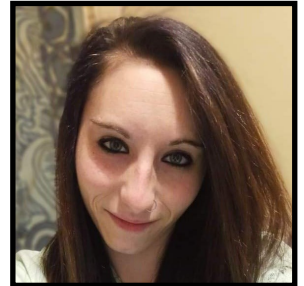




“VAL is there to help you get your goals completed in your own time” ~ Rochelle

One of the first things you need to know about Rochelle is that she is a very dedicated mother. She is married and serves as her son's primary caregiver. She is also a very dedicated student, working to earn her high school diploma. At 26, she aspires to a role in the medical field, possibly as a medical assistant. VAL recently helped her secure testing which revealed an underlying learning difference. Equipped with new learning strategies, she is able to advance her studies in ways that were not possible when she attended her local public high school as a teenager.



“I just want to be able to help other people in my situation,” Rochelle said. “You don't have to say ‘OK, I didn't get it done.’ You CAN get it done. VAL is there to help you get your goals completed in your own time. It's a very good place. VAL makes you really want to get it done. They make you want to keep going, even in difficult times. I want people to know they can still finish their high school diploma, even if they're 20, 40 or 60. VAL can help you get through.”

Our Work

Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) serves adults ages 16 years and older. Our programs include basic education and literacy, high school completion, GED tutoring and testing, courses for English Language Learners, workforce readiness and development, and transition to post-secondary education. Our services are free.

Visit us at www.vtadultlearning.org.



From our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Governor Phil Scott is targeting July 4th for a full re-opening of Vermont. VAL is following the administration's guidance with re-opening our learning centers across Vermont. Prudence is

key to maintain health as we as transition to more in-person services while offering hybrid and fully remote options via our new Online Learning Center.

I hope you will enjoy these stories from our work. VAL's students demonstrate great dedication in their learning and they are supported by equally dedicated staff and volunteers.

Thank you for supporting our work!

Be safe and be well,

Hal Cohen

Executive Director

hcohen@vtadultlearning.org

Vermont Adult Learning Centers

Central Office

46 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05676
802-244-0634

Addison County

99 Maple Street, #18
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4392

Chittenden County

77 College Street
Burlington, VT 05401
802-846-7245

Franklin & Grand Isle Counties

5 Lemnah Drive, Ste. 5
St. Albans, VT 05478
802-524-9233

Rutland County

16 Evelyn Street
Rutland, VT 05701
802-775-0617

Windham County

999 Putney Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-257-9449

Windsor County

White River Junction Location
225 Maple Street, Ste. 6
White River Jct., VT 05001
802-299-2469

Springfield Location
100 River Street, Ste. 102
Springfield, VT 05156
802-546-0879



"I like learning English because it gives me opportunities to speak and understand people freely."
~Tetyana
ELL Student

Thank you to our recent supporters

Individuals

- John Ames
- James M. Cataldo Fund
- Mac Cox
- William L. & Debra Lopez Gottesman
- Judy Pendell & Warren Azano
- Garth & Clara Peterson
- Mary Rutherford
- Hope & Donald Schultz
- Cheryl Wilfong
- Jeff & Jan Young

Organizations

- Coalition on Adult Basic Education
- McClure Foundation
- Network for Good
- Road Scholar
- Rutland City
- UK Online Giving Foundation
- Vermont Community Foundation, COVID-19 Relief Fund

Please contact Katherine Stamper, Development Director, kstamper@vtadulthoodlearning.org if your name was left off of our donor list in error. Thank you!

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"The staff at VAL are more than willing to go above and beyond to help students."
~ Jeanette
Student in Rutland

Ways to Support VAL

- Check or Credit Card Gift
- Employer Matching
- Stocks, Securities, etc.
- Goods and Services
- Tribute and Memorial Gift
- Lifetime Planning

Thank you to VAL Development and Marketing Intern, Rebecca Shames, who leaves to teach English in Lille, France! Well done, Rebecca!

Volunteer Spotlight: Jessie Maclean

Jessie, a highly valued VAL volunteer, lives on a farm in Cavendish, Vermont, with a menagerie of animals--horses, dogs, cats and chickens. She is married and the proud mother of two daughters, ages 11 and 19.

Jessie shared that she experiences a visual impairment. She was working with her case manager at the Vermont Department of the Blind and Visually Impaired in the summer of 2020 when they recommended she consider volunteering at VAL.

Jessie, fluent in Spanish, has worked with VAL students 1:1 to help them earn their world language credit. She also supports our English Language Learning students, meeting virtually during the pandemic.

"I'm here to help support the students' needs. It feels good to be a volunteer, to be able to unconditionally give of oneself without any expectation except for the relationship itself."



Are you interested in volunteering at VAL?
Contact Katherine at kstamper@vtadulthoodlearning.org



Ha: New American, New Entrepreneur

"I love the U.S. and I love Vermont—even if it's too cold in the winter." ~ Ha

Ha operates Impre's Nails & Spa in Milton, Vermont. She arrived from Vietnam in 2001 with her husband. She was raised in Binh Thuan, a province on the southeast coast of Vietnam, on the South China Sea. The area is known for beautiful beaches, significant archeological sites and a tropical climate.

Before leaving Vietnam, Ha packed a few books in her native language for the journey. She loves to read, particularly biographies. Beloved books from home would be a source of comfort as she immersed herself in a new country, a new language and a new life.



Ha quickly adjusted to New England's cold winters. She believed if she worked hard, the United States offered far greater opportunities than her home country. She attended a Vietnamese language technical school in Dorchester, Massachusetts, to obtain her nail technician license and worked her way up to the salon she owns today.

"I love the U.S. and I love Vermont---even if it's too cold in the winter," Ha said with a smile.

Ha and her husband parent a 15-year-old and a 17-year-old. Her parents emigrated from Vietnam eight years ago and reside with her family. She and her husband work a lot and have high hopes for the continued opportunities this country offers.

Ha decided she wanted to improve her English and enrolled in Leigh Smith's English Language Learning (ELL) class at VAL's Franklin/Grand Isle Learning Center in 2016. Student and teacher continue to meet virtually during the pandemic. Ha's eventual goal is to go back to school and earn a certification in TESOL, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She recognizes the value of being able to speak English and might even return to Vietnam to teach the language in retirement.



"Leigh is really friendly and helpful," Ha said. "Anytime I ask any question, she makes me feel really comfortable. My question might be about class or something else that I need help with. She always helps me."

"Ha has an unquenchable thirst for learning new vocabulary and structures in English," Leigh said. "She is attending two classes and auditing a third with me right now. She is not afraid of conquering new concepts or technologies, and has taken that courage to apply on her own with an online course to learn how to teach English to others in Vietnam someday. I am very glad to have her in my classes. She is gentle, yet knows how to advocate for her goals."

Diversity Equity and Inclusion



In March of 2021, staff volunteers established a formal Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee at VAL. The committee consists of staff from many of VAL's seven regional centers who work in a wide range of roles from direct service to leadership. In close communication with VAL's leadership team, the committee serves the role of supporting and improving VAL's ongoing and collaborative efforts toward becoming a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for all participants, staff, and our communities. Most recently, VAL hired a consultant who helped guide the committee through four preliminary discussions, as well as all VAL staff through a workshop, focused on building trust and understanding what it takes to create institutional change. VAL is committing time, money, and resources to this process with the goal of making DEI an integral piece of VAL culture. We are only at the beginning and would love to involve the insight of more VAL students, alumni, staff, board members, and community partners in this work.

If you are interested in participating in some way with the VAL DEI Committee, please contact dei@vtadultlearning.org.

Email kstamper@vtadultlearning.org to receive this newsletter via email. Type GO GREEN in Subject Line.



Vermont Adult Learning

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