

PRESENTING SPONSOR:

# 34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

APRIL 18, 2023 9:30-11:00 A.M.



**9:00 REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS**

**9:30 WELCOME**

Master of Ceremonies  
**Marlon Fisher**

**Beth Wermuth Nichols**, President,  
*KidSafe Collaborative Board of Directors*

**Sally Borden**, Executive Director,  
*KidSafe Collaborative*

Congratulatory Remarks  
**Senator Peter Welch**

**Aryka Radke**, Deputy Commissioner,  
*Vermont Dept for Children and Families,  
Family Services Division*

**AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Lifetime Achievement:  
**Maryann McAllister**, Victim Advocate,  
*Burlington Police Department*

Outstanding Professional:

**Cathy Kelley**, Social Worker, Pediatric New  
American Program, UVM Children's Hospital

Promising Professional:

**Christina Brown**, Director of Basic Needs,  
*Spectrum Youth and Family Services*

Outstanding Collaboration:

**Transgender Youth Program**,  
*Dr. Erica Gibson, Director Adolescent  
Medicine, UVM Children's Hospital*

Gregory C. Packan Outstanding  
Children's Advocacy:

**Sara Schnipper**, CAPPCON Social Worker,  
*UVM Medical Center*

Janet S. Munt Prevention Award:

**Gabriella Tufo-Strouse** Community Outreach  
Director, King Street Center

**Quilt Raffle Drawing!**

**11:00 CLOSE**

Working *together* to end child abuse and neglect

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# Welcome to the 34th Annual KidSafe Collaborative Outstanding Service Awards!

Thank you for joining us to recognize and celebrate the 2023 KidSafe Collaborative outstanding service awardees! Every year we are honored to raise awareness and show appreciation to those on the front lines or behind the scenes who are working to make sure our children are safe, healthy and well cared for.

We are thrilled to be back with a full audience - both in person and on line - to present these awards this year, after three years of having a primarily remote event. At the same time, presenting the Awards via live stream created opportunities to improve the event and we are happy to keep this option to allow people to join us who are not able to attend in person. We have all learned a lot about remote technology since early 2020 and we continue to use some of those tools not only for these awards but also in doing our collaborative work!

Our Awards Selection Committee once again received wonderful submissions about extraordinary individuals and teams who serve the children and families of our community. Today's six outstanding awardees, along with more than a hundred and fifty awardees recognized over the past 34 years, are all partners in the KidSafe mission of working *together* to strengthen our community's prevention of and response to child abuse and neglect. It is a privilege to have this opportunity to celebrate our amazing community that works together tirelessly on behalf of children and families, and we are honored to share their achievements with you.

Last but certainly not least, we express our immense gratitude to the many businesses, organizations and individuals who sponsor, donate, and volunteer to make our work and this event possible!



**Sally Borden**  
Executive Director  
KidSafe Collaborative



**Beth Wermuth Nichols**  
President,  
Board of Directors

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## KidSafe Collaborative Mission

*To engage community groups, individuals and agencies to work together to improve our community's prevention of and response to child abuse and neglect.*



## 2023 MASTER OF CEREMONIES: MARLON FISHER

Marlon Fisher has spent his life working in countless settings with children and young adults, helping them to create a safe and healthy life for themselves. After an 8-year stint in the Army as an All Source Intelligence Analyst, Marlon began a long and rewarding career caring for youth in different settings: wilderness, residential, and community. Today, Marlon is the Associate Director of Next Generation Leadership for The Frederick Gunn School, located in Washington, CT. Marlon's other passions include cooking, stand-up comedy, storytelling, and his two children. Marlon serves on the boards of directors of Dad Guild and Spectrum Youth and Family Services.

## KIDSAFE COLLABORATIVE

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**Beth Wermuth- Nichols**, *President, Psychologist*

**Pauline Tyler**, *Vice President,  
Community Member*

**Jeff Morin**, *Treasurer, JMM & Associates*

**Erin Chastenay**, *Champlain Community Services*

**Andrea Dion**, *Morgan Stanley*

**Wanda Keosian**, *Colchester School District*

**Denise Myers**, *Myers Tax & Accounting*

**Cindy Olson**, *Champlain Cable Corporation*

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**Carolyn Smith**, *Office Environments*

**Coralie Tyler**, *Community Member*

**Susan Victory**, *UVM Children's Hospital*

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**Jay Fayette**, *Suffolk Construction*

**Dr. Lewis First**, *University of VT Children's Hospital*

**Dr. Joseph Hagan**, *Lakeside Pediatrics, retired*

**Shireen Hart**, *Primmer Piper Eggleston  
& Cramer PC*

*\* Companies listed for affiliation only*

### STAFF:

**Sally Borden**, *Executive Director*

**Meghan Masterson**, *Assistant Director*

**Elise Ameigh**, *Development and Communications  
Coordinator*

**Kairie An Murray**, *Administrative Assistant*

### About KidSafe Collaborative

**Helping families** access the coordinated services they need,

**Leading** collaborative interagency work needed to prevent and address child maltreatment,

**Training** teachers and others to recognize and report suspected maltreatment,

**Coordinating** team services for birthing parents with a history of opiate use disorder and their babies,

**Improving** the systems responsible for improving child safety,

**Raising awareness** of the need for family supports.



## Visit Our Online Auction

Don't miss out on great items such as a Shelburne Farms family membership, a weeknight dinner cooked by local chef Alganesh Michael, work by local artists, and much more!



*Auction open through April 20, 2023*



# Congratulations

## Outstanding Service Honorees



The employee-owners at PC Construction congratulate this year's outstanding service honorees for their unwavering dedication to keeping children safe in our community. Thank you for all that you do – we are truly **BUILDING STRONGER, TOGETHER.**



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## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

**Maryann McAllister**, Victim Advocate, Burlington Police Department

*"She has changed my life, and the life of my children and I am only one of likely thousands that came before me." - anonymous tribute from a domestic violence survivor*

Mary McAllister has worked for the City of Burlington for 28 years. She began as a police officer in uniform, but it didn't fit... Then in 1994 she saw that the Burlington Police Department, Woman Helping Battered Women (now Steps To End Domestic Violence) and the then Burlington Women's Council were looking for someone part-time to collect statistics on Domestic Violence and she applied. This initial role led to Mary being part of the pioneering team that created the protocols and trainings which resulted in the development of Burlington Police Department's first domestic violence response policy. She became the first victim advocate embedded within a police department, and is currently the Domestic Violence Victim Advocate in the Burlington Police Dept. Crisis, Advocacy and Intervention Program.

Mary found her calling and has dedicated her professional life to assisting victims of crime, especially victims of domestic violence. There are thousands of community members, adults and children, who are not victims but are survivors thanks to work that Mary has done. She has helped those she serves get support through just about every provider there is, and works closely with Family Court, STEPS, Hopeworks and the State's Attorneys victim advocates.

Mary is a state-recognized expert in matters relating to supporting victims of crime and is an expert on domestic violence lethality assessment, having trained professionals across the state on this vital tool. In her decades of service, Mary has changed the culture of resources for victims and professionals. She has offered her experience and knowledge in the development of multiple victim-centered support services, curriculums, and inter-agency teams which have a long-term positive impact on the safety and well-being of children exposed to domestic violence and their families.

Across the board, colleagues working with Mary speak to her kindness and ability to put victims at ease, feel safe and gain their trust. They also talk to her ceaseless energy, drive and determination, her integrity and her ability "to spread her light to everyone in every situation".

*"Mary's classic calm, empathetic and understanding manner puts victims at ease and engenders their trust." - Domestic Violence Police Officer Erin Bartle, Burlington Police Department*



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## OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL

**Cathleen Kelley, LICSW, Social Work Care Manager, Pediatric New American Program, UVM Children's Hospital**

*"She acts as a bright guiding star for a many in the field of refugee health and mental health."*  
– Lauren Dewey, Ph.D, University of Vermont

Cathy Kelley is an essential member of the Pediatric New American Program (PNAP) at University of Vermont Children's Hospital. She has been deeply involved in serving children and adults in Chittenden County, particularly Vermont's refugee and immigrant population for over 25 years.

Cathy's impact is immeasurable. She brings a wealth of knowledge, community partnerships, and deep sense of health equity to her position. As one colleague described, Cathy is the "secret sauce" in elevating the care of refugees and immigrant families served by the PANP.

Cathy takes a holistic approach working closely with New American families while breaking down barriers to care and coordinating with multiple organizations to ensure wrap-around, culturally sensitive services and multi-generational supports for these families. An excellent collaborator, she has nurtured partnerships with schools, mental health providers, child advocacy organizations, legal service partners and the Department for Children and Families. She routinely collaborates with the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Vermont, AALV and UVM's Connecting Cultures program, a trauma-

focused specialty mental health program for individuals and families with refugee and immigrant backgrounds.



Cathy's expertise on unique issues of care for children in immigrant families have made her a sought-out trainer and educator. She recently gave statewide lectures on working with interpreters and on social work concerns for newly arrived Afghan families. Cathy teaches and volunteers in the UVM College of Education and Social Services Social Work Department mentoring students, sharing her passion for child and family well-being, and training the next generation of social workers.

Cathy helped create and co-leads the Refugee and Immigrant Mental Health Working Group an advocacy group working to address significant barriers that exclude or prevent refugee and immigrant community members from obtaining services.

Cathy received her Master of Social Work at Adelphia University in New York and completed her Bachelor of Arts in psychology at the University of Vermont. She is a certified Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

*"Her curiosity, inclusivity and skillful navigation of cultural differences has often been the key when trying to bring teams together to support a family or child."* – Dr. Weinberger, UVM Children's Hospital

## PROMISING PROFESSIONAL

**Christina Brown**, Director of Basic Needs Programming, Spectrum Youth and Family Services

*"She is a compassionate and committed leader tirelessly working and going above and beyond to meet the needs of homeless, runaway and at-risk youth in this community." – Will Towne, Spectrum*

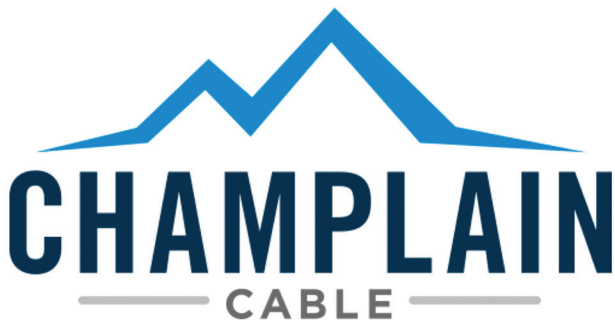
Christina (she/her) started with Spectrum in 2018 as a Youth Coach in the Burlington Drop-In Center, where, after a year, she transitioned into Drop-In Center Program Manager. Through the first several months of the pandemic Christina supported the Drop-In Center program in pivoting services and meeting the needs of the youth community on the front lines. In May of 2020 Christina was elevated to the role of Spectrum's Director of Basic Needs Programming. Christina now oversees the Burlington Drop-In Center, the Pearl St Transitional Residence, and the Warming Shelter. In this role she supervises almost 30 people, including full and part time staff.



Christina's colleagues speak of her positivity, creativity, and passion to address the individual needs of the youth Spectrum serves. She also works to address the larger systems issues effecting these youth, especially those involved in the mental health system. She is a natural leader and has proven herself to be an invaluable member of the team. As one colleague put it, "What Christina does is magical."

Christina's drive for working in the affordable housing and homeless services field was instilled in her from early childhood. By the age of 16 Christina was regularly volunteering her time with Habitat for Humanity in Trenton, New Jersey. She went on to live and work internationally building homes through natural disaster relief efforts, before returning stateside to attend school at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC. Christina continued to grow in this field working full-time for Habitat for Humanity, and later as a Housing Specialist in western North Carolina.

Christina made the move to Vermont in 2018 and has since set roots here with her husband and daughter. Through her work at Spectrum, Christina has deepened a powerful sense of community, prioritized uplifting youth voice, and advocated for programmatic and systemic change to better meet the needs of young people experiencing homelessness.





Congratulations to the 2023 KidSafe  
Outstanding Service Honorees

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THE  
University of Vermont  
Children's Hospital

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Thank you KidSafe for 34 years of  
honoring individuals and teams for  
Outstanding Service to our community

Congratulations to the 2023 KidSafe Outstanding Service Honorees



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## OUTSTANDING COLLABORATION

### Transgender Youth Program, UVM Children's Hospital

*"We are so fortunate to have a team in Vermont who have learned how to address the needs of transgender youth who often face discrimination and prejudice." – Dr. Breena Holmes, Pediatrician, Vermont Child Health Improvement Program*



The Transgender Youth Program (TYP) at UVM Children's Hospital has provided care for gender-diverse youth and their families since 2016. It is a dedicated multidisciplinary team of medical, psychological and social work professionals. The team offers a spectrum of care, from simple support and guidance to evidence-based developmentally appropriate medical interventions. It is founded on the belief that all people, including children and teens, should be allowed to live their lives in their self-identified gender.

The TYP strives to provide patients and families with comprehensive education and resources regarding available options for social and medical transition. The clinic follows the guidelines for gender-affirmative care, as outlined by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Endocrine Society and the World Professional Association of Transgender Health. The current care team consists of Erica Gibson, MD; Elizabeth McDonald, APRN; Joshua Shamoon, LICSW; Madison Smith, PsyD; Kimberlee Roy, PhD; Marlene Maron, PhD; Wendy Bliss, RN; and Laurie Ose, LPN.

The TYP team collaborates with primary care providers, mental health providers, social workers, schools, state organizations like the Department for Children and Families and the Vermont Department of Health as well as community-based organizations like Outright VT and Centerpoint. The team, recognized as experts across the state, is committed to educate others regarding evidence-based care for gender diverse youth whether that is in one-to-one conversations or in large conference presentations.

In their work, they meet with families and create a safe space to help youth explore their gender identity, providing care that is inclusive and gender-affirming. Last year, in the face of threats and harassment from an online campaign aimed at doctors and staff caring for transgender children and youth, the TYP team took a stand and continued to provide care for this vulnerable population.

*"It's such an honor to care for these young people and these families. We really do need to meet young people where they are, and support them in any way possible. This care keeps young people safe, and healthy, it helps them thrive." – Dr. Erica Gibson, Director TYP, Adolescent Medicine, University of Vermont Children's Hospital*



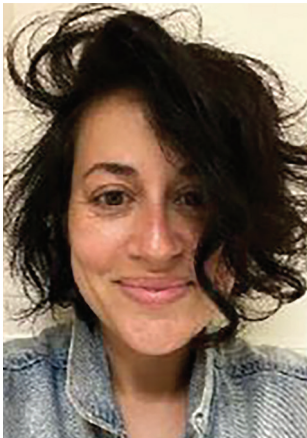
**Congratulations  
to the 2023  
Award Recipients!**

## GREGORY PACKAN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY

**Sara Schnipper**, MSW, CAPPCON Medical Social Worker, University of Vermont Medical Center

*"Her perseverance and determination to do the right thing is truly inspiring."*  
– Dr. Iris Toedt-Pingel, UVMMC

Sara Schnipper is a medical social worker for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychology Consult service (CAPPCON) at UVM Medical Center (UVMMC) which serves pediatric mental health patients in the Emergency Department. Recognizing the severity of the youth mental health crisis in the community and identifying the need for a social worker with a therapeutic skill set to be integrated into the hospital Emergency Department, Sara advocated for her current position. In this role Sara has elevated CAPPCON's ability to provide collaborative and trauma-informed care. She has inspired many with her selflessness, tireless energy, initiative and finely attuned therapeutic child, adolescent, and family centered care.

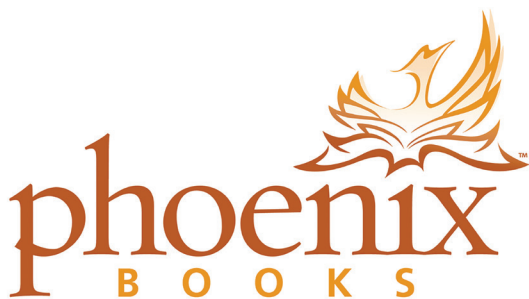


Sara is dedicated to the pursuit of just and equitable treatment for every child and always advocates fiercely for her patients. She does not shy away from finding solutions for even the most complex cases, often crafting creative solutions, or developing entirely new trauma responsive practices.

Since receiving her master's degree in Social Work from the University of Vermont in 2009, Sara has been a force in advocating for the best interests of the patients and families she serves by establishing strong connections, and effectively and efficiently navigating complex mental health and medical systems.

Prior to her role as CAPPCON social worker, Sara was a Pediatric Social Worker for UVMMC Children's Hospital and Burn Shock Trauma Social Worker. In addition to these roles, she previously held leadership roles at the NFI Hospital Diversion Program, a seven-bed inpatient crisis stabilization and treatment program for children and adolescents with psychiatric concerns.

Sara is an incredible asset, embodying the mission of working together to improve the safety and well-being of children. She is committed to providing high quality care to a pediatric psychiatric population and her work will continue to enhance the care for youth and family presenting to the Emergency Department and inpatient.



Congratulations 2023 KidSafe  
Outstanding Service Honorees



Congratulations to the 2023 KidSafe  
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# PCC

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## Pediatric EHR Solutions

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Congratulations  
to all the 2023  
KidSafe  
Outstanding  
Service Honorees



Congratulations to the  
2023 KidSafe Outstanding  
Service Awardees

## JANET S. MUNT PREVENTION AWARD

**Gabriella Tufo Strouse**, Community Outreach Director, King Street Center

*"So many children are succeeding because of the support they are receiving from their mentor and the support they're receiving from Gabé." – Dacia Ostlund, King Street Center*



Gabriella Tufo Strouse has been part of King Street Center since 1995. She has had an immeasurable impact for almost 30 years as an unyielding advocate for kids and families through her work as the director of King Street's mentoring program and in the youth mentoring field across the state.

Gabé's passion for and skills in fostering mentoring opportunities are unparalleled. She coordinates the design and implementation of King Street Center's comprehensive volunteer program, including over 120 mentors, Book Buddies, and program-based community members. The Mentoring Program adheres to best practices in accordance with the National Quality Mentoring System and she provides year-round training and support for 60+ mentors & mentees annually.

In 1999 Gabé co-founded the Champlain Valley Mentoring Network, an inspiring group of mentor directors who come together monthly to discuss mentoring, best practices, training, events, trending youth topics, and advocacy work. The group grew and expanded across the region and in 2019 was renamed the Champlain Valley Mentoring Network.

Tireless in her efforts to expand opportunities for youth, Gabé is responsible for the development and implementation of multiple innovative programs including an afterschool teen program, Each One Reach One book buddies and King Street Lemonade, an entrepreneurial training program for middle school youth. She also implemented a job and career readiness component in the startup program at King Street called Teen Futures.

Gabriella has created a culture of support and collaboration in the greater Vermont youth mentoring field by always making herself available to support new program coordinators at other agencies and ensuring that all mentoring program coordinators feel that they are part of a larger community. She works tirelessly to meet the needs of youth, making each voice feel heard and valued.



Gabriella grew up in the Burlington area, attended Rice High School and graduated from the University of Vermont, where she majored in Secondary Education with a concentration in English and earned her secondary teaching degree. While at UVM Gabriella was a mentor through the university's Big Brother/Big Sister Program. She lives in Burlington, Vermont with her two children, who are the love of her life, and two very spoiled dogs. Gabé currently serves on the MENTOR Vermont Program Leadership Council and Diversity and Equity Inclusion Committee.

Thank you to our Generous Sponsors



From all of us at  
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***More Information on page 3!***



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# Thank you to everyone who made this event possible

## Master of Ceremonies:

Marlon Fisher

## 2023 Awards Selection Committee:

Sally Borden, Shireen Hart, Heather Ross, Penne Tompkins,  
Coralie Tyler, Margaret Vincent

## 2023 Awards Celebration Planning Committee:

Darcy Allard, Wanda Keosian, Akshata Nayak, Kristin Richland,  
Ken Schatz, Coralie Tyler, Pauline Tyler, Sue Victory with Sally  
Borden, Elise Ameigh and Kairie Murray

## Day of Event Volunteers

Erin Chastenay, Wanda Keosian, Kristin Richland, Ken Schatz,  
Carolyn Smith, Coralie Tyler, Pauline Tyler, Sue Victory

## Additional Thanks

Program: Samantha Jean Design  
Program Editor: Penne Tompkins  
Awards Photographer: Doug Goodman  
Printing: SymQuest  
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*Proceeds from the event, our quilt raffle and our online auction will support our work to improve the safety, health and wellbeing of children, youth and families: Thank you!*

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So. Burlington Police Department Spectrum Youth and Family Services Steps To End Domestic Violence  
Turning Point Center UVM Center for Children Youth and Families United Way of Northwest Vermont  
University of Vermont Children's Hospital UVM Medical Center Vermont Citizens Advisory Board  
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