

Thoughts from Your Friends and Neighbors About The Milton Family Community Center

"The Milton Family Community Center has been an asset and outreach to all families in our community. The services provided have enhanced our community greatly and helped build a town."

Pastor Kim Ransom, Cornerstone Community Church

"MFCC has grown from a small staff with volunteers to a much bigger project with many more programs and therefore it takes a lot of money to work. I feel it's a good cause which we should all support and contribute to its success."

Carroll E. Towne, Past Trustee, MFCC

"I come to the Teen Space because of the good people and it's a safe environment."

Justin, Teen Center Participant

"I wish everyone in Milton knew how important a role the Family Center has been in working with our schools."

Wes McClellan, Principal, Milton Junior High School and MFCC Board Member

"I like to color."

Camille, Full-day Preschool Participant

"My favorite thing about preschool is the walk."

Zech, Full-day Preschool Participant

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 and increasing access to information and resources.

The Milton Family Community Center is intentionally diverse and dedicated to building a stronger, caring community through its family-centered approach.

Our Values

We welcome the opportunity to serve all families in our community.

We proudly serve families through programs and services based upon mutual respect which promotes safe & healthy lifestyles, a commitment to life-long learning, and, pride in self and our community.

We provide a variety of programs and services focusing on family members of differing ages with differing needs.

We provide access to and information about federally-funded and state-funded services for all community members.

We are a caring, highly-competent professional staff. We are a dedicated and committed Board of Directors.

Recognition & Acknowledgement for Outstanding Work in Your Community



Vermont's 2003 Early Childhood Professional of the Year with a budding saxophonist

Sharon Halnon, MFCC's Infant/Toddler Program Coordinator
Vermont's 2003 Early Childhood Professional of the Year

The Milton Family Community Center has been recognized for participation in the Vermont Program for Performance Excellence Assessment by the Vermont Council for Quality – February 2004

The Milton Family Community Center has been recognized annually since 2001 as a Member of the Child Care Counts Honor Roll for Vermont Employers by
Governors James H. Douglas and Howard Dean, M.D.

The Milton Family Community Center is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs – A Division of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Washington, DC

And, as we are a private not-for-profit organization serving the community of Milton and surrounding area,
we seek your financial support to sustain our efforts.

Yesterday: Our Proud Past

“For every laughing, healthy, well-fed child or teen-ager who knows what it means to belong to a community, we thank her.”

[Taken from an editorial titled, Wanda Viau 1935-2002, [The Milton Independent](#), 11/14/02]

Wanda Viau, A Community Leader and the MFCC Board President until her death in 2002.

The Milton Family Community Center was established after the receipt of a federal grant under the umbrella of Head Start in 1985. The Center was one of only fifteen centers in the United States to receive this funding.

In September 1985, we opened our rented doors in a house on Main Street in Milton next to the Catholic Church. The Milton Family Community Center developed the concept of a community center which would emphasize and encourage positive relationships between young children and parents through education and family support; create easier access to services for families by making them available at a central location within Milton; and encourage outreach and field work from Burlington-based agencies by offering them a place to work and coordinate activities at a satellite location within Milton to serve area residents. Soon after the startup of the center, it became an independent parent/child center governed by a Board of Directors consisting of community leaders, parents and collaborating agency representatives.

In the fall of 1987, the Center moved into its own building also on Main Street. This historic building, known as Austin’s Hall, was over 120 years old and had been the hub of Milton’s social and cultural life throughout much of its history, first as a hotel with a ballroom, and later as an Odd Fellows Hall, movie theater, and law office. The building had a large area for children on the ground level, space for administrative and staff offices, and one floor for use by agencies and other organizations. Initially, the Center provided Milton with parent/child playgroups, a pre-school known as “Tykes,” parent education and support, and home visiting services.

In the late 1990s the Center expanded its programs to include Healthy Babies and Welcome Baby services, along with the development of a Chittenden County interagency resource group known as PATCH. The Center also became a pilot site for the Vermont Department of Welfare’s REACH UP program, welfare to work program for young mothers. Collaborations with Howard Mental Health, Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC), and Vermont Adult Learning were also initiated through on-site services at the Center. In

1997, the Center continued to increase funding and programming. Programs such as the Milton Community & Youth Coalition's Teen Services and MASK (Milton After School Kids) were added to the Center's repertoire of services. Also at this time, the Center instituted a support group called Grandparents as Parents for grandparents raising grandchildren or other family members.

With the Center's continued growth it became evident that the space on Main Street was becoming inadequate for meeting the needs of its growing and varied programs, as well as unsafe for the children, families and staff due to the age and the state of the building itself. Concurrently, the Board of Directors became aware that the old Villemarie Health building in Milton was for sale and made the decision to launch a capital campaign and apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in order to purchase the building from Fletcher Allen Health Care. After a successful campaign and also being awarded the CDBG, the Center purchased and moved into its present home at 23 Villemaire Lane in July 2000.

Having laid out the groundwork while at the old location, the Center was able to introduce an "Infant/Toddler Childcare Program" to its lineup of services early in September 2000, as well as a new preschool located at and in collaboration with the Milton Elementary School. In 2001, the Center was awarded a state "EVEN START" grant to provide intensive family literacy services to adults and their children. Also in 2001, the Center became a site for on-line applications for families to apply for State services without having to travel to Burlington. In the fall of 2002, the Center began its third preschool, again in response to an increased need within the community.

Recently, the Center has chosen to collaborate with the Vermont State Housing Authority to provide child and family services in the Birchwood Manor trailer park, establishing another off-site program as they did with the Milton Elementary School.

Today: Changing Lives with a Commitment to Continuous Improvement

"We strive to become the premier parent/child center in the State of Vermont."

Michael Lane, MFCC Board President and Parent of a Child in MFCC's Infant /Toddler Program

Over the last year, the Milton Family Community Center has built upon its nearly two decades of caring by redesigning our organization to face the many challenges of meeting the needs of our community.

In the fall of 2003, the Milton Family Community Center committed to participate in the Vermont Council for Quality's Vermont Program for Performance Excellence and became the first Vermont Parent Child Center Network participant and one of only a handful of community organizations to take this step toward continuous improvement.

In December 2003, the Board of Directors and the Executive Director created a restructuring plan to address the current financial crisis at the Center and reduce the deficit gap between income and expenses. This Center-wide restructure was implemented in the beginning of February 2004. The restructuring process was painful and included some very difficult decisions, including the reduction and elimination of some positions and cut-backs in benefits and elimination of some programs and services at the Center. Despite the challenges, the Board and staff are committed to continuing their focus on performance excellence.

In addition to the performance excellence work, the Center has been working closely with the United Way of Chittenden County. In April 2004, MFCC, the Milton School District, and the United Way collaborated to hold two community discussions. Local partners, community members, town officers, private donors, and the Vermont Community Foundation were invited to these discussions. As a result of these discussions, the community was able to identify five strategies to continue to work on in the upcoming year; Mentoring, School Decision Making & Community Communications, Increase Funding & Space for MFCC, Parent Education & Support, and Community Recreation Center. It was through this collaborative work that the United Way of Chittenden County awarded MFCC funding to secure a consultant to support the Center's work in performance excellence and assist in fund development.

Today, the Center continues to provide critically important services to Milton families that change lives for the better even though the funding necessary to provide the below-listed programs come from a variety of sources including unstable state and federal funding.

So in order to maintain our high quality programs we need your help.

“There are two things I enjoy most. First, I love the kids, they brighten my day and secondly, learning from great colleagues.”

Debra Sadlier, MFCC’s Full Day Preschool Teacher

Presently, the Milton Family Community Center provides the following programs and services to your community:

Early Childhood Programs

MFCC offers high-quality, on-site early childhood programs to children six weeks to five years of age.



The Center’s Infant/Toddler Program serves children six weeks to three years of age in a most attentive, nurturing atmosphere.



The Center also offers part-day and full-day Preschool programs that are play-based and maintain a developmentally appropriate curriculum. These programs are also NAEYC accredited.

Open-age playgroup is offered twice a week for parents and their children to come together with an early childhood teacher for shared playtime and to connect with other families with children of similar age who live in the community.

School Age Programs

MFCC collaborates with Milton Elementary School to offer the Milton After School Kids or MASK program. This healthy and active off-site program provides after-school and vacation childcare for children up to 12 years of age.

MFCC also collaborates with the Milton Elementary School to offer in-school supports to elementary age children and their families who are not already receiving services from the school's guidance and special education support staff.

Teen Programs



MFCC provides a caring and safe place for our teenagers. With an open membership philosophy, we create an environment of inclusion and active participation. The ultimate goal is to help families in their efforts to raise young adults to avoid alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and become future leaders in our community.

Family Support

MFCC offers a wide range of support services to local families. These include support groups like the Grandparents as Parents program (pictured below) as well as serving as a referral for families needing help finding housing, food, clothing, transportation, childcare, education, and employment. The Center also provides basics to local families that include warm clothing, food, and gifts for children at Christmas through their Santa Bus program.



Home Visiting

A personal visit from the friendly staff at MFCC is many times more convenient and personal for families than traveling to us. These efforts can begin with a Welcome Baby visit for families that have recently given birth or adopted an infant. Visits are also made to families relocating to our community to provide them with an opportunity to learn about available health and educational services. Visits are available to all families with and without children to listen to their needs and make sure that MFCC programs are meeting the needs of your community.

We encourage you to contact the Center to learn about these and other services available through the Center by calling us at 893.1457

In addition to offering these wonderful programs, the MFCC Board of Directors recognizes the need to focus on performance excellence and make necessary improvements to our 31 year old facility and related infrastructure that includes computer technology and telecommunications.

We will be launching a community-wide campaign to raise funds to make necessary improvements at our facility as we continue to provide caring programs and services.

We hope we can count on your generosity.

Tomorrow: Meeting the Future Needs of Our Families in a Changing World

The Milton Family Community Center is committed to meeting the needs of our families. We will continue our practice to bring together the community to determine if the present programs and services remain valued by our "customers." Additionally, we work tirelessly to determine what new initiatives are needed and desired.

This is a very exciting time for the Milton Family Community Center and we look forward to this challenge and welcome your participation in shaping our future.

Most appreciatively & respectfully,

The MFCC Board of Directors 2004-2005

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