

# Points of Interest

*An E-Newsletter from the  
Vermont Community Loan Fund*

August 2023

## Dear Friends,

In early July, Vermont was devastated by historic floods. In less than two days, an estimated two months of rain tore through our downtowns, schools, homes and businesses, devastating livelihoods and lives.

Coming so quickly the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic, this summer's flooding has brought another wave of hardship and need to our communities. Farmers have lost equipment, harvests and future income. Retailers and manufacturers lost their shops, facilities and inventories. Workers have been laid off. Families – disproportionately those most vulnerable – have lost their homes, and so much more.

The Loan Fund's hometown of Montpelier was one of the hardest hit. Our downtown offices were flooded, with most contents lost. More importantly of course, everyone on the VCLF team and our households stayed safe.

While the rehabilitation is in progress, we're fully functional, working remotely, busier than ever! Our new Career Technical Education Program & Revolving Loan Fund is up and running, growing the next generation of building trades workers building affordable homes throughout Vermont. We've welcomed new staff to our Business Resource Center to serve our state's growing needs. You can read all about our newest borrowers, including how Ned Robinson of the Crate Escape comforted his canine clients through Richmond's night of flooding.

There's still (always!) work to do, but we hope you'll take a break (and a bite, and a sip) and **CELEBRATE WITH US!** Please join us on September 7th at the [Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center](#) in Burlington to celebrate the Loan Fund's **“35 Years of Transforming the Way Money Works in Vermont.”**



Executive Director Will Belongia

[RSVP HERE](#)

We hope you'll join us to celebrate and honor the the VCLF community and all that we accomplish with your support!

Will Belongia  
Executive Director

## VCLF Tapped to Administer New \$15 Million Career Technical Education Program



Following the Vermont State Legislature's \$15 million dollar appropriation to establish a new revolving loan fund supporting educational workforce development, the Vermont Community Loan Fund has been selected by the [Vermont Housing and Conservation Board \(VHCB\)](#) to develop and launch this new initiative.

The pool of funds will support the state's 17 Career Technical Education (CTE) Centers located throughout Vermont. Known as the CTE Construction and Rehabilitation Experiential Learning Program and Revolving Loan Fund, the new fund will expand experiential and educational opportunities for high school and adult CTE students to learn building trades skills and work directly on construction projects.

[READ MORE](#)

## "Dogs' Best Friends": VCLF Borrowers Bring the Love to Richmond's Crate Escape

VCLF Lends \$3,361,700 in 2nd Quarter of 2023



Customers, employees and community members – both the two-and four-legged varieties – know they can count on Ned Robinson who, along with his wife Shannon Mead, recently purchased Richmond's [The Crate Escape](#). "I've always loved dogs," he admits.

[READ MORE](#)

## Summer 2023 NoteWorthy is Here! Read "Building Solutions: Addressing Vermont's Affordable Housing Shortage"

Housing has been at the heart of the Vermont Community Loan Fund from the very beginning, when VCLF was launched as part of Vermont's solution to a growing



Sumner, who grew up in Central Vermont and on Nantucket Island, now lives in Burlington with her partner Eli, an aerospace engineer, and their dog Annie. She's an enthusiastic hiker, runner, gardener and fan of Vermont's local breweries. Welcome, Sumner!

## 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:

- September 7: **VCLF 35th Anniversary Celebration**, Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center Burlington
- September 14: **Vermont Forest Industry Summit**, Bolton Valley Resort, Bolton
- September 20: **WBON (Women Business Owners Network) Conference**, Echo Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, Burlington
- November 2: **Vermont Outdoor Business Association (VOBA) Conference**, HULA Lakeside Center, Burlington
- November 6: **Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VTAEYC) Annual Conference**, Stowe/Flake Mtn. Resort & Spa, Stowe

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

## 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. And, we're needed now more than ever, following July's catastrophic flooding.

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!**

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!](#)



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