



# THE NETWORKER

April 2010

## in this issue

- :: Vermont School Age Care Network Annual Meeting
- :: Afterschool For All Legislative Day
- :: Operation Military Kids
- :: The Vermont Afterschool Foundations Certificate and Professional Credential
- :: VSACN Membership
- :: Upcoming Events and Resources

**Dear Sue,**

Hello from the Vermont School Age Care Network!

I hope that the signs of spring are all around you as you read this and the children and youth in your care are showing signs of spring fever, too! It is always great to see them outside without heavy coats and mittens, despite the mud.

A sign of spring at the Vermont School Age Care Network is our annual spring board retreat. This year we worked on a three year plan that will be ratified by our Core Leaders next month. One of the items on the plan was to increase membership in VSACN and on the Core Leaders Group. We have five spaces available for people like you who are interested in making Vermont's afterschool programs the best. If you are interested in joining the Core Leaders, please contact me.

Enjoy the warmth of the sunshine, the spring flowers and the delight in the children you care for as they shed those coats!

Sue Kamp  
VSACN Coordinator

## VSACN Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 2010, 6:30 PM

The Brandon Inn, Brandon, Vermont

Plan to join us for an update of the Vermont School Age Care Network's activities and core leader and officer elections. Additionally:

- Building Relationships with Families, a popular VSACN workshop will be presented.

- There will be a door prize drawing for all VSACN members present for an [all expense paid trip](#) to the 2011 National Afterschool Conference!!
- And best of all-- dessert!

To register, please click [here](#). See you on May 13!

### **Afterschool For All Legislative Day**

The Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence and the Vermont School Age Care Network hosted a legislative breakfast and training day in Montpelier, Thursday, March 25. The theme, *Afterschool For All*, highlighted the efforts to have high quality afterschool, before school and summer programs available to all children and youth in Vermont.

"Our goal for the Legislative Day was to thank the legislature for their support of afterschool programs and to encourage further support for them," said Holly Morehouse, Executive Director of the Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence. "We wanted to call attention to the programs that care for and continue the education of our children when the school day ends."

The legislative day featured a speech by Ray McNulty, former Vermont Commissioner of Education as well as the release of a brief by Voices for Vermont's Children regarding the importance of afterschool programs. Additionally, the winners of the Lights, Camera, Learning video competition were honored. The winners were Edmunds Elementary School, the Newark School and Vergennes Union High School.

### **VSACN Training and Technical Assistance**

The Vermont School Age Care Network is available to provide technical assistance to communities considering starting an afterschool or summer program as well as to existing programs that have questions about how best to serve the children and families in their program. Specific areas of assistance that are available include curriculum, program management, personnel, funding ideas and strengthening relationships with families. Contact Sue Kamp at VSACN for more information at [vsacn@mjcvt.org](mailto:vsacn@mjcvt.org) or (802) 388-2853.

### **The Vermont Afterschool Foundations Certificate and Afterschool Professional Credential**

The Vermont Afterschool Foundations Certificate and the Afterschool Professional Credential are two ways for Vermont afterschool providers to strengthen their work through training.

The Afterschool Foundations Certificate supports entry-level professionals in the Afterschool field especially during their first two years of employment. To be eligible for the Certificate, candidates must complete and document a total of 16 hours of training in Core Competency areas:

- child and youth development
- curriculum and learning environment
- families and communities
- healthy and safe environments
- professionalism and program organization

Congratulations to:

**Kathryn Kingsbury of Springfield** who has been awarded the Afterschool Foundations Professional Certificate.

The Vermont Afterschool Professional Credential adds to the professional stature of afterschool professionals who have at least 500 hours working with school age children. It extends professional growth beyond the Foundations Certificate. The Credential requires applicants to complete two courses which are regularly available through the Community College of Vermont (or their equivalent) as well as



**On the Job Training** is an opportunity for newer and part-time afterschool workers to develop their skills, focusing on specific daily

activities. Participants receive support and positive feedback working with a more seasoned staff person in their program. 1000 hours of on the job training must be documented for completion.

For more information, contact Sue at the Vermont Child Care Industry and Careers Council: (802) 985-2700, or [sue@vtchildcareindustry.org](mailto:sue@vtchildcareindustry.org).

### Operation: Military Kids

Operation: Military Kids offers support to military children and youth because they serve too!

Operation: Military Kids (OMK) is a national program designed to bring community partners together in support of local military children and youth. Here in Vermont, this program is coordinated by the University of Vermont Extension 4-H. OMK strives to help the community understand the full cycle of deployment and its impact on children and families. OMK provides educational, recreational, and support activities to children and youth. There are many ways that child care providers can help support OMK in Vermont, these are listed below:

- Host a Ready, Set, Go! Presentation at your program or school. These are workshops that cover topics like military culture, the cycle of deployment, homecomings, media influences, stress and coping strategies.
- Put together some Hero Packs! These are backpacks filled with items to keep children connected to their soldier. It could be stationary, a disposable camera, pens, etc. The nice thing about these packs is that they are for children and put together by children. These packs go a long way to remind military children that their community cares about them!

46 hours of additional training in the following areas:

- curriculum and learning environment
- families and communities
- healthy and safe environments
- professionalism and program organization

Applicants for the Credential must submit a Portfolio that documents all training, and includes two letters of recommendation, a professional self assessment, and other material.

The following people have received their Vermont Afterschool Professional Credential:

- **Laura Butler, Milton**
- **Kelly Crawford, Fairfax**

Congratulations to these professionals on their hard work and dedication to the afterschool field in Vermont!

For more information about these professional development opportunities, contact Kerrie Workman at (802) 434-5046 or [kwork23@yahoo.com](mailto:kwork23@yahoo.com).

### Join the Vermont School Age Care Network!

The Vermont School Age Care Network (VSACN) invites you to become a member. There are many benefits to joining VSACN including national benefits from the National AfterSchool Association. This will link you to your peers throughout the country, as well as to high quality professional development and technical assistance, both locally and nationally.

### Member benefits for VSACN

- Invite Speak Out Military Kids to talk to your group. This event brings military and civilian kids together to learn and educate the community about the deployment cycle, the impacts on youth and families, and the realities for military teens.
- Volunteer at an OMK event. OMK holds military-only events throughout the state to support military families. Volunteering at one of these events is fulfilling and reminds military families that they are supported by their community.
- Join the OMK team and become a partner! You could be a part of coordinating events and help make a difference during this challenging time for military families.

For more information, check out the OMK web site at [www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org) or contact Deborah Alden at [Deborah.alden@uvm.edu](mailto:Deborah.alden@uvm.edu) or 802-656-0346.

-Julie Peterson, Greater Burlington YMCA

#### include:

- Our online newsletter, *The Networker*
- Membership in the National Afterschool Association
- Training and technical assistance for your program
- Networking opportunities through VSACN's NING page

There are three membership levels to consider:

- Full Membership: \$60 per year
- Associate membership: \$25 per year
- Friend of Afterschool: Free

For more information regarding benefits for each level of membership and for an application, please click [here](#).

We look forward to hearing from you!

## SAVE THE DATE:

Plan now to attend the following events:

- National AfterSchool Association Annual Convention: April 19-21, 2010, Washington DC. Visit <http://www.naaconvention.org> for more information.
- Vermont School Age Care Network Annual Meeting: May 13, 2010, 6:30 PM, The Brandon Inn, Brandon, VT
- Annual Working with Youth Conference: May 21, 2010, Killington Grand Hotel
- The Vermont Afterschool Conference: October 22, 2010, Killington Grand Hotel

Upcoming VSACN Trainings:

Call the VSACN office for details or to schedule a training in your area- (802) 388-2853

- April 14, 6:30 pm: Child Centered Programming- Burlington
- May 10, 6:30 pm: Engaging with Older Youth- Williston
- May 22: Regional Collaborative Summer Training- Rutland