We are all in this together. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will follow guidance from public health officials and government agencies, so we can continue to support our community.

UCS Ramps Up Services

United Counseling Service (UCS) is increasing services to better help our community during the COVID 19 pandemic. A Warm Line is now available to anyone who calls. Unlike a hotline for those in immediate crisis the Warm Line is designed to provide early intervention with emotional support that can prevent a crisis and get individuals the immediate help they need. It is also designed to help individuals with referrals for a clinical service or other resources if needed. The service is available Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm by calling the main office at 802.442.5491.

If the caller needs immediate crisis help, their contact information will be collected, and an Emergency Service Provider will contact them within 10 minutes. For those experiencing a mental health crisis, services are available 24/7.

UCS is working with Southern Vermont Medical Center (SVMC) to offer a rapid Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for medical staff. Healthcare workers may be at a heightened risk of psychological distress and other mental health problems at this time. Staff at SVMC are encouraged to contact UCS if they are struggling or feeling stressed about the current situation.

“During this time, healthcare workers are especially at risk of experiencing mental health issues related to the stress of being on the front lines,” said Lorna Mattern, Executive Director of United Counseling Service. “It’s hard to conceptualize what the level of need is for additional mental health support for workers, but UCS is ready to provide whatever is needed to help our healthcare partners” SVMC staff who are utilizing their EAP program can contact UCS directly at 802.442.5491.
Lorna Mattem, Executive Director of UCS and Dr. Alya Reeve, Medical Director joined Matt Harrington with Southwestern Vermont Chamber of Commerce for a Lunch & Learn to discuss UCS Services and mental health during this unprecedented time.

Bennington County Head Start-Early Head Start is providing childcare to essential workers, primarily those working in the health services field at this time. We are providing childcare each week day to seven children, ages 0-4, that were previously enrolled at any of our sites. We are thankful to the Abbey Group and the Southwestern Vermont Supervisory Union (SVSU) in their efforts of delivery routes to provide children under 18 a daily breakfast and lunch on weekdays, and our eligible children are taking advantage of those meals daily as part of their program.

We continue to monitor and evaluate weekly family’s needs and eligibility for essential worker childcare and provide as much as we can in a safe and healthy way. At this time, we are one of only two Head Start programs in the state that is able to provide essential worker childcare.

We are supporting our families with a little story time.
You can find magic wherever you look.
Sit back and relax.
All you need is a book.

Dr. Seuss

Teachers and staff from our Head Start and Early Head Start programs are reading to their students. Check it out!

The Gruffalo
The Invisible String
Corduroy
Chicka Boom Boom!
Little Blue Truck
Vermont Emergency Management is looking for donations.

Interested in donating to the State of Vermont COVID-19 response? There is now an online donation form to allow you to participate from home. You can donate critical supplies needed due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. At this time, based on the most immediate needs, the State of
Vermont is accepting donations of specific medical-related supplies and facility usage. If you have items that meet this criteria, please follow this link: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx. If you have items to donate that do not meet this criteria, please reach out to your local town officials to see if they could benefit from the donation. Local donations can be dropped off at the nearest Vermont State Police Barracks.

Additional Resources for COVID-19 Information

- Vermont Department of Health
- Center for Disease Control
- Southern Vermont Medical Center
- Managing Anxiety and Stress - CDC

Additional Resources

- Guide to museums, e-learnings and on-line collections

These are tough times for all of us. Help your community receive the federal funding it needs for the next 10 years by taking 10 minutes to complete your 2020 Census. Hospitals, schools, roads, transportation and more all receive the federal funding based on Census data. Complete your 2020 Census. We’re counting on you!

Share your stories.

Now more than ever, is a time when we could all use a little something that feels good. Like a good story. An act that goes beyond in the service of others, caring for our neighbors, family and friends…our community. We’d love to hear about it. Share your story…any story that represents how, as a community and individuals, we bring hope and support together. Email your stories and photos to Heidi French at hfrench@ucsvt.org.

UCS is a great place to work.

Our employees are creative, thoughtful, energetic, forward thinking and empowered. UCS is living its mission: Building a stronger community by empowering individuals to live healthy and meaningful lives. If you want to make a difference and help those who need it most, consider joining our team. UCS is a great place to work and a great place to get care. Check out all current openings here. UCS JOB OPENINGS

Please be advised that the Coronavirus Virus/COVID-19 has altered the way we are currently recruiting at this time. Should you be contacted for
consideration, we are limiting job interviews to telephone or video communication, in order to align with guidance by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Hiring for certain positions may also be slowed by efforts being used to promote social distancing and other recommended strategies. We thank you for your understanding as we navigate the best way to keep you, employees, and our community safe.

All upcoming agency events and trainings through the end of April have been cancelled.