

What's Up at CCS

August 2011



Champlain Community Services

From the Director, Kelley Homiller

Welcome to our summer update. There is much to celebrate. CCS is coming off its most successful Auction ever. And it was great to see so many of us together recently at Oakledge Park on a beautiful day to celebrate our annual CCS Picnic.

Of course, we also face challenges. For the third straight year, the Vermont Legislature reduced funding for developmental services – this time the cut was 2.5 percent. We've worked hard to minimize the impact on consumers and families, and I remain proud of the quality of services we are providing.



Annual Auction Sets Records

Our 6th Annual Benefit Auction, held May 19th at The Essex, was our best ever in several categories: event sponsorship, tickets sold, gifts donated, people attending, and – most importantly – funds raised for CCS. After expenses, **the event netted more than \$13,600 for our programs.**

Of course, there's no auction without great items to bid on and we thank the more than 120 local and regional stores, restaurants, artists, businesses, sports teams, cultural organizations, and individuals who donated so generously.

Once again, **auctioneer Jamie Polli electrified the crowd** with his good-natured pushing of items ranging from signed sports memorabilia and original art to golf at Vermont National and an iPad. We truly thank him for his efforts!

Special thanks to our sponsors:

- **KeyBank** (gold level)
- **People's United Bank** (silver)
- **NorthCountry Federal Credit Union** (bronze)
- **Lumina** (bronze)

And co-sponsors: **Northern Benefits, Paul Frank + Collins, Susan & Jay Fayette, and Charlotte & Drew Ancel.**

Finally, it was our volunteers that made it all work. The team included: Marie Ballantine, Mike Blanco, Christopher Celotto, Jennifer Ciechanowicz, Jenn Palmer, Lucy Rogate and Laura Walker.

Our "Lucky 7th" in 2012 will have a tough time topping this one (but we're going to try!).



2010
United Way of Chittenden County



LIVE UNITED.

GOLD AWARD
for achieving 80% campaign participation that increased per capita employee giving over the previous campaign year

Presented to
Champlain Community Services, Inc.
for outstanding service to the people of our community ... the United Way.

Quentin B. Mann
Executive Director

CCS Staff Earns United Way Gold Award

CCS was one of only nine workplace campaigns honored with a “Gold Award” for its most recent workplace campaign at the United Way’s Annual Dinner & Awards Celebration in May.

The award recognizes at least 80% participation and increased per capita giving over the previous campaign year. Thirty-two CCS staff members gave more than \$2,300 during the United Way Community Campaign.

Sun Shines for CCS Annual Picnic

We dialed up the best day of the summer for our agency picnic this year. Once again, the **Colchester Knights of Columbus** sponsored the event, soliciting donations of hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, and condiments from a variety of local stores, then cooking for us at Oakledge Park. Volunteers from **AstenJohnson** staffed the serving line, and our own Forest Scrivens brought his considerable DJ talents through his **Foxy Music World** show. A great time was had by all.



Happy Trails Laura

We said farewell to Laura Walker in July after more than 10 years of dedicated service. A number of her CCS friends presented Laura, a lover of the outdoors, with a beautiful Robert Lyons photo of Camels Hump. Good luck, and thanks, Laura!

CCS Serves as International Resource

This spring, a group of Serbian professionals visited CCS through PH International, an organization working to strengthen communities through grassroots approaches. Our visitors included parents, administrators, doctors, and legislators working to improve Serbia's supports for people with disabilities. They were exploring Vermont’s transition from institutions and sheltered workshops to home- and community-based supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Our management team outlined CCS’ history, current system of support, and how we develop, support, and maintain community-based jobs through our Way2Work program.

