



**YOUR SUPPORT
MAKES A DIFFERENCE.**



WARM THE CHILDREN

The Warm The Children committee wishes to express sincere thanks to the community for their generous support this past Winter season.

We served 229 children and worked with 32 volunteers that had personal shopping experiences with the families, reviewed applications, and assisted with organizing the event. It is not only a valuable program for the families, but also rewarding for us as volunteers to see the smiles on the faces of the children when they are able to choose their own warm clothing for the season. We could not accomplish these goals without your spirit of giving. If you would like to volunteer, please call.

Thank you!

The Warm The Children Committee:

Denise Main and Sarah Livingstone, Sunrise FRC
Kara Pallman, Department of Economic Services
Samantha Arrowsmith and Natalie Basil, GBCS
Sue Plaisance, Bennington Banner
Wendy Chenaille, Norshaft Lions Club

*Warm the Children is a 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt organization. 100% of funds raised go to the children in need!

CLEAN-UP DAY

Sunrise staff, our Board of Directors, program participants, families, and volunteers, all rolled up their sleeves for our annual Clean-Up Day, 4/21/23. Thank you for making Sunrise shine!



Would you like to volunteer for this free family event? Call our main office to see how you can join in the fun!



"Thank you for the services you offer kids and families. It is and you are appreciated!"

PCC SURVEY RESPONSE, 10/22

LEARNING TOGETHER PROGRAM

Literacy goes beyond academia with our Learning Together Program. Last fall, students were treated to a fantastic tour of the Bennington Free Library to learn more about the programs, activities, and resources available to them. They were amazed to find out about the different kid's programs and the rotating activities within the children's library area. The tactile area was filled with sand that could be molded and winding train tracks. In the adult area, they discovered that movies could be rented along with books delving into every world imaginable - books that could be accessed with a touch of their fingers on their cell phones. At the time, none of the students had a library card, but every single one decided that getting a library card was a priority after our visit. Over the course of the next few days, they downloaded the Libby app to access digital library materials, brought in their proof of residence, obtained their cards, and set off on a literary journey that would take them to new heights of academic and personal enjoyment.

STANDARDS OF QUALITY

Sunrise completed the National Family Support Network, Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support training, in March of 2021. We then completed the self-evaluation phase, in November 2021. The Sunrise Standards of Quality Committee continues to meet monthly, ensuring that ongoing evaluation and reflection occurs, and that actions steps are achieved. The committee is working diligently to address goals, such as our work with our Sunrise Advisory Council, our Families at the Center program, our Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee, and our agency-wide processes and database system.

244 Union St., Bennington, VT 05201 | (802) 442-6934 | sunrisepcc.com

**OUR VISION IS THAT ALL FAMILIES
HAVE THE STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES TO
REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.**



APRIL 2023

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Sunrise Family Resource Center
Bennington County's Parent Child Center

SUPPORTING TRANSPORTATION INDEPENDENCE



CARS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

Sunrise received grant funding through the Vermont Women's Fund and the Vermont Community Foundation, to create a pilot program to help purchase personal vehicles for single mothers in need. This winter, staff nominated candidates for the program and three of our Board members chose two recipients. Sunrise was honored to receive this grant funding and is so inspired by the two grateful recipients! Keep reading to hear their brave voices!



"When you called me and told me that I did get the car, I literally started crying. I'm forever grateful for this program, for you, for the people that have raised the money & helped me. Receiving this car is going to help me go to work, take my daughter to school and doctors, plus gets us out of a bad situation and gets our stuff moved. Thank you for everything!" - JL

"FAMILIES ON THE MOVE"

Sunrise received a Health Equity Grant to address transportation barriers in our community. Through "Families on the Move", we can assist with driver's education, permits and licenses, car registrations, insurance, gas cards, repairs, and maintenance. We are also partnering with Green Mountain Express to offer trips to and from the local grocery stores, food shelves, and laundry mats, twice a week.

"When I received a phone call about being nominated for a car, I was beyond ecstatic- I couldn't believe it! Later on, I received another call stating I had been approved for a car. I was honestly in such shock. Having this opportunity will help my daughter and myself with basic needs but also will open whole new doors for me to attend college and work, and to offer my daughter a solid start. I can't thank everyone enough for making this miracle come true." - SD



Sunrise Family Resource Center
Strengthening Families
In Partnership With THE Green Mountain EXPRESS Offer The
Family Support Shuttle

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
10 AM - 2 PM**

Free service, open to all in the Bennington community!

Transportation will be provided to and from the local grocery stores and/or laundry mats. Call Green Mountain 1 day ahead, to schedule your trip!

802-447-0477



BUILDING SOCIAL CAPITAL



SUNRISE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Sunrise Advisory Council is a group of parents/caregivers from Bennington County that provide important input and feedback to Sunrise staff and contribute in many ways to the local community. In the past year, the council has helped at Sunrise events like summer picnics and the annual Thanksgiving event. The council continues to look for ways to have a positive impact on the Bennington community. Call if you'd like to join the Council!

FAMILIES AT THE CENTER

Families at the Center brings local families and local agency navigators together, to build social capital and improve access to programming and resources that promote overall well-being. Families learn about local resources and build relationships with each other and navigators that enable them to feel more connected within their local community.

PEER REVIEW

Sunrise recently completed our required triennial Peer Review Process. Sunrise is 1 of 15 Parent Child Centers belonging to the Vermont PCC Network. We hosted our peer review at the Bennington Elks Carriage Barn this April. Community partners, state partners, and other PCC network partners toured our buildings and attended the review. Those in attendance heard staff presentations, learned about our recent successes, and then brainstormed with us for the future. "Thank you!" to those who joined us and participated!



WE ARE FUNDRAISING TO BUY 2 MORE CARS FOR FAMILIES IN 2023! CAN YOU DONATE?
CHECK THE "FAMILIES ON THE MOVE" VEHICLE FUND ON THE DONATION ENVELOPE. THANK YOU!

SUNRISE'S MISSION: "STRENGTHENING FAMILIES". Sunrise works in partnership with individuals, families, and community members to provide a variety of supports and services. These services promote the growth and development of individuals and families through encouragement of strengths, expansion of opportunities, and support in times of stress.



WILL YOU DONATE TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION? "STRENGTHENING FAMILIES"

"They always
make me
feel welcome
and important
and cared about.
I appreciate
everything that
Sunrise has
done for me..."

PCC SURVEY RESPONSE, 12/22



Dear Sunrise Community,

Sunrise has been "strengthening families", for 54 years now. When we opened our doors in 1969, we were focused on providing quality child care. Over time, we have evolved in leaps and bounds as we strive to address the needs of our community. Early on we began offering a variety of home visiting services along with prevention programming, such as playgroups, parent education and support groups. Recently, housing challenges have taken a front row seat with families. It has become much worse, as I am sure you are aware. Opioids and addiction have wreaked havoc as well, leaving our community troubled, saddened, and just plain exhausted. Covid added another layer of anxiety, isolation, and fear.



Now we are experiencing an increase in stress along with mental health and behavioral challenges, more than ever before. Families are concerned for their children's well-being in their own neighborhoods. Amidst the atmosphere of increased crime, Sunrise remains committed to being a part of community discussions and efforts as we face the issue of public safety together.

Families are asking for help with their basic needs and Sunrise is responding. We provide necessities such as food, gas cards, laundry cards, diapers, phone and tech support, and help with transportation needs. We are a non-profit that our government depends on to support families, and we are continually asked to do more with less.

Will you please join our efforts to ensure that we have the funds we need, to directly support families in your neighborhood? Your contribution will allow Sunrise to continue to deliver quality programming and will offer families expanded access to greatly needed resources. **Thank you for supporting our mission, to make certain all families in your community have a healthy start and an equal opportunity to thrive.**

Thank you for your support,

Denise Main
Executive Director

FAMILIES IN BENNINGTON COUNTY
NEED YOUR HELP. PLEASE DONATE!

Mail checks to 244 Union St., Bennington, VT 05201,
or donate securely online at:
<http://sunrisepcc.com/make-a-donation.php>



When you make a donation to Sunrise between April - June 2023, to honor someone special, we can send a Mother's Day card, Father's Day card, or Thank You card to that special person.

Please complete the form below and return it with the donation envelope.

MOTHER'S, FATHER'S, & ALL CAREGIVERS TO BE RECOGNIZED!



Thank you!

Would you like to honor:

a mother?

a father?

a caregiver?

If so, Sunrise can send:

a Mother's Day card.

a Father's Day card.

or a Thank You card.

Who is the card from?

Name:

Address:

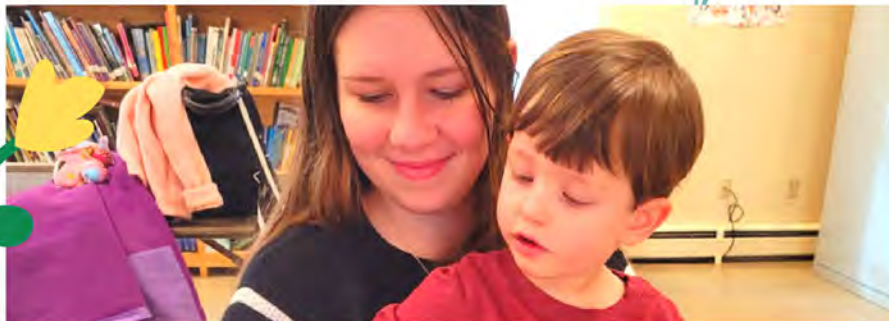
Name and address card should be mailed to?

Name:

Address:

At SFRC, a **diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment** is one where all **people feel valued and respected** whatever their birth, identity, or circumstance. We hope you **join us in celebrating the people** that collectively make up our community.

SFRC Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee



Please complete the envelope too!

CAN YOU MAKE A GENERAL DONATION TO SUNRISE?

Please complete the enclosed envelope, or donate securely online.