

September 20, 2019

Charlotte
Mary Mead
PO Box 119
Charlotte, VT 5445



Dear Select Board,

The mission of the Vermont Family Network is to empower and support all Vermont families of children with special needs. Formed in 2008 when two organizations, the Vermont Parent Information Center (VPIC) and Parent to Parent of Vermont (P2P) merged, Vermont Family Network has collectively served the families of Vermont for more than 30 years and created a virtual "one stop shop" for families of children with special needs and the providers who serve them.

We are writing you today to ask for your support in continuing to serve families in Charlotte and throughout the state, with an appropriation of \$1000. Traditionally primarily funded through state and federal grants, we find that waning funds threaten to slow our work and minimize the number of families we can support. We are reaching out to communities like Wilmington where we have served many families to seek your help. Your appropriation will help ensure the work we are able to do all around the state continues to happen with the same excellence and care that it has for the past 30 years.

We are proud to serve over 1400 families yearly with expert information, referral and assistance services provided by family support consultants located in Williston, Newport and Rutland, an annual conference and much more through our Family Support Program.

We are also the state's largest Children's Integrated Services Early Intervention Program, serving all eligible infants and toddlers in Chittenden County. Last year 601 families received services that supported their young children's developmental and early education needs. Vermont Family Network has recently become the home to Puppets in Education, an educational puppetry team who teach children and parents all around the state about important topics like bullying prevention, child abuse prevention and disability awareness through engaging performances that emphasize compassion, respect, effective leadership and communication. In the last school year 10,401 school children were able to benefit from one of these educational programs.

Thank you so much for your consideration. The funding received will go a long way to ensuring our ability to continue to provide the much needed services to families all across the state. Please feel free to reach out to me at Claire.giroux-williams@vtfn.org, or 802-876-5315, ext. 201 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Giroux-Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Claire Giroux-Williams
Development and Communications Coordinator
Vermont Family Network