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## Strong Families. Strong Futures.

Dear VFN family and friends,

Hard to believe we are finishing our 4<sup>th</sup> week of working remotely. We miss seeing you all in person, and hope that you and your families are well. For a quick update on how we are continuing to serve families, please watch my [short video message](#).

On April 10, Governor Scott [extended Vermont's State of Emergency through May 15](#). How is it for you and your loved ones, staying home and staying safe? All of us at VFN miss the day-to-day interactions with our colleagues, our community and state partners and families whom we serve. That said, we are making the most of our time with family. At our home in St. Albans, my youngest son and I are doing all we can to keep his dad and my dad from going out into public, as they are both at high risk for the coronavirus. We are all spending LOTS of time together, and connecting with family and friends we cannot see right now through Zoom, Google hangouts, phone, etc. I've learned so much about technology recently, despite occasional glitches and frustration! We are lucky to have our phones and computers as VFN continues to work through the Covid-19 crisis, and are more committed than ever to ensuring that families have better access to broadband throughout Vermont, going forward.

So, we'd love to know what's working for your family as we move into our second month of physical distancing. What are your biggest challenges? We're here to listen. We are willing to lend a caring, experienced ear if you just need someone to hear you out, and we can also share some helpful ideas to get you through these trying times. As a statewide family-to-family support organization, we are here for you.

Read



From the heart,

Pam McCarthy, M.Ed.  
CEO/President

## Frequently Asked Questions

Topics covered in this week's [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) include:

### Health & Well-Being

- Being with your child in the ER or hospital
- [Children's Personal Care Services Program Changes in response to Covid-19](#)
- Supporting your child to learn at home
- Responding to your child's challenging behaviors

### Students with Disabilities & Special Education

- What to expect from the school if your child has an IEP
- Update on Act 264/Coordinated Services Plan meetings
- Transition planning for students on IEPs

### Basic Family Needs

- Resources for food, housing, benefits, etc. to help your family

### Translated Resources

- We've added a few new ones

[Learn More](#)



**Contact Us. We Will Listen!**

**Helping Vermont Families thrive for more than 30 years**



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## Upcoming Events

### Town Hall Meeting - Tues, April 21 from 2 pm - 3 pm

In a "virtual" Zoom Town Hall meeting, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) will review the [Developmental Disabilities Services Covid-19 Emergency Relief Options for Parents](#). Please register via Zoom [here](#). Once you have registered, you should receive a confirmation email, which may be in your junk folder, with the link to join the meeting. Contact [Jamie Rainville](#) if you don't receive the confirmation email or have any questions.



### Sibshop (ages 6+) - Saturday, May 16 from 1 pm - 2:30 pm

Our last Sibshop for this year is going "virtual" using Zoom! Sibshops are fun events for siblings (age 6+) of brothers and sisters who have special health needs or disabilities. We have co-hosted this national program for more than 20 years! Up until the Covid-19 pandemic, we held in-person Sibshop events in Chittenden county during the school year but now we've gone virtual. We're so excited to meet many new siblings from across our beautiful state. For information about Sibshops, please contact [Molly Lawney](#) or register on-line [here](#) for the May 6 Sibshop where sibs will have a chance to show their stuff in a virtual Talent Show!

### Youth Summit - Thursday, May 28 from 10 am - 11 am

The Youth Advocacy Council, with contributing partners including Vermont Family Network, is pleased to announce a "virtual" Youth Summit on May 28 from 10 am - 11 am and an interactive workshop, which is being offered for a limited group of youth, from 2 pm - 3 pm on the same day and repeated on June 2 from 2 pm - 3 pm. The Council is a group comprised of youth and young adults who educate and empower individuals with differing abilities. The keynote speaker is [Hasan Davis](#), who travels the world sharing his inspiring story of transformation, hoping to inspire other "hope dealers" in their selfless service to others. This will be a free Zoom meeting. Stay tuned for more details to come! For more information, contact [Nichole Jolly](#).

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