### University of Vermont ScholarWorks @ UVM

Public Health Projects, 2008-present

Public Health Projects, University of Vermont College of Medicine

1-23-2013

#### The Sara Holbrook Community Center: A Needs Assessment

Elizabeth Abernathey

Meredith Bryden

Kristin Carr

W. Christian Crannell

Colin King

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.uvm.edu/comphp\_gallery

Part of the Community Health and Preventive Medicine Commons, and the Health Services Research Commons

#### Recommended Citation

Abernathey, Elizabeth; Bryden, Meredith; Carr, Kristin; Crannell, W. Christian; King, Colin; Nobe, Andrew; VanHorne, Michelle; Contompasis, Stephen; and Kounta, Jenny, "The Sara Holbrook Community Center: A Needs Assessment" (2013). *Public Health Projects, 2008-present.* Book 90.

http://scholarworks.uvm.edu/comphp\_gallery/90

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Public Health Projects, University of Vermont College of Medicine at ScholarWorks @ UVM. It has been accepted for inclusion in Public Health Projects, 2008-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UVM. For more information, please contact donna.omalley@uvm.edu.

Authors Elizabeth Abernathey, Meredith Bryden, Kristin Carr, W. Christian Crannell, Colin King, Andrew Nobe, Michelle VanHorne, Stephen Contompasis, and Jenny Kounta



# The Sara Holbrook Community Center: A Needs Assessment

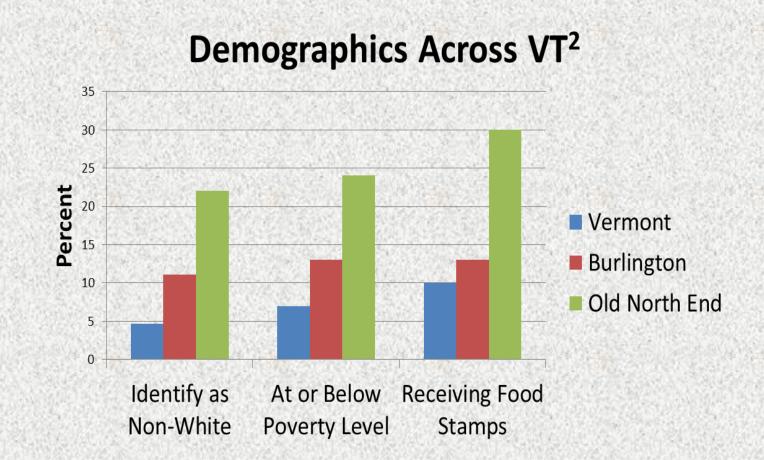
Sara Holbrook
COMMUNITY CENTER

Abernathey L.<sup>1</sup>, Bryden M.<sup>1</sup>, Carr K.<sup>1</sup>, Crannell W.C.<sup>1</sup>, King C.<sup>1</sup>, Nobe A.<sup>1</sup>, VanHorne M.<sup>1</sup>, Contompasis S.<sup>1</sup>, Kounta J.<sup>2</sup>

University of Vermont College of Medicine<sup>1</sup>, Sara Holbrook Community Center<sup>2</sup>

### Introduction

The mission of the Sara Holbrook Community Center (SHCC), located in the heart of Burlington's Old North End (ONE), is to "develop responsible and productive children, youth and families through social development, educational and recreational opportunities." SHCC offers an after school program for 36 elementary school students. In recent years, disrespectful behavior and bullying have become a growing problem in the program. We conducted a needs assessment of the SHCC and staff. The assessment examined the strengths and challenges facing the program and devised potential recommendations to address staffidentified issues.



- 86% of students at the Sustainability Academy at Lawrence Barnes are eligible for free/reduced price lunch.<sup>3</sup>
- The median income of the Old North End is \$34,000 per year, with 8-12.9% earning less than \$10,000 per year.<sup>2</sup>

# **Overall Themes**

Home & Community
Resources

### **Strengths**

Unstructured Free Play
Positive Community
Reputation & Impact
Staff Dedication & Diversity
Ability to Stretch Budget

## **Challenges**

Resistance to Change

Demographics of Old North End

Staff Communication & Roles

Limited Time, Space & Money

Governance & Administration
Program Structure

### Recommendations

Field Trips

External Programming

Parental Communication

Student Individuality

Frequent Staff Meetings

Clarify Staff Roles

Focus on Staff Training

Develop Fundraising Campaign



Mural outside SHCC

"...kids come to us in kindergarten and leave us in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and I have seen a huge amount of growth in that period of time."
-SHCC Staff Member

#### Methods

We created and administered a 21 question interview in a semi-structured format to the 6 staff members. Each interview was recorded, transcribed and rendered anonymous. From these transcripts, we conducted a qualitative needs assessment and identified 4 themes. We highlighted strengths and challenges for each category and developed recommendations to address these challenges.



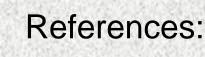
Afterschool participants during "Circle Time"

"...to have a place that is very safe and gives them a sense of safety and fun, it just goes a really long way."

-SHCC Staff Member

### Conclusion

The needs assessment revealed various strengths and challenges of the SHCC after school program. Addressing two or three of the challenges while also nurturing their strengths will ensure SHCC's continued vital role serving the Old North End.



<sup>1</sup>SHCC Website (<u>www.saraholbrookcc.org</u>); <sup>2</sup>U. S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census; <sup>3</sup>Burlingtion School District Food Service