

# Your Support in Action

## 2020 GOALS (established pre-COVID-19)

To partner with Vermonters to...

- » Create **500** new child care spaces
- » Engage **3,500** early childhood educators
- » Drive **\$30M** in state support for child care
- » Inspire **2,500** new supporters

## OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

- » Created **435** new child care spaces
- » Engaged **3,234** early childhood educators
- » Drove **\$38M** in child care support during COVID-19
- » Inspired **839** new supporters

## SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

### “It’s all about choice.”

#### NORTH TROY, VT

When COVID-19 reached Vermont communities, home-based child care provider and Let’s Grow Kids community and program support specialist Chris Nelson was ready to respond.

“It’s all in the support, choice, and positivity of the approach,” says Chris, as she explains how she helped the children in her care adjust to wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

Chris created visual tools to introduce these concepts, and “I chose mask fabrics they like—unicorns, stars, hearts, sharks, dinosaurs.”

Parents watch from a distance each day as Chris welcomes their children and each child selects a mask for the day. “The older kiddos say, ‘it’s like a fashion show!’ and the 3-year-olds are playing ‘going to the germ store,’” she says.

Chris’s creative and non-threatening teaching skills have helped children learn how and when to wear masks without prompting.

“Further, they have learned social distancing concepts and are able to position themselves without reminders—again, by choice.” Says Chris, “my own hesitation about social-emotional development has also been eliminated.”

Thanks to supporters like you, Chris and her colleagues are supporting early educators across the state to provide this same balance of structure and choice for the children in their care.



### A NOTE FROM ALY

2020 has called upon all of us to face the realities and tragedies of both COVID-19 and of the deeply rooted systemic racism in our country. In the midst of these challenges, I am more grateful than ever to count you into our shared movement for a just and equitable future for Vermont, starting, of course, with our children. Thank you!



CHRIS NELSON AT HER HOME CHILD CARE IN NORTH TROY, VT

## COVID-19 AND CHILD CARE

More Vermonters are now aware of what supporters like you know well: **child care is an absolutely necessity to a thriving society and economy.**

Yet, child care has been inaccessible to over half of Vermont’s youngest children for many years.

PLEASE TURN OVER...

# COVID-19 RESPONSE

On March 16, thanks to supporters like you, Let's Grow Kids began providing pandemic-specific services to...

## EMERGENCY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

- Sourcing emergency health and safety supplies
- Helping programs navigate health guidelines
- Training educators on timely topics
- **1,254 essential workers have child care when they need it**

## CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

- Planning and advising on safe reopening procedures
- Supporting the staff and families of closed programs
- Connecting to human resources, legal, and tax experts
- **1,388 early educators receive professional guidance**

## FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Continuing advocacy for state support of child care
- Representing concerns and feedback to policymakers
- Providing up-to-the-hour information and connection
- **1,131 people sign on to build a stronger child care system**

## SUPPORTERS BEYOND VERMONT

- Telling the story of our work to support shared learnings
- **2,026 people learn about Let's Grow Kids nationwide**

# RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

Our shared work is more important than ever. An equitable and just child care system is at the center of COVID-19 resilience.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Riley Gamache, a 2020 graduate of Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans, received our Aspiring Early Educator Scholarship in May. She'll start her coursework in early education and business at the Community College of Vermont in the fall.

Says Riley, **"I am very proud to be an aspiring first-generation female entrepreneur."**



RILEY GAMACHE, SWANTON, VT



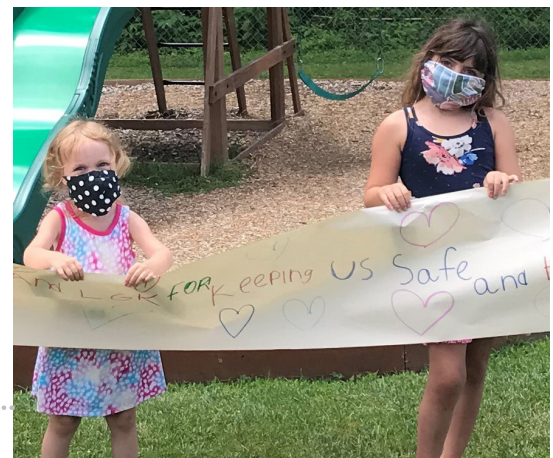
SEVENTH GENERATION DONATES CLEANING SUPPLIES

## VERMONT INVESTS IN CHILD CARE

Because of advocates like you, legislators know child care is instrumental both to support our essential workers, and to get Vermonters back to work.

The Legislature provided \$20M in stabilization grants to child care programs during Stay Home, Stay Safe to help them recoup lost revenues, pay staff, and prevent closures.

More recently, the Legislature directed an additional \$18M to help child care programs, Parent Child Centers, Children's Integrated Services, summer camps, and after-school programs start back up safely.



BRATTLEBORO CHILDREN SAY, "THANK YOU!"

“ Our already fragile child care system was severely impacted by COVID-19. This commitment to Vermont families is essential to getting our economy back on track. ”

REP. ANN PUGH  
South Burlington, VT