

YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

The Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club

October 31, 2016

Town of Waitsfield
9 Bridge Street
Waitsfield, VT 05673

Attention: Valerie Capels, Town Administrator

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 more than 20 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 2017 annual Town Meeting.

Enclosed is an informational flyer that details the numbers of young people and families our agency assisted last year. If you need any changes in the flyer to make it work well in your report, please call Nicole Bachand here at 229-9151 or email nbachand@wcysb.org.

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,



Kreig Pinkham
Executive Director



P.O. Box 627 38 Elm Street Phone: 802-229-9151 Email: wcysb@wcysb.org
Montpelier, VT 05601 Fax: 802-229-2508 Website: www.wcysb.org

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

With your support, the Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club provided the following services to 10 young people and families in Waitsfield during the past service year (7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016):

- **3 Youths and their Families** were assisted by the **Country Roads Program** that provides 24-hour crisis intervention, short-term counseling, and temporary, emergency shelter for youth who have runaway, are homeless, or are in crisis.
- **5 Teens** were provided with **Substance Abuse Treatment** through the **Healthy Youth Program**. This includes substance abuse education, intervention, assessments, treatment and positive life skills coaching. Support is also available for families.
- **1 Youth** were served through the **Youth Development Program** which provides voluntary case management services to youth ages 15-22, who are, or have been, in the custody of the State through the Department for Children and Families.
- **1 Community Members** was served through the **43rd Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner** organized by the.

Additionally, through the Bureau's **Partnership For Success Program** (Substance Use Prevention), we have been working with several Mad River Valley organizations (Health Center, High school, businesses, policy makers, civic organizations) to address the incidence of substance use and prescription drug abuse among youth ages 12 to 25. Through this initiative we:

- Worked with the Harwood High School Health Committee, to develop a comprehensive plan for prevention activities to benefit student, families, and Valley communities in the upcoming year.
- Established a relationship with the local newspaper to support ongoing prevention messaging in the form of ads and editorials.
- Provided public education and community presentations about the importance of safely storing and disposing of prescription medicine.
- Promoted Washington County law enforcements' annual collection of unused prescription medicine; contributing to the largest amount collected since the collection began in 2010.
- Formally recognized Mad River Valley retailers that pass their yearly VT Department of Liquor Control compliance checks through "Responsible Retail recognition."

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.



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This funding request represents 1.9% of the total revenue the Bureau receives from all Washington County town appropriation requests and represents only a small fraction of the cost of the services provided by the Bureau. Most of the services provided to youth and families have involved multiple sessions, counseling services were provided by certified or licensed counselors, and emergency temporary shelter included 24-hour supervision, meals, and transportation. **No one is turned away for inability to pay.**

The Bureau's mission is *"To provide a wide range of innovative and effective programs that empower and enrich the lives of youth and families in Washington County, and to provide leadership and support to other youth programs throughout Vermont."* We accomplish this through a variety of programs including: youth & family counseling; a program for runaway youth; a transitional living program for homeless youth; an adolescent substance abuse treatment program; a support program for youth involved in foster care; a transitional living program for young men returning from jail; a peer outreach program; two teen centers; a substance abuse prevention program; and a 24 hour crisis service. The Bureau also operates 4 statewide youth-focused coalitions. All Bureau services are available to Waitsfield residents.

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.**

Thank you for your continued support!

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



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