



Many of our grant applications ask you to tell us a story about your project:

*Paint a picture or give examples of the value of this project and what it will look like in real life. In other words, be creative and tell us a story that makes it personal. Note: Your answer may be used in publications.*

Here are two great examples from successful applications that reflect what we are looking for:

It's about 9 p.m. Saturday and my family had the best time tonight. We attended the opening concert at the Hancock Town Green that signaled the start of summer. The band that played is called "Whoever Shows Up," and it is comprised of local musicians who have been together for years. Several of the band's members not only live in Hancock but are on the Hancock Town Pride Committee who spearheaded the grant writing and fundraisers that have made our Town Green possible. My daughter is especially tired because she and her cousins ran all over the Green playing tag and frisbee. My husband is bringing the picnic basket in from the car. Between our family and friends about 18 of us had a potluck picnic before the concert started. My mom's potato salad was a big hit as always. It was great to celebrate the start of summer by seeing our neighbors and enjoying an evening at the Hancock Town Green.

*-From Hancock Town Pride Committee's application to the VCF's Small and Inspiring grant program, anticipating what may come if a grant is made!*

Camp Outright (CO) rests at the intersection of Vermont's changing social landscape. Summer camps have provided an idyllic summer home for more than a century, but over time this rite of passage has grown exclusive. Camps may keep up by adding computer labs or stand-up paddle boards, but camp cultures are often self-generating and self-sustaining. For youth who are queer identified, fitting in can be impeded by concerns about safety, finding a supportive peer group, and challenges of forming a positive self-identity in isolation. CO defies and transforms these experiences by helping youth find their footing, their voices, a group of friends, and a comfort zone that gives them access to old-fashioned summer camp fun adapted to this millennium. At one camp closing, a youth completed the sentence "At CO I learned" with the words "that I deserve to live." In the months that followed, his CO friends were the first to respond when he made a suicide attempt, ultimately saving his life. For dozens of youth and for adult volunteers, CO is transformative, validating that they can experience the best of themselves, and be part of the best of Vermont.

*-From Outright Vermont's application to the VCF's Innovations and Collaborations grant program for a second year of funding.*