"Hochelaga is special because each time I come I meet new people, learn new things, and by the time I'm home, I'm campsick. Everything is exciting because Hochelaga has helped me become open to more new things. My cabin is my home, my bunk is my bedroom, and Hochelaga is my family! Everyone is kind and caring and the songs warm my heart."
—2017 Upper Mid 'Laga Camper

"I think Hochelaga is so important because it gives a ton of young women the chance to be themselves, to be free, and to discover who they really are without the peer pressure that happens at school and other outside social circles. I've come back to ‘Laga for 13 summers because I love it. No matter how hard I work to be a great counselor, I never stop having fun."
—2017 Seasonal Staff

"Women’s Weekend at Camp Hochelaga was the highlight of my year! I loved connecting with women in the fun, thoughtful and inspiring camp environment. This weekend was a chance to experience “sleep-over” camp for the first time! Something that I was not able to access as a young girl. I would encourage everyone to attend next year!"
—2017 Women’s Weekend Participant

YWCA IS ON A MISSION
Dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice and freedom for all.
OH, WHAT A YEAR!

This year, 2017, has been an exciting time to be involved with YWCA Vermont and Camp Hochelaga. We welcomed new Board members at a retreat in February and have been plowing full steam ahead ever since. After completing our vision statement, the Board has been steadily working on our 5-year strategic plan, which includes building wider community support for our programming; succession planning for Board, staff, and committees; and ensuring financial success.

Our committees (finance, development, camp, and nominating) are updating and revising their strategic plans to fit within that of the organization. The Board continues its efforts to work on the big picture while the organization runs in the able hands of our Executive Director, Deb Jorschick. As we work toward our 100th birthday in 2019, we look forward to welcoming new board and committee members—to be part of a professional group of women who are passionate about YWCA Vermont’s mission and vision and eager to continue to build this organization into a driving force in the state of Vermont—supporting girls and women to stand independent and powerful.

There has never been a more rewarding time to be part of the future of YWCA Vermont and Camp Hochelaga!

Maureen (Moe) Kaplan
President of the Board of Directors
The Hochelaga Spirit is alive and thriving! We are excited to share the many unforgettable faces and adventures of summer 2017 with you. Throughout the summer we saw campers and counselors of all ages take on new challenges, connect with each other across differences, build confidence, support each other, and appreciate the beauty of unplugged outdoor experiences. As we look forward to celebrating 100 years of camp in 2019, we are excited to say that Camp Hochelaga is ready for the next 100 amazing seasons to come!

The photos and camper sentiments held in these pages only begin to capture the magic that took place on the shores of Lake Champlain last summer and for 97 summers prior. It is with deep appreciation to our donors, volunteers, and community that we were able to welcome 58 girls to camp through the Circle of Girls scholarship program. We welcomed staff and campers from many different countries, cultures, and a multitude of experiences, providing incredible opportunities to learn from one another.

Throughout the summer we embraced age-old camp traditions that remain at the center of what it means to be a part of the ‘Laga community. Campers and staff alike gathered to sing, reflect on their time at ‘Laga, and float their candles out into Lake Champlain. We celebrated amazing camp productions of The Wizard of Oz and Annie, and the creation of a beautiful annual camp Log with a constellations theme. The Senior Banquet team transformed the lodge into Alice’s Wonderland, complete with an entry tunnel to crawl through.

Camp Hochelaga’s 30 acres on Lake Champlain are an incredible community resource. We are committed to continue growing YWCA Vermont programs outside of the summer camp season. Last spring a group of 18 girls joined us for our STEAM-focused program, Leaders on the Lake. During their weekend at camp they planted our garden, constructed bat houses to support our ecosystem, and empowered one another to be strong and confident leaders. We welcomed more than 30 women to Women’s Weekend in August. The group came together across many ages and life experiences to connect and foster strength in one another through an educational keynote speaker, workshops and intentional camp activities. As we think about future possibilities for camp’s many resources we are filled with excitement and anticipation.

I am incredibly honored by the opportunity to be Camp Hochelaga’s Camp Director. I truly believe that ‘Laga creates spaces of social safety and empowerment for campers and staff that are unique and special. I am excited to be able to lead, grow, and support this place, the lifelong friendships that are fostered here, and the traditions that have lived at its core for 98 years.

As a member of the YWCA Vermont Camp Hochelaga community you make the magic of these camp and program experiences a reality for so many girls and women. We are honored and humbled to be surrounded by such invested, caring, and giving individuals. Thank you!

Warm wishes and ‘Laga family love,

Hannah Bogard, Camp Director
Now in existence for over 98 years, YWCA Vermont continues to expand its programs and tailor its offerings to the constituents we serve. This year our staff worked hard to get out into communities in all corners of Vermont. From Stowe to St. Albans to Burlington to Manchester Center to Brattleboro and Rutland, we were on the move letting communities know who we are and what YWCA Vermont is all about. In total we participated in 22 community events, meeting local people, sharing our mission and stories.

We hope that you were able to take part in one or more of the outstanding programs and events that we offered in 2017, and that you were able to experience firsthand the pride we take in supporting our mission: to empower women and eliminate racism. We are committed to expanding these programs and building a sustainable future for women and girls throughout the State of Vermont. YWCA Vermont is now in a position to bring programs such as Stand Against Racism, Leaders on the Lake, Camp Hochelaga, Women’s Weekend and Week Without Violence to all who live in Vermont and even beyond.

What’s in store for 2018? We are looking toward our 100th year for YWCA VT and Camp Hochelaga. We are excited by the prospect of raising sufficient funds to undertake improvements to our camp property, such as replacing the Long House bathroom floor, building new program infrastructure, rebuilding the Halfway House bathroom, and saving for the future. We are looking forward to strengthening our relationships with community partners such as Peace and Justice Center, STEPS to End Domestic Violence, Globalfoundries, Ben & Jerry’s, and Comcast to name a few. These partnerships have helped us thrive and realize our dreams.

We rely on the generous gifts of individuals and businesses for support in meeting our mission and providing services across the state. With the assistance of community-minded businesses and individuals like you, we can continue to serve our communities with effective outreach and high quality programs. We invite you to support our ongoing efforts. Enclosed is a donor envelope for your convenience. Your generous commitment will allow us to continue and expand our programs.

We thank every one of you for investing time, energy and financial support to ensure the continued success of YWCA Vermont and Camp Hochelaga.

Sincerely,

Deb Sawyer Jorschick, Executive Director & Joanna Scott, Director of Development
Celebrating 100 years!

SAVE THE DATE

June 16, 2019

Help us light the candles celebrating 100 years of YWCA Vermont Camp Hochelaga. More details to follow, as the date draws near.

Please contact us to make sure we have your most recent information. We would love to hear from you!
Current Projects

Build a new Halfway House bathroom

More than 250 campers and counselors rely on our Halfway House bathroom facility to meet their needs each summer. Support us in updating the framework and features of the Halfway House on upper mid line so that we can continue meeting our goal of keeping everyone healthy and safe. Our new Halfway House will be another space at camp that is accessible regardless of ability, allowing us to make ‘Laga a space that welcomes everyone. The total project cost to complete the new Halfway House is $75,000. Help us make this essential camp improvement.

Put solar panels on the Lodge

Camp Hochelaga’s seasonal energy cost is $4,500. The installation of solar panels on the roof of the Lodge would allow us to eliminate this annual expense and focus these funds directly into programming and community outreach. The total cost for solar panel purchase and installation at Camp Hochelaga is $50,000. Support us in reaching this goal. YWCA Vermont is also welcomes donations of solar energy credits.

Put a new roof on a cabin

Our wonderful and generous 2017 donors made it possible for us to put new metal roofs on 5 of our 14 camper cabins. Help us make this essential update to the remaining 9 cabins in 2018! The total cost of each new roof is $2,000. New roofs will prolong the life of our cabins and keep them structurally sound, safe and protected from the elements.

Grow our paddleboard program

Paddleboarding is one of our most popular summer camp activities. Participation and skill building in this program are limited by the number of paddleboards at camp. We currently have 7 paddleboards. Help us double this number so that we can meet our ever-growing camper interest in this exciting, challenging, and strength-building program. The average cost of each new paddleboard is $300.

Grow our adventure trip program

We are excited to launch our new off-site hiking and camping trip program during the summer of 2018! Help us raise funds to purchase tents and camping equipment necessary to make these trips safe and fun opportunities for growth and healthy team challenges.
Circle of Girls

Making the magic of a Camp Hochelaga experience accessible to campers who would otherwise not be able to attend is one of our highest priorities. During summer 2017 our Circle of Girls scholarship fund brought 58 campers through camp’s gate and past the big green H to join us.

The 58 campers to whom we extended the opportunity of a camp experience came from array of backgrounds and life paths. Camp Hochelaga welcomed and supported campers experiencing homelessness, living in foster care, and from families with extremely limited resources. We are deeply and genuinely thankful to all of the donors who support the Circle of Girls scholarship program. The safety, freedom, connection, joy, and empowerment that can be found during a Camp Hochelaga session are experiences that many of these campers have never had.

"Thank you for the scholarship for my camper. There is no way she would have been able to attend without it. I picked up a beautiful young lady with such spirit and kindness on Saturday. She has told us many wonderful stories about how much she loved her time at Camp!"

—Parent of Hochelaga Camper

A Culture of Inclusion

YWCA Vermont Camp Hochelaga aims to be a place where any camper, regardless of individual identity labels, is welcomed into social, emotional, and physical safety. We recognize that spaces that are truly safe and welcoming for all races, identities, and life experiences are often hard to find and require constant work, intentionality, and culture shift. We strive to continue making Camp Hochelaga a diverse safe haven for everyone by creating a culture of inclusion during our seasonal staff training sessions, growing our summer team with counselors from diverse backgrounds who model this culture of inclusion at all times, and continuing to grow our Circle of Girls fund so that we can make camp experiences accessible to a wider community of campers.

In 2017 we welcomed a summer staff team members from Argentina, Spain, England, Canada, and the United States. We welcomed campers from across Vermont, the United States, Canada, China, and France. Staff training week included sessions and dialogues focused on recognizing cultural and social norms that can cause harm; creating safe spaces; collaborating across differences; and supporting campers of diverse identities and experiences.
The Power of Giving

There are many ways to give to YWCA Vermont Camp Hochelaga. Your gift will help enable us to continue growing and improving all of our programs and facilities.

How can you share your light with us?

Give Financially

Help us with one of our current projects
Send a camper to camp through the Circle of Girls scholarship fund
Fund the growth of our community outreach programs and signature programs
Leave a Legacy, consider putting YWCA VT in your End of Life plans

Give Your Time & Skills

Volunteer with us—we are always looking for:
  - Carpentry skills
  - Marketing and advertising skills and resources, event planning skills
  - Volunteer groups to open and close Camp Hochelaga in the spring and fall
  - Board & Committee Nominees

Give Material Goods

Check out the material donations wish list on our website (ywcavt.org) under the donate/support tab. We update often, and can always use new or like new goods to support programs and outreach.
2018 Calendar of Events

- **YWCA’s Stand Against Racism**: April 26th-29th, follow us on social media for event updates
- **Leaders on the Lake**: May 19th-20th at Camp Hochelaga
- **Open House**: June 10th, 12pm-4pm at Camp Hochelaga
- **Lifeguard Certification**: June 12th-14th at Camp Hochelaga
- **Staff Training Week**: June 15th-22nd at Camp Hochelaga
- **Camp Hochelaga Summer 2018**: June 24th-August 18th
- **South Hero 4th of July Parade**: July 4th, midday on South Street in South Hero, VT
- **Women’s Weekend Retreat**: August 24th-26th at Camp Hochelaga
- **YWCA’s Week Without Violence**: October 15th-19th, follow us on social media for event updates

Check out our new website! ywcavt.org

In April 2017 we launched our updated YWCA Vermont website. Our website now offers information about who we are, what we do, details for upcoming events, online registration for our signature programs, and opportunities to give in support of our mission and programs.
Community Outreach & Engagement

Our Signature Programs

Camp Hochelaga
Leaders on the Lake
Week Without Violence
Women’s Weekend
Stand Against Racism
Camp Hochelaga has been welcoming campers since 1919 making 2017 our 98th summer. Located on 30 beautiful acres in South Hero, VT, Camp Hochelaga focuses on providing opportunities for girls 6-17 to build skills, try new things, grow their confidence, and experience empowerment.

The faces featured in the following pages capture just some of the many moments held forever in the memories of the campers and staff of summer 2017. Each session was filled with measurable growth, meeting challenges, and building friendships that will remain strong far beyond the big green H at camp’s front gate.

Tradition remains at the core of the spirit that makes Camp Hochelaga a magical and irreplaceable place. Candlelight letters will be in the mail to campers soon as a reminder of all that they reflected on during the candlelight ceremony. Pictures capture the incredible amount of work and fun that went into putting on two full-camp theater performances. We often find ourselves humming the camp songs that filled the lodge with so much energy at each meal.

Camp Hochelaga’s 98th summer was filled with the kind of vitality and spirit that generates excitement and anticipation for the next 100 years to come on the shores of Lake Champlain.
Counselors in Training

Empowerment, leadership, mentoring, professional development.

In 2017 we increased the duration of our CIT program from 3 weeks to 5 weeks. This growth supported our 6 CITs in developing skills that translate directly to their lives beyond camp. 2017 CITs completed lifeguard certification, created activity plans, worked directly with campers, worked as a team during their 2 night canoe trip, took on self-led camp improvement projects, worked with our CIT Director to build resumes, and practiced interview skills with our Camp Director. We will be welcoming many of our 2017 CITs to join our summer staff team as counselors in 2018.
What it Means to be a 'Laga Girl

Leadership: Self-confident, takes initiative, positive role model, good communicator, inspires others, problem solver, dependable, supportive

Achievement: Curious, involved, independent, challenges self, creative, hard working, enthusiastic about learning

Giving: Compassionate, empathetic, puts others first, encouraging, inclusive of others, helpful

Attitude: Respectful of self and others, motivated, positive, spirited, fair, trustworthy, friendly, kind
Counselor of the Year
Christine Perry

Christine made an incredibly positive impact on campers and staff during summer 2017. As Head of Upper Mid Line, Christine worked tirelessly to mentor staff and support campers, ensuring that every camp session offered safe spaces and opportunities for all of us to grow. Christine was awarded the ‘Laga Counselor of the Year award nearly unanimously by her fellow summer staff team members for her commitment to ‘Laga and her true embodiment of the Hochelaga Spirit.
Leaders on the Lake

Leaders on the Lake 2017 focused on empowering girls to pursue their interests in science, technology, engineering, the arts and math. Girls stepped into leadership roles and gained confidence through team building challenges. They planted our garden, built bat houses, opened dialogues about positive leadership, and cooked dinners over the campfire.

Programming is developed in partnership with YWCA VT’s Environmental Leadership Initiative Interns. Interns are budding leaders in their fields of study and are currently completing degrees in University of Vermont’s Biology and Conservation Departments. Their areas of expertise include water quality examination, soil composition studies, animal tracking, plant identification, and interactions between invasive and endangered species that are native to South Hero, Vermont.

We are looking forward to a great Leaders on the Lake weekend in spring 2018 to launch Camp Hochelaga’s chicken coop project.

Week Without Violence

YWCA VT’s Week Without Violence stems from YWCA USA’s national campaign centered on raising awareness of the prevalence of gender-based violence in communities across the globe. This campaign takes place annually during the 3rd week of October. YWCAs across the United States host events, generate support for survivors, and create systems to make resources and education more available.

In 2017, YWCA Vermont joined the national Week Without Violence campaign. Our focus was on raising awareness, asking for reflection, and providing resources for survivors as well as bystanders in our community. We asked community members to sign our pledge to end gender-based violence, opened dialogues, and ran a week-long social media and poster campaign.
Women’s Weekend

YWCA Vermont Women’s Weekend is ‘elevated’ camping with purpose, a perfect setting for a weekend away, finding the time to disconnect to reconnect. Women’s Weekend is a unique opportunity for women to practice nurturing and nourishing their minds, bodies and spirits, all while keeping the mission of YWCA VT at the core of the program.

For the 2017 retreat more than 50 women joined us for an evening with keynote speaker Debby Irving, author of Waking Up White. More than 30 women participated in the full weekend at Camp Hochelaga. They built connections, strengthened confidence, and engaged in workshops that focused on empowerment and fun. The weekend was enhanced by passionate wellness leaders, traditional camp activities, rest and relaxation, nutritious meals, special guests, and surprises!

Stand Against Racism

Stand Against Racism is a signature campaign of YWCA USA to build community among those who work for racial justice and to raise awareness about the negative impact of institutional and structural racism in our communities. This campaign is one part of the larger national strategy to fulfill YWCA’s mission of eliminating racism. The campaign kicks off at the end of April each year. This year we were beyond delighted to partner with the Peace & Justice Center and Arts Riot, to help put forward a public event to stand together against racism and listen with intention to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s powerful words.

Dr. King, Jr.’s speech, “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence” is one of his lesser known yet equally powerful speeches. “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence” condemns the violence and atrocities committed by the U.S against the Vietnamese in its misguided bid to stop the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. He highlights the intricacies and parallels of the war waged in Vietnam with the U.S. war on poverty as one reflected in the interactions between the three threats facing democracy — racism, classism, and militarism.
We’ve done so much because of you! Thank you for your generosity
Donors listed below gave a gift between November 2016 and November 2017

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<td>Susan Alden</td>
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<td>Gaylee Amend</td>
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We welcome financial gifts by check, cash, or credit card* using the envelope included or on the donations page of our website: ywcavt.org.

*Please note that YWCA VT will not receive your credit card donation in full due to card convenience fees.
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Joanna Scott, Development Director
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**Volunteer Groups & Community Partners**
We appreciate the groups and who volunteered their time or partnered with us in 2017. Thank you!

14th Star Brewery
A Sharper Image—Jeremy Smail
Arts Riot
Ben & Jerry’s
Bluebird Barbecue
Comcast of New England
Dealer.com
Dinse, Knapp & McAndrew, P.C.
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The Travelling Canteen
United Way
UVM Athletics
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Globalfoundries tackling construction projects
Fire pit thank to Comcast New England
Members of Hochelaga Helping Hands promoting camp