

Caledonia County

THE CHALLENGE

In Caledonia County, **53% OF INFANTS** (BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD) likely to need care don't have access to any regulated child care.

And **33% OF PRESCHOOLERS** (3-4 YEARS OLD) likely to need care don't have access to a high-quality program.

OUR PROGRESS

Thanks to generous supporters like you, Let's Grow Kids has partnered with Vermonters to create **111 new child care spaces**. And **425 people** in Caledonia County from all walks of life have joined together to support our shared movement.

Since 2018, you've helped Let's Grow Kids invest **\$1 million** in Caledonia County to build a child care system that works for children and families, early educators, and communities.

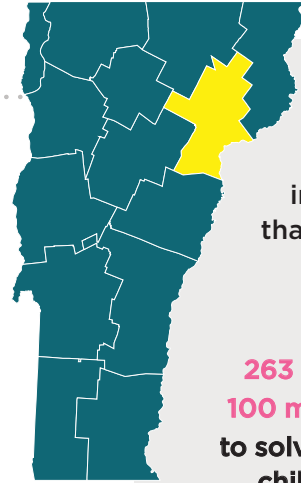
But there's more work to do.

Through 2025, we'll invest another **\$1.48 million** to solve the child care crisis for all Caledonia County children, forever.

AND YOU CAN HELP! Join the movement by adding your name, making a gift, or volunteering at www.letsgrowkids.org.



PHOTOS: ASCENSION CHILD CARE, SHELBURNE, VT



CALEDONIA COUNTY HAS

713 child care spaces for children under 5 in 50 child care programs that offer full-time, full-year child care (as of 2019).

CALEDONIA COUNTY NEEDS

263 more child care spaces & 100 more lead early educators to solve the child care crisis for children birth to 5 years old.



WHAT IS A CHILD CARE SPACE?

A child care "space" refers to a place for a child in a child care program. Let's Grow Kids uses "spaces" to track the availability of child care.

Not every family needs child care for a full week, so some spaces are shared between families who use part-time child care.

READ FULL REPORTS ON THE SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR CHILD CARE IN VERMONT AT:
letsgrowkids.org/resources-publications#SAS

THANKS TO SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU...

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Amber Bollman's Family Child Care

WEST BURKE, VT

In 2018, Amber Bollman discovered that in the Burke area of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, there were only 4 child care programs. Only one of those programs offered full-day, full-year child care, for just 10 children.

Amber held her bachelor's degree in early childhood education and had 12 years of experience. **"I was just not able to make a livable wage by doing it. So, I was just looking for ways that I could stay in the field."**

That's why Amber worked with Let's Grow Kids staff in 2018 to receive a grant and assistance from expert staff to open a home child care program.

Without the funds made possible by supporters like you, Amber says her dream wouldn't have been possible. "I was faced with overwhelming startup costs," she said.

"However, once my program is open, it will become self-sustaining." Amber added that her long-term professional goals are to obtain her early education teaching license and complete a master's degree. And Amber would work with a network of other local teachers to keep her program strong and sustainable.

"By continuously improving myself and my program," Amber said, "I am refining my ability to offer high-quality care, and ensuring high enrollment."

Once her program opened, Amber said she was worried about being able to fill all the spaces. "However, it wasn't a problem," she clarified. Her program was full immediately and she continues to receive inquiries from parents, underscoring the continued need for child care in Caledonia County. Thank you, Amber!



PHOTO: ASCENSION CHILD CARE, SHELBURNE, VT

CHILD CARE IS HEALTH CARE

"At six months old, my nephew, whom I was fostering, couldn't roll over. He had a flat spot on the back of his head because he had never been nurtured, loved, or even really held. **He had reactive attachment disorder because of fetal alcohol syndrome.**

"I quit my job making good money to open a home child care to care for him and other children.

"I've seen addiction affect so many families the way it affected mine. Families that don't have child care fall through the cracks faster. They don't have that extra support, or someone to guide them. I can't undo what's been done, but I can help a child grow and blossom again."

KATHERINE RICE
Early Educator | St. Johnsbury, VT



PHOTO: ALEHA'S HOME CHILD CARE, ST. JOHNSBURY, VT



This grant helped us support eight teachers' higher education goals, leading to increased wages. The financial stability helps the teachers, families, and children.



SHARMA GENCARELLE
St. Johnsbury School District
St. Johnsbury, VT

The Whole Picture

THE CURRENT STATUS OF CHILD CARE ACCESS FOR:

INFANTS (BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD)

- » **53% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **69% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

TODDLERS (2-3 YEARS OLD)

- » **0% of toddlers likely to need care** are without access to any regulated programs.
- » **21% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

PRESCHOOLERS (3-4 YEARS OLD)

- » **16% of preschoolers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.*
- » **33% of preschoolers likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.*

*Preschool child care data does not include universal pre-K.

CALEDONIA COUNTY CHILDREN LIKELY TO NEED CHILD CARE:

378 Infants
181 Toddlers
392 Preschoolers

THE NUMBERS GAP

Child care spaces needed to solve the child care crisis:

- 200 for Infants
- **0 for Toddlers**
- 63 for Preschoolers

Program hours of operation:

- First program opens: 5:00 AM
- Most programs open: 7:00 AM
- Most programs close: 5:30 PM
- Last program closes: 10:00 PM

Additional early childhood educators needed to join the workforce:

100 Lead Early Educators



PHOTO: RAINBOW PLAYSCHOOL, WOODSTOCK, VT

READ FULL REPORTS ON
 CHILD CARE ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY,
 PLUS WORKFORCE DEMAND, AT:

letsgrowkids.org/resources-publications#SAS

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Share your story, make a donation, sign our Petition,
 become a volunteer, and get involved at

www.letsgrowkids.org