Fiscal Year 2019 activity is in high swing as adult and teenaged students are either enrolling with CVABE for the first time or moving forward in the new program year with their education pursuits.

June 30, 2018 marked the end of our 53rd year of service to Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties and the second year completion of the organization’s five year strategic plan. Our efforts, as always, were aimed at supporting the members of our communities seeking to gain academic literacy, English language skills, high school credentials and skills for career and college preparedness so they can reach their full potential in life. It is with great pride and sense of accomplishment that I report, we are achieving the ambitious goals framed in our plan. Our accomplishments would not be possible without the dedicated work of the staff and board and the many members of our community who contribute to our efforts by giving time and financial support. Together, we are moving forward, empowering more and more central Vermonters to improve their lives and the lives of their families through education.

Our specific program outcomes will soon be available on our website (www.cvabe.org) and in our upcoming 2018 annual report. Please stay tuned!

I am very pleased to introduce, Lindy Johnson, the newest member of CVABE’s Board of Directors. Lindy lives in East Montpelier and one of her early teaching jobs was at that elementary school as a reading interventionist. She has taught in Florida (her native state) and Vermont in public schools from the earliest kindergarten students to high school. She has been a classroom teacher but mainly focused on intervention and professional development for teachers. For five years she worked for the Vermont Agency of Education guiding the introduction of grade expectations and the required statewide assessment beginning in third grade. She currently works in the Barre Supervisory Union at the town and city schools as a Literacy Coordinator/Coach. Her focus is with the Pre K-second grade teachers and their students.

Lindy is married to Bruce and they have two sons in their twenties who live and work in Burlington. She serves on the East Montpelier School Board and coordinates weekend volunteers for the Adamant Cooperative.
“Personalized Learning at CVABE” - In schools in Vermont, personalization is a hot topic today. Did you know that CVABE has a long history of engaging our adult learners in personalized learning? One way we introduce personalized learning to students is through discussion. We also have a simple letter to cover the basics. Here’s an excerpt:

Dear CVABE Student, Your teacher wants to learn about you and will ask, “What are your goals for your education, career, and life?” Then you and a teacher will write your personal education plan. Your personal education plan can change over time.

How will I begin? Think about, discuss with your teacher, and write down: your beliefs, skills, interests and hobbies; your strengths and how you learn best; what and who can support your success; your personal, education, and career goals; the skills, knowledge and experiences you will need to meet your goals. Your teacher will give you activities to help you learn more about yourself. Your teacher will assess your reading, writing and math skills. Then he or she will talk with you about how this fits into your plan. Taking these steps will help you make a personal education plan for meeting your goals.

What else will go into my plan? Your goals, tied to education standards; your learning activities; and timelines.

How will I complete and check-off my accomplishments? You and your teacher will develop a portfolio – a sample of your work.

We hope you enjoy working on your plan. We have confidence in you and your goals!

Outreach Update – Brian Kravitz

Fiscal Year 2018 ended on a high note, and 2019 brings a lot of growth to build on. First and foremost, CVABE saw a much higher student growth rate than we expected. Our goal of 450 students was eclipsed by 9%, for a total of 491 students. I personally spoke with hundreds and hundreds of people about the great work of CVABE, and I know that it helped to build community knowledge of our services and drive new students through the doors (literally), but I can’t take all the credit.

Our teachers, who work tirelessly to build relationships and develop truly personalized learning goals and activities, deserve a great deal of credit. It’s that work that is our signature, and it’s why our students speak so highly of CVABE. Thank you Jacqueline, Dan, Doris, Joanne, Ed, Dave, Michelle, Charlotte, Casey and Tom. You make me look good, and you are the real reason CVABE is viewed in such high regard and is growing.

Every time I speak to a group, at least one person says, “Hey, I hear you on the radio all the time!” Our radio ad campaign has been so successful in building community recognition of CVABE that we are expanding to three more stations. You can now hear our ads on Frank (107.1), Froggy (100.9), The Beat (105.7), 101 The One (101.7) and WLVB (93.9).

Our tag-line is “Local partnerships in learning,” and my outreach work has shown me what this really means. CVABE’s growth in students has been a result of our partnerships with donors, community organizations, businesses and volunteers. I look forward to, with the support of our entire community, continuing the growth we saw in 2018.

CVABE’s New Website Launches

At long last, we launched the new and improved www.CVABE.org! The site has a new look and is optimized for mobile devices. Whether you are a student, potential student, volunteer, potential volunteer, or donor, we hope that you find our new website easy to navigate and informative.

Our new website was made possible through the generous support of NorthCountry Federal Credit Union, The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust and the Oakland Foundation. We would also like to thank our web designer, Rebecca Davison, at RavenMark, who has worked with us on every aspect of design and flow. Central Vermont Adult Basic Education thanks you all, for this website would not be possible without your support.

This is just the start. Be on the lookout for more news from CVABE (on this page), and a social media presence. We will also be adding accessibility options to this site, such as text-to-voice. All good things in all good time.
Graduation, 2018

On Wednesday, June 20, 2018, CVABE held our annual graduation ceremony. All of the 120+ seats in Montpelier’s Pavilion Auditorium were filled with friends and family of the 20+ attending graduates. It was, without a doubt, a beautiful ceremony. The pomp and circumstance for adults obtaining a high school credential is amazing to behold. It’s a different sort of joy, which we heard in the testimony of the dozens of friends and families who spoke publically about the accomplishments of their loved ones. The entire CVABE community applauds and congratulates the amazing accomplishments of our adult learners who achieved a high school credential last year. For those of you reading this, donors, volunteer and neighbors alike, we urge you to plan on joining us for our 2019 graduation (date TBA). It is there that you’ll see the results of CVABE’s “local partnerships in learning.” You make a difference.

Angela, one of our graduates, said more in her speech than we can ever could. Please enjoy this excerpt, and pictures, and we hope to see you next year.

"So I can officially say I made it -- finally!! I actually started this journey many times and life got in the way. To make a long story short -- I became a teen mom and my boyfriend at the time, who later became my husband, was in college so I figured I'd drop out of high school to be a hands on mother to my beautiful daughter Jenna and so that he could finish college. I then thought about finishing school but became pregnant with my son Cody, and I wasn’t really sure how I would manage 2 kids and school, so I put it on hold a little longer. I eventually decided in 2002 that it was time to go back and registered with Adult Basic Education, which is what we called CVABE at the time. I went for a little while and again, being a mom of 2, it just wasn’t working out so I gave up. I must have given up what seems to be a handful of times.

CVABE helped me achieve my goals. Some of my courses were a real pain in but I wasn't giving up! Not this time. CVABE helped me see how strong I was and helped me see I can do whatever I put my mind to. Being able to finally have my diploma is the best feeling ever. I am so very proud of me and I hope my children, my mom and Jesse are proud of me too! I want my children to know you can do whatever you set your mind to. My next step is reaching my new goal of being an RN! If I can do it so can you!"

Welcome Deb Fadden

In late summer, CVABE wished farewell to Laura Bozarth, a Teacher/Community Coordinator at the Montpelier Learning Center. Laura moved on to pursue different endeavors allowing her to spend more time with her young family.

We are very pleased to announce the October 1st arrival of Deborah (Deb) Fadden, who has joined Joanne Vyce as a Teacher/Community Coordinator in Montpelier. Deb has more than 20 years of experience in literacy and math instruction and in developing programs in those content areas. She has worked with English Language Learners both one-on-one and in group settings. Deb has current teacher licensure, a BA in Elementary Ed and Psychology and a M.Ed. with a curriculum concentration. She is absolutely exuberant about joining the CVABE team.
CVABE Celebrates Adult Education and Literacy Week, 2018

September 23-29 was designated, “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, 2018.” The week is a time to celebrate the important work of adult education services around the nation. Here at CVABE it provided an opportunity to honor and thank those who join us in Local partnerships in learning supporting our mission and services for central Vermont adults (16 and over) who deserve and need our education services. **We thank our students, volunteers, community partners, and donors, for it is only with your support that we continue to build a stronger and more literate community.**

Again this year, we worked with Governor Phil Scott’s office to obtain a State of Vermont Executive Proclamation naming the week “Adult Education and Literacy Week in Vermont.”

In doing so, we felt it important to recognize, include and celebrate the good work of our three partner organizations who are serving adults (16 and older) in the other 11 counties of the state.

Thank you North East Kingdom Learning Services, Vermont Adult Learning and The Tutorial Center. We are proud of Vermont’s commitment to Adult Education services and to share the Governor’s proclamation with you.

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**Bob’s Story**

“Bob,” who wishes to remain anonymous, came to CVABE last year. His story, although unique, represents many adult learners in our tri-county area. It is only with the support of CVABE’s entire community — Local Partnerships in Learning that our students like Bob can Dream, Believe, Learn and Achieve.

“I’m a 22 year old father of a beautiful five year old daughter. Even though I had 25 credits, I dropped out of high school my senior year to work full time to support my family. I am currently working as a carpenter for my father’s and my business. I have worked many different jobs over the past five years, from McDonalds to construction. I’m a hard worker and like to work on cars, trucks, etc. I also like to hunt, fish, and just be outdoors.

Just last week, I got my CDL (Commercial Driver’s License), and I will be getting my high school diploma soon. That would never have been possible without the help of CVABE. I had been putting off getting my diploma for a while, and friends and family were after me to get it. My father even told me he would give me a dollar raise if I got my diploma. I also knew that I wanted to do this so I could better the life of my daughter and make sure she doesn’t go without.

So one day I picked up the phone about 7 o’clock at night and gave CVABE a call. To my surprise, someone answered the phone. The next day I had a meeting with Charlotte Bill and was enrolled to get my diploma. She asked me a bunch of questions, like what I wanted to do in life, and I told her I want to work on tractor trailer trucks and that I wanted my CDL. She stopped me right there and told me about the reduced rate CDL class that GMTCC (Green Mountain Technology and Career Center) was offering. She looked more into it over the next few weeks and told me how I could get help paying for it. We also put together my personalized high school completion plan to get the one English credit I needed.

I never thought in a million years I would have my CDL, but I attended a CDL training class five days a week from 4 pm to 9 pm for six weeks in July and August. Now that I have my CDL, I plan on getting a driving job this winter when I get laid off from my carpentry job. As much as I like to work with my dad, I can’t wait to get a truck driving job, so that I can give my family the best life possible.”
Interview with Paul and Brenda

In late September, Brian Kravitz (BK) had the pleasure of chatting with Brenda Kuang (Br) and Paul Cameron at the Montpelier Learning Center. Brenda has been working with Paul (PC) for much of the year on conversational English. They have developed a wonderful rapport, and Brenda communicates beautifully. This is "local partnerships in learning" exemplified.

BK: Brenda, how did you find CVABE, and why?
Br: I looked it up online to find a place to study English. I went to Barre first, then Montpelier.
BK: How were your English skills?
Br: I came to the US over 20 years ago, to New York, then Boston. I worked for a Chinese company there and spoke Chinese, which is why my English needs to improve.
BK: Paul, how did you come to CVABE?
PC: I saw a flyer in the Unitarian Church. I was recently retired and looking for a way to "give back." So I called.
BK: Was Brenda your first student?
PC: Yes, I got a call from the Montpelier teacher in January.
BK: Were you nervous?
PC: Yes, I’d never taught English as a second language.
BK: Brenda, tell us about your first meeting.
Br: We just met, introduced ourselves and scheduled the next meeting.
PC: Laura, the CVABE teacher, had already picked out the workbook, which we are working through.
Br: A lot of people think I speak too fast.
PC: If you slow down, people can really understand you. Even English speakers have to.
Br: (laughing) I know I need to slow down. It also helps me when people specify things because I don’t always know what they are talking about. If someone says, “get me the Pringles!” I don’t always know that they mean potato chips.
BK: Paul, how do you work on conversational English with Brenda?
PC: I try to get her to enunciate the ends of words, which forces her to slow down. I also work on context clues so she can figure out meanings. Even at home now, I find myself thinking, “How can I phrase this in a way that Brenda would understand.”
BK: Brenda, what are your goals for your time at CVABE?
Br: The first is to get better at conversational English, so I can get a better job.
PC: You want to be an LNA, right?
Br: I think that if I work on the textbook I can pass the LNA exam, but that isn’t enough. I need English to communicate. At an interview, they may pick someone who speaks better.
PC: You need English to compete.
Br: I’m trying to work with my boss to change my schedule to take the LNA course. I’ve also talked to VSAC about financial aid. But I still need to communicate better to do well at an interview.
PC: Brenda said to me last week, “When we finish the book, can we work on interviews and LNA?”
BK: Paul, what are your plans for working with Brenda?
PC: She’s interested in job advancement, and those are the skills I’d like to work on.
Br: I really want to be an LNA. It gives a lot more opportunity and pays better.
BK: Any last thoughts or words?
PC: It has been a gratifying experience. It’s new, and working with Brenda has been fun. It keeps me out of trouble. It’s great for retired people to teach what we take for granted. I have value to people who need skills.
Br: CVABE is a great place. The teachers and volunteers teach me what I need. I think it’s awesome for helping people. It’s free and gives people a chance to learn.
BK: Thank you both so much. It has been a pleasure speaking with you both, and I look forward to hearing about how the LNA course goes.
Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc.
CVABE has learning centers throughout the three-county region. Please call your local learning center for more information about student services or volunteer opportunities. You can email us at info@cvabe.org or visit our website at www.cvabe.org.

Learning Centers

**Washington County**
- **Barre Learning Center**
  - And Main Office)
  - 46 Washington St. – Ste. 100
  - Barre, VT 05641
  - (802) 476-4588
- **Montpelier Learning Center**
  - 100 State St. – Ste. 3
  - Montpelier, VT 05602
  - (802) 223-3403
- **Waterbury Learning Center**
  - 31 North Main St. – Ste. 1
  - Waterbury, VT 05676
  - (802) 244-8765

**Orange County**
- **Bradford Learning Center**
  - 24 Barton St. – Ste. 1
  - PO Box 917
  - Bradford, VT 05033
  - (802) 222-3282
- **Randolph Learning Center**
  - 10 South Main St.
  - PO Box 84
  - Randolph, VT 05060
  - (802) 728-4492

**Lamoille County**
- **Morrisville Learning Center**
  - 52 Portland St. – 2nd Fl.
  - PO Box 478
  - Morrisville, VT 05661
  - (802) 888-5531

**Programs & Services**
- Basic Skills: Reading, Writing, Math, Computer and Financial Literacy
- English Language Learning and Preparation for U.S. Citizenship
- High School Diploma and GED Programs
- Career, Technical Training and College Readiness
- Volunteer opportunities for community members

In our learning centers, community locations, workplaces and homes, CVABE teachers and volunteers work with adults and teens to meet their basic education needs. All tutoring and classes are free to the student.

We believe that a person who is literate has the essential key for self-understanding and for full and active membership in the world.

Ours is a two-part strategy for the realization of full literacy:
1. Providing basic education for adults and teens
2. Involving the entire community so that the hopes and efforts of our students will be championed every step of the way.

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