



“VAL is my son’s school.” ~ Tom, parent of a student

Tommy loves to read. He’s a capable student who did well in public school through sixth grade. Then, in seventh grade, personal challenges interfered with his ability to attend school. He tried. He simply could not attend. His parents secured private tutors who came to their home to deliver content. Tommy resumed public school as a fifteen-year-old high school freshman and, ultimately, left. Sometimes, a traditional educational environment does not provide the right fit for a student.

“I’d never heard of VAL before,” Tom said. “It didn’t apply to me or anyone I knew. Once we went into the St. Albans office and met the staff, Tommy was on board. He’d missed a lot of school and was hungry to learn. I began driving Tommy to VAL a couple of times a week and waited for him as he worked with the teachers. The staff gave him the time and attention he needed. They talked with him on a respectful level and set high expectations, matching what Tommy was capable of.”



Our Work

Vermont Adult Learning 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.

From our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

President Lyndon B. Johnson once said, “At the desk where I sit, I have learned one great truth. The answer for all our national problems—the answer for all the problems of the world—

comes to a single word. That word is education.”

LBJ interrupted his college studies to spend nine months teaching Mexican-American pupils at a segregated school in Cotulla, Texas, in 1928. He launched the “War on Poverty” during his tenure at the White House.

An educated populace is better prepared to earn a living wage, advocate for themselves and their children, and take part in civic life. Vermont Adult Learning does this work every day, preparing learners to earn the credentials they need.

Reach out to me if you’d like to learn more about our work.

Hal Cohen, hcohen@vtadultlearning.org

Vermont Adult Learning Centers

Central Office

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

Addison County

282 Boardman Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-338-4392

Chittenden County

29 Church Street, #9
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

90 Birge Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-257-9449

Windsor County

White River Junction Location
225 Maple Street, Ste. 6
White River Jct., VT 05001
802-281-4311

Springfield Location

100 River Street, Ste. 102
Springfield, VT 05156
802-546-0876



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MISSION

Vermont Adult Learning's mission is to create an innovative, inclusive and equitable learning environment that provides personalized opportunities for education and career development for Vermont residents by building relationships, strengthening communities and fostering lifelong learning

ORGANIZATIONS

- Action Council of the Employees of General Dynamics
- Casey, Inc.
- Co-Op Food Store, Wh. River Jct.
- DeSantana Stone
- Johnson Family Foundation
- Nichols Foundation
- Northfield Savings Bank
- VELCO
- Whetstone Brook Genealogy
- West Hill Energy & Computing

IN MEMORY OF

- Paulita Estey - Larry Sudlow

“Set a goal.
Work towards it.”

Naomi,
2019 Graduate and
mother of five

Meet Katherine Stamper, our new Development Director

“As the daughter of immigrants and a First Gen college student, I knew I wanted to work for an organization helping adults sharpen their language and learning skills for a better future. I arrive at my office, each day, truly inspired by the life-changing work that happens at Vermont Adult Learning!”

WAYS TO SUPPORT VERMONT ADULT LEARNING:

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

Please contact Katherine Stamper, Development Director, at kstamper@vtadultlearning.org or (802) 735-1670 to discuss any of these options. We strive to thank all donors. Please contact Katherine if your name was, inadvertently, left off of our donor list. Thank you!



Leave a Legacy:
Remember
Vermont Adult Learning
in your will.



Meet Victoria, an English Language Learning student from the Rep. of Moldova

"My teacher (Brian Mahoney), he explains everything. I get a lot from his class. I try to speak a lot of English with my co-workers, at the shop, on the street, wherever possible. Brian is the best teacher; he corrects me and he explains everything perfectly. I try to speak with harder words so I learn more."

Hometown: Straseni, Republic of Moldova

Arrival in the United States: March 2017

Languages: Romanian, Russian and English

Education: Bachelor's Degree, Economics
Academy of Economic Studies
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Job in Moldova: Assistant Accountant

Job in Vermont: Victoria works in production at the Olive Garden Restaurant.

Ambition: Attend college in Vermont and resume her career as an accountant

Something she misses about home: "I miss my family."

Happy Memory from home: "I was a folklore dancer in Moldova for 14 years. I spent 7 years in a professional dance ensemble which toured Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and all over Moldova."

Something she brought with her from home: "My husband and I brought an icon of St. Nicholas we got for our wedding."

A challenge overcome since coming to the United States: "I'm proud of myself because I can, now, speak a little English. I'm proud of myself because I understand enough English to do almost everything at work."

Proverb from Moldova: "If you wake up early, you have more time to accomplish things that day."

Favorite food from Moldova: *Placinte*, is a traditional Moldovan pastry, a cheese pie stuffed with feta.



Growing Vermont's Workforce



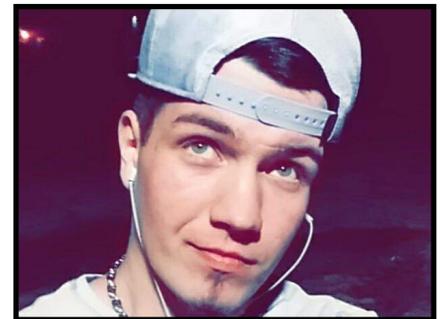
"What's not to like about welding?" Richard muses. I get to 'play' with flammable items and create things."

Richard, age 23, lives in Rutland City with his fiancé. He works the night shift as a custodian at a local hospital, earning \$12.50 per hour. He enrolled in the Strengthening Working Families Initiative (SWFI) while pursuing his high school diploma at VAL. SWFI is a U.S. Department of Labor Grant awarded to Vermont Technical College (VTC) to sponsor Vermont custodial parents/guardians of children 13 and younger, or children of any age who have a disability, to train for careers in advanced manufacturing at no cost. Institutions including Vermont Technical College, Community College of Vermont and some technical centers and welding institutes throughout the state partner with SWFI to provide eligible participants with trainings to raise technical skill levels and offer industry-recognized credentials. VAL supports SWFI outreach and recruitment efforts

It turns out that this young man has an affinity for welding. Richard has been training at the Stafford Technical Center in Rutland. He's completed three courses and will start his fourth course in March to earn his American Welding Society Certification.

"My teacher pulled me aside and told me, if I could get my driver's license, he could get me a job starting at \$18 per hour," Richard said.

Contact Gina Pandolfo at gpandolfo@vtadultlearning to learn about SWFI.



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



Vermont Adult Learning

46 South Main Street

Waterbury, VT 05676