

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE:  
Local Agencies Partner to Benefit Old North End Children**

BURLINGTON, VT. – The Sara Holbrook Community Center announces a new summer program, *Barnes World Academy*. The summer camp is a collaborative effort of the Sara Holbrook Community Center (SHCC), Burlington Parks & Recreation and the Burlington School District. By partnering together, the SHCC is able to expand its summer camp to serve nearly twice as many children, 60 in all!

Summer camp has been a staple to SHCC programming for decades. However, space and budget constraints had limited the Center’s ability to serve more children in the Old North End. This year, Burlington Parks & Recreation has offered bus services as well fundraising support. The Burlington School District has generously donated Lawrence Barnes Elementary School as the camp’s base and free lunches for the children.

According to Leisa Pollander, Executive Director of the SHCC, the *Barnes World Academy* is full, with 60 children registered and some even on a waiting list. “The response from families indicates how great of a need there is in the area for affordable, full-day care. This is an exciting summer for us and everyone involved.” Leisa adds, “Staff have been very busy planning a fun summer. The campers will follow a community chest map, visiting community spots like Lake Champlain Chocolates, Fletcher Free Library, UVM and the Winooski Riverwalk—it’s an engaging way to expose kids to the greater Burlington community”.

The *Barnes World Academy* operates for six weeks, beginning June 25<sup>th</sup> and ending on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The day will begin at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast and group play at Lawrence Barnes School. After lunch, the campers will be exploring and mapping out the community with their treasure chest maps.

The Sara Holbrook Community Center was established 70 years ago by Sara Holbrook, a clinical psychologist at the University of Vermont. Since its inception, the Center has been providing support and programs for low-income children and their families. Annually, 4,000 individuals, including refugees and immigrants, take part in the Center’s programs: preschool, after-school care, teen activities, English classes for adults and children, summer camps, and basic needs assistance. The Center is located at 66 North Avenue in the Old North End of Burlington.

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