# **Chittenden County**

# ONE ARTS COMMUNITY SCHOOL: CREATING A COMMUNITY HUB AS WELL AS CHILD CARE

ONE Arts Community School created 40 new high-quality child care spaces, including spaces for 8 infants, 18 toddlers, and 14 preschoolers across two campuses. The Colchester site was created with a grant from the State of Vermont Child Development Division and technical assistance from Let's Grow Kids.

In 2021, they opened a second campus in Burlington's Old North End, supported by the City of Burlington's Early Learning Initiative. In addition to providing essential new child care services, the ONE Arts Community School will partner with local public schools, child care programs, retirement homes, yoga studios, nonprofits, artists, and more to become a hub for family and community events to cultivate learning, community stewardship, and engaged citizenship in the Old North End. Both campuses serve families accessing Burlington's First Steps Scholarship Program. This scholarship program provides tuition assistance to Burlington children who have not been able to access high-quality infant and toddler care due to gaps in Vermont's Child Care Financial Assistance program.

The success of the First Steps program demonstrates the impact of systemically removing affordability as a barrier to accessing high-quality child care.

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR YES VOTE ON H.171!

# SENATORS:

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# CHITTENDEN COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS



## **CHILDREN LIKELY TO NEED CARE:**

- 2,069 Infants
- 1.129 Toddlers
- 2.245 Preschoolers

## CHILD CARE SPACES NEEDED TO MEET DEMAND:

- 897 for Infants
- O for Toddlers
- 117 for Preschoolers



Vermont is an incredible place to live, work and play, and should be for all who want to make this their home. With Hula, we see this vision coming to life, but it can't happen without a child care system.

Child care is the foundation for healthy, vibrant communities, and is essential to realizing the potential of Vermont."

# **RUSS SCULLY & ROXANNE SCULLY**

Hula Founder Burlington

Hula Founder & Onda Foundation Founder Burlington

When my wife and I moved to Vermont just over a year ago after accepting a position to provide pediatric emergency services in the emergency department, we struggled to find child care for our two youngest children who were not yet in Kindergarten. I see many of my

colleagues similarly struggle to find adequate child care at a time when our health care facilities are in great demand. We rely on child care providers, to ensure that our team can be present and available to provide

essential emergency medical services for our children, families, and communities."

CHRISTIAN PULCINI, MD, MED, MPH

Pediatric Emergency Physician University of Vermont Medical Center | Shelburne