



**VT Developmental Disabilities Council**

*Mailing Address*

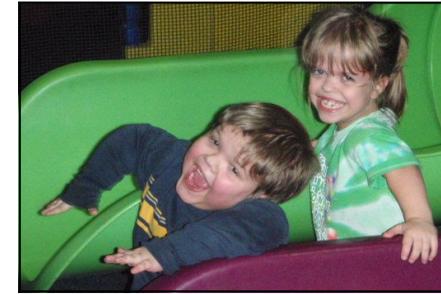
**103 South Main Street**

**One North, Suite 117**

**Waterbury, VT 05671-0206**

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# VERMONT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL



2011 ANNUAL  
REPORT



## Greetings from the President

The past year was one of continued challenge. The need for advocacy was foremost in our minds, with a constant need to monitor and advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities. I continue to be amazed and inspired by the work of our staff and members.



The process of building our new state plan was an amazing example of the inspiring level of commitment our team has. Every person engaged fully in gathering data statewide and translating it into our new goals. It was an incredible growth process for our council as a whole and for its individual members. Our end product is something we are all proud of.

VTDDC continues to provide leadership in advocacy and also grant funds to support projects that work towards accomplishing our state plan goals. We had a strong presence at the State House as members testified and spread awareness by meeting with their own legislators. Attendance was higher than ever at Disability Awareness Day, with events throughout the day providing a rich and enlightening experience for both attendees and legislators.

We look forward to continuing our service to Vermont and the disability community, and developing relationships both within our council and across the state with individuals, families, and legislative and agency representatives.

Sincerely,

Lisa Maynes, President

**“Speak Out for Understanding”** stars local high school students speaking about their own experiences living with developmental disabilities. Based on a nationally acclaimed service learning project, the film promotes awareness and equity. *Grantee: Harwood Union High School*

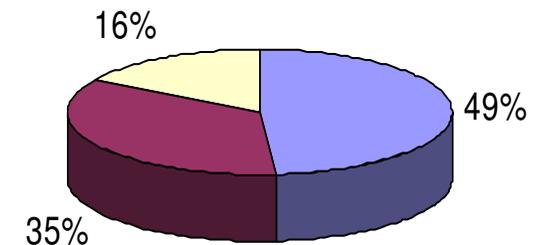
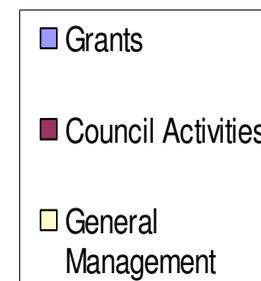


## FY 2010 Council Budget

Grantees provided \$100,137 in matching funds [cash and in-kind services].

FY 2010* Income	
Federal Funds	\$ 478,797
Less Expenses	\$ 476,637
Carry over to FY10	\$ 2,160

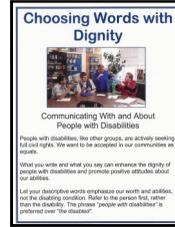
FY 2010* Expenditures	
Grants	\$ 231,591
Council Activities	\$ 166,631
General Management	\$ 78,415
TOTAL	\$ 476,637



\* October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010

## Media & Publications

**“Choosing Words with Dignity”** raises awareness of People First language. VTDDC distributed thousands of copies to diverse entities in VT and across the US to public schools, state universities, print media, managers’ trainings, city and state government.

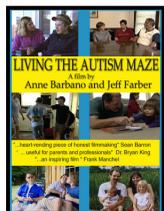
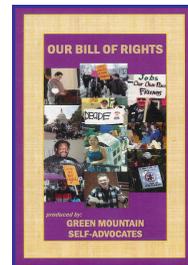


**“179 VOICES: Thoughts on Services and Supports for People with Developmental Disabilities”** describes what is happening in VT through the words of people with developmental disabilities and their families who responded to VTDDC’s state plan survey.

**“Boards of the Future”** and the accompanying workbook offer specific language and exercises to train people with developmental disabilities who are interested in and would like to learn more about serving on the board of an organization.

### Films Sponsored in Whole or in Part by VTDDC:

**“Our Bill of Rights”** about the rights and responsibilities of self advocates as citizens of the United States and Vermont. *Grantee: Green Mountain Self-Advocates.*



**“Living the Autism Maze”** about the experiences of Vermont parents of children with autism facing a maze of conflicting information and competing interventions. *Grantee: Barbano & Farber*

**“The Apartment”** features the voices of students who “walked with their class” at graduation and then attended a unique special education program to learn life skills in the community, educating others about the strengths and challenges they face. *Grantee: Montpelier School District*



## What is VTDDC?

VTDDC is a state wide Council that works to increase public awareness about critical issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families.

**The Mission of VTDDC is  
to help build connections and supports  
that bring people with developmental disabilities  
and their families  
into the heart of Vermont communities.**



60% of its 23 members are self advocates and family members. VTDDC uses its federal funds for projects at the local, regional and state levels. These projects bring Vermonters with developmental disabilities into the heart of their communities through public education, leadership training, and advocacy aimed at enhancing individual and family centered supports and services.

### **We Believe . . .**

**In communities where all people have a “voice”  
and are heard with respect;  
In safe communities where all people have equal value;  
In communities that are friendly and support equality  
and fulfilling relationships;  
With opportunities, people grow, share their dreams,  
their abilities, and  
that the humanity we share is more important  
than our differences.**

## VTDDC's Five Year State Plan GOALS for 2007-2011

- ◆ People with developmental disabilities and their families have information necessary to advocate to get their needs met.
- ◆ People with developmental disabilities and their families will be actively engaged in activities that bring them into the heart of Vermont's communities.
- ◆ People with developmental disabilities and their families will have open and fair access to a range of supports, services, resources and opportunities based on the needs they identify.
- ◆ Students in high school will have the supports they need for a smooth transition to life in the heart of their communities.
- ◆ People will have increased options for transportation services for work, school, medical, social, recreational, and other personal needs.



### Agency Representatives

*Diane Dexter*

*Department for Children & Families*

*Ron Clark*

*Agency of Human Services,  
Office of Vermont Health Access*

*Dixie McFarland*

*Nonprofit Organization,  
Northeast Kingdom Human Services*

*Carol Hassler, MD*

*Department of Health*

*Renee Kievit-Kylar*

*Division of Vocational Rehabilitation*

*Michael Mulcahy*

*Department of Education*

*Ed Paquin*

*Disability Rights Vermont*

*Susan Ryan*

*Center on Disability & Community  
Inclusion, University of Vermont*

*Clare McFadden*

*Department of Disabilities, Aging  
and Independent Living*

### Staff

*Karen Schwartz*

*Executive Director*

*Jeff Coy*

*Systems Analyst & Planner*

### To Contact VTDDC

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Website: [www.ddc.vermont.gov](http://www.ddc.vermont.gov)

## Council Members as of 6/30/2011

### Self Advocates, Individuals and Family Members

<i>Donna Bennett</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Brattleboro</i>
<i>Jim Caffry</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Waitsfield</i>
<i>Craig Davis</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Middlebury</i>
<i>Patty Czarnecki</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Ira</i>
<i>Dale Hackett</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Barre</i>
<i>John Hall</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Newport</i>
<i>Wendy Kruger</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Morrisville</i>
<i>Jay Lafayette</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Burlington</i>
<i>Mary Alice Leonard-Heath</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>White River Jct.</i>
<i>Dennis Lindberg</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>S. Burlington</i>
<i>Lisa Maynes</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Colchester</i>
<i>Lance Mead</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Brandon</i>
<i>Robert Price</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Essex</i>
<i>Jessica Sanville</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>East Haven</i>



## Sampling of Results from FY 2010 Grant Projects, Activities & Partnerships

### *People Trained*

- ◆ 100 people trained in employment
- ◆ 302 people trained in quality assurance
- ◆ 101 people trained in community supports
- ◆ 266 people trained in inclusive education
- ◆ 506 self advocates trained in leadership and self determination
- ◆ 474 people trained in systems advocacy

### *People Benefiting*

- ◆ 40 students received support to reach educational goals
- ◆ 3,555 people have needed health services
- ◆ 648 people received supports for community activities
- ◆ 65 people received scholarships for workshops and trainings

### *People Active in Advocacy*

- ◆ 1119 people actively participated in systems advocacy
- ◆ 4 people gained membership on Vermont and national Boards
- ◆ 248 policymakers were educated about issues
- ◆ Awareness initiatives reached at least 163,211 people

### *LEADING TO POLICY CHANGES, including:*

- ◆ \$1.8 million for health services
- ◆ \$2.6 million for employment supports
- ◆ Passage of Walk With Your Class allowing students to be part of graduation and stay on in school for special education services
- ◆ Reducing cut to developmental and personal care services, and restoring adult dental, respite, & targeted case management



# Highlights of Projects Funded by VTDDC

## **Developmental Disability Network Projects**

help build services and supports and make connections across Vermont.

Families Together Project is developing a state wide network of individuals with developmental disabilities and families across the lifespan that connects people to each other for support and to strategize and advocate on public policy issues. Activities included outreach at events and conferences; regional groups led by parent peers; forums on adult medical care and developmental services; workshops on the legislative process and housing options; medical school & college presentations by family faculty; and getting the word out on budget concerns; and the Walk With Your Class legislative campaign through listserv & Facebook.

Grantee: Vermont Family Network



## Information, Referral and Assistance Project

is building capacity for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families so they are able to obtain up to date, impartial, and unbiased information. Rack cards were widely distributed and people can now access resources and assistance about services and supports through an 800 number and links to 2-1-1.

Grantee: Vermont Family Network

Executive Committee Fund provides small grants to 73 individuals and family members to support their attendance at trainings and conferences, and to organizations for activities that enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

**In addition to individual grants, VTDDC helped fund:**

- ◆ **Teaching Children to Understand ASD: Creating a Culture of Inclusion**
- ◆ **Developing Employment Opportunities for People with ASD**
- ◆ **Deaf Foundations II, for interpreters who are deaf**
- ◆ **Zack's Place Young Adult Program**

**Vermonters who received training funds said:**

***"I have had questions answered, support given and received."***

***"It taught me how to be safe and protect myself."***

***"I was able to speak up and speak out."***

***"We can contribute in the many different ways we communicate."***

***"It helped me understand my son better."***

***"It was impressive to witness the proud looks on their faces."***

***"I am able to make my own choices and stand up for my rights."***

***"It helps to discover new talents, abilities and a different means communicating."***



**Youth Employment Projects** support youth who have a functional developmental disability, are out of high school, and are not eligible for developmental service employment support in Vermont.

**YES! Youth Employment Specialist Project** achieved a 100% placement rate by supporting young adults with Autism Spectrum and similar disorders to gain and maintain positive job matches through activities like employer and student training, including its model 8 week series “Social Skills On the Job”. *Grantee: VT Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation*



**VT Youth Works Project** supports youth 18 to 22 through assessment and supports they need for success working alongside community artisans, finding markets for its unique products at multiple venues. *Grantee: Nine East Network*

### **Vermont Leadership Series**



VTDDC partnered with University of Vermont’s Center for Disability and Community Inclusion and Green Mountain Self-Advocates to offer Vermont’s first leadership training series focused on developmental disability advocacy. Presented over 2 weekends, in

2010 and 2011, the Series is training individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and allies about the history of the disability movement, current issues, systems change; and how to be an effective advocate and leader, culminating in a project action plan for each participant. GMSA helps to ensure that the Series is accessible, including user friendly applications.



**VTDDC’S Self Advocacy Project** helps people with developmental disabilities take control of their lives, make decisions, solve problems and speak for themselves. *Grantee: Green Mountain Self-Advocates*

### Some of the Project’s Accomplishments:

- ◆ Awarded VT Advocacy Organization of the Year at 20th Anniversary Celebration of Americans with Disabilities Act
- ◆ Worked with youth in 7 regions
- ◆ Provided 25 technical assistance visits to 18 local groups
- ◆ Featured presenters at national Conversion Institute on Employment and VT Developing Employment Opportunities for people with ASD
- ◆ Co-presented national trainings on *Family Support & Being Part of the Community* with Easter Seals and SABE
- ◆ Vermonter oral history chosen for UC Berkeley Library Project
- ◆ Peer run trainings on self advocacy included:
  - ◇ Series of 6 basic self advocacy workshops
  - ◇ Voices & Choices conference, with 19 workshops attended by 500
  - ◇ 9 Workshops taught by Vermonters at Self Advocates Becoming Empowered bi-annual conference in Missouri
- ◆ Partnered in cross disability projects:
  - ◇ Coordinated this year’s Disability Awareness Day at State House
  - ◇ Launched accessible Leadership Series with CDCI and VTDDC
  - ◇ Collaborated with VCIL on Network v. Domestic and Sexual Abuse
  - ◇ Co-led training with VT Federation for Children’s Mental Health
- ◆ Public awareness outreach included:
  - ◇ Diversity Day for 9th & 10th graders
  - ◇ Presentation for UVM medical students
  - ◇ Capitol city parade & float to Spread the Word to End the Word



**Advocacy in Action Projects** bring individuals, families, and organizations together to plan and participate in advocacy events that educate and inform policymakers and communities about the priorities of people with developmental disabilities and their family members.



**“We Can” Project** supports people with developmental disabilities to educate legislators about the challenges they face, their policy priorities, and the positive contributions they make in their communities. Activities included advocacy skill training; technical assistance to support testimony and legislator meetings; taking lead on Disability Awareness Day; and regional legislator events. Advocates were featured and quoted in 3 newspapers, on public radio and 2 TV networks.



*Grantee: Green Mountain Self Advocates*

**Advocacy Response Network Project’s** website and rapid response e-mail alert system gets the word out so people with developmental and other disabilities and their families they can be strong advocates. Through alerts, policy briefs and updates, schedules, and notices people get information to connect directly with the Governor, legislators, and state officials about laws, policies, and practices that impact their lives. *Grantee: Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights*



**Disability Awareness Campaign** hosted a Policy Summit to dialogue with legislative leaders about inclusion, rights and self determination, and hosted Disability Awareness Day at the State House, connecting individuals with disabilities and family members with policymakers to increase understanding of disability.

*Grantee: Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights*



**Finding Our Voice** brought together individuals and families to form a southern Vermont advocacy group able to connect with and educate regional and state wide policy makers about independent community living. *Grantee: Families First*

**Spread the Word** provides funding to successful grantees to let others know about their work through by bringing projects to new audiences or new area of Vermont.

**Bill’s Bill** trained college students about self advocacy and how to embed skills, activities and resources in teaching by using the film “Bill’s Bill — The History of Special Education in VT” (shown at International VSA film festival in DC). *Grantee: VSA Arts Vermont*



**Our Voice** trained a cadre of self advocates in a new region to lead its successful awareness training for provider agency staff and consultants. *Grantee: Counseling Services of Addison County*

**AYTP Youth Transition** job club-peer advocate model was used in another region of the state with a local high school, creating a customized regional resource handbook from self-advocate viewpoint. *Grantee Counseling Services of Addison County*

**Speak Out for Understanding** trained education majors and teachers to use its tool-kit, books and film to develop their service learning model to engage students to educate peers about their disabilities. (See page 13.) *Grantee: Harwood Union High School*



**Disability Media Awareness Projects** present positive images of people with developmental disabilities on the job, at school and at every other kind of community and social gathering.

**Disability Story Project** showcases the contributions Vermonters with happen to have disabilities make to their communities, with 4 radio and 3 video spots launched with a social media campaign, widely distributed and linked at VTDDC’s website. *Grantee: Shadow Productions*

*VTDDC members, staff and grantees were also featured in:*



- ◆ *The Next Frontier*, a disability issues radio program hosted by a family member
- ◆ *Viewpoint* weekly public affairs radio program
- ◆ *Public Assets Institute* on-line newsletter
- ◆ One VT legislator postcard campaign
- ◆ Seven Days weekly and state-wide dailies Times Argus and Burlington Free Press