

December 5, 2008

Town of Waitsfield
9 Bridge Street
Waitsfield, VT 05673



Attention: Jennifer Peterson, Town Clerk

Dear Select Board:

On behalf of the young people and families we serve, the Board and staff of the Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club thank the citizens of Waitsfield for their continuing support over the years.

Once again this year, the Bureau requests that the Town allocate \$750 to support our services. The Bureau is proud that we have been able to hold this request level for many years. In the year ahead our agency will continue to strive to provide a strong array of services, and I respectfully request that the Town Select Board vote to place our request for continued funding on the warning for the 2009 annual Town Meeting.

Enclosed is an informational flyer that details the numbers of young people and families our agency assisted last year. This flyer is designed to keep residents informed about our services, and we ask that you include it in the annual Town Report. If you need any changes in the flyer to make it work well in your report, please call Barbara Floersch here at 229-9151. For your convenience, we will also send you an electronic copy of the information.

All funds received from Waitsfield are used to support direct youth programming. No town allocations are used to support our agency's administrative expenses.

Local dollars are a critical financial resource for our agency. In addition to providing direct support for program operation, local dollars speak very loudly in convincing other funding sources that the Bureau meets a real need in the local community, and is viewed by local citizens as an important resource.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Howard".

Tom Howard, MPA
Executive Director

The Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club Is An Important Resource To The Residents Of Washington County

During the past service year The Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club provided the following services to young people and families in **Washington County**:

- **247 Teens** participated in the **Basement Teen Center** in Montpelier that provides supervised drop-in time, leadership opportunities, and a variety of activities & events. **146 youth** also participated in special events at the Teen Center.
- **39 Youths** were served through the **Community Assistance Program** that works with community groups to help youths avoid substance abuse or make connections with treatment services.
- **237 Youths and Family Members** participated in the **Cityscape Program** that works at the Barre City Elementary/Middle School to promote academic achievement and healthy choices through a wide range of out-of-school time activities. **235 community members** also participated in Cityscape Special Events such as Lights On Afterschool.
- **239 Youths and their Families** were assisted by the **Country Roads Program** that provides youth and family counseling, 24-hour crisis intervention, and temporary shelter for youth who have runaway, are homeless, or are in crisis.
- **20 Youths and 26 parents** participated in the **Gateway Project** that helps students in the Barre City Elementary/Middle School build social skills and stronger connections with the community.
- **221 Teens** were provided with **Substance Abuse Treatment**.
- **72 Family members** (48 teen parents and 24 children) participated in the **Teen Parent Program** that helps teen parents and pregnant teens build parenting and life skills, continue their education, and create healthy homes for their children.
- **22 Teens** were provided with information about the challenges and realities of teen parenting through presentations of the Bureau's **Teen Parent Panel**.
- **120 Teens** participated in the **Transitional Living Program (TLP)** that helps homeless young people make the transition to independent living.
- **17 Young men** were served by **Return House** that provides transitional assistance to young men who are returning to Barre City from jail. Return House is staffed 24/7.
- **121 Teens** were provided with information and referrals to services and activities through the **Peer Outreach Program**.
- **450 Community Members** were served through the **35th Community Thanksgiving Dinner** organized by the Bureau (226 of these were provided with home-delivered meals).

Referrals to the Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club come from parents, teachers and other school personnel, other area organizations, the Vermont Department of Children and Families, the Vermont Department of Corrections, churches, police officers, and young people themselves. Many referrals are received through the agency's **24-Hour Crisis Response Service**.

The Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club is a private, non-profit, social service agency. All programs and services are funded by foundations, state government, federal government, private donations, area towns, Medicaid, private insurance, and fundraising activities such as TREES For TEENS and the Ride for Youth Bicycle ECO TOUR.

State-Wide Efforts

The Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club also works on a statewide level to address the needs of young people & families and to promote positive opportunities for youths. The Bureau is the administrative agency for five state-wide efforts that promote coordination and resource sharing among youth-serving agencies throughout Vermont.

- **The Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs:** Works to increase the efficiency and capacity of services to runaway and homeless youths and their families. This Coalition includes 12 member programs located throughout Vermont.
- **The Vermont Coalition of Teen Centers:** Works to build the capacity of teen centers to serve as effective, community-based prevention resources. There are approximately 40 teen centers in Vermont.
- **The Vermont Youth Development Corps** (an AmeriCorps/State Program): Works to provide positive opportunities for youths that decrease risk factors and promote assets to help youth make healthy choices and participate actively in their communities. This program places AmeriCorps members at youth serving organizations throughout Vermont.
- **Vermont Youth Tomorrow** (an AmeriCorps*VISTA program): Works to build the stability and capacity of organizations throughout Vermont that provide and support positive opportunities for youth. This program places VISATA members at youth serving organizations throughout Vermont.
- **The Vermont After-school Network:** Works to promote the availability of high quality after-school programming for young people.

**For Information And Assistance Call
The Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club
229-9151
24 Hours A Day - 7 Days A Week**