

# 31<sup>st</sup>

# OUTSTANDING

# SERVICE AWARDS

LIVE STREAM EVENT: SEPTEMBER 24, 2020  
12:00 – 1:30 P.M.



**12:00**

## WELCOME

Master of Ceremonies

**Dr. Lewis First:** Chief of Pediatrics,  
University of Vermont Children's Hospital

Congratulatory Remarks

**The Honorable Phil Scott:**  
Governor, State of Vermont

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

**Cindy Olson:** Board President,  
KidSafe Collaborative

**12:20**

## AWARDS PRESENTATION

Gregory C. Packan Children's Advocacy:

**Dr. Anne Johnston,** posthumous, University of  
Vermont Children's Hospital, Neonatology

Outstanding Professional:

**Kathy Gallagher,**  
Teacher, Edmunds Middle School

## BREAK

KidSafe Good Deed Days:  
<http://bit.ly/KSGoodDeedDays>

Outstanding Collaboration Award:

**AALV** (Association for Africans Living  
in Vermont )

Lifetime Achievement:

**Brenda Hamlin,** Kinship Care Provider and  
Vermont Kin As Parents

## BREAK

Silent Auction:  
<https://www.biddingforgood.com/kidsafe>

Promising Professional:

**Ashley Lavigne,** Family Services Worker, VT  
Dept. for Children and Families

Janet S. Munt Prevention Award:

**The Lullaby Project: Scrag Mountain Music**  
(with Writers for Recovery and Lund)

**1:30**

## CLOSE

Working *together* to end child abuse and neglect

# Welcome!

It is our great honor to celebrate the recipients of the 31st Annual KidSafe Outstanding Service Awards! This is our opportunity to show appreciation to those on the front lines or behind the scenes strengthening our community's response to child abuse and neglect.

Normally these Awards are given in April during National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Awareness month. This year that was not possible as Governor Scott's State of Emergency orders took effect and large gatherings could no longer take place. Even as we adapted to continue our programs during the pandemic period, we were also determined to honor and celebrate our awardees. With the cooperation and support of many, we are excited to be presenting the Awards virtually this year.

KidSafe Collaborative's focus is on keeping child protection and safety "front and center" while improving the systems and services that support children, youth and families. Our awardees are all partners in the KidSafe mission. The incredible work they do every day provides the foundation for and strengthens our work and outcomes for families.

Today we invite you to focus on all those past, present and future, who work or volunteer every day to make a difference for children, youth and families. We celebrate with you this amazing community that works together tirelessly on behalf of children and families.

At the same time, we are truly grateful to all the businesses, organizations and individuals who sponsor, donate, and volunteer with KidSafe that make our work, and this event, possible. A heartfelt thanks to all!



*Sally*

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



*Cindy*

**Cindy Olson**  
*President,  
Board of Directors*

## KIDSAFE COLLABORATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*Board members at the October 2019  
KidSafe Board Retreat*

Cindy Olson, *President*

Jeff Morin, *Treasurer*

Carolyn Smith, *Immediate Past President*

Darcy Allard, Erin Chastenay, Andrea Dion, Shireen Hart,  
Renee Johnson, Wanda Keosian, Denise Myers,  
Pauline Tyler, Sue Victory, Margaret Vincent, Beth Wermuth

### **Honorary Board Members:**

Jay Fayette, Dr. Lewis First, Dr. Joseph Hagan Jr.

### **KidSafe 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.*

## GREGORY C. PACKAN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ADVOCACY

### Dr. Anne Johnston

Posthumous award

*"Anything that drives pregnant women with opioid use disorder from seeking treatment results in more prematurity, higher infant mortality, and less probability of successful parenting." - Anne Johnston*



Dr. Anne Johnston was a neonatologist at UVM Children's Hospital and founding member of the CHARM (Children and Recovering Mothers) Team who worked tirelessly throughout her career in support of women who struggled with opioid use disorder to destigmatize the disease. She helped establish groundbreaking neonatal medical care and worked to provide optimal care for opioid exposed newborns through education and community collaboration. Dr. Johnston passed away in 2019 as the result of a brain tumor.

The model of compassionate, respectful and patient-centered care she developed and implemented for opioid-exposed infants and their families has made an enormous difference in our region and state and has become a national model. She shared her expertise, her commitment to listening and learning from mothers with opioid use disorder, her humor and her dedication to treating all with respect and dignity, to the benefit of hundreds, if not thousands of babies and families. Funny, fierce and devoted to this work, Anne's spirit continues to inspire the CHARM Team.

## OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL

### Kathy Gallagher

Teacher, Edmunds Middle School

*"Kathy Gallagher is a humble yet incredibly impactful and passionate advocate for all kids. She has created an environment where students know their voices will be heard but not judged."*



Kathy Gallagher is a language arts and social studies teacher at Edmunds Middle School in Burlington Vermont. As a proponent for student voice and student leadership, Kathy recognized that there was a need for student led mediation in the school, diversity training and for more student advocacy. She has taken on the role of Leadership Class teacher/advisor, has educated herself and others, and created classes to work with students to develop leadership skills.

Kathy conferred with colleagues and restorative justice consultants to put together a Leadership Class for students where they received training in restorative practices and further, engaged in training with the Anti-Defamation League to prepare a second class entitled "A World of Difference" in response to students sharing awareness of issues of marginalization.

Colleagues note that Kathy is an educator who believes in and sees the potential in every young person, generously shares continuing education with staff and students, and truly models the kindness and inclusion she teaches in her classroom. Kathy goes above and beyond to make the school climate and community better.

Outside of her work as an educator, Kathy loves Vermont and names skiing, hiking, biking, and boating with family and friends in the beautiful Green Mountains as some of her favorite activities. Kathy Gallagher grew up in Schenectady, New York, and credits her aunt, older sister, and high school English teacher for motivating her to become a teacher. "Once I entered the field," she explained, "my students inspired me to stay in it."

## OUTSTANDING COLLABORATION

### **AALV (Association for Africans Living in Vermont)**

Executive Director, Yacouba Jacob Bogré and Assistant Director/Programs Manager, Thato Ratsebe

*The shining light of AALV “fosters hope, dignity, and independence in New Americans to strengthen our communities.”*



AALV helps new Americans from all parts of the world gain independence in their new communities. They are committed to helping individuals, families and organizations work together to give each, in every situation, a better chance to prevent, work through and solve sometimes intense and complicated issues.

Founded in 1999 as the Association of Africans Living in Vermont, AALV has grown steadily over the years. They work hand in hand with numerous area organizations which allows the families they serve to access a broad range of services such as case management, workforce development, behavioral health, interpreter services, education/training, and childcare.

Jacob and Thato lead a skilled, multicultural, and multilingual staff that leaves no stone unturned to help families, families who already face language and cultural barriers, to get the support they need to be safe and healthy and to thrive in their new home in Vermont.

Significantly, AALV worked with the Janet S. Munt Family Room and the University of Vermont Children’s Hospital to establish the New American Pediatric Clinic at the Family Room. Their trainings, guidance and support for new American families through the Family Room’s collaboration with the University of Vermont Children’s Hospital, has been critical to the clinic’s success.

## PROMISING PROFESSIONAL

### **Ashley Lavigne**

Family Services Worker, VT Dept. for Children and Families

*“Ashley inspires all of us to not see the obstacle in front of us, but the solution and path around it. She is truly an incredible advocate for children and families.”*



In Ashley’s short time as a Vermont Department for Children and Families Family Services Worker she has demonstrated an ability to understand and address risk quickly, directly, and in a compassionate way that is child focused. She has true compassion and empathy for people and possesses remarkable intuition. Her skills reflect those of a person who has been in the profession many more years. Ashley is an incredible advocate on behalf of children and families, and her ability to manage all that comes with the role of child welfare is quite remarkable.

She has an ability to create engagement between birth parents and foster parents; she is a person with whom they can build trust during their most vulnerable moments in life. She is able to acknowledge and harness the strengths of all involved while also offering clear expectations of an outcome that remains on the welfare of the child. Ashley has used her skills from previous work with young adults to engage with the medical community around children’s mental and physical health needs.

Ashley is a native Vermonter who grew up in Northern Vermont and loves the small, quiet, and “everyone knows everyone” community. Her career choice was influenced by her interest in people and their stories. Having observed people’s amazing strength in dealing with things such as mental health and addiction, she wondered how she might help support others struggling through these kinds of issues.

Outside of her work, Ashley is mom to an incredible four-year-old daughter. “She is the light and joy in my life.” She also enjoys being active and outdoors in nature, an essential part of her down time.

# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

## Brenda Hamlin

Kinship Care Provider and Vermont Kin As Parents

*"Brenda has a true passion through lived kinship experience that she shares with others... Brenda has had a significant impact on the systems that impact kinship care in Vermont."*



Building from her long-time experience as a kinship care provider, mom, foster and adoptive parent, and grandmother, Brenda has been an effective advocate for kin families for more than 15 years. Both informally and through her work at Vermont Kin As Parents (VKAP), she has connected with countless kinship care providers, providing support, guidance, and advice regarding community resources as well as inspiration along the way.

With the goal of supporting family members who become the primary caregivers for children when the biological parents are unable to do so, VKAP began as a grassroots effort with dedicated volunteers like Brenda. As the number of Vermont children in kinship care grew, so did the importance of VKAP as a resource and advocacy organization statewide. Brenda's role was instrumental in that growth.

Brenda served as a key member of the work group with the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF) Family Services to develop updated guides to Vermont kinship care and has been a leader in state-level efforts to revise policies that impact infants, children and youth in kinship care.

Brenda's lived experience, personal courage, and advocacy has garnered her well-deserved reputation as one of the premier kinship resources in Vermont, including providing training to professionals to ensure best-practice services are offered to kinship families. Her dedication to kinship parents, and the children they love, knows no bounds.

When Brenda is not busy helping and caring for others, she has been a frequent volunteer for KidSafe Collaborative, donating countless hours to the annual Community Yard Sale for many years. (Brenda has also brought other members of her family along to help, especially at the Yard Sale!)



## WORKING TOGETHER WITH 30+ PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

AAV Building Bright Futures  
Burlington Boys and Girls Club Burlington Housing Authority  
Burlington Police Dept Centerpoint Child Care Resource Children's Integrated Services  
Chittenden County School Districts Chittenden Superior Court COTS CVOEO Head Start  
Community Health Centers of Burlington CUSI/Chittenden Children's Advocacy Center  
DREAM Easter Seals Guardians Ad Litem HOPE Works Howard Center Hunger Free Vermont  
Janet S. Munt Family Room King Street Center LUND Milton Family Community Center Mobius  
Northeastern Family Institute Outright VT Prevent Child Abuse Vermont Sara Holbrook Center  
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  
Vermont Family Network Vermont Kin As Parents Visiting Nurse Association  
VT Dept for Children and Families VT Dept of Corrections  
VT Dept Of Health Winooski Family Center YMCA

# JANET S. MUNT PREVENTION

## The Lullaby Project: Scrag Mountain Music

in collaboration with Writers for Recovery and Lund

*"The Lullaby Project offers supportive, nonjudgmental guidance as they help parents create a personal lullaby that becomes their declaration of love and commitment to their baby." (Carnegie Hall).*



For years, professional musicians Mary Bonhag and Evan Premo, founders and co-artistic directors of the Marshfield Vermont based nonprofit Scrag Mountain Music, held a dream of bringing Carnegie Hall's The Lullaby Project to Vermont. The Lullaby Project "pairs pregnant women and new mothers and fathers with professional artists to write and sing personal lullabies for their babies, supporting maternal health, aiding child development, and strengthening the bond between parent and child" (Carnegie Hall).

Scrag Mountain Music engaged Writers for Recovery (Bess O'Brien and Gary Lee Miller) to work with parents at Lund to write lullabies for their little ones. Partnering with Writers for Recovery, they were introduced to young mothers in Lund Family Center's Residential Program: Bess and Gary shared writing prompts with mothers, and the musicians then helped the parents set their words to music; seven of the lullabies that resulted were showcased in a series of concerts offered in fall 2019.

The results were magical. The Lullaby Project provided Lund parents, many of whom are actively working on strengthening their parenting skills, with a unique and creative way to connect with, express affection for, and soothe their children.

For Mary and Evan, the most inspirational part of the project was "the parents and the fierce love and devotion they had for their children as expressed through the courage they had creating lullabies." As parents themselves of two young children, they have first-hand experience in what it takes to build a family bond and how important that bond is.

### KidSafe's Annual Awards Silent Auction

*Thank you to the many local businesses, artists and individuals who have donated items this year.*



## Bidding is Now Open!

Annual Awards Auction is open online with 70+ donations, including many favorite items from popular restaurants to classes to kid's items and more.

**Link to view and/or bid:**

<https://www.biddingforgood.com/kidsafe>



**KidSafe**  
Collaborative

## Good Deed Days

**Fundraise** for KidSafe and help others in our community

**Join** as an individual or a team.

**Do good. Make it count.**

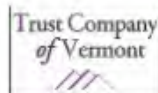
**Good deeds can be whatever you choose big or small!**

- Bring dinner to a homebound neighbor
- Volunteer with one of our partner organizations
- Plant a tree
- Pick up trash in your neighborhood
- Collect items to give to your local food shelf

*Similar to a walk-a-thon, participants ask friends and family to sponsor their activities - instead of per-mile, per good deed! Sign up online to do "good deeds"; gather your sponsors and THEN get DOING!*

**REGISTER NOW**

# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

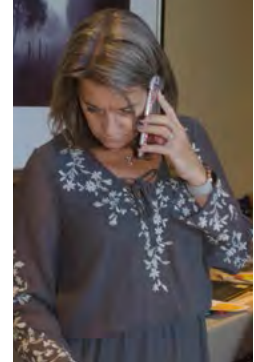


*Alpine Family Dental  
Easterseals Vermont  
Gallagher Flynn & Co LLP  
Law Offices of Fred V. Peet, P.C.  
McSoley McCoy & Co.  
Myers Tax & Accounting, P.C.*

*Red Sapphire Consulting  
Scheer & Hickey  
Twincraft Skincare  
Vermont Oxford Network  
Von Bargaen's Jewelry  
YIPES! Auto and Graphics*

*In Memory of  
**James Thomas**  
from Beth and  
Roderick Williams*

*We could not make this event happen without the support of the KidSafe Board of Directors and the event volunteers.*



*Volunteers at the 2019 Awards Luncheon: while they cannot be with us in person this year, we will welcome them back in 2021.*

**2020 Awards Selection Committee members**

Shireen Hart, Judge Howard Kalfus, Nancy Menard, Robbin LaRue, Heather Ross and Sally Borden

**2020 Silent Auction Awards Committee**

Darcy Allard, Sarah Havers, Cindy Olson, Carolyn Smith, Sue Victory, Margaret Vincent, Beth Wermuth and Elise Ameigh, Lisa Simon

**Additional Thanks**

**On-Site Host:** Physician's Computer Company

**Virtual Event Production:** Hen House Media

**Program:** Samantha Jean Design

**Program Editor:** PenArts Communications



**KidSafe Collaborative Staff**

Sally Borden Executive Director  
Lisa Simon Development & Program Coordinator  
Elise Ameigh Administrative & Events Coordinator

**About KidSafe**

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 services for pregnant women who have 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



45 Kilburn Street | Burlington, VT 05401 | 802.863.9626  
kidsafe@kidsafevt.org www.kidsafevt.org

