



**VERMONT
CHILDREN'S
AID SOCIETY**
P.O. Box 127
Winooski, VT 05404

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 6, 2007

Contact: Cheryl Herrick, 802.655.0006 or cherrick@vtcas.org

Vermont Children's Aid Society Names 2007 Award Recipients

Executive Director Steve Habif has announced the 2007 recipients of annual awards that recognize exceptional dedication to Vermont's children and families.

Awards were presented to:

- Tara Graham of Burlington, coordinator of the Kids-A-Part program for the children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers, for her extraordinary service through VCAS.
- The Sills Family Foundation of Boston, Massachusetts, for their commitment to and leadership in funding for services for families affected by a parent's incarceration.
- Rita Bittner of Milton, who for many years cared for infants awaiting placement with an adoptive family.
- Patti Smith of Essex Junction for her leadership and dedication to Vermont's adoptive families as the former chair of the Vermont Adoption Consortium.
- Bertha Denio of Manchester, who was adopted through Vermont Children's Aid Society nearly 70 years ago, and has dedicated her life to helping others around her as a mother, a community member, and a registered nurse.

According to Habif, "The work of Vermont Children's Aid Society would not be possible without such extraordinary supporters, volunteers and colleagues. We are humbled and grateful to be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with such committed, caring people."

Vermont Children's Aid Society is a private not-for-profit organization with offices in Winooski and Woodstock, Vermont. Our professional staff has been supporting and strengthening families since 1919 through a variety of comprehensive programs including adoption services, child and family counseling, a children's summer camp, and programs for families affected by a parent's incarceration. VCAS is dedicated to the provision of services which seek to support and strengthen families, and promote safe, stable, and nurturing environments for children.

VCAS is a member of six United Way chapters in Vermont as well as a member of the Child Welfare League of America and a recipient of the Better Business Bureau's Charity Seal. To learn more, visit www.vtcas.org.

###