

# Vermont Reading Partners

## A Volunteer Literacy Program

Student-Tutor Newsletter, August 2011

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This fiscal year marked our twenty-fifth year as a volunteer literacy organization in southwestern Vermont dedicated to helping others to read better. We celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 29<sup>th</sup> with a Dinner / Auction Fundraiser that packed the Barrows House in Dorset. Tim Anchor-Hoch, Mary Berger, and Julie Freebern of the Equinox Consort began the festive evening outside on the patio with a musical performance on recorders, woodwind instruments also known as the *flauto dolce* or sweet flutes. The balmy summer evening along with the soothing music allowed our guests to enjoy the colorful gardens, sample sumptuous appetizers, and begin bidding on the many interesting items in the Silent Auction before moving indoors to enjoy a three-course dinner and finalize their bids. Once again, Linda and Jim McGinnis and their delightful staff at the Barrows House hosted a wonderful dinner accented by a highly successful Silent Auction.



The successful evening encouraged us to move ahead with our business, confident we would be able to fund our programs and services despite a wobbly economy. Though we did offer Tutor Trainings in the fall and trained new tutors for our Adult and School Programs, business as usual stopped there. Fueled by the energy of Board members Cristina Mansfield and Sarah Post, our organization was launched into a year of self-evaluation, re-assessments, reviews of Programs and Policies, and expansions. It began with our annual retreat where we attacked all questions, problems, and the status quo with a determination to solve and improve. We reviewed and rewrote our Mission Statement to better represent the organization. We revisited many of our policies and enhanced and updated many that hadn't been touched for years. We created a new and improved information packet for all potential new Board members, and we expanded what a Committee needs to be for us today and defined their responsibilities more succinctly.

We also came up with new additions to our current outreach programs. We renamed our Book Swaps to Childrens' Bookshare; look for our new signs! And, we're sponsoring an essay contest for children this fall.

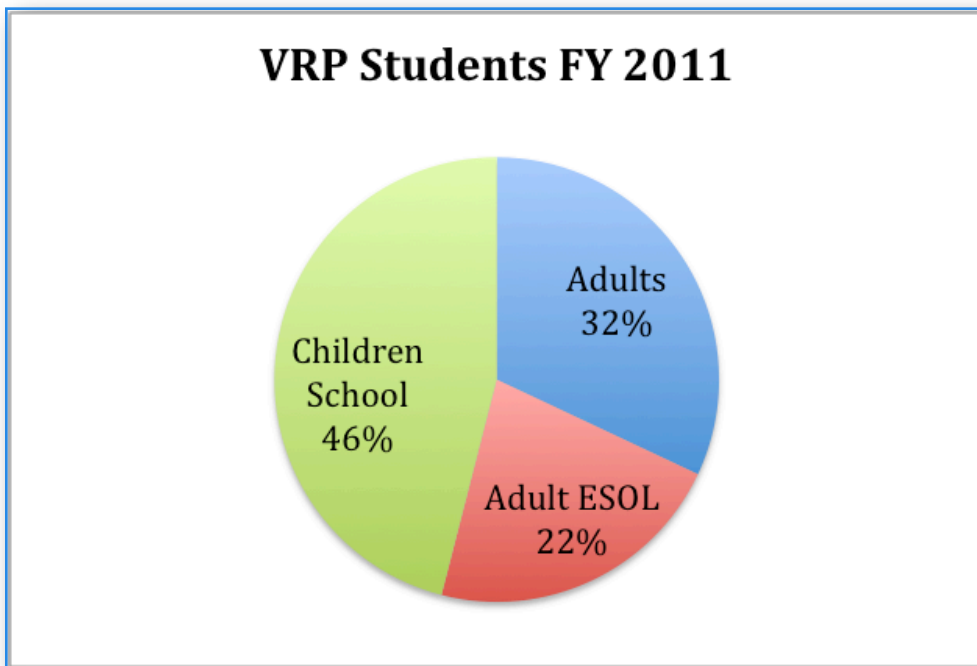
We're not finished. We recognize how self-examination makes us stronger, helps to refocus our efforts, makes us more effective, and brings in new ideas. We plan to continue to review, evaluate, and improve all aspects of our organization throughout the year.

During all this "housekeeping" activity, we still attended to our students and worked with local schools and other county service agencies to continue to reach out to those who still need our help but haven't come forward yet.

Lastly, because of the encouragement and generous donations from the Northshire Community, the mission of Vermont Reading Partners will continue to serve adults, children, and their families with free literacy programs and books. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Vermont Reading Partners, I would like to express our deep gratitude to your continued support of literacy.

–Koshka Pabst

**Percentage of Students Fiscal Year 2011**



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Northshire Bookstore

**\$500 - \$1000**

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**\$1000 - \$3000**

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Sovernet  
Susan Sargent

Verizon  
Vermont News Guide  
Wildflower Florist  
Yankee One Dollar Store

**Donated Space**

**Office Space**

Zion Episcopal Church,  
Manchester

**Tutoring**

Bennington College Library  
Bennington Free Library  
Career Development  
Center, Bennington  
Community College of  
Vermont, Bennington  
First Baptist Church,  
Manchester  
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Church, Manchester  
St. Peter's Episcopal  
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Second Congregational  
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Wild Boar Lodge, Bromley  
Zion Episcopal Church,  
Manchester

**Tutor Training**

The Bank of Bennington,  
Manchester  
Martha Canfield Library,  
Arlington

**Board Meeting Space**

Spiral Press Café  
Conference Room

*A special thanks to those  
who attended our success-  
ful 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cele-  
bration Dinner/Auction  
Fundraiser on August 29,  
2010 at the Barrows House  
Inn and Restaurant.*

## Coming Up

### Fall Essay Contest

Vermont Reading Partners is announcing an essay contest:  
“Should Being a Bookworm Make Me Squirm?”

This contest will be open to all students in southwestern Vermont who will be in grades 6, 7, and 8 in the fall of 2011. Deadline for essay submissions is October 14, 2011.

Winners will receive Northshire Bookstore Gift Certificates ranging from \$150, \$75 and \$50, as well as five honorable mentions.

A November reception at the Mark Skinner Library will be held to award the winners.

Fliers with guidelines may be obtained from your local school, or you may contact [msossi148@comcast.net](mailto:msossi148@comcast.net).

*This should be interesting. We'll keep you posted!*

### VRP CHILDRENS' BOOKSHARES

**Sunrise Family Resource Center  
Bennington**

**Wayside Country Store  
Rt. 313, Arlington**

**WIC-Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program, Bennington**

**Stewart's Shops, Manchester**

**Head Start, Pownal**

**Nichols Store, Danby**

**Oak Hill Child Center, Pownal**

**Mach's Market, Pawlet**

**Winchester's, Pownal**

**Neighborhood Connections  
Londonderry**

**Shaftsbury Country Store  
Rt. 7A, Shaftsbury**

**Free Help, Reading, Writing, and Speaking English  
Adults and Families - Call 362-2323**

Vermont Reading Partners  
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(802) 362-2323  
[vrp2323@sover.net](mailto:vrp2323@sover.net)



A Volunteer Literacy Program serving southwestern Vermont for over twenty-five years  
Affiliate of ProLiteracy America

## Summer Social

**August 28, 2011**

Vermont Reading Partners will be holding their **Annual Summer Social/ Fundraiser** on Sunday, August 28th, at the Manchester Country Club from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Feast on hearty hors d'oeuvres and delicious desserts while listening to the music of Equinox Consort. There will be many Silent Auction items to bid on including an African Safari for two with accommodations at Zulu Nyala Game Lodge. Tickets are \$50.00 each, with a cash bar. Reservations are requested by **August 22nd**. To reserve your place or should you have any questions, please call Vermont Reading Partners at 802-362-2323 or email [vrp2323@sover.net](mailto:vrp2323@sover.net).