



“My involvement and the ‘radical hospitality’ have given me the courage and support I need to take positive steps toward the future.” - Abby Bouffard

## Education & Transition

We encourage participants to take positive, measurable steps toward improving their lives. Our class offerings support people in a safe and welcoming environment as they strive toward greater self-sufficiency.

**74% graduated from one or more classes**  
**5 new programs initiated to meet evolving needs**

**100% of tutorial participants surveyed reached their goals in speaking and communicating more effectively.**



## Justice & Mentoring

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC EDUCATION • JUSTICE COLLABORATIONS  
 Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform • Vermont Interfaith Action • Rapid Intervention Community Courts • Chittenden County Treatment Courts • Community Justice Centers • Commission on Women



“This isn’t just about alleviating struggle. This is about transforming it.”  
 - Anna Stevens, Mentor



Vermont Women’s Mentoring Program  
 In partnership with



**36 new matches this year**  
**97% of women with mentors compared to 50.2% of all women released in VT, did not return to jail for a new crime.**



**18 students started or expanded their business**  
**75% bank ready business plans**

Helping women make informed decisions about business ownership

- Getting Serious
- Start Up
- Personal Financial Empowerment

## Women’s Small Business Program

“WSBP is the safe and positive environment I needed to feel empowered to learn about business and about myself. Because I completed Start Up through WSBP, I am moving forward with my baked goods food stand.” - Shana Goldberger, Owner Sweet Babu



## Community Engagement



Kate Ash of Senator Leahy’s office joined to help celebrate Academic Day.



Active outreach with our many community partners



“Our Signature Partnership leverages the expertise of both organizations – to develop a deeper, more sustainable impact within our community.”

- John Davis, Managing Partner/Owner Davis & Hodgdon Associates



### Grants & Foundations

We are grateful for support from: Altman Foundation, Anonymous, Ben & Jerry’s Foundation, Bergeron Family Foundation, Catholic Charities, Community and Economic Development Office – CDBG, the Elaine S Albee Memorial Fund, Elizabeth Steele, the Fountain Fund, Hoehl Family Foundation, Howard Center, Jane’s Trust, JustPax Fund-Mennonite Foundation, KeyBank Foundation, the Mill Foundation, Northeast Mercy Ministry Fund, People’s United Community Foundation, Price Chopper’s Golub Foundation, Richard E. & Deborah L. Tarrant Foundation, TD Charitable Foundation, United Way of Chittenden County, the Vermont Agency Foundation, The Vermont Community Foundation, Vermont Department of Corrections, and the Windham Foundation.

### Program Fees

\*Fiscal year ended with **\$94,611** net operating income restricted and targeted for programming in the new fiscal year.

We are grateful to the Burlington Community Justice Center, the Chittenden State Attorney’s Office and the State of Vermont – Office of the Court Administrator for providing partial subsidies for some participants. In addition, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) provided non-degree grants to some students and Davis & Hodgdon Associates and the Hearst Investment Fund provided scholarships.

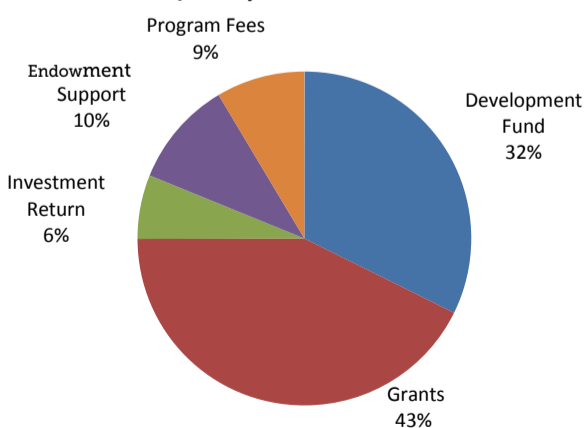
### Special Events

Our annual May Luncheon netted \$61,000, thanks to the generosity of our many sponsors (**listed on opposite page**), all who generously supported the Mercy Challenge and with support from numerous businesses and community members. Our fall **Jazz on the Lake** event was made possible by event co-chairs Erica Dean, Angela Eastman and **Community Level Sponsors:**

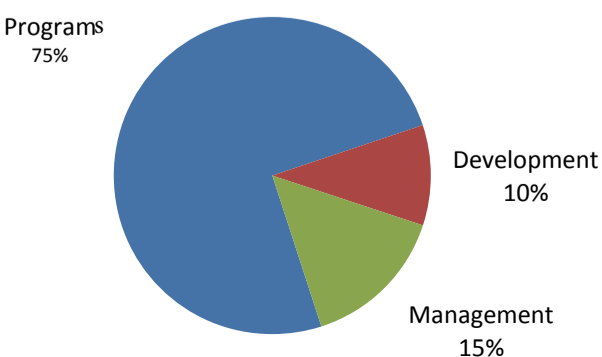
- John Bossange
- Healing Art & Writing
- O’Brien Brothers Agency
- ReArch Company

For a complete listing of our donors and 241 volunteers, visit our website: [mercyconnections.org/annual-report.html](http://mercyconnections.org/annual-report.html)

### Revenues: \$853,323\*



### Expenses: \$758,662





# May Luncheon Sponsors

## Empowerment Level



THE  
**University of Vermont**  
MEDICAL CENTER

## Community Level

Bergeron Paradis & Fitzpatrick LLP  
BioTek  
Brenda and John Bisbee  
John Bossange  
Donna Burke  
Carton Company  
Champlain College  
The Coates Family  
Comcast  
Dorset Maple Reserve  
Engelberth Construction  
Essex Equipment  
Green Mountain Power  
Merchants Bank  
Northfield Savings Bank  
Paul Frank + Collins  
PC Construction  
Pomerleau Real Estate  
Sisters of Mercy, Northeast Community  
St. Michael's College  
Symquest  
TD Bank  
Tetra Tech  
Thornton Investment Management  
University of Vermont

### May Luncheon Co-chairs:

**John Bossange & Beth Taylor-Nolan**  
Catherine McAuley Award Recipient:  
**Roddy O'Neil Cleary**



## Board of Trustees

Chad T. Ahern  
Theresa Alberghini DiPalma  
Lucille Bonvouloir, RSM  
John Bossange  
Donna Burke  
Marilyn Cormier  
John H. Crabbe, Jr., Chair  
Erica Dean  
Thomas J. Donovan, Jr.  
Angela Eastman  
Sandra Dalton Felis  
Mary Hurlie  
Hank Lambert  
Pamela Mackenzie  
Amy Mailloux  
Betty Rambur  
Heidi Stumpff  
Carol Vallett  
Leslie McCrorey Wells  
Rowshan Nemazee,  
Sponsor's Council Liaison  
Jean Wolfe, Participant Liaison

### Special thanks to retiring board members for their years of service:

Chad Ahern  
Theresa Alberghini Dipalma  
Donna Burke  
Marilyn Cormier  
Sandra Dalton Felis  
Amy Mailloux

### Welcome new members:

Dawn Ellinwood  
Yael Friedman  
Chrystie Heimert  
Rosa Laboy-Hernandez  
Bobbe Maynes  
Larry Michaels

## Staff

Cathy Ainsworth • Laurel Butler  
Martha Cook • Dolly Fleming  
Heather Gilbert • Ann Marie Giroux  
Pam Greene • Sue Griffin  
Anne Lezak • Marianne Mullen  
Gwen Pokalo • Alana Shaw  
Marissa Strayer-Benton • Carmen Tall



## Our programs and strategies contribute to

- Improved literacy and education for adults who have been left behind
- Acquisition of business skills and the development of small businesses
- Reduced recidivism and helping women return to community and lead healthy, meaningful lives
- Opportunities for people to gain the confidence, skills and tools to move forward in their lives
- Helping people make significant contributions while maximizing volunteer impact



Annual Vermont Women's Mentoring Program Summer Picnic Celebration

## Reflections from Executive Director & Board Chair

What a blessing and honor it is to serve the mission and organization of Mercy Connections. Leadership and stewardship are not limited to those of us with organizational executive titles. Mercy Connections' stories and successes are the result of many who share and nourish our vision of an accountable organization and a just, inclusive and compassionate community. We salute all the participants, students, volunteers, donors and partners who are involved in our work. Every year we take bold and innovative steps to re-invigorate our programs and strategies so people can feel hopeful about their lives and make progress. Please join us as we call upon "the force of our infinite selves—the energy at the heart of our lives" to make the leap from success to significance. Blessings,



Dolly Fleming Executive Director  
John H. Crabbe, Jr. Chair, Board of Trustees

Learn more on our website and facebook page:

[mercyconnections.org](http://mercyconnections.org)



Nurturing Self-Sufficiency through Education, Mentoring, Entrepreneurship and Community  
255 South Champlain Street, Suite #8 • Burlington, VT 05401 • (802) 846-7063  
FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



Purchase your tickets Now!  
Jazz Jam  
October 3, 2015  
Save the Date  
May Luncheon

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Burlington, VT 05401  
Permit No. 53