



NECK OF THE WOODS



**Empowering
Our Future**

Why NOW?

THE NEED:

In Washington County, Vermont

88%
of infants

80%
of toddlers

75%
of preschoolers

likely to need care don't have access to high-quality programs*



THE BENEFIT:

HIGH QUALITY CHILDCARE

- > **guarantees the SUCCESS**
of our youngest generation
- > **supports PARENTS**
by providing a safe, enriching environment for their children
- > **adds needed DIVERSITY**
to our community by attracting more young families to the Mad River Valley.
- > **ensures the ECONOMIC VITALITY**
of the Mad River Valley by freeing up parents to work for local businesses.

**"Stalled at the Start: Vermont's Child Care Challenge", produced by Let's Grow Kids, January 2020.*



Neck Of the Woods (NOW) started in 2012 as Moretown Education Center for All (MECA), a childcare, after school program and summer camp based in the Moretown Elementary School. We practice a **strengths-based approach to learning** where children are encouraged to **pursue areas of interest that inspire passion and success**. At the same time, we focus on the **child's social-emotional development**, with the understanding that **a child's early years are essential to establishing a positive, resilient base from which to view the world**. The NOW team firmly believes in building programming around our values of empowerment, support, empathy, resilience and community. These values create the foundation of our programming, and serve as guides for promoting the healthy development of the youngest members of our community.

MECA started with six preschoolers and nineteen after schoolers, and grew over time to accommodate 56 preschoolers by 2019. We were eventually running year-round programs for approximately 200 children ages 3-12 throughout Washington County as well as summer residents from as far as Washington, DC. and California.

As the program grew, we knew it was time to expand to a space where we could create more opportunities for more families in a larger setting. When the coronavirus pandemic upended our lives, we doubled down on our focus to provide safe summer programming for families, to ensure we could support parents by continuing to provide children with opportunities for social, emotional and developmental growth.

We partnered with the Mad River Valley Community Fund and set out together to reach all local families who needed support. We changed our name to **Neck Of the Woods** and sought nonprofit status.

In the summer of 2020, we enrolled 120 children ages 3-12 in summer camp programming across the Valley in the former Small Dog building adjacent to the Mad River in Waitsfield. Since that time, we have been working to purchase and upgrade this campus: the building, a warehouse, and the surrounding 11 acres of land with a solar array.

At full capacity, **Neck Of the Woods** will be running two infant programs, two toddler programs, a preschool program, an after-school enrichment program, teen programs, and youth leadership opportunities. Our future will include trainings and support groups for parents and families, as well as classes for community members.



In order to expand this community-based programming, we need our community. We are in need of money to ensure that we are able to purchase and upgrade the campus, and to sustain our programs now and into the future. There's plenty to be done, and as people have continued to say: "this is a huge endeavor!" We agree, but as I always say, **when you have the capacity to make a difference and help people, you do it! So here we are.**

Moie Moulton
Executive Director and Founder

What is NOW?

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

- Year-round childcare for infants/toddlers/preschoolers
- Research-based best practices for early childhood development
- A focus on enriching the whole child
- Nurturing deep relationships in children and adults
- Cultivating brain-body connection

AFTER SCHOOL & SUMMER CAMP CARE

- For K-6th graders
- A focus on outdoor education
- Strengths-based learning that follows a child's personal interest
- Youth leadership opportunities

AFFINITY-BASED ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

- Student led clubs and activities
- Development of leadership skills
- Opportunities for community service
- Integrated arts (i.e. fine arts, drama, music, dance)
- Community kitchen

SUSTAINABLE CAREERS FOR STAFF

- A livable wage for all employees
- A focus on the mental health and wellbeing of every employee
- A commitment to provide continued high-quality education and training

“Healthy development in the early years

(particularly birth to three) provides the building blocks for educational achievement, economic productivity, responsible citizenship, lifelong health, strong communities, and successful parenting of the next generation.”¹

¹ “What is Early Childhood Development? A Guide to the Science”, Harvard University’s Center on the Developing Child, 2020.



Who is NOW?



Moie Moulton—NOW Executive Director and Founder—is a native Vermonter with a B.A. in Education from Union Institute and University in Ohio. Soccer player, singer, parent.



Katie Alexander—NOW K-6 Director and Cofounder—hails from Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Early Childhood Education from Juniata College. Field hockey player and coach, dog owner, hiker.



Suzanne Gardner—NOW Preschool Director—grew up in the Delaware Water Gap region of New Jersey and earned a B.A. in Education from East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania. Appalachian Mountain explorer, Jersey Shore beachgoer.



Erica Gongloff—NOW Infant/Toddler Director—an upstate New York native, began her studies in Early Childhood Education at Goddard College and earned a B.A. from Sterling College, with a continuing education concentration in mental health. Mother, dog owner, historic window restorer.



Catrina Brackett—Office Administrator and Cofounder—a Michigan native who moved to Vermont in middle school and brings experience from her prior work in ethical health care. Mother, summer concertgoer.

NOW Families: a snapshot

“When our daughter started at Moretown Preschool, she was barely over the age of three and still in training diapers and using a pacifier . . . Within two weeks, she walked right into the ‘big girl’ phase and hasn’t looked back. **NOW/MECA has provided a safe haven, and fun, convenient, and loving childcare environment for our family.**”

— *Becky, Moretown*



“NOW/MECA has been such an integral part of raising our two children in this community . . . **Their approach is creative and child-centered, the staff is absolutely top-notch, and every component is well-organized and seamlessly run** . . . NOW has proven time and again that they are attuned to the needs of the community and adept at meeting those needs in creative and accessible ways.”

—*Sarah and Ben, Duxbury*

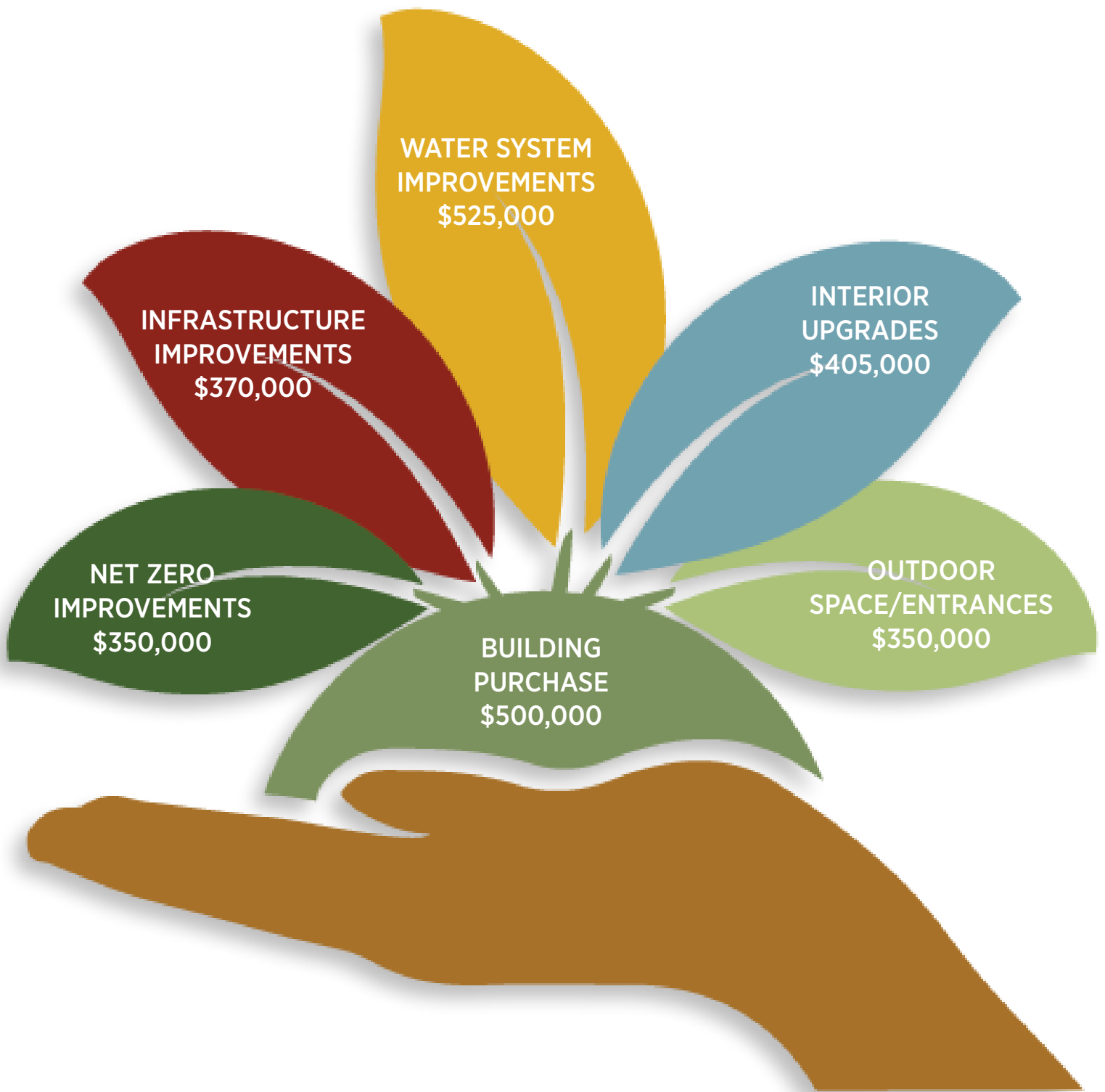
“**As a parent, it brings me great relief to know my kids are having fun while I am working.** Moie and her team are simply stellar and offer our community the much sought-after care and enrichment opportunities for our children.”

—*Danielle, Moretown*



The Future Is NOW

Our Vision, Our Goal
\$2,500,000

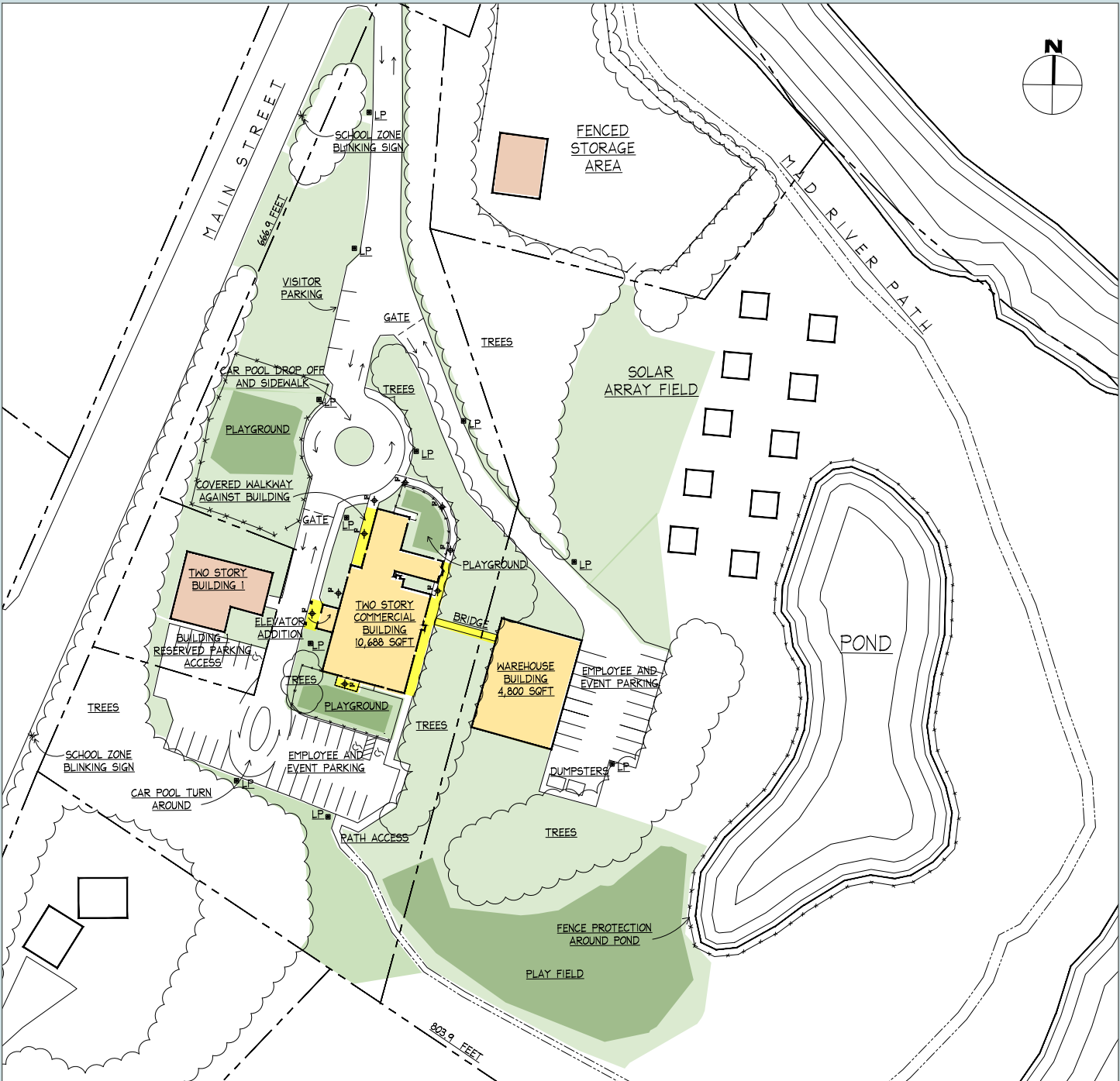




EXISTING CONDITIONS

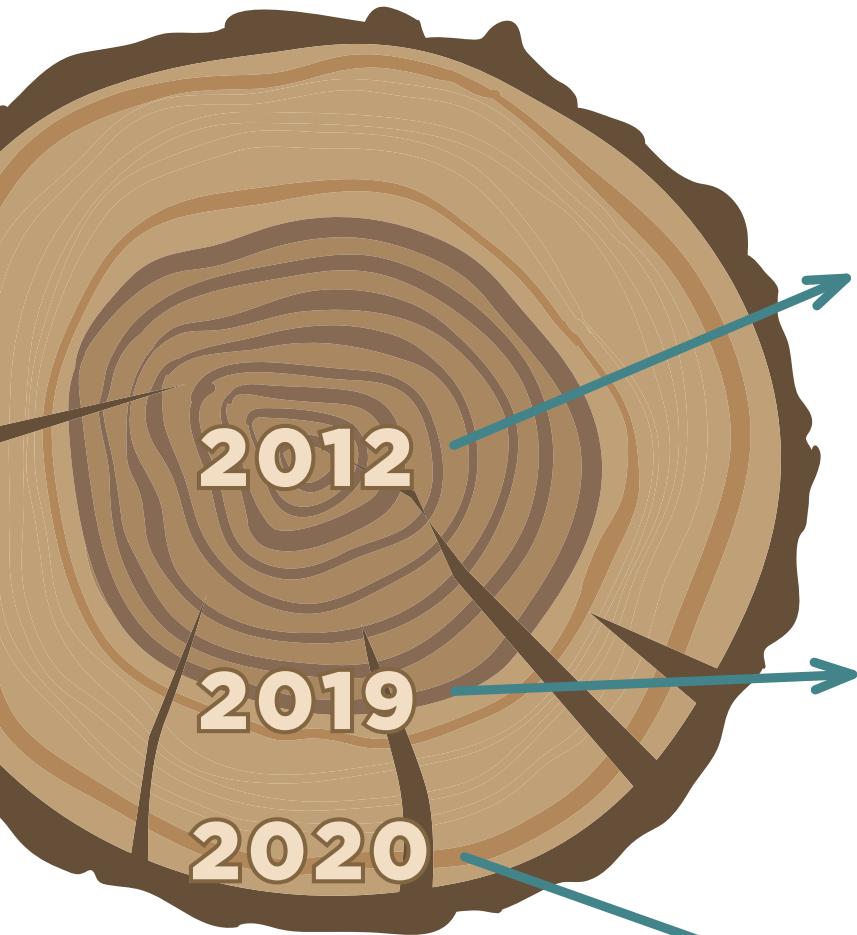


EXTERIOR CONCEPT



FUTURE SITE PLAN

Growth of NOW



2012

Started as Moretown Education Center for All (MECA) at Moretown Elementary School with 2 full-time and 2 part-time staff for 25 kids (ages 3-12)

2019

Increased to 8 full-time and 3 part-time staff for 60-95 children/day between preschool and 6th grade during school year

2020

Almost doubled to 15 full-time and 6 part-time staff for 127+ children during coronavirus pandemic, relocated to the former Small Dog Electronics building in Waitsfield

2023

Expand to include two infant programs, two toddler programs, a preschool program, an after-school enrichment program, teen programs, and youth leadership opportunities to accommodate 200 children and 20 staff/year.



Ways to GIVE

Tax-deductible donations may be made in cash, by check, or online to:

Neck of the Woods

P.O. Box 524

Moretown, VT 05660

501c3# 85-0536359

For large donations, please reach out directly so we may help strategize a plan that fits your giving goals.

Moie Moulton

802.496.6689

info@neckofthewoodsvt.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.







I KNOW
MY
COLORS!

RED
ORANGE
PINK



EMPOWERING

future teachers, architects, engineers, judges, athletes, nurses, bank tellers, artists, **healthy communicators**, Olympians, mechanics, ski patrollers, mathematicians, authors, **fearless leaders**, carpenters, chemists, paramedics, entrepreneurs, **critical thinkers**, rock stars, foresters, sheriffs, ninja warriors, long-haul truckers, police officers, coaches, **risk takers**, farmers, pilots, dentists, electricians, **empaths**, archeologists, lawyers, poets, **dreamers**, contractors, Presidents, soldiers, midwives, firefighters, hunters, scientists, interior designers, caregivers, masons, astronauts, bakers, orthodontists, park rangers, **listeners**, Special Forces, sailors, investigators, accountants, **problem solvers**, intelligence officers, musicians, fundraisers, doctors, activists, chefs, conductors, zoo keepers, computer programmers, dancers, mail carriers, plumbers, landscape architects, professors, veterinarians, tax collectors, bus drivers, counselors. . .



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