
2022 ANNUAL REPORT

YWCA
Vermont



YWCA IS ON A MISSION

ELIMINATING RACISM,
EMPOWERING
WOMEN,
AND PROMOTING
PEACE, JUSTICE,
FREEDOM, AND
DIGNITY FOR ALL.

2022 was such an exciting year for YWCA Vermont and Camp Hochelaga! We continued to navigate camp and programming through the pandemic, and our team created memorable and safe experiences for campers and staff centered around our mission of promoting peace and justice for all.

In addition to celebrating the successful summer we had in 2022, our team was already dreaming and planning for the impact we can make for our campers and families in 2023 and beyond. As a Board, we are thrilled with all of the ambitious and energetic ideas our staff have to bring our mission forward and incorporate its importance into all of our programming to better serve our community.

In October, the Board of Directors met with our staff to collaborate on a new strategic plan that centers our work even further on our mission and honors the legacy of social justice with the YWCA.

We are already getting to work on our big dreams for YWCA VT and would love your support in realizing our strategic planning goals.

Be on the lookout for the public launch of our strategic plan this year! As you take time the beginning of this year to rest and reflect on your time, energy, and space, please consider if you have capacity to give a few hours each month to a committee or to joining the Board to help make these goals a reality.

I am so appreciative of this community that cares so much about continuing and growing the YWCA Vermont and 'Laga legacy for future generations--we couldn't do what we do without your thoughtful support.

Please feel welcome to reach out at any time to myself or Chelsea.

'Laga Love,
Meghan VanStry, Board President



MEET THE TEAM

Chelsea Irys Rendlen, M.A. Executive Director



Chelsea (she/her) started as Camp Director at Hochelaga in 2021 while finishing her Masters Degree in Spirit Mind Body, Psychology in Education from Columbia University. She became Executive Director during this past camp season and has never looked back. Chelsea's work with camps, self-healing modalities for adolescents, and spiritual activism has been featured at conferences around the US including the upcoming Evolution of Spiritualities conference at Harvard Divinity School.

You can read her writings featured in the forthcoming publication, "Inclusion and Equity in Outdoor Leisure: Whose Body Belongs?" edited by Dr. Mandi Baker & Neil Carr. She is also proud to be representing the YWCA VT at the UN for their 67th Commission on the Status of Women this March.

"I am honored to be leading such an incredibly passionate and talented team. I look forward to furthering the mission of the YWCA VT while honoring the rich history of Camp Hochelaga."



Christine Perry, Camp Director

Christine (they/she) has been an active part of the Hochelaga community since their first day nearly 20 years ago. They received their B.S. in Applied Psychology in NYC, where they've also had the chance to work in a variety of settings helping and supporting kiddos with special needs, mental health issues, and learning delays, as well as children facing abuse, and financial hardships.

Aside from camp, Christine is also an artist and poet who explores identity, and the challenges that can come along with discovering yourself and how to love that person. With their experience, Christine is excited to work towards making camp an accessible experience that all campers are able to partake in and enjoy as much as they do.



"While a camper, Hochelaga was always a place I could depend on to help reset and reconnect with myself. I'm excited to be in a position now to help shape this experience for others so that each camper who attends can feel a greater sense of self, of empowerment, and to create a space where they can build deep connections with others and the world around them."

MEET THE TEAM

Victoria Threadgill, M.S. Managing Director



Victoria (she/her) is the Managing Director for YWCA VT Camp Hochelaga and is passionate about fostering community-centric atmospheres. Victoria got her B.S. in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences and her M.S. in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Conservation Psychology. She has worked in many leadership capacities within parks & recreation departments, nature centers, and zoos & aquariums.

Victoria is happy to join Camp Hochelaga and believes camp is a place where everyone who walks through the gates becomes free to dream. She believes that the mission of YWCA VT will go on to impact many within the community by fostering a safe and inclusive environment for everyone.

"I love YWCA VT Camp Hochelaga because it is a place where everyone who walks through its gate can dream and become a better version of themselves. The passion, love, and strength of the Hochelaga family is unmatched and will only grow bigger and stronger."



Abbie Israel, Camp Affairs Manager

Abbie (she/her) has been at home at Hochelaga for over 20 years now! She attended Northeastern University where she earned her BS in Psychology with a minor in Early Intervention. Between camp seasons, she has worked as a developmental therapist for children with delays and disabilities, as a doula and photographer of births, children, and families, and now as the director of an elementary after-school program. She was also the "lead historian" for the 2019 centennial celebration at camp and is excited to continue to work with the team to preserve the magic of camp for generations to come.



"The YWCA of Vermont has, for over a century, facilitated a place and programming that undoubtedly make the world a better place, and I'm thrilled to be a part of that."

MEET THE TEAM

Amy Bigelow, Office Manager



Amy Bigelow (she/her) has been a year-round, part-time Office Manager at YWCA VT Camp Hochealga since May, 2021. Prior to that, Amy retired in June, 2019 as an Elementary School Counselor in the Essex Westford School District, VT after 29 years. Amy lives in Milton, VT with her boyfriend, John and their two dogs, Piper and Emma. She has two daughters; Sarah, 27, who lives in Pittsburgh, PA and Ellen, 24 who lives in St. Albans, VT.

Amy stays busy outside of work with personal training sessions, listening to live music in the area, delivering for Meals on Wheels, and substituting for the office staff in the Essex Westford School District.

"I grew up going to camp in Freedom, NH as a camper and working there as a staff member for many years! I am so happy to be back in a wonderful camping environment such as Camp Hochelaga, which is a very special and empowering place to work."

Tracy Perry, Facilities Manager



Tracy Perry (he/him) has been developing his craftsmanship through all of his life's work. He's spent many years as an architect, cabinet maker, project manager, industrial designer, artist, and even owned a bagel bakery for some time. Having watched Christine attend and work at camp, he understands how special Hochelaga is to so many people, and is happy to be spending time sharing his knowledge and experience to help keep camp a safe, beautiful, and amazing space for everyone who passes through.

"I've never seen a place in my lifetime that is really so empowering to all the way that Hochelaga is."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meghan VanStry

Senja Kling

Renée Rubin

Nicole Sener

Elianne Wijler Klinefelter

Danielle Joyce

Jeanne Christensen

Board President

Treasurer

Secretary

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Honorary Board Member

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF CAMP

We're back to pre-pandemic enrollment and continuing to progress towards our mission - what's next?

We are so grateful for how our year-round and seasonal staff have helped further the growth of Hochelaga over this past year. We have officially updated our language to be an “inclusive girls+ camp” to better represent the population of campers and staff that have always existed here. We have expanded our international staff representation so there is greater diversity and increased cultural exchange to explore and share with our campers. We are continuing to expand our off-season programming with a new educational field trip program, in addition to our wedding packages and rentals. From the last day of each season, to the first day of the next, and through each of those long summer days, there’s a lot of hard work that goes into ensuring our programming is working

in alignment with our mission so that what we offer our campers can be as enriching an experience as can be.

Our current team is passionate about continuing to progress Camp Hochelaga to best suit our campers’ needs during these changing times. For summer 2023, we’ve extended our staff training week to create more time for important skill building, and added an in-service training day on top of our continuous evaluations and check-ins during the summer to ensure that our team is well prepared and can feel confident caring for our campers. Over the next few years, we’re excited to see many of our other ideas for camp come to fruition as well:

FOUR MAIN AREAS FOR GROWTH



**Mission &
Social Justice**



**Maintaining &
Expanding Facilities**



**Equitable
Camp Access**



**Off-Season
Programming**



Mission & Social Justice

These last few summers, our teams have been combing through everything from songs, to curriculums, to traditions to ensure that every aspect of camp is operated with intentionality, and with our current social state in mind. This upcoming summer, for the first time ever we will be offering **affinity groups** at camp that can help our campers connect over and celebrate all of our beautiful differences. We are working diligently on **threading our mission and social justice work into all of our programming to ensure that attending Hochelaga brings an even more meaningful and empowering experience** to our campers than traditional summer camp alone can.

Maintaining & Expanding Facilities

We have big visions of better maintaining and expanding upon our facilities so that we can continue to offer unique and exciting classes at camp to help empower our campers through all of their interests. We have hopes to **open a fishing dock** on our shores to develop waterfront programming; of **reclaiming our nature spaces to heighten the environmental courses** we can offer; **expanding our arts and crafts facility** so that we can offer a greater diversity of classes that help all of our campers explore their interests, and try something new while at camp; as well as a longer term goal of **adding a climbing wall and ropes course** so that we can help grow our campers' confidence in themselves.



Equitable Camp Access

We are grateful each summer to be able to offer scholarships to some of our families who may not otherwise be able to attend camp. Our current team has a big vision to not only **expand our Circle of Girls+ Fund** to help offer support to more of our families and community members, but to also grow fundraising from both internal and outside donors so that we can **offer camp at a reduced cost, or no cost at all, to all of our families**. We know that this means a big shift in the structure that Hochelaga is currently based on. As a first step, this year we'll be targeting efforts at **collecting demographic and other data so that we can better understand where our current community needs are presently** as we determine next steps to keep us moving in this direction.

Off-Season Programming

For 103 summers now, Hochelaga has offered a welcoming, safe, and exciting place for our campers to escape to, and we have hopes to expand upon our current programming to offer the magic of camp year round! We're already grateful to offer our **Leaders on the Lake** and **Leaders on the Rise** programs for campers. This year we've started adding more community based events including our **Hike for Hochelaga** - there is so much more we hope to offer to give our campers and community spaces to connect throughout the year! We are also offering a new **Field Trip Program** for schools!



"None of this growth would be possible without you! The support we've received from our families and community while we undergo these transitions has been so incredible and encouraging of the work that we put into making Hochelaga everything it is, and everything it can become. We're excited to see all we can accomplish together!"

Christine Perry, Camp Director



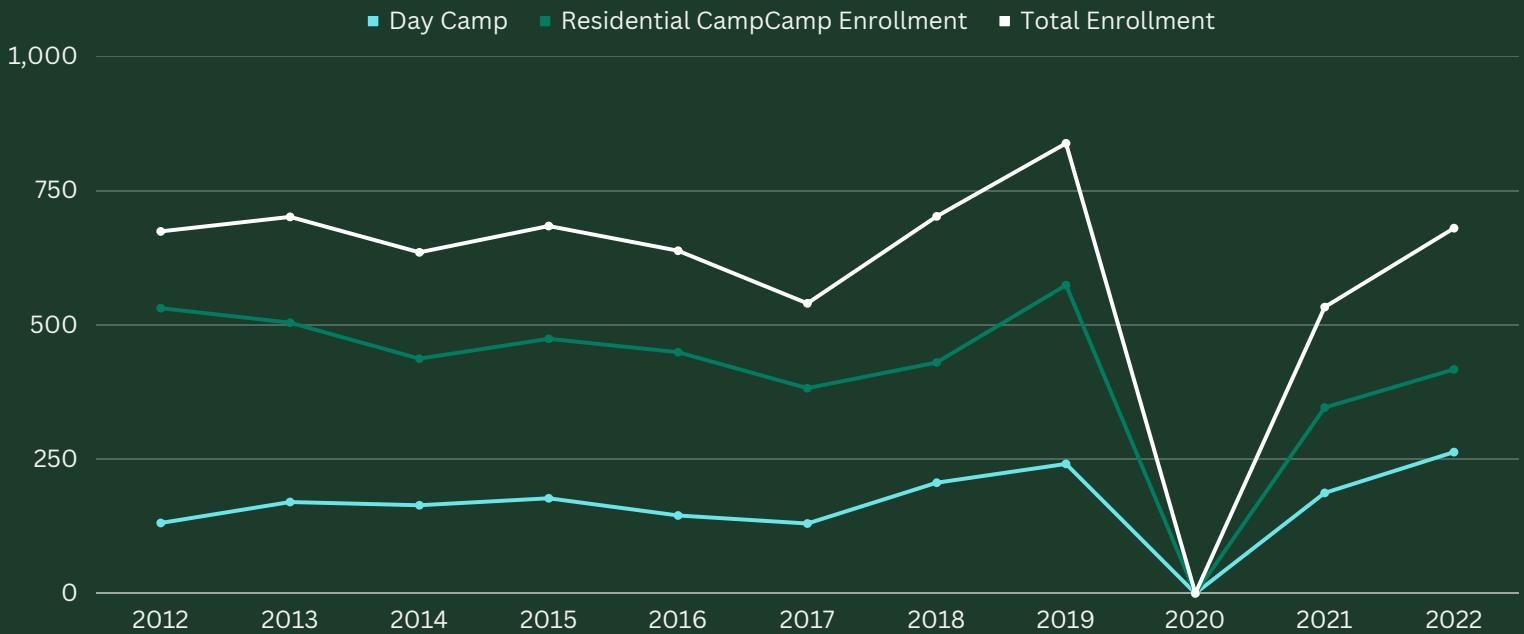
"Being a part of the Hochelaga family is truly something special. The collective vision of fostering belonging, justice, and peace for all, will only continue to grow stronger. We are so expectant and excited to see Hochelaga touch more lives than ever before!"

Victoria Threadgill, Managing Director



This year we brought camp to 680 kids!

HISTORIAL ENROLLMENT



Even with industry wide staffing shortages, we were able to provide camp to almost 700 kids! Those numbers haven't been seen since 2018, and we look to continue to grow this upcoming season.

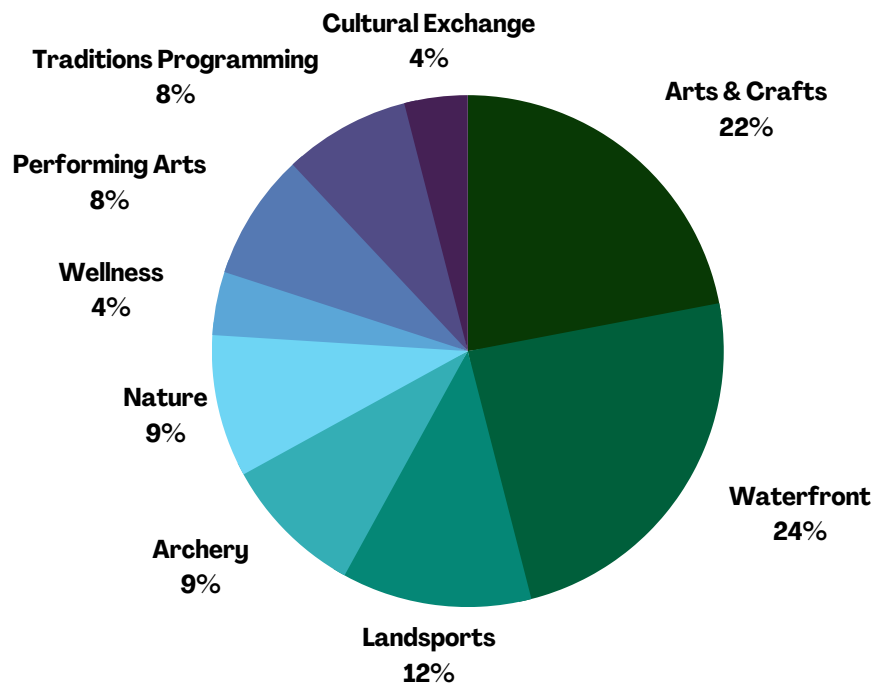
We entered the season with long waitlists. The only hinderance to being at peak enrollment numbers was the lack of staffing. In order to combat this we implemented the following changes:

- We are increasing stability with having the same management staff returning for the first time since 2019
- We have begun to acquire staff feedback reports and surveys to better adapt to and meet staff needs
- We have increased staff salary to honor the value of care work and pay equity
- We have increased skills training for staff so they can leave with tangible and marketable skillsets
- We have increased ongoing staff trainings to meet the developing needs of staff throughout the summer
- We have hired a staff mental health counselor for staff to meet with weekly if wanted
- We have increased staff time off

PROGRAMMING

CAMP HOCHELAGA PROGRAMS

We strive to offer programming that enhances our mission of empowering women, eliminating racism, and promoting peace and justice. This year, we implemented 322 programs within our camp season that fell within the areas of arts & crafts, waterfront, landsports, nature, health & wellness, performing arts, cultural exchange, and more! Understanding our breakdown of camp programming will help us to expand our vision for our campers' experience at Camp Hochelaga for the future as we look to provide more programs in the areas of cultural exchange, health & wellness, and nature.



SPORTS COURT!



AXE THROWING!



**NEW
THIS
YEAR**



Arts & Crafts

Our Arts & Craft programming is one of our most popular program areas. The programs offered this summer ranged from watercolor painting, clay sculptures, and jewelry making, to fashion design and candle making.



Nature

The nature at camp is one of our greatest resources. Our nature classes encourage natural inquiry and connection to place. We look to build programming to help campers understand the history of the land from multiple perspectives and enhance their relationship to what's around them.



Performing Arts

Our Performing Arts program area holds a special place in all campers' hearts at Camp Hochelaga. One of our most cherished program offerings is the musical, in which campers get to produce and perform a full-length musical production in just two weeks time!



Cultural Exchange

With 13 international camp staff this year, we were able to offer memorable and unique programs such as Brazilian Dance, Mexican Culture, and South African Beading. With these programs, we were able to teach the importance of honoring others' cultures and how to celebrate all lived experiences. As we look to expand our mission-based programming, cultural exchange will be a program area we will prioritize for the coming summers by encouraging campers to engage in cultural experiences.

International counselors came from 7 different countries to help bring a culturally enriching camp experience to Hochelaga.



Waterfront

With our camp being situated on the beautiful Lake Champlain, our Waterfront programming proved to be our most popular program area this summer. We were able to offer programs such as waterfront fun, canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, and more!



Landsports & Archery

Our Landsport & Archery program areas provide campers with opportunities to learn new skills and engage in team building. This summer, our campers played basketball, volleyball, quad-ball, archery, and so much more!



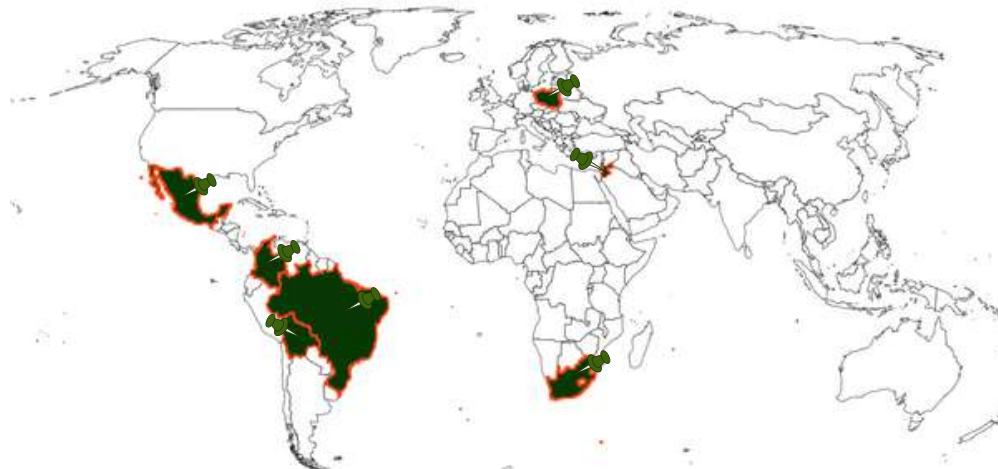
Health & Wellness

This summer we were able to offer Health & Wellness programs such as yoga, self-care, and creative writing. Our hope in adding this intentionally focused program area is to help campers get in touch with themselves better so they can build self-awareness and emotional resiliency.



Traditions

The traditions at Camp Hochelaga are part of what makes our camp so special. Some of the traditions program offered include banquet planning (a special dinner put on by the campers) and SCAMP (our camp news paper).



PROGRAMMING

Expanding Our Outreach

As we look to expand our programming curriculum, our hope is that we also expand the scope of people we are able to reach in our community. With this in mind, we are launching a strategic plan to better understand the needs of our community and how we can best serve them. To spur on our mission of empowering women and eliminating racism, we are looking to gather more data on our camper demographics to better understand who we are serving and how we can serve them better.

Demographics

This year we are revitalizing our camp application process to include demographic and ZIP code information. This will allow us to gain a better understanding of who is coming to camp and where they are coming from. This will help us to see what communities we are reaching and will help us to strategically reach more communities that would benefit from camp in the future.

Community Events & Partnerships

We are excited about our growing community, and we only look forward to expanding the Hochelaga family more. To better foster a close-knit community and get the message of the YWCA VT out to the public, we will be hosting more community-centered events such as our new event "Hike for Hochelaga". This year, we partnered with Rock Point Trails and Zero Gravity Brewery through their Green State for Good program to facilitate a guided hike with Hochelaga families. We look forward to offering this event annually in the fall season.



Hike for Hochelaga 2022

Year-Round Programming

In addition to our Leaders on the Rise and Leaders on the Lake programs, we are excited to announce that we will be offering field trip programming for local schools to participate in. Connecting with schools will help us expand our reach and allow more people to experience Camp Hochelaga during the off season. Our focus for field trip programs will be to provide excellent outdoor experiences while highlighting and modeling inclusive practices.



FINANCES

FY2022 FINANCIALS

JAN 1, 2022 - DEC 31, 2022

REVENUE

General Donations, Restricted Giving & Grants	\$ 80,055
Rentals	10,310
Camp Tuition, Programs & Camp Store	640,885
Total	\$731,250

EXPENSES

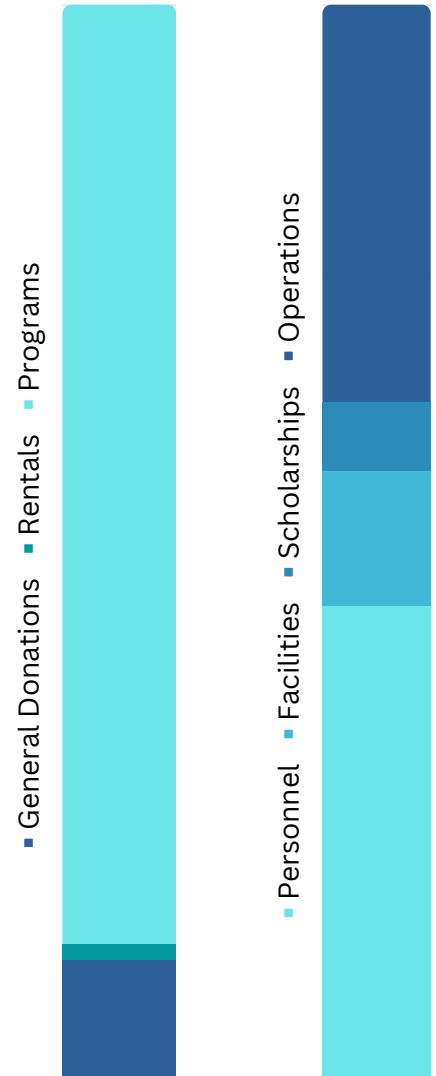
Personnel	\$372,241
Facilities Maintenance & Improvements	106,786
Discounted Camp Tuition & Scholarships	55,000
Programs & Operations	310,237
Total	\$844,264

ASSETS

Investment Accounts/Endowments	\$427,286
Cash	305,848
Total	\$733,134

Revenue Percentages

Expense Percentages



VISION

WE WANT TO SHIFT THE MODEL

Historically, we have relied on tuition costs to fund operations. We want to change that.

Recovering from Covid, staffing shortages, inflation, and rising food costs have all resulted in an increase in tuition. Though our prices are still competitive, we believe as a non-profit camp with a mission to **empower women and eliminate racism**, it is our obligation to remove financial barriers for families, so that all kids who want to attend camp have the chance. We know this is a lofty goal, and we need your help to achieve it. Paying tier B & C pricing along with donations go a long way. We are increasing our partnerships and sponsorships with local businesses, our grant writing, and development efforts. Reach out and see how you can become part of bringing camp to all!



WE PROVIDED
\$55,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

We are proud of what we were able to do, but it wasn't enough to meet the needs of all of our camper families, based on **Circle of Girls+** scholarship applications.



HAVE YOUR WEDDING AT CAMP HOCHELAGA



Renting Camp

is a great way to support our mission while enjoying the wonderful views of Lake Champlain. Whether you are looking for a wedding venue, a retreat space, or education venue, we're here and can be customized to fit the needs of your next event!

More info can be found on our website, [HERE](#)

Thank you so much to all those who contributed to our **Giving Tuesday** campaign and helped us to get a **new dishwasher!** And a special thanks to Allison Ryder and David Jones who donated the funds for us to buy **two new ovens!**

Want to get involved in helping improve camp? Pick a star below...

HELP US CHIP AWAY AT OUR

WISHLIST!



Other ways to support

Join the Board

Become part of the Mission Values

Programming Committee

Get a group to volunteer

Interested? Email contactus@ywcavt.org

THANK YOU TO OUR CAMPER FAMILIES!

\$35,825

was raised by families paying B & C tiered pricing for camp & programs

Thank you Volunteers

The successful opening and closing of camp relies on help from our volunteers. Thank you to all of the groups who came to support us!



GlobalFoundries™



MARVELL™



THANK YOU 2022 DONORS

\$10,000 and Up

Francis T. & Louise T. Nichols
Foundation

\$1,001 – \$10,000

Agnes M Lindsay Trust
Helen Bishop
Katherine T Griffith Trust
ZG Holdings
Network for Good
SCHIP
Lillian Venner

\$501 – \$1,000

Ann Goering M.D.
Mary Lou Lord
Samanatha Cantell
Susan Perry Rock
Paul Simpson
Vermont Green Mountain Alumnae
Chapter of Gamma Phi Beta
Wanda Wilking
Wrenegade Sports

\$251 – \$500

Nicholas King
Millicent Lawton
Robert McBride
Amy McLanahan
Jeremy Nierman
Elizabeth Paxson
Nancy Pope
Mary Pugh
Sandra Dooley
South Burlington Rotary

Up to \$250


Deborah Abbott
Allison Barlow
Beth Barovick
Deborah Bedrin
Margarita Bernard
Patti Billard
Norman Bingham-Maas
Karin Bloom
Tessa Briseldon
Amy Brokering
Juliette Budgus Avots
Ginger Burr
Sally Burrell
Laurie Childers
Ellen Coolidge
Deborah J. Dolby
Peggy Dutcher
Nerissa Edwards
Leslie English
David & Joyce Fifield
Lucia Fishburne
Anne Forcier
Grace Freeman
Rody Gessner
Roselyn Graham
Judith Greenwood
Patricia Halloran
William Hannigan
Sherrill Harbison
Kathy Heikel
Leigh Hicks
Joanne Jastatt
Maureen Kaplan
Timothy Kemerer
Senja Kling
Susan Knapp
Chris Krol
Brigitte LaChance
Wendy Love
Priscilla Maddocks

Sarah Malcolm
David Martin
Rebecca McCray
Nancy Lee McLure
Erin Menut
Priscilla Maddocks
Sarah Malcolm
David Martin
Rebecca McCray
Nancy Lee McLure
Erin Menut
Yvonne Murad
Jill Murray
Mary Nuovo
Michael Oliveras
Jane Oppenlander
Patricia Perry
Dana Baughman
Martha Prakelt
Erica A Rondeau
Kay Ryder
Elizabeth Sands
Wendy Sands
Jason Schwaber
Martha Shapiro
Shaw's
Adam Stevenson
Brenda Sussna
Jennifer Taylor
Hilarie Terebessy
Kim Terranella
The Benevity Community Impact
Fund
Katherine Tokarewich
Harriet Turner
Nicole Twohig
Claude Verdon
Lucie Winrock
Judith Wren
Rebecca Zacharias



CONTACT

 contactus@ywcavt.org

 (802) 372-4510

 @YWCAVT

 [facebook.com/CampHochelaga](https://www.facebook.com/CampHochelaga)

 [facebook.com/YWCAVermont](https://www.facebook.com/YWCAVermont)

 @YWCAVT

VISIT OUR NEW OFFICES ON SOUTH HERO!

564 Rt. 2, South Hero, VT 05486

