

The Janet S. Munt Family Room

A Parent-Child Center of Vermont

Strong families. Healthy children. One community.



Photos by Dana Bishop

The Janet S. Munt Family Room nurtures healthy and strong communities by providing research-based, wrap-around services and programs designed to help families with young children thrive.

As a *Parent-Child Center*, we provide education, support and connection for parents, and promote physical, social, emotional and linguistic development in children. A caring and trusted staff connects with each family and individual to help them celebrate their strengths and address their challenges.

The Family Room offers programming that is accessible to all, and flexible enough to meet the changing needs of our community. The Family Room is a place of connection that helps parents grow their support networks, and creates a vibrant and diverse community. It is a place where differences of class, race, language and religion are celebrated and honored, and cultural awareness grows.

The Family Room provides the following services & programs:

- a 5 STAR preschool
- home visiting
- case management
- drop-in playgroups
- a support group for fathers
- a summer garden program for families
- parenting education & classes
- literacy & school readiness
- cooking classes, nutrition education & meals
- community resource & referral
- crisis support & visitation
- a natural setting for service providers to meet with families

Our Numbers

426

families served annually

40%

of families served are refugee & immigrant

65

volunteers regularly assisting with programs

40+

community partners for better family outcomes



Current Transition

The Family Room has been a program of the Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties (VNA) for 29 years. After the VNA lost a federal grant for the FR in 2015, FR staff cuts were announced. Unprecedented Family Room staff, family fundraising efforts and community partner support sustained these positions through FY17. In spring 2016, the VNA announced it would discontinue the Family Room to focus on mandated services.

This summer, the Family Room will transition to an independent non-profit. In February, a volunteer Steering Committee (the future Family Room Board) was created, comprised of community leaders, not-for-profit managers and Family Room families. The Steering Committee is charged with leading the transition. Minimizing interruption to services for our families is our top priority.

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90%

of Family Room families indicate at least 2 adverse childhood experiences that are tied to negative outcomes for children (such as substance abuse, intimate partner violence, & chronic disease) if not addressed.

89%

of parents said their knowledge of parenting increase at the Family Room.



87%

of parents said their knowledge of available community support increased at the Family Room.

100%

of parents feel welcome at the Family Room.

In **1988**

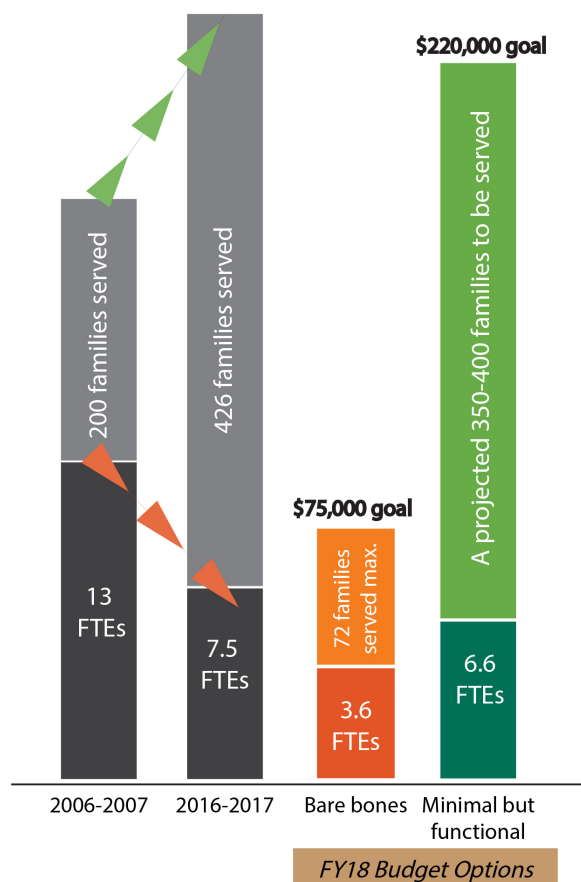
the Family Room started providing essential services to families with young children living in & around Burlington, Vermont. Today, we are serving second & third generation Family Room families.

Financial Sustainability

Over the last decade, community need for Family Room services and programming has grown. Yet our resources have steadily declined. In 2006-2007, the Family Room served 200 families with a staff of 13 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs). In 2016-2017, the Family Room served 426 families with 7.5 FTEs. As the graphic shows, many more families are receiving services with fewer resources.

A budget that covers operational and transition costs, as well as ensures sustainable cash flow is critical in FY18. The Steering Committee has developed two budget scenarios. "Bare bones" operations that drastically cut the impact of our programs in the community. "Minimal but functional" investment that continues to provide families with a foundation of services, and positions the Family Room to grow critical services and develop a sustainable business model.

We need your help raising \$220,000 in the next 2 months to ensure the Family Room transitions successfully to an independent organization and our families continue receiving much needed education and supports.



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