The Parent-Child Center of Rutland County

Removing Barriers that Perpetuate Poverty
Transformative Community

Research repeatedly shows that while money helps to reduce the stress of being poor, more money does not correlate strongly with greater happiness.

What does generate greater happiness and success is social capital — the wealth of positive social connections that our participants build through our programs.

By definition, transformation means the changing of inner nature and external form. When it comes to inter generational poverty, our programming does both.

How Does Transformative Community Work?

• We employ a 2-Gen approach that involves the whole family of our participants in community programming, at times that match their needs.

• We do all we can to remove any barriers that prevent whole-family participation in our programming.

• We practice compassion by working side by side with participants, always demonstrating deep concern with no superior judgements.

• Our immersion in family dynamics creates participant trust and confidence in us. Such immersive concern yields greater cooperation and effort on the participant’s part and the part of his/her family to unchain themselves from generational poverty and despair.

• We attend to basic human needs, such as food distribution, children’s lunches, work/effort stipends, etc.

• We facilitate vocational and educational opportunities and career pathways for family members.

• We develop and implement continual improvement processes to address dynamic participant lifestyle changes.

Transformative Community — a proven way to transcend the debilitating inner and external barriers that perpetuate poverty.

What Makes PCC Different?

The Parent-Child Center provides services as a community within a community.

• We partner with employers: let us know your employees’ needs and we will work with you to create solutions! We actively experiment with new ideas and approaches to find effective solutions.

• Our integrated programming functions as a “one-stop-shop.” Our physical infrastructure supports a “human town square” in which social, economic and educational needs are met.

• We customize programming - childcare, education, family support, child development, food security - to meet individual needs. Every participant is assigned a staff person who "navigates" services for each participant and helps the participant connect with the community.

• Our staff structure and programming is adaptive and flexible, enabling us to respond quickly and efficiently to acute or unexpected needs. We work as a team - participants don’t need to wait for anyone to get back from vacation.

When we invest in Transformative Community we help existing employees be at their best and help potential employees become more employable - broadening skills, generating options and connections, supporting family stability. When people are in a stronger position to find gainful employment, they strengthen the economy by consuming more goods and services by decreasing the need for services and taxes. Everybody wins.

Together —
We do it the way it should be done.
Education takes many forms but always pays dividends...

On the job, at home, everywhere. A recent Forbes article stated that early educational interventions can yield up to a 26% change in earning potential as children mature into adults. Education is fundamental to Transformative Community and everything we do at the Parent-Child Center of Rutland County and we provide a range of educational programs to meet our participant's needs.

Whole families learning together.
Early Childhood Education

The PCC provides a "Whole Family" approach to high-quality early childhood education that recognizes the needs of working parents as central to family success.

With a strong start in early childhood education – kids are ready to roll into Kindergarten prepared.

Parent-Child Center of Rutland County provides full-day, year-round education and childcare by certified teachers at two facilities, one in Rutland and one in Brandon. We offer extended early morning and late afternoon hours for working parents - AND - nutritious breakfasts and light afternoon meals for parents on the run.

Our program focuses on Kindergarten-readiness, literacy, and executive functioning skills. We employ a Montessori-approach to early childhood learning. Our campuses offer physical space that includes food gardens, natural play areas, and engaging, beautiful classrooms.

Parenting Education

Parenting classes enable parents to play a more dynamic role in their child's educational and emotional development.

Our programming provides education in practical life techniques to alleviate the effects of ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) such as broken homes, drug use, food insecurity, and child abuse.

Restoring young people to successful educational pathways.

We help parents become better able to cope with stressful situations. Learning to communicate and collaborate are life tools that we encourage our participants to incorporate into their everyday parenting.

Our participants have strengthened parental resilience and become better co-workers because of their enhanced problem solving and communication skills. Peer support and knowledge of child development increase family stability.
3 Learning Together
Self-discovery Youth Programs

The Parent-Child Center helps pregnant, parenting, or at-risk youth and young adults get an individualized education emphasizing life skills and career pathways. Helping at-risk teens, parenting mothers and fathers and young adults earn their high school diploma, is our mission. For those students already graduated but needing further educational and therapeutic support, our ‘Learning Together’ school offers the following alternatives.

NatureWorks

The three “NatureWorks” programs are geared to the economic vitality of our students/clients in the hope that Vermont will remain their home state to work and live out their lives.

*NatureWorks* is one way for students to gain the skills necessary to become more employable and remain in Vermont as productive citizens. Helping our clients and students successfully integrate into their communities and create stable lives in the state, is vital to what the Parent-Child Center stands for as an agency. Under *NatureWorks*, three innovative programs strive to achieve that goal: (each program is for high school credit to help students graduate).

Dragonfly Garden -- One of two community gardens at the Parent Child Center, this garden allows our Food Pantry participants a way to grow their own vegetables for their families, as well as others in the Rutland, Vermont area.

Natural Transformations -- An outdoor initiative serves the needs of some of our youth and adults struggling with a host of issues including addiction. NT stresses job readiness, reconnection to the Self and emotional wellness. This program under *NatureWorks* helps instill a greater connection via the earth using story-telling techniques, forest ecology and learning how the forests are metaphors to ourselves. NT employs creative writing, arts & crafts, environmental text, documentaries and other materials to help students overcome their obstacles. "We reach and the trees teach."

The Sunflower Farm -- teaching students horse boarding and rehab, farming techniques, animal husbandry, land management, equipment maintenance, and environmental science.
4 After School Programming

The PCC provides children Grades K-6 and their families with engaging and beneficial afterschool supports, emphasizing literacy and life skills.

The program integrates academic performance, social-emotional development and physical activity. We focus on ensuring grade-level reading in line with research showing that meeting benchmarks for 3rd grade reading levels is a guarantor of success for future academic performance. We make sure homework is completed before returning home. We emphasize executive functioning skills which is a greater indicator of long term life success than IQ.

Supporting children after school benefits families.

Programming runs concurrent with the school year; bridging school breaks with full day schedules and merging with PCC summer camps during the summer. Our highly qualified staff provide transportation from school as well as advocacy and mediation of relationships with schools. Nutritious mini-meals are also provided.

Our families and their children demonstrate improved family literacy outcomes. We honor working parents by offering scheduling that makes their job easier.

5 Early Literacy Playgroups

Early literacy lays a foundation for successful lifelong learning and is most effectively developed as a family experience.

Early literacy is directly correlated with success in school and work.

The Parent-Child Center conducts weekly literacy playgroups throughout Rutland County. Children play, socialize, and learn with their families and other children.

Children read stories, listen to songs, dance and play with educational toys. Parents develop a habit of reading with their children that will be incorporated in the home environment, which research shows to be critical for later academic success.
The Parent-Child Center of Rutland County NatureWorks helps youth become employable in Vermont

Our participants get hands-on field experience

Field work is complemented by classroom work in the natural sciences

Parent-Child Center of Rutland County

REMOVING BARRIERS THAT PERPETUATE POVERTY
Hands-on experience adds to confidence, problem-solving and self-esteem.

*NatureWorks* is a uniquely transformative experience for youth and young adults that fuses academics and job training.

*NatureWorks* is comprised of three vital programs geared towards our students becoming economically viable in Vermont so that they may reconnect to their communities.

These programs include: *The Sunflower Farm, Dragonfly Garden, and Natural Transformations.*

"Sunflower Farm" located in Tinmouth, VT is a 150 acre farm owned and managed by Tami Carboni. Whether students are learning to cultivate a vegetable garden from seed to harvest, how to care for and rehab horses and maintain field equipment, the emphasis is two-fold: 1) future employment and 2) self-discovery. Life trauma, as research shows, can be transformed using certain outdoor therapies that build upon self-confidence, humility, and earth stewardship. The second phase of the Farm brings together equine therapy for certain students alongside a licensed horse therapist. These one-on-one relationships for students are key to helping them reintegrate with their hometown, employers, and the future of Vermont.

Our “Dragonfly Garden” is seeded, maintained and harvested by staff and program participants in conjunction with our food pantry. Our families may learn to grow vegetables for themselves as well as other families in need.

In addition to the Farm and Dragonfly Garden, “Natural Transformations” connects our students with pathways to healing and wellness, offering:

- Greater employability
- Self-reliance in the marketplace
- Positive socialization
- Health and wellness
Participants get hands-on field experience.

Natural Transformations is a seven week woods-centric program focusing on forestry and a student's personal journey towards centeredness. Through scheduled hikes, environmental book work, and arts & indigenous crafts, students learn to re-narrate their lives in healthier ways. Learning tree species in Vermont, land management and storytelling also motivates youth to buy into their own employability and sense of purpose.

Outcomes

- Motivation and a re-energized educational pathway
- Improved social behavior and executive functioning
- High school credits including science, art, PT and ecology
- Strengthening workforce skills and employability

Solid relationships cultivate strong employees. The Parent-Child Center invests in building relationships with young adults.

For more information or to arrange a visit please contact Christopher Laro at (802) 775-9711 or chris@rcpcc.org

Field work is complemented by classroom work in the natural sciences.

When people are in a stronger position to find gainful work they strengthen the economy by participating in the marketplace decreasing the need for services and taxes.
The Parent-Child Center of Rutland County provides Employers with a social support system for their employees

Providing families with resources and support strengthens the employee base

We help employees be at their best

Parent-Child Center of Rutland County

REM OVING BARRIERS THAT PERPETUATE POVERTY
The Parent-Child Center of Rutland County helps to remove barriers that prevent employees from thriving in the workplace.

Business owners and managers hope to get the very best from their employees. At the same time, many life pressures distract employees from meeting that goal. Our integrated whole-family programming provides a Transformative Community that helps employees and their families turn adversity into strength -- so your employees will bring renewed energy and purpose, and enhanced skill value, to bear in the workplace.

Families benefit from shared community with other parents. Solid families equal solid employees.

The Parent-Child Center improves worker productivity, engagement, and retention by reducing life and family stressors.

The reality of the times is that many working families live paycheck to paycheck. Simple expenses such as an auto repair can cause serious financial hardships and force difficult life choices. Food insecurity is also an issue many families face which impacts work performance for employees and academic performance for their children. Our Food Security program ensures your employees always have a healthy backup plan. Our pantry is stocked with free local vegetables, and a full selection of meat, dairy, bread, cereals, and hygiene products. There are no price tags. We have a strict “Take What You Need” policy.
We help to make sure your employees are on the job. We help families resolve their transportation difficulties -- whether from broken-down vehicles or unpaid tickets or having inadequate gas money by providing free rides, offering gas cards or bus passes, and in some cases assistance with auto repairs.

Childcare is an ongoing concern for employees and employers. Our 4 Star licensed early childhood program is geared to meet the needs of working families. We have extended hours for our families who need to be on the job. We also send folks out the door with a hot cup of coffee and a breakfast snack to launch their work day.

Many high quality employees are in the recovery process. Our supportive community offers peer support that capitalizes on the strengths of those individuals and fully integrates them into our community. We offer AA/NA meetings with childcare on site.

Our process improves the performance of...

- The employee whose constant concern is safe and reliable childcare
- The employee who faces financial shortfalls and worries about feeding their family
- The employee whose child is struggling in school
- The employee who is in recovery and needs supportive social services
- The employee who wants to learn about parenting in a non-judgemental arena
- The employee who needs a cohort of other employees to strengthen the workplace bond

Your employees will experience:

- Decreased stress and anxiety in the home
- Increased workplace value
- Enhanced alertness, focus, energy, and job performance
- Greater life satisfaction
- Reduced absenteeism and sick days

Employers will benefit from investing in the Parent-Child Center of Rutland County.

For more information or to arrange a visit please contact Mary Feldman at (802) 558-8997 or info@rcpcc.org