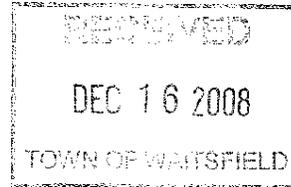




**VERMONT
CHILDREN'S AID
SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 127
79 Weaver Street
Winooski, VT 05404
Tel: (802) 655-0006
Fax: (802) 655-0073
Email: mainadmn@vtcas.org



December 12, 2008

Bill Bryant
Town of Waitsfield
9 Bridge Street
Waitsfield, VT 05673

Dear Mr. Bryant:

With deepest gratitude for your continued support, we have respectfully enclosed our 2009 request for \$500 in funding from the Town of Waitsfield to support Vermont Children's Aid Society (VCAS) services to the Waitsfield community for the approaching funding cycle.

As you know, VCAS has a long history of providing quality and skilled social work services to children and families throughout Vermont, and a long-standing relationship with Waitsfield clients. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our proposal as we seek to continue providing professional support services for children and families, especially as family stresses increase in these difficult economic times.

Thank you for your past support, and for considering our current request. Should you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 655-0006, ext. 108, or via email at cherrick@vtcas.org.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Herrick
Director of Community Relations



Vermont Children's Aid Society
2008 Proposal to the Town of Waitsfield

The Vermont Children's Aid Society respectfully requests \$500 to help strengthen the delivery of services to children and families in need of support.

In 2008, VCAS provided 290 hours of service for 2 Waitsfield families.

The following represents our agency's major programs:

Child and Family Counseling consists of a wide-range of comprehensive counseling and support services including individual, family, and group counseling, outreach, school advocacy, and case management to children and their families. Through CFC, VCAS also offers post adoption services, recognizing that family support may still be needed after an adoption is finalized.

Pregnancy Counseling continues to facilitate and promote effective parenting, by providing counseling services to expectant and new parents. This program is a community-wide education effort that includes public education, decision-making /options counseling, pre-delivery counseling and post delivery follow-up for clients and their extended families.

Expectant Parent Adoption Planning Services comprises professional assistance to expectant parent(s) who choose to develop an adoption plan for their child. Our birth parent program helps parents feel a sense of participation and ownership in the adoption planning process.

Our **Adoption Program** offers home studies, placement and post-placement services for in-state, interstate and international adoptions and assistance with private adoptions. This service is licensed by the State of Vermont.

Birth Parent Counseling involves counseling and support for parents involved in a family court proceeding related to termination of their parental rights. The goal is to help parents focus on planning for their child's needs and participate in a positive way toward an outcome that is in their child's best interests.

Mothers and Families United is a support program for incarcerated mothers to assist with grief and loss due to separation from their children, and to help them become better parents. Through this work, we have become a member of the consortium of agencies involved with opening a transitional housing program for women offenders re-entering the community, which is slated to open in spring 2007.

Kids-A-Part, the agency's newest program, is for the children of incarcerated parents, and the children's caregivers. The program comprises support groups, individual support, referrals to other agencies, and advocacy in order to help families facing the challenges of incarceration to find all of the supports available to them.

Camp ForMe consists of two one-week day camps for adopted children at Green Mountain School in Fayston. Activities promote self-esteem and a positive sense of racial identity, and

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where campers have an opportunity to interact with other adopted children of many racial backgrounds. In 2006, 184 campers were enrolled.

Holiday Spirit Program (formerly Operation Santa Claus) is a holiday donation program that provides gifts and warm clothing to for the families of incarcerated mothers, and to families in other VCAS programs who need help.

Additionally, VCAS's social work staff participates actively in many local community service activities, including the Child Protection Network, Child Protection Teams, the Adoption Council, the Adoption Reform Task Force appointed by the State of Vermont, the Vermont Adoption Consortium, and collaborative work with other foster care agencies around screening and training of foster parents. Vermont Children's Aid Society is a Charter member of the Child Welfare League of America and is a licensed child-placing agency.

Our Funding Sources:

In 2007, VCAS received income from the following sources:

Contributions & Special Events:	17%
United Way (s):	13%
Government Grants:	34%
Foundation Grants:	9%
Dues & Fees:	19%
Other Income:	8%

VCAS has received strong support from a variety of local, statewide and federal sources. We are a member agency of six United Ways in the state of Vermont; provide services in partnership with a number of State of Vermont departments (including Corrections and the Department for Children and Families); and receive fees for service and interest from our endowment as well as foundation support.

Our Budget:

Our FY 2008 budget is \$1,013,625, making our request to you approximately .05% of our overall revenue.