



Meeting Needs | Changing Lives

**SEVCA**

SOUTHEASTERN VERMONT COMMUNITY ACTION

# 2016–17 Annual Report

# Executive Director's Message

It's been yet another chaotic and challenging year (Can you remember the last year that wasn't?), characterized by:

- Extreme national political turmoil and division;
- A President intent on eliminating all traces of the War on Poverty and other crucial services for the most vulnerable;
- A Congressional majority committed to slashing domestic spending and willing to risk continuous government shutdowns to accomplish it;
- Repeated 'Continuing Resolutions' due to failure to pass a Federal budget for half the current year;
- The eventual passage of a budget that preserved and even increased funding for some programs;
- Continually rising rents and home purchase prices;
- An unexpectedly and severely cold winter coupled with rising heating fuel prices;
- The ongoing saga of finding and renovating a suitable site to re-open a Head Start center in Windsor;
- The multiple serious challenges faced by our Weatherization program, most notably the prolonged illness and death of Harald Schmidtke, its Program Director for the past 25 years; and
- Many other surprises resulting in uncertainty, anxiety, or added burdens, barriers and hardships for SEVCA and/or our clients.

In spite of all that, SEVCA continued, as always, to provide needed and effective services to reduce hardships

and help people move along the continuum toward financial stability and security. Even though the economy continued to improve for many Vermonters, many others were stuck in the quicksand of having dead-end jobs or none at all, earning just enough income to fall off the edge of the "benefits cliff" and end up worse off than when not working, having to juggle multiple part-time jobs with no benefits, lacking transportation, affordable health care and/or child care, or facing other intractable barriers to achieving a stable life for themselves and their families. These were the individuals and families that SEVCA struggled to assist, swimming against the tide of inadequate funding, inflexible eligibility, and rigid program rules.

SEVCA will continue to meet many of the critical needs faced by these vulnerable residents, but we can only do what we have the resources to allow us to do. And as long as the focus of national elected officials is on making massive cuts in the safety net, obtaining adequate resources will remain an enormous challenge; possibly one of the most difficult we've experienced in our half century of embodying the values and spirit of Community Action.

Fortunately, we've overcome obstacles and opposition as great and greater in the past, and we'll continue to do so in the future...we're determined to keep doing everything in our power to fulfill our mission, and to not let reactionary politics, attitudes, biases or preconceptions prevent us from doing just that.



Steve Geller



Steve Geller with Kate Ash from Senator Leahy's office at SEVCA's "Community in Action" event in May 2017. The event featured a networking session involving 20 organizations working to influence positive change. As Steve noted, "We can't do this alone...we needed to reach out to other community organizations to work together to oppose the massive assault on programs like health care, housing, fuel assistance, education, job training, treatment for addictions, assistance to people with disabilities, etc."

## Board of Directors

**October 2016–September 2017**

Amanda Rundle, President

Donald Skekel, Vice President

Kathryn Poston, Secretary

Mandy Giles, Treasurer

Kimberly Bovill

Gladys Collins

Thomas Dougherty

Timm Harris

Lisa Pitcher

Tamara Richardson

Jonathan Tuthill

Tony Taylor

Suzanne Swanson, Member Emeritus

Carson Hoag, Member Emeritus



# SEVCA's IMPACT

October 2016 – September 2017

SEVCA served **8,895** people in **4,501** households in the past year.

## Emergency Services

**662** households (1,632 individuals) received **\$234,440** in crisis fuel assistance.

**404** households (804 individuals) received housing services, including **\$155,353** in emergency housing assistance.

**1,458** households (3,051 individuals) received **8,009** diverse services from our Family Services program.

## Financial Education and Asset-Building

**264** households (375 individuals) claimed **\$216,445** in credits and refunds via tax preparation assistance.

**24** households (47 individuals) earned a savings match of **\$33,776** via the Individual Development Account program.



## Housing and Energy

**34** homes (63 individuals) received emergency home repairs valued at **\$105,087**.

**246** homes (485 individuals) were weatherized at a total value of **\$1,447,550**.

**67** homes (92 individuals) received emergency heating system repairs or replacements valued at **\$119,228**.

## Workforce Development

**27** individuals in our Ready for Work program received comprehensive job readiness education and support.

**59** individuals participated in Financial Fitness training to help them reach their financial goals.

**47** entrepreneurs received counseling & support for new or existing businesses.

**232** participants were recruited for the Jobs for Independence program, a pilot project for employment services in Vermont

## Health

**593** households (978 individuals) received help to access affordable health insurance through the Health Navigator program.

## Clothing and Household Essentials

**366** households (735 individuals) obtained **\$15,934** in free clothing and furniture from our Thrift Stores.

## Early Childhood Development

**77 children** (230 individuals in families) received comprehensive early childhood development education & family support from our Head Start program.





## Harald Schmidtke's Legacy: Weatherizing Homes and Touching Lives

On April 2, 2018, SEVCA's Weatherization Director, Harald Schmidtke, passed away, after having stewarded the program for the past 25 years. Harald showed compassion, integrity, and determination as he worked to help achieve SEVCA's anti-poverty mission in Windsor and Windham Counties. While we are grieving his loss, we also recognize the importance of celebrating his life and legacy.

Harald was born in Germany on August 11, 1955 to Mariechen and Werner Schmidtke. A year after his birth, his parents emigrated to the United States with their four children—Heidi, Burkhard, Dietmar, and Harald—and settled in Ardmore, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia, where they had two more children, Peter and Bodo. Harald graduated from Haverford High School and moved to St. Petersburg, FL, where he worked for a co-operative health food store. Later, he joined his brother Burkhard in New Hampshire and began working in construction. Harald started as a laborer, but his solid work ethic and appetite for knowledge helped him rise through the ranks quickly. During this time, he met and married his wife, Tayo Sands, and had three children: Carolyn in 1984, Max in 1986, and Nicole in 1989.

In 1993, after a long career in construction, Harald came to SEVCA looking for a challenge. And he found one! The Weatherization Department hadn't been meeting its production goals, and the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) that oversaw the grant was asking for some of the funds back. Gloria Dawson, then SEVCA's Interim Co-director, needed to find a replacement for the Weatherization Director. This was SEVCA's biggest department at the time, and it was critical to get the right person for the job. When she interviewed Harald, Gloria was impressed with his experience and the serious way he presented himself, and her instincts were spot on: "Once he was hired, Harald brought the program right back into compliance," she said. **"Anything Harald ever did, he had to do the best that he could do.** He did SEVCA proud, and built a very strong department." Under Harald's leadership, SEVCA's Weatherization Program was repeatedly recognized as the best in the state.

As Executive Director, Gloria worked with Harald for the next decade, and came to rely heavily on him. She says he was "...strong-willed, but loyal, and he had a heart of gold. His staff loved Harald, they respected him. He was tough on them, but they knew he would go to bat for them." When Harald first took the job, she doubted he knew the extent of the poverty that so many faced, but once he did, he dedicated himself completely to helping them. **"He had a lot of compassion, he never wanted to see people struggling," she said.**

Harald's loyalty was put to the test about a dozen years after he came to SEVCA, when financial mismanagement by a new Executive Director brought on an unprecedented financial crisis. Harald and Joe Juhasz, Microbusiness Director, along with the Board Executive

Committee under the leadership of Board President Bill Morlock, stopped the bleeding and brought in Steve Geller as Interim Director and Vern Lindamood as Finance Director, who led the effort to stabilize and rebuild the agency. According to Bill, SEVCA couldn't meet payroll and was close to going under. He recalls that much of the Board resigned, leaving only a few to sort out the mess. "We needed the support of key staff to keep things on track while the Board figured out what to do," he said. "Harald was the glue that held everything together. **He was a bulldog when it came to working on a problem—he stuck with it until it was resolved. And he was trustworthy—we could depend on him to tell the truth, good or bad.** If it wasn't for him, I don't know what we would have done."

"Harald looked at what was happening as a personal responsibility—SEVCA wasn't just his job, it was his life," Bill said. As Harald's daughter, Nicole, put it: **"My dad loved his job—after his family, SEVCA was the most important thing in his life.** He was a very humble person, but he was proud of the work he did. He knew that SEVCA's mission was important. He wanted to use his skills, talents, and time to help others and



to be a champion for those who needed one. He was also very proud of his staff: he used to say, 'I've got the best guys in the business!'

Harald's integrity, conscientiousness, and commitment were themes that were echoed again and again by people who worked closely with Harald.

Linda Brooks, Executive Assistant, who worked alongside Harald for his entire tenure at SEVCA, said, "Harald was special. **One thing that always stood out about Harald was his willingness to go over and above to help the agency with anything that needed to be done**—it didn't matter if it was outside his department." Stepping up to help SEVCA weather the financial crisis, overseeing the renovation of and relocation to the current office in Westminster, taking on a major role in organizing SEVCA's Flea Market (an agency fundraising event), getting signatures on town funding petitions, and participating in the Annual 'Chipping Away at Poverty' Benefit Golf Tournament are only a few of the many examples of this.

Pat Burke, Family Services Director and another long-term staff member, recalls Harald's generosity: "I always knew that however complicated and fiscally dire a situation could be, **if it had the best outcome for a client, Harald would always find**

**a way to make it work.** He would say 'we'll figure it out' or 'we'll take care of that.' His generosity spilled over to colleagues as well, and that was evident in many ways, from always buying loads of any raffle tickets you were selling, to sponsoring my softball team one year when we were struggling to find sponsors, and by giving holiday gifts to every staff member!"

Dave Mack joined SEVCA three months before Harald did, and he is still a member of its Weatherization crew. "Harald was the captain of the ship, and he let you know it. **He ran a fight ship, taking the Weatherization program from a rag tag group to the #1 Weatherization Department in the Northeast,**" he said. This was proven at annual competitions that used to be held among Community Action Agencies throughout the Northeast region, where team members were judged on their speed and skill in completing various weatherization tasks. Like many of his fellow team members, Dave considered Harald as not just a supervisor, but a close friend. "I spent countless hours on the golf course with him, where I learned how much his family, SEVCA, and the people he worked with meant to him. He was a great man, and I'll miss him terribly."

Geoff Wilcox, Vermont's Weatherization Program Administrator at OEO, remembers meeting Harald 20 years ago. "On my first day of work in the Weatherization Program at CVCAC (now Capstone), I went to SEVCA's office in Westminster to be part of a state-wide Weatherization crew training and testing day. I knew very little about the Weatherization Program at that point, but immediately realized what great and dedicated people the five weatherization agencies and OEO employed. Harald had a lot to do with that great first impression. I have worked closely the last 11 years with Harald in my current role at OEO. SEVCA was one of my favorite agencies to visit, no matter what the occasion, due to its awesome team vibe and dedication to help struggling families no

matter what it took, an atmosphere that Harald created and fostered. His warm, caring, and large personality will be greatly missed in our Vermont Weatherization network."

Steve Geller, SEVCA's Executive Director, worked closely with Harald for the past 14 years, starting from when he was hired as Interim Director



to "turn the SEVCA ship around." He notes that "Harald's stepping up to provide leadership at such a critical time kept it from sinking, and the fact that he ran such an excellent Weatherization program meant that I could focus on the areas that really needed attention without having to worry at all about that department. But for me, what stands out the most about Harald's legacy is the fact that **he was fiercely committed to not just his program and his staff, but to all of SEVCA and our mission,** and to the success of the entire Community Action movement and the War on Poverty. This was a deeply heartfelt cause for him, not just a job!"





## Coordinated Effort Makes an Overwhelming Crisis Manageable

Service Board to stop the electric shut-off. Unfortunately, it was turned down, so she asked Pat Burke, Family Services Director, to step in. Pat drew up a list of everything that was going on that impacted the crisis situation, and she and Megan began to work with the family to come up with a strategy to address the issues one by one. **“I was stuck in the woods looking at the trees,” said Megan, “But Pat helped me see the forest, the big picture.”** Pat found that the family could cover their monthly living expenses if they managed to pay off the electric and mortgage arrears as well as a \$4,500 debt for home renovations made to accommodate Doreen's grandson's disability.

SEVCA's Family Services program continually collaborates with other organizations as it helps people facing financial crises to resolve their immediate needs and get onto a more stable footing. In one recent case, Family Services worked hand-in-hand with a social worker from Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH), successfully turning a dire situation in which a family with two disabled members was teetering on the brink of homelessness, to one in which they are finally able to effectively cope with their many challenges.

For the past two years, Doreen has been serving as the primary caregiver of her daughter, who has a life-threatening illness, and her 18-year-old grandchild, who is a paraplegic due to an accident. She gave up her job to devote herself full-time to their care, and receives a stipend with the aid of the long-term Medicaid program. This income, plus disability assistance, is all they have to live on. The family had received a settlement from the grandchild's accident, but those funds were long gone when Megan Hawthorne from VNH, in the course of providing home care to the family, realized they were in a serious financial crisis.

Not able to make ends meet, the family had stopped paying their electric bill and their mortgage. Their 3SquaresVT food assistance benefits got cancelled because they didn't manage to get the review paperwork in on time. Doreen had no health insurance. They owed thousands of dollars on their electric bill and a shut-off was looming, which would have been disastrous since they needed electricity to power various essential medical devices. Plus, their home was at risk of foreclosure. **“The needs of the family were overwhelming,” recalled Megan, “And I felt overwhelmed just trying to figure out what needed to be done to help them.”**

Megan approached SEVCA, and Family Services worker Emma Stewart helped the family appeal to the Public

Pat began working with Mary Morris, Project Manager at Green Mountain Power (GMP), to keep the electricity on. “I have to give Mary credit,” Pat said. “She stopped the electricity from being shut off and gave us time to put together a plan and find the resources we needed to pay the electric arrears.” This included funding from SEVCA, the Stratton Foundation, AHS, and Senior Solutions. A family relative also chipped in to pay arrears on the mortgage so they wouldn't become homeless. A joint application by SEVCA and VNH to the Morse Foundation resulted in a grant of \$4,000 to pay most of the home renovation debt, and the company they owed agreed to accept this as full payment.

Meanwhile, Pat tackled the 3SquaresVT application. Because the family's situation was so complex, she had to sit down with a benefits specialist at AHS to ensure it would be reviewed favorably. Victor Baisley from SEVCA Weatherization provided electric usage data to show that close to \$100 of the monthly electric bill could be attributed to medically necessary machinery. This special circumstance enabled the family to receive an increase in their 3SquaresVT allotment.

Finally, the family has the stability to focus on better managing their health and well-being. They have applied for SEVCA's Weatherization services, which will reduce their energy costs to a more manageable level. The situation could have ended up with the disabled members of the family in long-term care at a cost to the state exceeding \$100,000 per year—but now they can remain at home and receive the care they need at a fraction of that cost. Most importantly, they can live in dignity and keep their family together.

**“I still have stress, because life is life,” Doreen says. “But it's so much less now, since we've been able to work with Megan and Pat. I've actually been able to get outside and do some gardening, which is what I love!”**



## A Dream Deferred...Is Realized, Thanks to the IDA and Microbusiness Programs

Elizabeth Johnson experienced some huge obstacles to fulfilling her dream of starting her own business: a difficult pregnancy, a serious health challenge (which turned out to be Lyme disease), unemployment, and even homelessness.

A few years ago, she took SEVCA's Financial Fitness class with the goal of joining the Individual Development Account (IDA) matched savings program and eventually starting her own business. The IDA program supports and incentivizes savings for people with low incomes who are working to start or expand a business, purchase a home, or pursue their education. As a single parent, Elizabeth wanted a job where she could control her own schedule and use her artistic talents, and had decided to start a graphic design business based on her own unique, hand-designed creations.

"I was really hesitant at first to put myself out there, and I wasn't sure it was a viable idea," she recalls. "I was always in 'Special Ed' classrooms in school and I'd grown up with a 'story' that I wasn't as smart as everybody else. But Karen (Woodcock, SEVCA's IDA Coordinator at the time) was such a cheerleader, she helped me move past a lot of that."

"Unfortunately, my life started falling apart really intensely around that time," Elizabeth says. She was unable to find a job, so she could not maintain involvement with the IDA program, which requires monthly savings. The pregnancy and birth of her second child proved to be an extremely difficult one, and she got very sick. It took the doctors quite a while to diagnose Elizabeth with Lyme disease, and much of the treatment was not covered by her Medicaid insurance. She entered a period of housing instability, moving frequently. For a while she was forced to focus on survival for herself and her two children (now aged 3 and 12) and put her dreams on hold. Yet she was determined to succeed.

By Spring of 2017, Elizabeth was ready to renew her efforts, and she again turned to SEVCA for support. She took the Financial Fitness course again (now with IDA Coordinator Susan Dillon), redoubled her savings efforts, and worked on her business plan with one-on-one support from the Microbusiness program. She had begun doing some design and organizational systems consulting with businesses, but she wasn't yet convinced she could make a living at it.

"Doing the business plan forced me to think through what my service really was, and what I would need to do to make enough money to support myself," Elizabeth says. **"I couldn't see how it could work, it seemed impossible.**



**But once I did the plan, it really shifted how I saw myself engaged in the world, and I was able to present myself more clearly as a 'business consultant.'"**

Within a few months, she completed her IDA savings, submitted her business plan, and received a 2-1 savings match, which allowed her to get the equipment she needed to launch her consulting business, *Dreamtime Designs*. She acquired several clients, and, mainly through word of mouth, her business began growing. Elizabeth was finally on the path to becoming self-sufficient.

"Participating in the IDA program and writing a business plan really gave me a newfound confidence and a network of people rooting for my success," she says. **"I was not able to get out of poverty, and now I'm on the verge of doing that for the first time in 12 years."** Elizabeth said that Susan Dillon's support was essential in helping her achieve this: "She was steadfast in her faith in me... this was a part of what fueled me to overcome my circumstances. I am forever grateful for her guidance; she helped me believe that I would be a success!"

Last year, funding for the IDA program was eliminated from the federal budget. Elizabeth reacted with shock when she learned the program was cut: "It would be a travesty not to have this program! **The IDA is not a band-aid, it's actually a solution, a platform for economic growth.**"

SEVCA is working to keep the program viable here in Vermont, where the state continues to provide some funding, because we believe so strongly in its impact. Without it, amazing people like Elizabeth Johnson would not have the support they need to change their lives. "I've recommended this program to other people who are absolutely brilliant," she says. "If they actually had support, they would be able to live much bigger lives and contribute so much more to our community!"

## Volunteers Make a Difference at SEVCA

### 17-year-old VITA Volunteer Learns While He Serves



Ian Wallace, a 17-year old junior at Bellows Falls High School, wondered how he could fulfill his graduation requirement of 40 volunteer service hours, help the community, and learn a useful skill at the same time. His father had a great suggestion: participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Ian asked where he could do that, and his father simply responded, "Look it up!"

Ian followed his father's advice, and found out about SEVCA's VITA program at the Westminster location, just down the road from Bellows Falls. The program, offered in collaboration with Granite United Way, provides free tax preparation assistance for households with incomes below a certain threshold (in 2017, the limit was \$54,000). Eligible households can get help with federal and state returns, assistance in claiming credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit, and file their taxes electronically for quick refunds.

Ian learned that he is not allowed to advise people on their tax returns directly until he is 18, but he was able to help with the intake process and

remind people about the documents they needed to bring to their appointments. Still, Ian decided to go through the full training for certified tax preparation volunteers so he could learn as much as possible. The training prepared him to answer many people's questions on the phone prior to their appointments.

"It's tough—taxes can be very complicated, depending on the family's situation—but rewarding. I enjoy the satisfaction of learning something new and helping people," Ian said. **"Sometimes people feel overwhelmed by the process, but they recognize VITA is there to help them improve their situation and they're usually very grateful,"** he observed.

Ian's experience with VITA inspired him to write an article about it for his school newspaper, and he also submitted it to area newspapers to generate more awareness about the program. Next year when he is 18 years old, he plans to get certified and work with VITA again, this time as a tax preparer.

Leslie Wood, VITA Program Coordinator, called Ian "curious and inquisitive," and said one of the clients had specifically commented on how thorough he was in helping her prepare for her tax appointment. "I hope he can come back next year and be ready to take on the task of performing returns; that will really give him a real feeling of accomplishment, knowing that he is having a direct positive impact on the families we serve," Leslie said. The VITA program relies almost exclusively on volunteer support, and SEVCA was fortunate to have 20 committed volunteers at its three sites this year, many of whom volunteer every year.

**"This is a skill I can use in my own life,"** Ian said. "I had no idea about all the issues that go into preparing taxes before this." Ian will apply to colleges this year, and hopes to study Economics or Finance.

### Head Start Parent Pours Energy into Policy Council

Head Start parent Karie Stevens, is pictured here with her husband, Edward, and children: Jayce, age 4; Kolby, age 2; and Brody, age 10. Karie serves on the Head Start Policy Council and represents the Council on SEVCA's Board. She says her daughter, Jayce, had some speech delays before entering Head Start, but has improved dramatically, and she's a much more outgoing child that is now ready for kindergarten. Karie has been "a breath of fresh air" on SEVCA's Board, according to



Executive Director, Steve Geller. Karie says she learns valuable information about SEVCA's programs that she brings back to her parent meetings at the Chester site, and she brings the concerns at classroom level to the Policy Council and Board. This year, she gave input into a policy discussion on how teachers should address problem behaviors in the classroom. **"I wanted to be involved in my children's education, and I love the opportunities to participate at Head Start;** they made it really easy for me to volunteer," Karie said. "I like being a little bit in 'both worlds' (classroom and policy-making) as a middleman, feeding information in both directions."

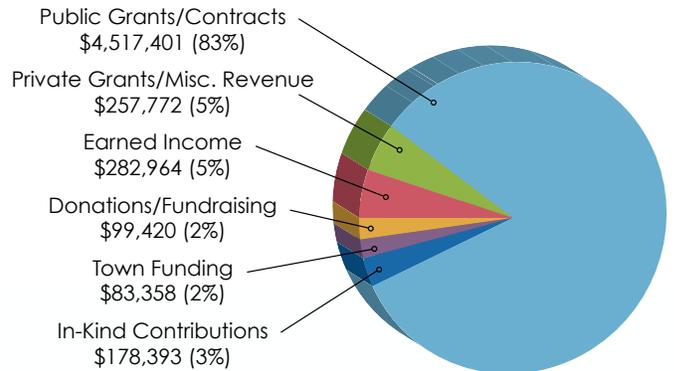


# FY2017 Financial Summary

## Statement of Financial Position

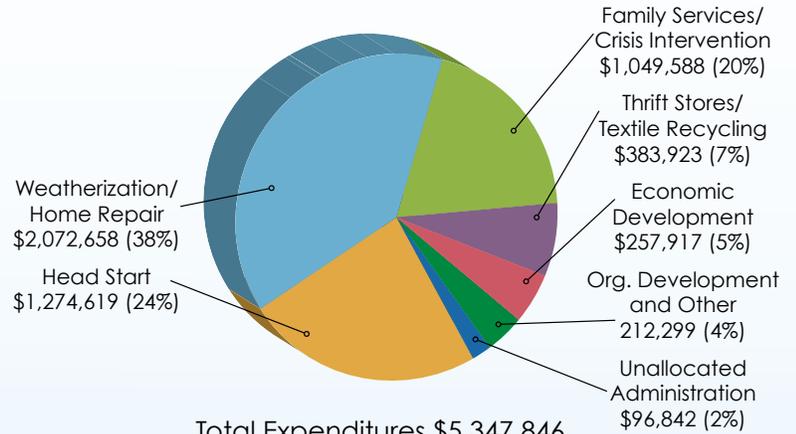
ASSETS	2017	2016
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$947,697	\$1,065,012
Accounts receivable	733,134	884,739
Investments	14,301	10,907
Employee receivables	2,797	3,701
Inventory	35,347	40,979
Prepaid expenses	<u>72,624</u>	<u>83,066</u>
Total current assets	<u>1,805,900</u>	<u>2,088,404</u>
<b>PROPERTY</b>		
Land, buildings and equipment	1,272,453	1,298,871
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(757,493)</u>	<u>(747,329)</u>
Property, net	<u>514,960</u>	<u>551,542</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>\$2,320,860</b></u>	<u><b>\$2,639,946</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Current portion of long term debt	\$46,589	\$45,314
Accounts payable	48,993	88,817
Accrued payroll, vacation and related liabilities	187,798	171,219
Accrued expenses	44,556	60,127
Refundable advances	<u>687,003</u>	<u>993,126</u>
Total current liabilities	1,014,939	1,358,603
<b>LONG TERM DEBT</b>		
Notes payable, less current portion shown above	<u>33,882</u>	<u>80,766</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,048,821</u>	<u>1,439,369</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	1,212,604	1,129,288
Temporarily restricted	<u>59,435</u>	<u>71,289</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,272,039</u>	<u>1,200,577</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>\$2,320,860</b></u>	<u><b>\$2,639,946</b></u>

## FY2017 Revenue & Other Support



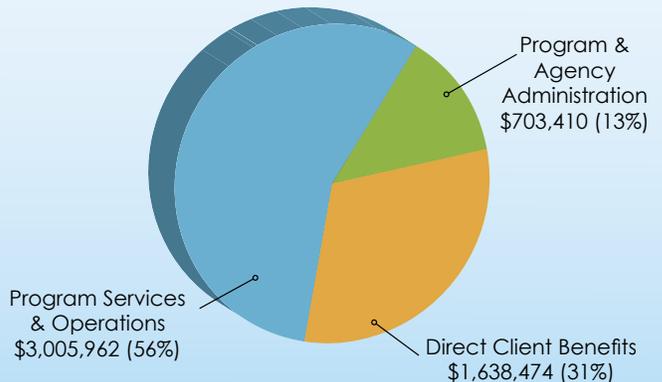
Total Revenue & Support \$5,419,308

## FY2017 Uses of Funds



Total Expenditures \$5,347,846

## FY2017 Allocation of Expenditures



Total Expenditures \$5,347,846

# FUNDING SOURCES FY2017

SEVCA would like to thank all of our funders and donors for helping us to achieve our mission. You have made it possible for us to assist 8,895 people with lower incomes (4,501 households) in the past year.

## DIRECT FEDERAL

### Dept. of Health & Human Services (HHS)

- Head Start Program

### Dept. of Agriculture (USDA)

- Housing Preservation Grant (HPG)

## FEDERAL VIA STATE

### Agency of Human Services (AHS)

#### Dept. for Children & Families (DCF)

- Crisis Fuel Assistance (HHS / LIHEAP)
- Child & Adult Care Food Program (USDA / CACFP)
- 3Squares Vermont (USDA / SNAP)

#### Office of Economic Opportunity

- Community Services Block Grant (HHS / CSBG)
- Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSF)
- Job Start Grant (USDA / SNAP)
- Weatherization (DOE)

### Dept. of Labor

- Regional Workforce Partnership (RWP) Grant

## FEDERAL VIA OTHER SOURCES

### Capstone Community Action

- Jobs for Independence (JFI)
- Individual Development Accounts (IDA)

### Champlain Valley OEO (CVOEO)

- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

### Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA)

- Regional Performance & Innovation Consortium (RPIC)

## STATE OF VERMONT

### Agency of Human Services (AHS)

#### Dept. of Vermont Health Access

- Vermont Health Connect Navigator

#### Dept. for Children & Families (DCF)

- Childcare Subsidies

#### Office of Economic Opportunity

- Weatherization (HWAP / EHSRP)

- Micro Business Development Program (MBDP)
- Housing Opportunity Program (HOP)
- Financial Fitness (IDA Match)

### Agency of Education

- Universal Prekindergarten/Act 166

### Towns of:

Andover	Marlboro
Athens	Newfane
Baltimore	Norwich
Brattleboro	Putney
Bridgewater	Rockingham
Brookline	Springfield
Cavendish	Townshend
Chester	Wardsboro
Dover	Weathersfield
Dummerston	West Windsor
Grafton	Westminster
Guilford	Weston
Halifax	Whitingham
Hartford	Wilmington
Hartland	Windham
Jamaica	Windsor
Londonderry	Woodstock
Ludlow	

## FOUNDATION / PRIVATE / COMMUNITY GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Abare Cleaning Service  
 A. Betts Carpentry  
 All Souls Church, W. Brattleboro  
 Anthony C. Marro Memorial Trust  
 Bellows Falls Country Club  
 Bellows Falls Emblem Club  
 Ben & Jerry's Community Action Team  
 Berkley & Veller, Inc.  
 Best Buy  
 Bradley Labs  
 Brattleboro Area Affordable Housing  
 Brattleboro Country Club  
 Brattleboro Food Co-op  
 Burtco, Inc.  
 C. Cowles Community Trust  
 C&S Wholesale Grocers

Cannon Solutions America  
 Christ's Church (Saxton's River)  
 Chroma Technology  
 Clarks Quality Foods  
 Claypoint Associates  
 Cocoplum Appliances  
 Congregational Church of Westminster West  
 Cota & Cota  
 Crown Point Country Club  
 Dillon Chevrolet  
 Durand Toyota Ford  
 Efficiency Vermont  
 Emily Landecker Foundation  
 Energy Federation, Inc.  
 Entergy Services/Employee Matching Program  
 Fanny Holt Ames and Edna Louise Holt Fund  
 Farnum Insulators  
 First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls  
 First Baptist Church of Saxton's River  
 First Congregational Church of Newfane  
 First Congregational Church of Westminster  
 FirstLight Fiber  
 Gay & Lesbian Fund of Vermont—at the direction of Jean Philipson-Zeeb & Sabine Dickel  
 George A. Dascomb Trust  
 Grafton Village Cheese  
 Granite United Way  
 Greater Hartford United Church  
 Green Mountain Power (GMP) (Warmth)  
 Guilford Community Church  
 IPG Employee Benefits Specialists  
 Kinney-Pike Insurance  
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On-line donations can be made by clicking on the **Donation** button at [www.sevca.org](http://www.sevca.org). You may also mail a check to SEVCA, Attn: Annual Appeal, 91 Buck Drive, Westminster, VT 05158. For further information, please contact Becky Himlin, Director of Planning and Development at 802-722-4575 ext. 163.

Donations are used to:

- Help ensure that local families in crisis can get help to prevent homelessness, keep the heat on, access affordable health insurance, and build personal assets.
- Support our efforts to build people's skills, help them create sustainable livelihoods, and lay a strong foundation for children's educational success.
- Enable us to improve the energy efficiency and habitability of area homes.
- Sustain our thrift stores as a low-cost resource for the basic needs of clothing, furniture, and household goods.





Our mission is to enable people to cope with, and reduce the hardships of poverty, create sustainable self-sufficiency, and reduce the causes and move toward the elimination of poverty.

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- Denise Mason, Director of Economic Development
- Pat Burke, Director of Family Services
- Lori Canfield, Director of Head Start
- Darline Rhoades, Director of Thrift Stores
- John Nielson, Home Repair Coordinator
- Tom Clews, Finance Director
- Becky Himlin, Director of Planning and Development
- Paul LaFreniere, IT Administrator
- Linda Brooks, Executive Assistant

**Acknowledgements**

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**OFFICE LOCATIONS**

**Main Office**

91 Buck Drive, Westminster, VT 05158  
 Tel. 802-722-4575  
 Fax 802-722-4509  
 Toll Free 800-464-9951

**Thrift Stores**

Bellows Falls	463-9084
Springfield	885-7074
White River Junction	359-4183

**Outreach Offices**

Brattleboro (outreach)	254-2795
Brattleboro (housing)	579-1314
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**Head Start**

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