

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Film Screening and Discussion About Race and Transracial Adoption in Vermont

Winooski, Vermont – Vermont Children’s Aid Society and Vermont Public Television announce a Tuesday May 20th, 6:30 PM community-wide event in The St. Johnsbury School Auditorium, entitled “Vermont On the Fault Line, A Community Dialogue About Race”. The evening is co-hosted by a local partnership of the Green Mountain United Way, North and South Congregational Churches, the Psychology & Human Services Department at Lyndon State College, Umbrella, Inc., North Country Coalition for Justice & Peace and the St. Johnsbury Community Justice Center.

The event will feature the Caledonia County premiere screening of the highly acclaimed documentary film *Living On The Fault Line, Where Race And Family Meet* by Vermont filmmaker Jeff Farber followed by a facilitated panel discussion. According to Farber, “The evening’s focus will be on ways to make the region a more welcoming, nurturing and understanding place for its children, students and citizens of color and is planned to be a precursor for other such conversations and dialogues in hopes that they become a regular part of the community’s on-going business.”

Dr. Betty Keller, who is a member of the North Congregational Church and the UCC’s Uprooting Racism Task Force, says “This movie illustrates how these families learn and grow through the experience of having racism directed at their own family members. It helps those of us of the dominant culture see how we can miss seeing racism, without blaming or shaming, so we can move on and get on to the hard work at hand.”

Living On The Fault Line, Where Race And Family Meet (www.onthefaultline.com) has been hailed as “an excellent place to begin examining the issues of race and white privilege” and “a compelling investigation of an important topic”. This important film explores the intersection where family love meets racial injustice in the experience of transracial families created through adoption. An honest and open-hearted look at race in America the film profiles nine Vermont transracial families, revealing the complex and emotional story of institutional inequities and racial stereotyping intruding into the haven of family and the community beyond.

Following the film the audience will be invited to participate in a free ranging community discussion facilitated by a panel with both local and state-wide participants. These include Robert Appel, Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission, Alice Siegriest, Vermont Children’s Aid Society Clinical Director of Camp For Me and Senior Social Worker, and community members Shelley Vermilya and Arthur Safford, who have raised children of color in Vermont.

The event is free and open to all, thanks to funding from the Uprooting Racism Task Force of the United Church of Christ, Vermont Public Television with the Walter Cerf Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, **Ben & Jerry’s Central Support Community Action Team**, KeyBank, and The St. Johnsbury School.

For more information contact Reverend Jay Sprout, North Congregational Church, 748-2603.

About Jeff Farber

Producer, director and cinematographer, Jeff Farber has been an award-winning independent filmmaker for over 25 years. His career began in Philadelphia, where he was a founding member of New Liberty Productions (1980-86), a multi-racial film collective. His previous works include *The Valley Green*; *Brother Bread, Sister Puppet*; *Beyond 88 Keys: The Music of Michael Arnowitt*; and *Living the Autism Maze*. *Living on the Fault Line, Where Race and Family Meet* is Mr. Farber's latest and most ambitious project. Learn more at www.onthefaultline.com

About VCAS

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 services for families affected by a parent's incarceration. VCAS provides services that support and strengthen families, and promote safe, stable, and nurturing environments for children. Learn more about the agency's programs for children and families at www.vtcas.org.

VCAS is a member of six United Way chapters in Vermont and the Child Welfare League of America, as well as a recipient of the Better Business Bureau Charity Seal of Approval.

About VPT

Founded in 1967, Vermont Public Television (VPT), a PBS member station, is Vermont's statewide network of public television stations, covering its home state and bordering regions of New York, New Hampshire and southern Quebec, including Montreal. Vermont Public Television educates, informs, entertains and inspires lifelong learning and community engagement through its programs and services.

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