



VCW's Newsletter, January 15th



Change the Story VT Releases NEW Brief:

Women, Work and Wages in Vermont

Change The Story VT (CTS), a multi-year initiative fueled by the Vermont Women's Fund, the Vermont Commission on Women, and Vermont Works for Women, has released the first of a series of briefs called "Women, Work and Wages in Vermont".

Much of this data is not regularly collected or published. All of it is specific to Vermont, and all is critical – not just in what it reflects about

women, but in its implications for Vermont's economic future.

"The objective of Change The Story is to move the needle of women's economic security – faster. This initial compilation of information focuses on demographic data and represents months of diving deep into state and national data, reports, and other ancillary resources to create an accurate snapshot of the state of women in Vermont when it comes to work and wages," shared Tiffany Bluemle, Director of CTS.

Among the brief's highlights:

- Women are significantly more likely than men to live in poverty or economic insecurity – in large part because of the disproportionate rates at which they have primary responsibility for the care of minor children.
- 43% of VT women who work full-time do not make enough to cover basic living expenses as

defined by VT's Joint Fiscal Office.

"This brief and the overall CTS initiative is a prime example of how organizations can come together to leverage their impact in the state, as well as build a data-driven case for this important work," shared VCW's Cary Brown.

Additional findings include:

- The poverty rate for families headed by single women is 37.5% – nine times the poverty rate of married couples.
- Women who work full-time are disproportionately employed in low-wage jobs – across every age group, at every level of education.
- VT women are especially vulnerable in their senior years, when their median annual income from Social Security (\$10,000) is half that of men (\$20,000).

Read the full report at www.changethestoryvt.org.

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Jobs at [Vermont Works for Women](#)

Vermont Works for Women, a nonprofit organization helping women and girls recognize their potential and explore, pursue, and excel in work that leads to economic independence, is seeking candidates to fill several openings including an Office Coordinator, Women's Program Recruiter (AmeriCorps VISTA), and various summer camp positions. Find job descriptions and application instructions [here](#). Application deadlines are January 19 (AmeriCorps VISTA), January 25 (Office Coordinator), and February for camp staff.

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VCPC Universal Prekindergarten Grant Application Available

Vermont Birth to Five (VB5) was formed to provide support and resources that allow Vermont communities to establish, strengthen and sustain high quality early learning and care experiences for children ages birth through 5 years. The Vermont Community Preschool Collaborative (VCPC), a project of VB5, is focused on ensuring access to high quality prekindergarten education that meets the child and the family's needs. In response to the passage of Act 166 and the challenges related to implementation, VB5 will offer a one year competitive VCPC grant program to support strategies that will increase access to universal prekindergarten. These grants will be available for the 2016-17 school year. To discuss interest, contact Sherry Carlson at scarlson380@comcast.net.

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Looking Back, Looking Ahead: Chartbook on Women's Progress Published by AARP

This report reviews the changes that have taken place in women's lives over the past several decades from the vantage point of five different generational cohorts of women. Issues examined include: the gender wage gap, occupational segregation and job polarization, the need for work-family supports, and changes in retirement expectations. The report looks ahead to what women can expect in the future.

Key findings include:

- Women have made huge gains in education, but the gains are not universal.
- The wage gap between women and men has narrowed, but the gender wage gap remains.
- The labor market remains strikingly gender segregated.
- Women have increased their labor force participation, but still bear a disproportionate share of family caregiving responsibility.
- Different patterns of work have lifelong consequences for the retirement security of women.
- Policy changes are needed to enable women to achieve financial security.

Read the full report [here](#).

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Act 166 Overview Webinar by the Vermont Family Network

Wednesday, January 20th from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

With full implementation of Universal Prekindergarten Education (Act 166) in the next school year (2016-17), many families are interested in how their children will meaningfully participate.

[Click here](#) to join the Agency of Education (AOE) and the Department for Children and Families (DCF) for an overview webinar of Universal Prekindergarten Education. The webinar will include presenters Reeva Murphy, Deputy Commissioner for the Child Development Division, DCF and Melissa Riegel-Garrett, Pre-K Coordinator, AOE.

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Vermont Blue Ribbon Commission on High Quality, Affordable Child Care Meeting

Thursday, January 21st from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at a location to be determined

More information can be found on the Commission's [webpage](#). The Commission met on De-

ember 17th, moving toward a definition of “quality” in child care and agreeing to a 2016 work plan. [Click here](#) to read the full recap, including the discussions about quality, by Let’s Grow Kids. Next steps include a working group that will draft a definition of quality. The Commission agreed to the following meeting schedule and themes:

January: Quality/How much quality costs

February/March: How much quality costs

April/May: Defining “affordable”

June/July: How to pay for quality child care/Innovative funding solutions

August/September: Recommendations from consultant

October/November: Review and present final report

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Business Building Blocks: Communication is Key to Building Your Business

Monday, January 25, 2016, from 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Capstone Community Action, 20 Gable Place, Barre, VT

Get The Word Out about your business. Each participant will craft an elevator speech (30-60 second introduction). Craft a newsworthy press release about your business that is ready for publication. Contact Margaret Ferguson for more information or to register at (802) 477-5214 or by email at mferguson@capstonevt.org.

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League of Women Voters of Central Vermont’s Happy Hour

Tuesday, February 2nd from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the New England Culinary Institute, Montpelier

[The League of Women Voters](#) of Central Vermont hosts this Happy Hour at New England Culinary Institute on Main Street in Montpelier. Attend to learn more about the League’s platform and activities.

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Camp Resilience Session for Women Veterans

Tuesday, February 2nd – Friday, February 5th in the Lakes Region, New Hampshire

The Patriot Resilient Leader Institute (PRLI) will be running its 2nd Camp Resilience session for women veterans only. The women who attend will spend 4 days and 3 nights in the beautiful Lakes Region of New Hampshire. The sports activities will include snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, yoga and water aerobics. There will also be sessions discussing such topics as wellness through lifestyle changes, resiliency and trauma recovery. The PRLI covers all costs to include the participants' lodging, meals and activities. Learn more about Camp Resilience and apply for this session [here](#). Send questions to info@prli.us or call (603) 520-3989.

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National Wear Red Day, by Go Red for Women and the American Heart Association

Friday, February 5

Support Go Red For Women by participating in [National Wear Red Day®](#) and [donating](#) to help fund research during American Health Month. **Why Go Red?** Heart disease and stroke cause 1 in 3 deaths among women each year, killing approximately one woman every 80 seconds. Fortunately, we can change that because 80 percent of cardiac and stroke events may be prevented with education and action. Make your heart health a priority. Schedule your [Well-Woman Visit](#), a prevention check-up to review a woman's overall health so her doctor can measure blood pressure, check cholesterol and look for signs of heart disease, stroke and other illnesses.

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Let's Grow Kids is seeking volunteers on Town Meeting Day

Tuesday, March 1st

In addition to handing out literature, they'll also be asking Vermonters to sign postcards to members of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High-Quality, Affordable Child Care to thank them for their important work. There will be space on the postcard for Vermonters to let the Commission know about the childcare challenges they're facing. Here is a [link](#) to learn about what they are asking for and how to sign up.

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Save the Date, Friday May 6th for the Hunger Action Conference presented by the Vermont Foodbank

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2016 Primary Care Conference hosted by the Bi-State Primary Care Association – Save the

date!

Tuesday, May 10 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vermont

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On January 7, **the Vermont House took a firm stand on equal pay with a resolution urging FIFA to institute the same compensation for the men's and the women's World Cup soccer teams.** The resolution highlighted several disparities including the 2014 FIFA men's championship team from Germany earning \$35 million for that nation's soccer federation, in excess of 1,700 percent of the amount that the 2015 FIFA women's championship team from the United States brought home. Read the official statement from House Majority Leader, Rep. Sarah Copeland [here](#) (VTDigger).

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The Silloway equal pay case, the pay discrimination case brought against the state by three Department of Corrections employees, **was rejected by the Vermont Supreme Court.** The decision was released on Christmas Eve. The Vermont Commission on Women joined Vermont Legal Aid, the American Association of University Women of Vermont and the League of Women Voters of Vermont in an Amicus brief – our shared interest being that the courts uphold to the language and intent of the Vermont Equal Pay Act. VLS professor Cheryl Hanna was counsel of record and author of this brief, which both educated the court and stipulated scrutiny of facts in this case. Read more [here](#). (Rutland Herald)

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Plan your 2016: check out [VCW's statewide events calendar!](#)

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