Vermont's Child Care Campaign 2021 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS FOR:

Washington County

EXTENDED HOURS MEET THE NEED

Meeting the demand for child care spaces doesn't only mean creating new programs and adding physical capacity, as many families who work non-traditional hours struggle to find care that meets their needs. Thanks to a grant and technical assistance from Let's Grow Kids, Janelle Anderson, who has been an early childhood educator for 26 years, was able to expand her program's hours to meet the community need.

She said, "Even before COVID-19 I had been receiving calls and emails from people desperately looking for extended hours and weekend care. Many of the calls came from families with two working parents, or single mothers who work in hospitals or elderly care facilities that require staffing outside of typical week day hours. These facilities do not close their doors for weekends or holidays—often the staff who work in these positions have nowhere to turn."

Janelle now also offers care on weekdays until 9pm and weekend care from 7am to 5pm. Before this expansion, no program in Washington County was providing care later than 5:45pm.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR YES VOTE ON H.171!

SENATORS: Ann Cummings Andrew Perchlik Anthony Pollina

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WASHINGTON COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS



CHILDREN LIKELY TO NEED CARE:

- 805 Infants
- 396 Toddlers
- 810 Preschoolers

CHILD CARE SPACES NEEDED TO MEET DEMAND:

- 581 for Infants
- 147 for Toddlers
- 450 for Preschoolers

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For parents to thrive as employees, they need the peace of mind that their children are well cared-for when they're apart during the workday. And those kids are the employees we'll need soon to fill the state's jobs. Vermont's economy depends on access to high-quality child care—so let's finally make that happen."

DUANE PETERSON Co-President, SunCommon | Waterbury

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Serving as the Director of HK Cubs was immensely rewarding, but like many child care programs, it had many challenges low compensation, burnout, and a challenging work/life balance. Every educator faces those challenges, so we need fair compensation for educators and affordable, high-quality programs for Vermont children.

DEB DONDZIK Retired Child Care Director | Waterbury