

July 26, 2016 – Janet McLaughlin Named as New Executive Director of Vermont Birth to Five

Burlington, Vermont—The Permanent Fund for Vermont’s Children is thrilled to announce the hiring of Janet McLaughlin as the new executive director of its Vermont Birth to Five initiative. McLaughlin will assume her role August 16.



McLaughlin is currently special projects director and head of the Food & Farm Initiative at the Vermont Community Foundation. In this role, she distributed over \$1.6 million to Vermont nonprofits for collaborative projects aimed at building the capacity of the local food system to support farmers and connect Vermonters with healthy food they can afford. Prior to her work for the Community Foundation, McLaughlin served as the national director of Share Our Strength’s initiative Cooking Matters, a cooking-based nutrition education program for families at risk of hunger. In this role, she enhanced the program’s focus on serving caretakers of children aged birth to five, including the development of a Cooking Matters for Child Care Professionals program.

“We admire the work Janet has done to promote an equitable society, including her leadership for the Vermont Community Foundation,” Permanent Fund CEO Aly Richards said. “We are excited to see the positive impact she’ll have on our mission and we wholeheartedly welcome her to the Permanent Fund family.”

As executive director of Vermont Birth to Five, McLaughlin will lead the initiative’s continued implementation of critical child care quality improvement projects while addressing regional and statewide barriers to creating a system of high-quality child care. McLaughlin will continue to strengthen the symbiotic partnership with VB5’s sister organization, Let’s Grow Kids, in order to achieve the Permanent Fund’s mission of ensuring that every Vermont child has access to high-quality and affordable early care and education by 2025.

“I am eager to work on behalf of Vermont families like my own who need quality care for their kids now—and toward the thriving Vermont that results from all kids reaching their full potential,” McLaughlin said. “Child care providers are unsung heroes in our communities and I look forward to supporting them as part of the Vermont Birth to Five team.”

Vermont Birth to Five works to ensure that every Vermont child has access to high-quality, affordable child care. Research has demonstrated that when children experience strong early relationships in enriching, high-quality environments, they build

a foundation for healthy development and successful learning. Through close collaboration with state agencies and community organizations, VB5 directly engages child care providers in projects designed to improve program quality. These include: one-on-one mentoring; training and professional development; assistance in partnering with public schools; strategies for increasing access to care; models for comprehensive family supports; and methods for sustainable business practices.

Founded in 2000, the [Permanent Fund](#) is a philanthropic organization that partners with other early childhood organizations to promote access to high quality, affordable early care and learning in Vermont. The Permanent Fund is the parent organization of two early childhood programs—Let's Grow Kids and Vermont Birth to Five—which are supported in collaboration with two other major philanthropic organizations: The A. D. Henderson Foundation and The Turrell Fund.