the year – the MFCC 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk-a-thon on May 31. It is not unusual for the weather on walk day to be a bit damp. This year, was a true test of commitment as the rain fell heavily for most of the morning. Approximately 100 people showed up to trudge through the puddles and get drenched, when they could have stayed in their warm, dry beds.

Most of the money is raised in advance through sponsorships and pledges, but they came to show their support for the work that is done at the Center. It was heartwarming to see Governor Jim Douglas and his wife Dorothy walk the track at the high school, along with Champ from the Lake Monsters and KeyBank's KeyToon. We moved the walk this year from the MFCC grounds to the Milton High School which proved to be a good decision. It allowed the committee to offer more family events –even if some of them had to be cancelled because of the weather. All who attended came and went with a smile on their face and generosity in their heart—and wet heads.

In December, the committee held its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Trees at the Arrowhead Senior Center. Decorated trees and wreaths, donated by businesses and community organizations, were on display and attendees bid on the items through a silent auction. There were dozens of donated baskets that were raffled off, delicious holiday cookies baked by MFCC staff members, fantastic fudge prepared by our own Women with Purpose Group available for purchase; and of course, a visit with Santa. This event coincides with the Santa Bus, coordinated by Ed Couture, which travels through Milton neighborhoods and collects toys for needy kids and items for the food shelf. This beautiful and festive day jump starts the giving season in Milton.

To all who helped through donation or service – big or small — your contributions to both these events are most appreciated and we THANK YOU!

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Delaney, Chair, MFCC Development Committee

## **Personnel Committee Report 2007/2008**

**Members: Cathy Printon, Wes McClellan, Janet Richards, Brenda Tourangeau, Brett Chornyak**

This year the personnel committee spent much of the time focused on health insurance coverage for staff, closing of the Center due to weather or unforeseen circumstances, and staff evaluation forms. What an interesting year! A review of health insurance coverage allowed the committee to offer options on health care coverage to staff. A new policy is in place for Center closings which provides clarity for on site and off site staff. Let's hope we don't have that much snow again! And, staff evaluation forms were reviewed and improved for the upcoming year. With the new forms, more streamlined to the diversity of positions, evaluations of staff members can remain current, appropriate, and efficient! Wes McClellan now takes over as Personnel Committee chair – thanks to all, it's been a great year!

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Printon, Chair, MFCC Personnel Committee

## **Program Committee Report 2007/2008**

**Members: Tammy Sweet, Jen Golding, Vikki Patterson, Brett Chornyak**

The first half of the year the Program Committee spent working on the software update project. Price quotes were received from several vendors and a decision is forthcoming.

At the March 21, 2008 Board meeting the decision was made to change the name of the Program Committee to the Program/Grant Committee. This newly redesigned committee will be headed by Cathy Printon, whose expertise in grant writing will continue to benefit the Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Sweet, Chair, MFCC Program Committee

## **Maintenance Committee Report 2007/2008**

**Members: Bob Emery, Mike Lane, Jim Barrett, Jen Golding, Brett Chornyak**

This year, we continued our efforts to beautify and secure our home-away-from home. Updates include: new carpet, video surveillance of the reception room, painting of offices, new office door locks, a new front door, and a plan to renovate the playground. Special thanks to several MFCC staff and board members, especially Erin M, Janet R, and Jim B, as well as Stan Bevet of Vermont Adult Learning, Tammy Sweet with the KeyBank staff, and also St. Michael's College Alumni Association for participating in Spring clean-up around MFCC. Also, thank you Cyr Lumber for donating mulch for the Wanda Viau Memorial Garden.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Golding, MFCC Maintenance Committee member

# 2007/2008 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

## Finance Committee Report 2007/2008

Members: Jeanne O'Bryan, Janet Richards, Mike Lane, Brett Chornyak

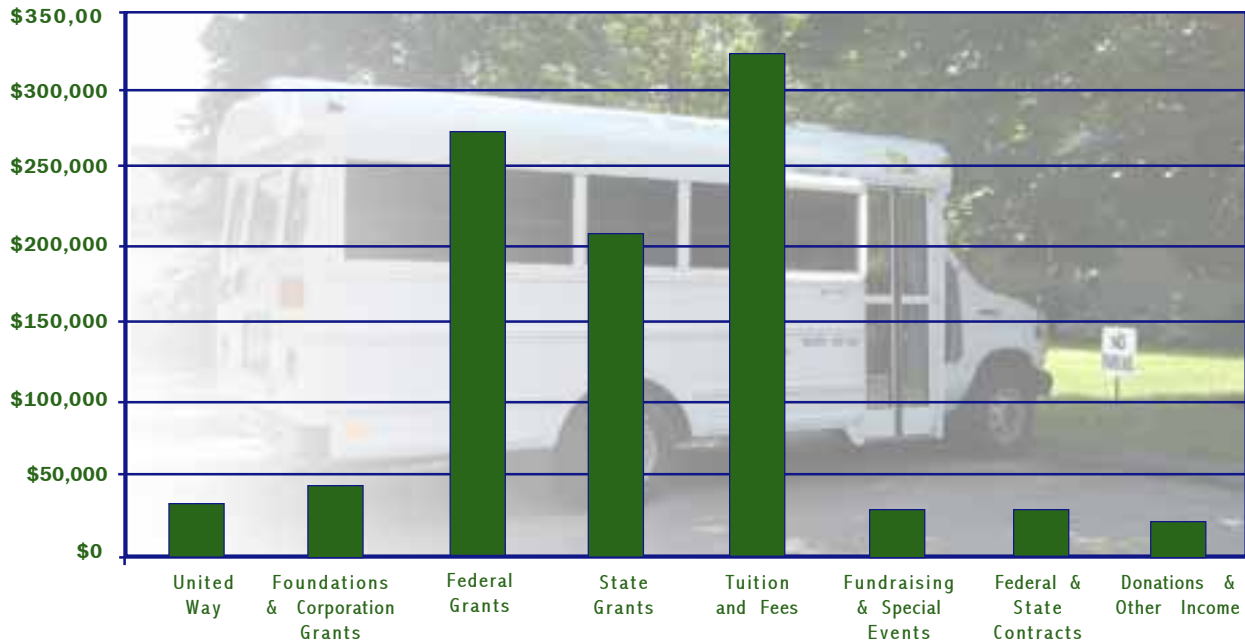
The MFCC accounting system allows us to track our financial standing and to compare it to our Board approved annual budget. Our staff has been quite prudent with their spending and we are happy to report that all spending has been kept within the budget parameters. This is reported monthly at our Board Meetings.

This past year a new bus was purchased so we would be in compliance with new state regulations. To help to defray its costs, we have expanded transportation to include all early childhood programs. In house audits are currently being expanded to include additional checks and balances as recommended by our outside accounting firm, as federal audit statutes have recently changed.

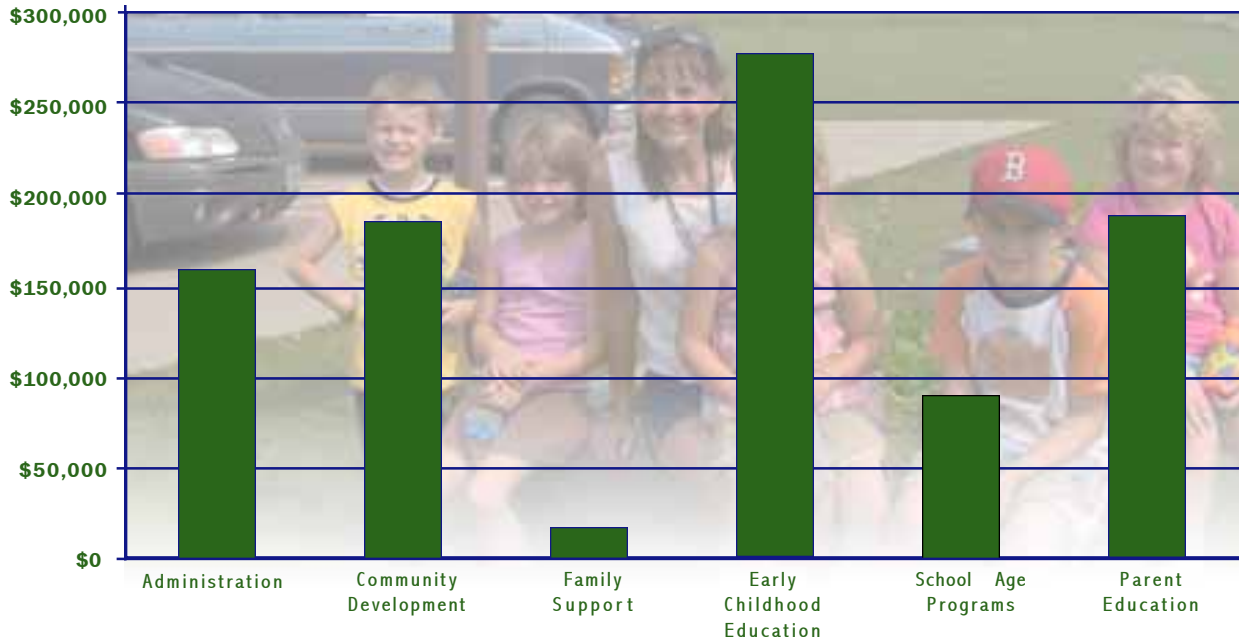
Milton Community Youth Coalition has made great strides towards independence as its own entity this year; hopefully, the process will be completed by 2009. MFCC provided support and acted as its fiscal agent.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Richards, MFCC Finance Manager

### MFCC INCOME FYE 2008



### MFCC EXPENSES FYE 2008



# Milton Family Community Center Statistical Data

Number of Individuals Served from July 1, 2007- June 30, 2008

Type of Service	# of Children under age 3	# of Children age 3-5	# of school age Children age 6-11	# of Youths age 12-21	# of pregnant Teens age 12-21	# of parenting Teens age 12-21	# of Adults	Total # of Individuals served	Total # of Families served
Home Visiting	138	41	43	0	2	9	227	460	136
Early Childhood Programs (FDP/ITP/ TYKES/ MASK)	11	57	66	8			178	320	118
Grandparents as Parents, Parent Workshops, Family Education, Women with Purpose, Learning Together	17	10	19	11	4	10	48	119	56
Playgroup	17	5	2	0	N/A	0	33	57	14
Information and Referral	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	258
Reach Up	124	34	7	0	18	62	83	328	123
Teen Programs / MCYC	N/A	22	81	884	0	0	389	1376	259
Emergency Food Shelf (info reflects unduplicated numbers of families during FY08)	40	39		156 (6-18 yrs.)			269	504	143
Family Support, Holiday and Emergency Assistance, ReCycle North Vouchers	104	111	231	219	0	0	625	1299	398
Families Together Visitation	7	6	1	0	0	0	14	28	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>1278</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1866</b>	<b>4491</b>	<b>1519</b>

## Spotlight on REACH UP



Noreen Nichols, Vikki Patterson & Laura Olsen are our on-site Reach Up Case Managers at MFCC who specifically work with young parents ages 24 years and younger. As Reach Up Case Managers, they are trained to assess each of their participant's readiness for work. They look at each participant's individual skills and abilities, job interests, and training or education level. They also look at any challenges that make it difficult to find and keep work, such as lack of childcare, lack of transportation and or driver's license, physical and mental health needs, or personal issues. Each case manager works in partnership with each of their participants to create an individualized family development plan that maps out specific work goals and the steps needed to achieve them. Goals on a plan could include: looking for a job; getting a GED or high school diploma; attending job training; pursuing higher education; looking for permanent and affordable housing, or getting on-the-job training/work experience. Each participant has a federally mandated minimum work requirement

where they must spend a certain number of hours (usually between 20 – 40) each week either working or participating in activities that will lead to a job. The Family Development Plan is an agreement with Reach Up that describes the activities specific to the participant's goals that meets the minimum work requirement. Unfortunately, if a participant does not follow the agreed upon plan, their grant may be reduced or even possibly terminated. Our case managers at MFCC work very hard to provide guidance to their participants to help avoid this. However it is not uncommon that participants experience set backs from their plans. Fortunately, our case managers are prepared for dealing with setbacks and, as a team, they create an atmosphere of support and caring that encourages the participants to come back to them and work through the setbacks to avoid losing their grant or to regain their benefits. When a participant does come back to any one of our case managers after having experienced a setback, they are provided an opportunity to have an open, respectful, and thoughtful conversation regarding the reasons why the setback happened and how the case manager can support the participant in finding resources or strategies to avoid or cope with the triggers that caused the setback. This past year we were very pleased to see several of our Reach Up participants overcome their barriers and succeeded in obtaining their goals, including many who successfully found a job!

# A LOOK BACK ~ *Calendar Highlights*



## July 2007- June 2008

### July 2007

MFCC float in the 4th of July parade  
MFCC 4<sup>th</sup> of July Yard Sale at the Grange Hall

### August 2007

MFCC School Supply Drive

### September 2007

MFCC Annual Board Meeting  
MCYC Activities Fair  
MCYC/MFCC Teen Program participates in Assets Week

### October 2007

MASK Make a Difference Day Food Drive Challenge!  
MFCC Make a Difference Day  
MFCC Programs Halloween party

### November 2007

MASK participates in the Governor's Fit & Healthy Kids Challenge  
MFCC Holiday Food Drop for Thanksgiving Assistance Program  
Staying Connected with Your Teen workshops

### December 2007

MFCC 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Trees  
Holiday Assistance Program

### January 2008

Early Childhood Program receives NAEYC Re-accreditation and 5 STARS from the Child Development Division

Winter Coat Give-Away

### February 2008

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual MFCC Sock Hop

### March 2008

Early Childhood Legislative Day

### May 2008

MFCC Spring Clean-Up Day  
Girls' Day sponsored by MCYC  
Women with Purpose Yard Sale  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk-a-thon

### June 2008

TYKES program Year-End Celebrations  
Women with Purpose Garden Party  
Full Day Preschool Year End Celebration  
Teen Summer Program begins



# Special **RECOGNITIONS**

## Joseph J. Marotti Company, Inc.

We thank the Joseph J. Marotti Company Inc. for their generous financial sponsorship of the Holiday Food Assistance program. Because of their donation we were able to provide 10,000 lbs. of food to over 150 families before the Thanksgiving holiday.

We also want to thank Mrs. Nan Marotti in her continued service in volunteering for a transportation program that provides rides to medical appointments and food shopping needs for individuals with disabilities and the elderly.



## MFCC's Women with Purpose Group

**34 total individuals served. Goal:** To provide women and their families with support and information in order to reduce isolation, disparity, abuse and neglect and to increase personal value. The group provides an opportunity for positive experiences, knowledge and self sufficiency. Women and children meet weekly participating in hands on activities, and learning about resources such as health care, financial management, parenting and nutrition.



*Special thanks* go to this group for their committed involvement in community activities. The group volunteers at many community events including the MFCC Sock Hop, Walk-a-thon, food drives, holiday assistance programs and MFCC Annual Meeting.



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