

# Healthy Communities Coalition of Windham County

*an initiative of Meeting Waters YMCA*

## MAKING THE HEALTHY CHOICE THE EASY CHOICE

Since 2008, the Healthy Communities Coalition has stimulated and supported policy, systems, and environmental changes in more than 40 organizations and communities throughout Windham County.

### HCC Leadership Team

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(Co-Coordinator)

Steve Fortier  
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*Brattleboro Memorial Hospital*

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*VT Agency of Human Services*

Kendall Gifford  
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*Commission*

Katherine Gillespie  
*Food Connects*

Tristram Johnson  
*Community Development*  
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Tristan Toleno  
*Chef-caterer, State Rep*

*Our vision: Communities engaged in active living and healthy eating facilitated by supportive policies, systems and environments.*

We've supported the development and advancement of Farm-to-School programs at 18 Windham County schools:

- Academy School
- Brattleboro Union High School
- Dummerston Elementary School
- Putney Central School
- Vernon School
- Guilford Central School
- Marlboro School
- Rockingham Central School
- Saxtons River Elementary School
- Bellows Falls Middle School
- Bellows Falls Union High School
- Newbrook Elementary School
- Leland & Grey High School
- Deerfield Valley Elementary School
- Twin Valley Middle School
- Twin Valley High School
- Hilltop Montessori School
- Vermont Academy
- And the county-wide expansion of the Windham County Farm-to-School Program

We stimulated and supported improvements in policies, systems and environments for healthy eating and/or physical activity in 11 youth-serving organizations:

- Early Education Services of WSESU (Head Start)
- Brattleboro Boys & Girls Club
- Flood Brook Elementary School
- Wings afterschool program at Whitingham Elementary School
- Wings afterschool program at Halifax Elementary School
- Wings afterschool program at Deerfield Valley Elementary School

### Meeting Waters YMCA

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**Strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.**

- Wings afterschool program at Stamford Elementary School
- Wings afterschool program at Readsboro Elementary School
- Rockingham Recreation Center
- Westminster Center School
- Rockingham Central School

We stimulated and supported improvements in policies, systems and environments for healthy eating and/or physical activity in 8 organizations:

- Brattleboro Memorial Hospital
- Grace Cottage Hospital
- Westgate Community
- Deerfield Valley campus of Southwestern Vermont Medical Center
- SEVCA
- Valley CARES
- Our Place Drop-In Center
- Deerfield Valley Energy

We supported improvements in walkability in 5 communities:

- Brattleboro
- Bellows Falls
- Putney
- Londonderry
- Wilmington

We supported the expansion of community gardens in 2 communities:

- Townshend
- Rockingham

We supported improved access to healthy foods by people with limited financial resources in 4 communities and one organization that provides food for seven food pantries:

- Townshend
- Rockingham
- Putney
- Brattleboro
- Project Feed the Thousands

**As a result, HCC and its partners have stimulated and supported more than 50 policy, systems and environmental changes that have made the healthy choice an easier choice for more than 20,000 people that live, work, learn and/or play in Windham County (nearly half the population).**