

# The Prouty Voice

September 2017

Volume 12, Issue 1

## Family Matters: Homelessness is a year-round issue

By Chloe Learey, Executive Director

Finding a solution for the seasonal overflow shelter (SOS) in Brattleboro for the upcoming winter season is a relief for many in the community. The primary purpose of the SOS is to provide warm shelter for those who have no place to go during the coldest months. We are not a community that let's our fellow citizens face exposure and possible death because they do not have a home.

While the potential dangers of exposure are increased during the winter months, the risks of homelessness are occurring year-round. Specifically, children who are homeless are vulnerable to experience many complicating issues that impact their physical and emotional health. Unfortunately, this impact can have long term, cumulative effects over the course of a lifetime.

The impact of homelessness on child development occurs before a child is born. Pregnant women who are homeless are at higher risk of experiencing a lack of prenatal care, poor nutrition, and chronic stress; all of which can impact the development of their baby. These infants are more likely to have a low birth rate, to not receive regular check-ups and immunizations, and to live in a stressful environment. All of these are risk factors for a child not developing optimally, particularly the elements of a stressful environment, and can have an adverse impact on brain development. A child's brain is developing very rapidly in the earliest years; 80% of brain development happens by age 3 and 90% by age 5. Having children in positive environments which support that development creates the strong foundation they need to be successful in school and beyond. Children who are homeless are more at risk for not having adequate food, being exposed to or directly experiencing violence, being separated from their families and placed in foster care, a system which is not ideal for child development. These experiences create chronic stress and produce a physiological response which weakens the ability of children to develop optimally.



A report from the Family Housing Fund, "Homelessness and its Effect on Children"<sup>1</sup> notes that by 18 months, children who are homeless often begin to demonstrate a regression in speech and toilet training, and ultimately 75% of homeless children under the age of 5 have at least one major developmental delay, while 44% have 2 or more major developmental delays. These children are also less likely to be enrolled in an early education program which is one of the environments which could counter some of these negative effects. Clearly homelessness is not good for children.

Finding housing is not enough. Supportive services are also important. The risk factors associated with homelessness do damage to families, not just children, and it is critical that we work to offset those damages to create the positive environments necessary for children to develop optimally. We believe that all families want to do what is right for their child. Understanding what children need to learn and grow will help families provide that environment. Certainly stable housing is part of that foundation, but there are other services needed as well, including: long-term supportive housing, substance abuse and mental health treatment, access to health services, parenting education specifically for families who may not have experienced a supportive childhood, after-school and academic support, and nutritional support<sup>1</sup>.

The report from the Family Housing Fund outlines several strategies for maximizing those services. It is exciting that some of these supportive services are being embedded in Groundworks' shelters, creating continued possibilities for making progress on ending homelessness in our community.

As we prepare for winter it is imperative that we keep the larger picture of the impact homelessness has year-round. The responsibility for building solutions and making a difference belongs to all of us.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.fhfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Homelessness\\_Effects\\_Children.pdf](http://www.fhfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Homelessness_Effects_Children.pdf)



The Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development provides inclusive education and family support to promote the success of children and families.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Here We Grow Again!

**Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> ~ 5:30-7:00 pm**  
**Winston Prouty Center - Vermont Hall**

A celebration of a year on campus and our merger with the Windham Child Care Association. Enjoy appetizers, drinks and learn about how The Winston Prouty Center is expanding its services for local families.

### River Valley Kids Fair

**Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> ~ 11:00-3:00 pm**  
**Brattleboro Common**

19<sup>th</sup> annual fair sponsored by the River Valley Credit Union. Free food, performances, information by area non-profits and much more. Stop by to check-out our Early Learning Express bookmobile and pick out a free book!

### United Way's Day of Caring

**Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ 9:00-12:00 am**

Winston Prouty will have two projects on this annual day of volunteering: sorting and repairing books for our Early Learning Express bookmobile program and preparing a dorm on campus for the Season Overflow Shelter which will provides safe overnight housing for homeless community members in the winter.

More info: [www.unitedwaywindham.org](http://www.unitedwaywindham.org)

### Brattleboro Buddy Walk

**Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> ~ 10:00-1:00 pm**  
**Brattleboro Common**

Fundraiser to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics programs in Windham County. Meet new friends and help promote inclusion for people of all abilities. Event includes keynote address, 1 mile walk, raffle prizes, music, games and food.

More info: [www.brattleborobuddywalk.com](http://www.brattleborobuddywalk.com)

## COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

### CHILDREN'S INTEGRATED SERVICES (CIS)

**Alison Wheeler, CIS Coordinator**

Ext. 314 alison@winstonprouty.org

**Willie Gussin, CIS Intake Coordinator**

Ext. 303 willie @winstonprouty.org

### CIS FAMILY SUPPORT

**Kerri Beebe, Family Support Worker**

Ext. 204 kerri@winstonprouty.org

**Kellyn McCullough, Family Support Worker**

Ext. 305 kellyn@winstonprouty.org

### CIS NURSING

**Jean Vulté, CIS Nurse & Lactation Counselor**

Ext. 211 jean@winstonprouty.org

**Sally Pennington, CIS Nurse & Lactation Consultant**

Ext. 206 cisnurse1@gmail.com

### CIS EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH

**Jennifer Emerson, ECFMH Clinician**

Ext. 202 jemerson@hcrs.org

**Brandy Levesque, Consultation & Behavior Support Specialist**

Ext. 228 brandy@winstonprouty.org

**Shawn Lund, Consultation & Behavior Support Specialist**

Ext. 216 shawn@winstonprouty.org

**Maura Shader, ECFMH Clinician**

Ext. 202 mshader@hcrs.org

### CIS EARLY INTERVENTION

**Lisa Adams, Developmental Educator**

Ext. 224 ladams@winstonprouty.org

**Mary Coogan, Early Interventionist**

Ext. 315 mary@winstonprouty.org

**Kathy Hallock, Developmental Educator**

Ext. 219 kathy@winstonprouty.org

**Ellen Ostrander, Early Interventionist**

Ext. 227 ellen@winstonprouty.org

**Joanne Shaw, Community Resource Parent**

Ext. 208 joanne@winstonprouty.org

### CHILD CARE SUPPORT SERVICES

**Tonya Kangas, CIS Child Care Coordinator**

Ext. 312 tonya@winstonprouty.org

**Jeanna Genest, FAP Eligibility Specialist**

Ext. 311 jeanna@winstonprouty.org

**Kristy Rose, Food Program Specialist**

Ext. 317 kristy@winstonprouty.org

### FAMILY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**Emily Clever, Housing Resource Coordinator**

Ext. 203 emily@winstonprouty.org

**Crystal Blamy, Family Supportive Housing Coordinator**

Ext. 201 crystal@winstonprouty.org

## NEW MOM'S NETWORK

The New Moms Network is an ongoing meet-up group that gathers weekly in the Exercise Room at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital (BMH) on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11. There is no registration required and no fee. You do not need to have given birth at BMH to attend this group. This free BMH program is a chance for new moms (dads are also welcome) to network and learn tips from each other. Babies are warmly welcomed, of course, and need not to have been born at BMH to attend. New Moms Network is a free service of the BMH Birthing Center.

Recent topics at New Moms Network include:

- "Finding Excellent Child Care" presented by Jeanna Genest of The Winston Prouty Center
- "Getting the Lead Out" presented by Michelle Pong of Parks Place Lead Project
- "What's a Welcome Baby Visit" by Sandy Stark of the Welcome Baby Program at Early Education Services
- "That Birth Changed My Life" presented by Cynthia Cutting of Circles of Care

Find this month's topics at <http://www.bmhvt.org>. For more information call 802-257-8278 to talk to Dawn Kersula.



*Winston Prouty Acorn Room*

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER

**Kimberley Paquette, ELC Program Coordinator**  
Ext. 306      kim@winstonprouty.org

**Angela Hoag, ELC Administrative Coordinator**  
Ext. 210      angela@winstonprouty.org

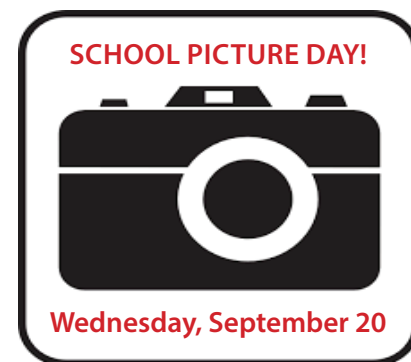
**Sueño LeBlond, Outreach Specialist**  
Ext. 229      sueno@winstonprouty.org

**Sara Fradkin, Brianna Root, Kathy Wright**  
Floating Teachers

**Bob Peebles, Susan Mandell, Amelia Goodnow, Kayla Parro**  
Volunteers

**Paul Rossi, Liz Martin**  
Kitchen & Lunch Support

The ELC Family Handbook will soon be available as a document on our website. Starting next week you'll be able to view and print the most updated handbook by visiting: [www.winstonprouty.org/handbook](http://www.winstonprouty.org/handbook).



### Acorn Room

*Nancy McMahon, Michelle Goodwin, Mandi Martin*  
Ext. 218 / Email: [nancy@winstonprouty.org](mailto:nancy@winstonprouty.org)

We are so very excited to be entering our second year offering infant care to the Winston Prouty Community! We have an incredible year planned with the intention of building meaningful and nurturing relationships and creating a secure family community. We have an amazing team in the Acorn room and we'd love to introduce ourselves.



*Music time with instruments and songs*

Nancy McMahon is our Lead Teacher in the Acorn Room. Nancy comes with over 30 years of Early Ed and special Ed experiences. Nancy has her BS in Child Development. What brings Nancy to Winston Prouty is a strong desire to provide quality infant care and education to the Windham County area, using the RIE/ Pikler influence of infant care! Nancy is a Mom of two young men 17 and 22. She resides in Spofford NH with her husband Fred, son Ryan and new addition Tucker the yellow lab puppy. Nancy loves to cook, swim and bike ride!

Michelle Goodwin is the AM Assistant Teacher. Michelle completed a Pickler training this past spring in Budapest Hungary and is bringing all she's learned into the room. Michelle has her BS in Early Education, and has been here at Winston Prouty with multiple roles as preschool teacher, floating sub and Elm assistant. She enjoys hiking, playing the ukulele and may be seen riding her bike to school in the morning. Her latest accomplishment is learning to stand on her head.

Mandi Martin has been at Prouty for three years. She has her AA in Early Education. She has worked for Early Ed Services, Head Start and The Sprouts Early Learning Cooperative. This year Mandi has dual roles as she is also a parent in the room of our student Atticus. She is also our baby sign language enthusiast as we use sign as a communication tool. Mandi enjoys bringing her artistic talent into the acorn room, and her love for nature as we explore all the seasons with our class.

We hope this is a year of discovery, community, music, art and endless memories for the babies, families, and staff. We welcome you all!



## Elm Room

Susan Heimer, Allie Barrett

Ext. 207 / Email: [susan@winstonprouty.org](mailto:susan@winstonprouty.org)



Look how many vegetables we grew in our planter boxes!



Hats Hats Hats is the title of this circle time book and activity.



Car wash



Outdoor sensory play with water and boats.  
Water always draws a crowd!



We enjoy observing the landscapers on a daily campus walk.



## Maple Room

Amy Fulton, Mindy Brennan / Ext. 205 / Email: [amy@winstonprouty.org](mailto:amy@winstonprouty.org)

Summer is over and we're back from the 'beach'. We'll turn our attention to the upcoming fall season with a focus on apples. There's a lot you can learn from an apple tree! This September, we'll use the fruit to explore color, taste, texture, and cooking. We'll use the leaves to learn about the changing seasons, to get creative with leaf rubbings and paintings and even as inspiration for some poetry!



*Since we can't get to the beach, we brought the beach to Maple Room in August. Everyone had a lot of fun with sand and seashells.*

*Desmond carefully prepares a snack for himself and a friend. Turns out was "yucky".*



## Birch Room

Jamie Champney, Kim Jacques, Alfred Hughes, Jr.  
Ext. 220, Email: [jamie@winstonprouty.org](mailto:jamie@winstonprouty.org)

This month we'll spend time getting to know each other. We're making All About Me Books - each child will have a page to share their picture, name, age and some of their favorites. Later in September, we'll turn our attention to the changing seasons and focus on apples and leaves, including a trip to the apple orchard.

We'd like to say a big THANK YOU to Charlotte's Nonna for sewing curtains for our shelves!

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW FRIENDS IN THE BIRCH ROOM

Desiree  
Orin  
Owen

Jeffrey  
Olivia  
Boden

Adrian  
Liam  
Shawndra

*Everyone loves learning and practicing new yoga poses with Alfred.*



## Oak Room *Sarah Bemis, Alyssa Kelly / Ext. 217 / Email: sarah@winstonprouty.org*

As the school year begins, we'll focus on getting to know our new and returning friends. We'll create self-portraits and trace our bodies to learn about ourselves and share what we recognize with others.

Our classroom will continue as pilot site for the Pyramid Model, which is a framework for supporting the social emotional development of young children. You can read more about below and in the next few issues of the Prouty Voice.



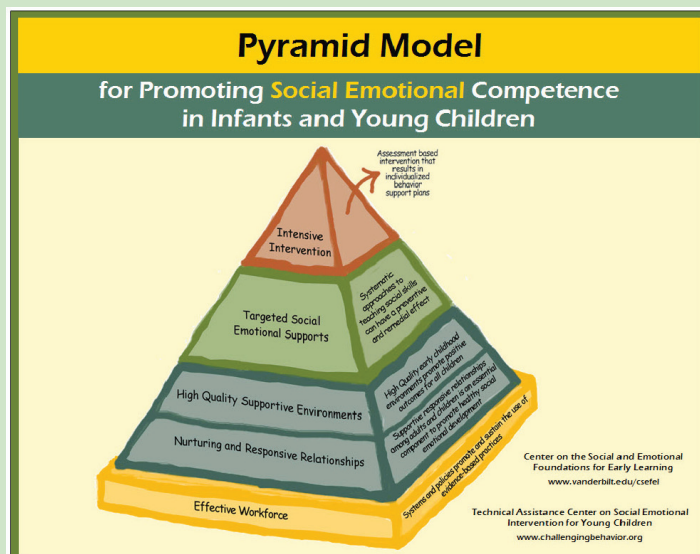
*Mina makes shapes and designs with Geoboards.*

*ELC Program Coordinator  
Kim joins us for songs  
during circle time.*



## What is the Pyramid Model?

The Pyramid Model is a framework for supporting the social emotional development of young children with a foundation of universal promotion through prevention and intervention when needed. One of the most critical foundations of early learning is promoting social emotional competence in young children. When children can identify, express and regulate their feelings, engage in social interaction and cooperative play, get along with others, follow directions, correctly interpret other people's reactions and emotions they are available to learn and succeed. In fact social and behavioral competence is a stronger predictor of success in first grade than a child's cognitive skills and family background according to a 2002 paper from the National Center for Children in Poverty. This is why we use evidence-based practice from the Pyramid Model in early education to support this development. Sometimes called Early Multi-tiered systems of support, or MTSS, there are pilot sites implementing this practice in Vermont as part of the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant. The Oak Room at Winston Prouty is one of those sites, and we are pleased to be integrating the practice throughout our program. We will be highlighting aspects of The Pyramid Model in upcoming issues of the Voice, so stay tuned!



## September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Braydon is 2!	1 Happy Birthday Jamie!	2
3	4 Center closed for Labor Day	5	6 Degan is 2!	7 Here We Grow Again! 5:30-7	8	9 Happy Birthday Lisa!
10	11 Giovanni is 3!	12	13	14	15	16 River Valley Kids Fair Happy Birthday Emily!
17	18	19	20 School Picture Day Happy Birthday Shawn!	21	22	23 United Way Day of Caring
24 Timothy is 3!	25	26 Happy Birthday Sara F!	27	28	29 Happy Birthday Mary!	30 Brattleboro Buddy Walk

UPCOMING  
EVENTS:

**Friday, October 6 & Monday October 9** - ELC Closed for parent conferences  
**Thursday, October 26** - Community Forum on Seasonal Overflow Shelter