

Vermont Children's Aid Society



Supporting and Strengthening Families
since 1919

2007 Annual Report



From the Executive Director and Board President

What an amazing year 2007 has been. Thanks to a wonderfully committed family of supporters, community partners, and friends, Vermont Children's Aid Society has been able to substantially increase services for children and families. Together with the Howard Center, Vermont Works for Women, Mercy Connections and other community partners, we helped launch the "Northern Lights" Program for incarcerated women returning to the community. Through our Kids-A-Part program, we have begun to more effectively support children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers. We hosted a conference to bring focus to the needs of families affected by a parent's incarceration that was attended by over 500 people. Camp ForMe served nearly 200 children and teens.

Internally, we've also had an exciting year. We've launched a Strategic Plan process so we can define the steps we'll take to bring us into the future. The Better Business Bureau honored VCAS with its Charity Seal of approval, which demonstrates our commitment to integrity and efficient management. Generous donors such as Fran Azur, Melanie Geffert and The Bartko Foundation again made Camp ForMe possible with their challenge and their generosity. Our Antiques and Uniques event in Craftsbury had record earnings. Kyle Paxman hosted the 2nd "Women Make a Difference" event. And the Rainwater Center produced the "Festival de Hearts" and the "Tour de Hearts" bike ride to benefit VCAS services.

That is all great news, and a sign of how fortunate we are to be able to count on so many supporters who are deeply dedicated to Vermont's children and families. But we had challenges in 2007 too, which you will see reflected in this year's financial statement. For many reasons, we have seen a decline in adoption placements in both our in-state and international programs. These factors were the main cause of the \$37,000 budget deficit you'll see reflected in our (pre-audited) numbers. As we engage in the Strategic Planning process, we are analyzing where the greatest community needs are, and how we can make the most effective and efficient uses of our resources, experience, and values to respond to them.

There are challenges in front of us, but also ahead is the exciting opportunity to increase our impact for Vermont's children and families. With your involvement, VCAS will grow even stronger, and even more responsive to the needs of our communities' young people and those who care for them. We thank you for your support and your commitment.

Steve Habib

Executive Director

Bruce Jacobs

Board President



About VCAS and 2007 Programs

Vermont Children's Aid Society has been supporting and strengthening families since 1919. The agency was founded to provide professional social work to find homes for the Vermont children orphaned by the flu epidemic of 1918.

Our mission is to provide services which seek to support and strengthen families, and promote safe, stable and nurturing environments for children. We work with all members of families to support the best interests of their children. Services are provided by professional social work staff with graduate education and extensive training in their particular areas of focus. Our offices are located in Winooski and Woodstock, Vermont, and we also maintain offices in the Dale and SouthEast State Correctional Facilities.

In 2007:

- **30** clients sought **Pregnancy Counseling** to help face an unintended pregnancy and understand the options available to them. **22** of these parents took part in **Expectant Parent Adoption Planning Services**.
- **387** clients used **Adoption Services** that support biological parents, adoptive parents and adopted children through the process of becoming a new family.
- **176** children and teens had fun and developed leadership skills at **Camp ForMe** for adopted children.
- **226** children and parents utilized **Child and Family Counseling**.
- **51** parents used the **Birth Parent Counseling Project** for support in facing the Termination of Parental Rights.
- **355** incarcerated mothers and family members took part in **Mothers and Families United** to gain help staying as involved as possible in their children's lives.
- **44** children, parents and caregivers, and **728** professionals used **Kids-A-Part** to ensure that children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers can get the support they need.
- **250** children of incarcerated parents and other families in need received holiday presents through the **Holiday Spirit Program**.
- **748** community members and helping professionals received phone counseling, referrals and community trainings through **VCAS Community Service**.
- **How many people used VCAS services in the 2006-2007 program year?** **3,217**

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2007 Highlights

VCAS Director of Adoption Honored by Congressman Welch as 2007 Angel in Adoption

Dorsey Naylor has been serving Vermont's families with VCAS for 19 years. This year, she was recognized for exemplary service and commitment to the field of adoption and to adoptive families with the prestigious nationwide 'Angel in Adoption' program. She was nominated by Congressman Peter Welch, and with representatives from across the nation, was honored at a gala event in Washington D.C. Congratulations Dorsey!



Coming Together for Kids-A-Part

The Kids-A-Part program was launched in October 2006 because VCAS staff saw the growing need for support for families affected by a parent's incarceration. Through our work with incarcerated mothers, we learned more and more about the practical and emotional challenges faced by growing numbers of children and their caregivers when one or both parents is in jail. That's why VCAS became the lead agency to follow the work of Vermont's Incarcerated Women's Initiative and other community partners to bring together family members, helping professionals in Vermont, and national leaders for a conference to talk specifically about the needs of children experiencing a parent's incarceration, and to set up action plans for each region of the state to meet their own communities' needs. On September 24, over 500 people came to the Grand Hotel at Killington for Coming Together for Kids-A-Part, and took part in discussions, workshops, and planning sessions to make sure that all of us can work together to support children and their caregivers while a parent is in jail.

Camp ForMe Celebrates 11th Year

Vermont Children's Aid Society's camp for adopted children and teens marked its 11th year by serving 176 young people in 2007. Kids came from all over Vermont to have fun, enjoy the experience of being surrounded by an incredibly diverse group of adopted young people, and acquire leadership skills that will last them a lifetime. The week that these youngsters spend at Camp is the highlight of the year for many of them; we have heard many stories about how campers and counselors plan their entire summers around participation. We are so grateful to all the generous friends, families, businesses and foundations that make the Camp experience possible.



Craftsbury Antiques & Uniques Festival

The 2007 Antiques and Uniques Festival, held on July 14, 2007, has set an earning record for the event by raising a total of nearly \$19,000. Antiques & Uniques is our largest annual fundraiser, and supports services for children and families. Its sponsors are BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont, Cabot Creamery, Northern Vermont Tent Rental, The Point FM and WCAX TV. In addition to sponsorships, funds are raised through vendors' booth fees, donations at the entrance, and proceeds from the Bake Sale and Lunch Tent.

2nd Annual Women Make a Difference Gala

Last year, Kyle Paxman canceled her wedding to a man who she discovered was having an affair, and transformed her planned event into a gala to raise money for families in Vermont and around the world at her "Women Make a Difference" event. One year later, Ms. Paxman is going strong, and has decided to make the event an annual affair. She says, "I'm doing this because I've seen what a difference this support makes for the charities. It's not about me!" On September 29, 80 women (and two men!) gathered at Burlington's Ethan Allen Club to raise funds for the children, women, and families who benefit from these programs. Donations and a silent auction raised over \$4,000 for VCAS.

2007 Income & Expenses*

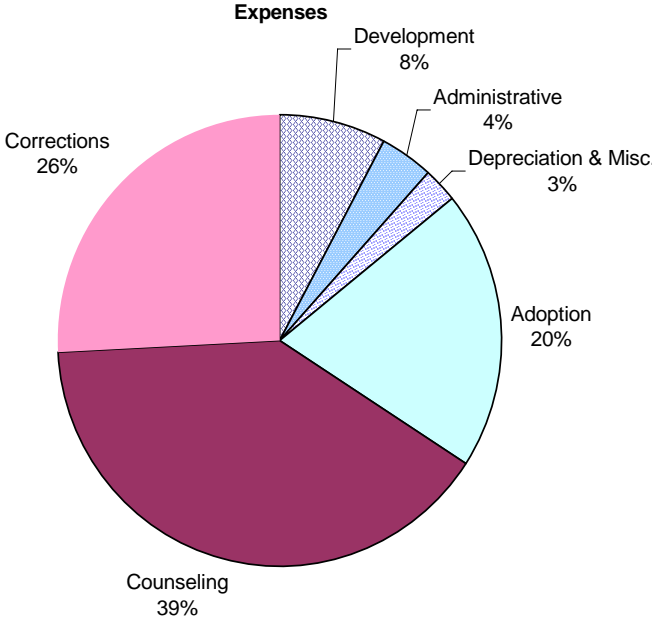
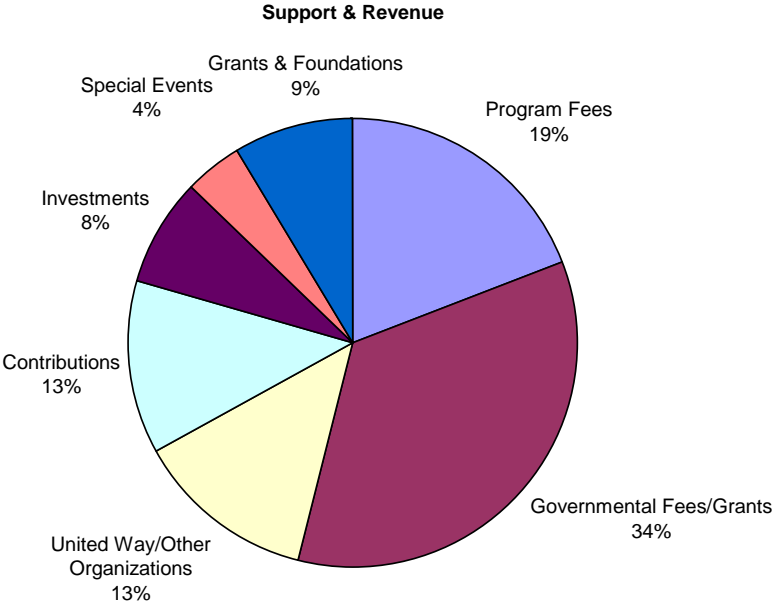
Revenue & Support

Program Fees	\$172,736
Governmental Fees/Grants	\$316,561
United Way/Other Orgs.	\$116,531
Contributions	\$114,990
Investments	\$ 68,275
Special Events	\$ 38,082
Grants & Foundations	\$ 78,741
Total Revenue	\$ 905,916

Expenses

Development	\$72,337
Administrative	\$36,663
Depreciation & Misc.	\$24,617
Adoption Program	\$188,036
Counseling Program	\$376,976
Corrections Program	\$244,463
Total Expenses	\$943,092

Net Revenue - \$37,176



Net Assets *

Total Assets:	\$970,292
<u>Total Liabilities:</u>	<u>\$134,768</u>
Net Assets:	\$835,524

* These numbers are unaudited. The deficit is a result of an unforeseen reduction in the number of adoptions VCAS completed in the 2007 program year.

Many Thanks to all Who Donated October 1, 2006 - September 30, 2007!

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Providing for the Future of Vermont's Families

We want to let our supporters know about a special opportunity that is available for only a short time that can allow you to make a real impact for children and families.

The congressional passage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 provides an opportunity for some supporters of Vermont Children's Aid Society. Until the end of 2007, a person may distribute up to \$100,000 per year from an IRA account tax free, and donate it to the charity of their choice. This can be a wonderful way to make a significant impact on the lives of Vermont's young people, and is appropriate for those who must take a distribution from their IRA plan, and who do not need this income.

There are restrictions:

- You must be 70 1/2 years or older at the time of the gift.
- The distribution must go directly from the IRA trustee to a qualified charitable organization, such as Vermont Children's Aid Society.
- There is a \$100,000 per taxpayer limit for 2007.
- Gifts must be outright to qualified charities.
- Gifts must be cash. Gifts of stock do not qualify.
- Distributions from employer-sponsored retirement plans such as SIMPLE-IRAs, 401(k)s and 403(b)s do NOT qualify.

Ask your financial advisor if this is the right plan for you. And to learn for more information on what impact your gift could have right now for children and families, please contact Cheryl Herrick at 802-655-0006, or cherrick@vtcas.org.

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