

# The Prouty Voice

December 2016

Volume 11, Issue 4



## Our Mission

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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Vermont Hall  
Brattleboro, VT 05301**

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(802) 258-2413

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[www.winstonprouty.org](http://www.winstonprouty.org)



## *Note from Chloe Learey, Executive Director*

### Family Matters: Teaching Children to Give

We have entered the "giving season" when there is a heightened focus on multiple aspects of giving, from making financial donations to worthy causes, to donating our time and effort to helping others, to buying gifts for a variety of holidays celebrated this time of year. It is a wonderful opportunity to consider what lessons we are teaching our children about giving, reflect upon what we want to teach, and act on ideas for developing the giving culture we want in our families and large communities.

The forward to the book The Giving Family: Raising Our Children to Help Others, lists ideas for where to get started, including: be a role model by volunteering and donating; take your children with you when you volunteer, and talk to them about your donations; make giving a year-round project, not just something to do at the holidays; start now; let children decide what projects to support with their time and money (p. xiv). The rest of the book focuses on specific activities for how to implement these ideas and others, as well as giving examples through individual stories of real children and families.

We are fortunate to live in a place that makes it easy to give of our time and resources. You may have heard a variety of statistics about the number of not-for-profit organizations in Vermont being especially high, particularly in Windham County, and it is true (<http://blog.wedid.it/this-state-has-the-most-nonprofits-per-person>, <https://blog.commongoodvt.org/2016/03/new-vermont-nonprofit-statistics-released-by-irs/>). While this can make it more challenging for non-profits to find volunteers or donors, it is a good problem to have when we are teaching our children to give. No matter your family's or child's interests it is likely you can find a place to put your energy time or money as a way to contribute to the furthering of that interest. It also gives many opportunities to try different arenas if you are not sure where to put your energy.

The balance between giving and getting is an area for teaching children about giving and generosity while minimizing the focus in our culture on 'stuff.' For instance, making gifts to organizations in the name of another people is a way to give without buying more. Many families give gifts through organizations such as Heifer International, contributing towards a goat or some chickens for a family in need. Locally we have efforts like Project Feed the Thousands, which offer a very concrete way for children to learn how their giving makes a difference in the lives of others. It is important to find multiple ways for people to contribute, not just through money or buying things for others. For instance, when there is a food drive at school you can be assured that children and families who are beneficiaries of that initiative also go to school there. They might not be able to bring in a canned good or a box of cereal, and may end up experiencing a sense of shame. In the example of the food drive perhaps it is decorating the boxes or making posters. Volunteering time is another way to give without making purchases – serving food or helping clean up at a community meal, or even helping a neighbor rake leaves or shovel snow.

Helping children find the gift in giving is the most powerful teaching we can offer. Children are born with a natural sense of empathy, and offering them opportunities to give in whatever form is meaningful to them will help them develop into their best selves, which is ultimately what we want.

# Administration

## 802-257-7852

Chloe Learey	Executive Director	Ext. 301	chloe@winstonprouty.org
Lisa Whitney	Director of Operations	Ext. 302	lisa@winstonprouty.org
Bridget Goodell	Operations Assistant	Ext. 304	bridget@winstonprouty.org
Paula Schwartz	Development Assistant		paula@winstonprouty.org
Mike Curtis	Assistant		

### Wish List

- \*Baby Bath Tubs
- \*Highchair or Booster Seat w/Tray
- \*Gently Used Infant/Toddler Shoes
- \*Baby Carriers/Slings
- \*Infant Swings
- \*Bassinets
- \*Boppy Pillows
- \*Booster Seats
- \*Towels (not new)
- \*Baby Mirrors
- \*Baby Beds (for toy dolls)
- \*Rhino Balls

### Important Number to Note!

Please note that if you need immediate assistance after the office is closed, and the classroom isn't answering their phone, please call the ELC cell phone at **802-246-7852**. This rings to a cell phone that the ELC Staff brings with them onto the playground in the afternoons.

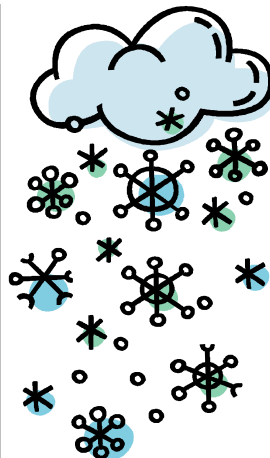
### IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER:

Tune in to

**WTSA** (96.7 FM, 1450 AM, online at [www.wtsa.net](http://www.wtsa.net)) or

**WKTV** (92.7 FM, 1490 AM, online at [www.wkvt.com](http://www.wkvt.com))

for Center closings or delays.



The Center does NOT follow the closing of the public school system. In general, due to the nature of our work for both the Early Learning Center and Community Based Services, we try to stay open as much as possible.

We expect that days the Center is open when the weather is not ideal may look a bit different from a typical day depending on which children and staff make it to the Center and at what time.

**Decisions are typically made by 6:30 a.m. if the Center will be CLOSED.**

## Board of Trustees

David Dunn (President)  
Sue Dyer (Vice President)  
Jon Neurock (Treasurer)  
Sarah Nohl (Secretary)

Rachel Henry  
Frederic Noyes  
Thea Lloyd  
Scott Lyford  
Ann Allbee

## Management Team

Chloe Learey, Executive Director  
Lisa Whitney, Director of Operations  
Alison Wheeler, CIS Coordinator  
Mary Coogan, Early Interventionist  
Kim Paquette, ELC Program Coordinator

# Community Page

*If you know of an event that may be of interest to the Prouty community, please email [paula@winstonprouty.org](mailto:paula@winstonprouty.org) with details. Thanks!*

## Campus Update

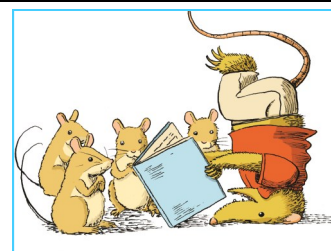
We're happy to report that Holton Hall is now entirely filled with renters, many of whom are community partners we work closely with!



## KIDSPRAYCE

**Every Tuesday in December, 10:30-11:30 am**  
**20 Elliot Street, Brattleboro**

Visit Kidsplayce where you'll read a story (or a few) and make a healthy snack, together with a Brattleboro Food Co-op volunteer.



**18th Annual Cotton Mill Open Studio and Holiday Sale**  
**Friday-Sunday, December 2nd-4th**  
**74 Cotton Mill Hill, Brattleboro**

The 18th annual, seasonal event celebrates the work and creations of artists, musicians, bakers, cooks, circus performers and craftspeople of the Cotton Mill, and many other talented artists and artisans from Brattleboro and surrounding communities.

## Jingle Bell Jog

**Saturday, December 10th 9:00-11:00 am**  
**Brooks House—Main St., Brattleboro**



This 5K run/walk race will kick off at the Brooks House and run along the Whetstone Brook. There will be prizes for the first three men and women finishers. Holiday-themed attire is encouraged, but not required! Jingle bells will be provided. Cost: \$20.



## Community Based Services (CBS) 802-258-2414

Lisa Adams	Developmental Educator	Ext. 224	ladams@winstonprouty.org
Kerri Beebe	Family Support Worker/Housing	Ext. 204	kerri@winstonprouty.org
Crystal Blamy	Family Supportive Housing	Ext. 201	crystal@winstonprouty.org
Emily Clever	Housing Resource Coordinator	Ext. 203	emily@winstonprouty.org
Mary Coogan	Early Interventionist	Ext. 209	mary@winstonprouty.org
Willie Gussin	Family Support Worker	Ext. 303	willie@winstonprouty.org
Kathy Hallock	Developmental Educator	Ext. 219	kathy@winstonprouty.org
Rebecca Krause	Maternal Child Health Nurse	Ext. 211	rebecca@winstonprouty.org
Brandy Levesque	Consultation & Education, ECFMH	Ext. 228	brandy@winstonprouty.org
Shawn Lund	Consultation & Education, ECFMH	Ext. 216	shawn@winstonprouty.org
Kellyn McCullough	Family Support Worker	Ext. 305	kellyn@winstonprouty.org
Ellen Ostrander	Early Interventionist	Ext. 227	ellen@winstonprouty.org
Sally Pennington	Maternal Child Health Nurse	Ext. 206	sally@winstonprouty.org
Megan Seidner	Early Interventionist	Ext. 226	
Joanne Shaw	Community Resource Parent	Ext. 208	joanne@winstonprouty.org
Alison Wheeler	CIS Coordinator	Ext. 213	alison@winstonprouty.org
Maura Shader & Jennifer Emerson CIS Early Childhood Family Mental Health (ECFMH)		Ext. 202	

## News from Community Based Services

*Community Based Services includes; Children's Integrated Services (CIS), Family Supportive Housing (FSH), and the Early Education Initiative (EEI). CIS is a resource for families when they have questions or concerns about their child's development during pregnancy, infancy and early childhood.*

Sandra Wood, our state consultant on perinatal mood and anxiety, will be coming to our community on Dec. 6th. She'll spend part of the day here consulting with CIS Nursing and our partner Midwives with a focus on how best to support moms toward addressing their depression and anxiety. This group is also interested in hearing more about the "wellness planning" Sandra discussed during our phone consult with her last month at the Perinatal Wellness Initiative meeting. She'll also consult with the pediatric practice on postpartum depression screening and to do a presentation/Q&A session with the CIS Clinical team and our community partners, focusing on signs, symptoms, screening and referrals for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (PMAD) as well as how PMAD effects children.

Ellen has been settling in to her new position with the EI team and already has 10 families on her caseload and is participating in many evaluations with the team.

Shawn Lund started in her position providing Consultation and Education for CIS on Nov. 7th. She'll be spending some time with different providers and programs to get a better sense of the community needs around C&E. On Nov. 28th, the CIS Systems team and ECFMH team will be meeting to discuss Shawn's role and determine how much of her time will be spent in programs versus working directly with caregivers in the home.



**Holiday Gifts and Clothing Donations:** The Community Based Services Team is looking for toys/gifts for families who need a little extra help during the holidays and don't have access to the Secret Santa Project. Ideas include books, puzzles, games, clothing, dolls, blocks, dress up clothes, infant blankets, infant rattles and toys, musical instruments, gift certificates to purchase gifts at Walmart, Love It Twice, Whippersnappers, Carters, etc., and any other items that would brighten a child's day. Gifts should be appropriate for infants - 6 years old.

We are also seeking winter coats, boots, hats and mittens in new or slightly used condition for our families who didn't receive a voucher from the Kids and Coats community program. Gift certificates to purchase these items at local stores are also welcome!

If you can help us or have questions, please contact Kerri at 257-2101 ext. 204 or [kerri@winstonprouty.org](mailto:kerri@winstonprouty.org). We hope to make baskets by Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. **Thank you and please share widely!**

### CBS Wish List

There is a family in the need for size 6-8 boys sweatpants and footed PJs. Please contact Kerri Beebe at Ext. 204 if you're able to donate any of these things. Thanks!

## Resources

State-wide community resources	<b>Vermont 2-1-1</b>	2-1-1	<a href="http://www.vermont211.org">www.vermont211.org</a>
Child care referrals and resources	<b>Windham Child Care Association (WCCA)</b>	802-254-5332	<a href="http://www.windhamchildcare.org">www.windhamchildcare.org</a>
WIC	<b>Vermont Department of Health</b>	802-257-2880	<a href="http://www.healthvermont.gov">www.healthvermont.gov</a>
Mental health and substance abuse services	<b>Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)</b>	1-888-888-5144	<a href="http://www.hcrs.org">www.hcrs.org</a>
Housing and other services for people in poverty	<b>Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)</b>	802-254-2795	<a href="http://www.sevca.org">www.sevca.org</a>
New Moms Network (Dawn Kersula, MA, RN)	<b>Brattleboro Memorial Hospital</b>	802-257-8278	E-mail: <a href="mailto:dkersula@bmhvt.org">dkersula@bmhvt.org</a> <a href="http://www.bmhvt.org">www.bmhvt.org</a>
Local event listings and information	<b>Parent Express</b>	603-352-1234	<a href="http://www.sentinelsource.com/parent_express/">www.sentinelsource.com/parent_express/</a>

# Early Learning Center

# 802-257-2101

## ELC Program Coordinator

Kimberley Paquette

Ext. 306 kim@winstonprouty.org

## ELC Administrative Coordinator

Angela Hoag

Ext. 210 angela@winstonprouty.org

## Teaching Staff

Acorn: Nancy McMahon, Mandi Martin, Michelle Goodwin

Ext.218 nancy@winstonprouty.org

Elm: Susan Heimer, Allie Barrett

Ext. 207 susan@winstonprouty.org

Maple: Amy Fulton, Mindy Brown

Ext. 205 amy@winstonprouty.org

Oak: Sarah Bemis, Lorraine Gilman

Ext. 217 sarah@winstonprouty.org

Birch: Kim Jacques, Alfred Hughes Jr.

Ext. 220

Floaters: Kathy Wright, Mare Lunderville, Lyn Call, Alyssa Kelly

### Volunteers

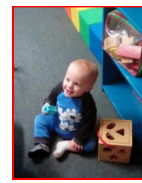
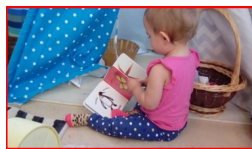
Susan Mandell  
Bob Peeples

### Non-Teaching Staff

Liz Martin  
Paul Rossi

**Lost Items:** It is that time again, as we swap out the clothes for warmer ones make sure everything is labeled. With all the various items it gets very confusing. Usually mystery clothes are out in the classrooms for a day, then end up in the Lost & Found under the parent mailboxes in the hall. (Mystery lunch box containers usually get stored in the kitchen.) Let us know if something is missing! By the way, the Lost and Found is often emptied after school vacations, so give it occasional checks.

**Acorn Room (Infants)** *Mr. Moon Mr. Moon you're out to soon, The sun is still in the sky, Go back to bed you sleepy head, Until the day goes by.* This is one of many songs we're singing during our group circle time. Other songs include Twinkle Twinkle, Mr. Sun, Lantern Song, Grey Squirrel, and Douglas Mountain. We're exploring the big changes around us. As our seasons change, our days grow short, our nights grow cold. This affects children's sleep patterns, which can affect everything else in a baby's world. The infants are learning about, what they can see, feel, and touch. And so it is with the seasonal changes, these babies change as well. They are quickly becoming toddlers, as we begin celebrating first birthdays. The cold bites our noses. We are wearing different clothes and learning to get dressed in many layers. New items are being introduced like mittens, boots, and hats; these are great opportunities to celebrate change and what that means. It's a time to teach self-care and self-help skills while greeting winter. And so as the dark time comes we bring out our inner lights and gather together to make a brighter one. We would like to wish all a safe and happy holiday season, and a happy Winter Solstice.

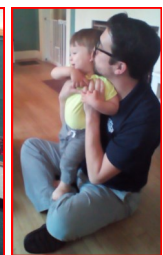


**Elm Room (Young Toddlers)** This month we welcomed three new friends to the Elm Room and have been enjoying building relationships. With the new children, we are back to focusing on our routines and building the classroom community as we talk about how we feel and take turns with each other. A highlight of the month was getting to know each child's family and their environment during our home visits. It is a very special thing to be shown favorite people, places, possessions, pets, etc. by the child, and review developmental milestones and progress with their parents. Our understanding of each other has deepened. Thank you to all that participated! Circle time has lately been our favorite part of the classroom day. Children are now helping get out carpet squares to hold their own spot at circle time. With this ability to sit, we have been able to introduce Storyboard, use rhythm sticks safely and enjoy group story telling usually with big books.



Siblings are a big part of a toddler's world and we were lucky enough to meet with this whole family!

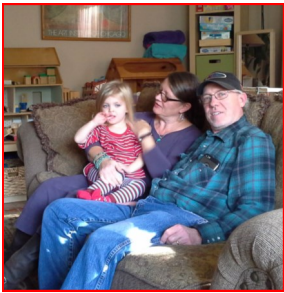
Family relationships are so important. Our portrait board is a comfort to children who see that connection to their families on a daily basis.





**Maple Room (Older Toddlers)** November came and went with a blur of activity and preparation for our parent conferences. Thank you so much for opening your homes to us and letting us visit and talk. We learned so much from you, our families, and it makes it so easy to nurture and teach your children. In November we talked about family, special meals and favorite foods. We even made our house area bigger and added a large kitchen to help make all that holiday food. We chopped up pumpkins, baked and "milled" them into a puree for our pumpkin bread and for our pumpkin ravioli. Setting the table for meals has been a very popular thing to do with our 2 year olds. They really enjoy helping with "chores" or "jobs" and we encourage their independence and success. We are also encouraging them to say "Please" and "Thank you".

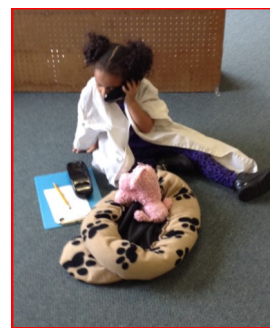
The month of December starts with the themes of winter and holidays: (weather/temperature/snow & ice, Christmas & Hanukah/ giving gifts & family). Our kitchen area will turn into a post office and workshop. We plan to mail boxes and cards, write letters and wrap gifts. We will even use carpentry tools to "make" things.



**Oak Room (Preschool)** The month of November has been focused around food and family. We have worked to create a variety of different art pieces at our easel and made center pieces for our thanksgiving tables. We enjoy baking treats together and making playdough. Students have also been working hard to identify their names at different spots in the classroom and are learning more letters every day! The teachers enjoyed visiting families at their homes during parent-teacher conferences. We look forward to learning about the story of stone soup and the many holidays December has to offer.



**Birch Room (Preschool)** Our new theme in the Birch room is Community. We've been talking and reading about what community means. The children helped decide how we would set up our small group centers to start building our community. Our dramatic area will be a grocery store with a deli and the art area is the post office. The block space is the veterinarian clinic and our circle area is a games and toy room. The children have been busy helping Alfred set up the grocery store and are practicing a parade for the grand opening celebration. They are really enjoying taking turns being a veterinarian, a nurse and a patient with their pets. The post office has been very busy stamping and mailing letters. We have a citizen jar that we're filling up with pompoms and exploring what a citizen is in the classroom. We're learning about kindness, respect and cooperation. When the jar gets full, we'll have a party. We would also like to welcome our new friend Jazmin!



**Happy Winter &  
Happy Holidays!**

**Dec. 21st: Winter Solstice**

**Dec. 24th: Hanukkah Begins**

**Dec.25th: Christmas Day**

**Dec. 26th: Kwanzaa Begins**

**Dec. 31st :New Year's Eve**



### Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Program

We are happy to announce that we've been selected as the recipient of the Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Program for the month of December.

For every **Blue Bag with the Good Karma Message** reusable grocery bag purchased at the Brattleboro Hannaford in December, \$1 will be donated to The Winston Prouty Center. All you need to do is purchase the Good Karma bag, which can be found on the reusable bag racks and at various registers.

Please spread the word -Thanks!



The **Center closes** at **3:30** on the first Wednesday of each month for Staff Meeting.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Sadie is 3!	5	6	7 Tyler is 4! CENTER CLOSED at 3:30 for All Staff Meeting	8	9	10
11	12	13 Desiree is 3!	14	15	16 Happy Bday Kathy H	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Shiloh s 3!	26 Luna s 3! Max V is 1!	27	28 Sebastian is 4!	29	30	31
CENTER CLOSED for Winter Break						

**Upcoming  
Events:**

**\*We will re-open on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017\***

**January 16th Center Closed for Staff In-Service**