Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, eyeing the rising temperatures, I knew it was THAT time of year again. So, maybe ahead of schedule a little bit compared to some years, I tapped the sugar maples that make up my family's small sugarbush.

I don't think late winter is many folks' favorite time of year (OK: maybe no one's!), but for me, it's an important time of reflection and recommitment. As I'm collecting and boiling, I think about the year that's just passed, the winter that's ending and the promise of spring right around the corner. It's a time of planning, progression and the work of new beginnings.

This edition of NoteWorthy finds us at the Vermont Community Loan Fund in the same frame of mind. You can read all about our lending in the second half of last year, and take a look at the topline community impacts the Loan Fund's work helped make possible in 2022. You'll meet some of the newest additions to the VCLF team and read about how they're already moving our mission and vision forward. Most importantly, as always, we've got lots of news from our borrowers to share!

Thank you for celebrating 2022 with us, and looking ahead to 2023 and beyond!

In gratitude,

Will Belongia
Executive Director

VCLF is Hiring!

Care about (and want to work toward) social & economic justice?
JOIN THE VCLF TEAM!
The Vermont Community Loan Fund is currently hiring for two open positions: Director of Housing and Community Facilities Programs and Career Technical Education Loan Program Manager.

The **Director of Housing and Community Facilities Programs** is responsible for leading VCLF’s work lending for nonprofits and community facilities, and for the development of affordable housing, from outreach to underwriting to portfolio servicing and the provision of technical assistance. CLICK HERE to learn more and apply.

The **Career Technical Education Loan Program Project Manager** will work on the development and roll-out of this new loan program, including system/process development, outreach to potential partners and borrowers, loan application processing & disbursement, and impact tracking and reporting. CLICK HERE to learn more and apply.

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**Veilmonté Bridal Showroom:**

**New American Entrepreneur Says ‘Yes' to Her New Home**

**VCLF Lends $3.16M in 2nd Half of 2022**

Marina Smith, owner of South Burlington’s plush, newly relocated **Veilmonté Bridal Showroom**, got her first exposure to bridal couture growing up in Moldova, where she helped out at her aunt’s bustling bridal gown factory. The memory of those custom-designed, sparkling gowns and veils stayed with her. “I always dreamed of owning a bridal shop,” she says.

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**The Loan Fund in 2022...**

**By the Numbers!**

Last year was one of VCLF’s most impactful years ever. Vermont jobs, homes, quality early care and other essential community services: take a look at some of our topline impact statistics from 2022.
Borrower News:
Vermont Cider Lab, Wazir Hashimi, Butterfly Bakery, Joe's Kitchen

New VCLF borrower Vermont Cider Lab will celebrate the grand opening of their cidery and tasting room at the Essex Experience this spring.

READ MORE IN SEVEN DAYS

New borrower Wazir Hashimi can't stop making news!
1. He's helping to teach local Afghan women to drive. READ MORE IN VTDIGGER
2. He's helping his brother Awran launch Winooski's new Bamyan Kebab House. READ MORE IN SEVEN DAYS
3. He's building a space to bring together and celebrate the local Afghan community by founding the Vermont Afghan Alliance. LEARN MORE
4. He'll be opening Ariana Natural Market, with support from VCLF, later in 2023!

Who's hotter than Lenny Kravitz? Butterfly Bakery of Vermont's Claire Georges, that's who! BBVT's latest hot sauce, Taco Vibes Only, was featured on the hit YouTube interview show Hot Ones, earning high praise from the soul rocker/sauce enthusiast. READ MORE IN VTDIGGER

Former borrower Joe Buley of Joe's Kitchen at Screamin' Ridge Farm has opened Café NOA, with his wife and co-owner Lori Martin Buley, right next door to his soup production kitchen on Montpelier's Putnam Street. Go Joe! READ MORE IN SEVEN DAYS

As always, please EMAIL US with any news in the VCLF community!

SAVE THE DATE!
VT Early Childhood Day at the Legislature March 15 in Montpelier
REGISTRATION NOW! The Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance, a program of VCLF, presents the annual Early Childhood Day at the Legislature, Wednesday, March 15th, in-person at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier.

Register now at vecaa.org/ecdl to:

- Join Alliance staff, early childhood professionals, parents, employers and policy makers to meet with legislators about early childhood issues
- Attend workshops on Universal School Meals, housing & homelessness, Family & Medical Leave Insurance and more
- Take action at the State House
- Network & exchange information

Scholarships and professional development will be available. Contact Taylor Hughey, Alliance Outreach Manager, at taylor@vecaa.org with any questions.

Staff & Board News

The VCLF family is growing! We’re thrilled to welcome these talented & dedicated new team members!

Adam Favaloro joined VCLF in July of 2022 as a Junior Loan Officer. Adam hails from Saratoga Springs, New York and studied geography at Vassar College. From there, Adam went on to work on several small farms, making cheese, growing vegetables and tending to animals. He was a procurement specialist at High Mowing Seeds (a VCLF borrower!) and also managed his own small farm market & farm stand... all of which, he says, ultimately led him to VCLF. "I was drawn to VCLF's support for farms and other small businesses, as well as its focus on investing in the housing and child care sectors," he says. Adam lives in Walden with his partner, her two children and their much-loved pup, Randi.

Makayla LaPerle joined the Loan Fund in August as a Loan Administrator. Originally from Waterbury, Makayla studied social work and psychology at the University of Maine. Since then, she's worked for various Vermont nonprofits, including Pathways Vermont, whose mission is to end homelessness in Vermont and provide innovative mental health alternatives. (She also worked at Ben & Jerry's in Waterbury, scooping ice cream, which she counts among her favorite jobs ever!) Makayla lives in Graniteville with her partner and two cats, and enjoys reading, travel and spending time with friends & family.
In August, **Tamsen Todisco** joined the Loan Fund as **Senior Loan Administrator**. Tamsen lived in Marshfield until moving south, to pursue a degree in communications at the University of North Carolina in Asheville. She stayed in Asheville for several years, working in communications, as a paralegal and as an assistant to a ceramics artist (a favorite job), before returning to her home state. Tamsen now resides in Washington, Vermont where she loves to explore the outdoors, write poetry, listen to music and "all the good things!"

**Tim Wesley** joined VCLF last October as a **Junior Loan Officer**. Born and raised on the West Coast, after graduating with a degree in mathematics from Pomona College, Tim worked briefly in forestry and farming. He and his partner relocated to Vermont "because we fell in love with the state's local food systems and strong focus on community resilience," he says. Now a resident of Montpelier, Tim enjoys hiking Vermont's trails, cooking (he makes a mean flatbread!), reading and writing, though he misses California taquerias.

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**Where You'll Find Us: The Loan Fund in Your Community!**

The Loan Fund is proud to sponsor, exhibit at and participate in the following upcoming events:

- March 14: Fresh Tracks Capital's **Peak Pitch**, Sugarbush Resort, Warren
- March 15: Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance's **Early Childcare Day at the Legislature**, Vermont State House, Montpelier
- March 17: **Card Room**, Vermont State House, Montpelier

Look for us if you're in the neighborhood. We'd love to chat with you!

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**Give the Gift of Opportunity: Please Donate to VCLF Today!**

Your gift makes VCLF's work possible, empowering us to be there whenever, wherever we’re needed.

In 2022, VCLF financing helped save and create jobs for 2,377 working Vermonters, quality early care for 1,505 children & their families, affordable homes for 1,239 Vermont households, and access to vital services for over 138,000 Vermonters.

**YOU can help create opportunities and foster financial stability for all Vermonters. Please consider making your gift today.**

**THANK YOU!**

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Creating Opportunities Leading to Healthy Communities and Financial Stability for ALL Vermonters

Have news you’d like
to share about a Loan Fund borrower? Email us!