



June 15-July 24  
9:00-3:00pm  
July 27-August 14  
9:00-1:00pm

## MISSION

THRIVE is dedicated to promoting lifelong wellness and enriching the lives of children by providing affordable, high-quality summer programming. In partnership with its free lunch program, THRIVE's Youth Enrichment Program seeks to ensure that all children in Winooski are well-fed, active, and engaged throughout the summer months.



Founded in 2001 by the Winooski Department of Recreation and Community Wellness, THRIVE began as a 20hr/wk child watch program with a total enrollment of 8 children. Today, THRIVE serves over 185 children each year. 36% are English Language Learners and 67% are eligible for free or reduced lunch. To put these numbers into perspective, in 2000, Winooski residents cited the lack of affordable childcare as a paramount concern. 8 years later, 1/3 of all school children between the ages of 5-14 in Winooski actively participate in a low-cost summer program that provides them two healthy meals a day, a safe, nurturing environment, and engaging activities that keep them physically fit and intellectually stimulated.

## THRIVE'S GOALS

- Improve youth reading achievement.
- Increase children's enjoyment of learning.
- Increase children's understanding of nutrition and personal wellness.
- Ensure students on free or reduced lunch are fed over the summer break.
- Increase family and community involvement in youth's development.

However, THRIVE is more than a low-cost summer camp. According to Ron Fairchild, executive director of the Center for Summer Learning at John Hopkins University:

**“We think of summer as this time for camp and recreation and all kinds of fun programs, but it's a wasteland for many low-income children. There's no other time of the year where inequality is greater than the summer, and it has a huge impact on the achievement gap.”**

Landry Park  
Pine Street  
Winooski, Vermont

THRIVE works to combat this “summer slide” by acting as the critical link between grade levels, providing all children, regardless of income, ethnicity, or family situation, the care and support they need to succeed alongside their peers when school resumes in the fall.