

THE HUB TEEN CENTER & SKATEPARK  
bristol skatepark.com

The Hub has delivered a safe and enriching out-of-school time experience for Five Town youths this year, growing the facility and services in many ways.

With grant and community support we have completed the instrument backline for teens to jam with and receive free drum, guitar, and bass guitar lessons. We have also expanded the video game system to include multiple consoles, new games, and a large flat screen TV. We added features to the skatepark including a Jersey barrier, mobile mini ramps, and appx. \$8,000.00 in new full-sized ramps through a donation from the Town of Hinesburg. We built mural walls by covering the rear of skate ramps as part of a larger smoking prevention strategy, and added bleachers to the skatepark. A skate ramp mural inspired by Hub teens to memorialize their friends Anthony Loyer and Sam Laframboise was also completed as planned.

The Hub managed a successful VT Dept. of Labor Summer Youth Employment Program grant that involved six local youth in the management and upkeep of the Hub facility throughout the summer. These teens helped repair and improve the skatepark; managed a large youth-run garden which provided vegetables for snacks and produce donations to local organizations and community members; built new features like an events bulletin board, a rustic garden fence, and a 'Hub' sign, and created and marketed programming that was developed with their peers, all while gaining valuable job skills and earning a paycheck.

The Hub presented workshops, hosted by the Bristol Chief of Police, mural artists, Bristol Police Officer Randy Crowe, Outright VT, and others on subjects from gun safety to self defense and GLBT literacy to first aid. The Hub also put together special events like a visit from the motorcycles and builders of Huntington Choppers, a field trip to play paint ball and go to a Lake Monsters baseball game, an all-request DJ dance party, and more.

The Hub hosted two festival events during the year, a Skatifest featuring competitions and live music on the skatepark, and a two-day punk rock festival with camping and dozens of bands performing. Based on the success of both of these events, the festivals will return in 2010.

In addition, the Hub hosted the 2009 Leaders In Training program, guiding teen girls to learn self-confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills. The Hub was a United Way of Addison County 'Days of Caring' work site where volunteers from Hannaford Career Center with materials and supervision from the Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District helped create a new flower bed near the parking area. The Hub staff is continuing to pursue new community relationships that should result in even more productive collaborations in 2010.

We had a wonderful winter through summer working with Erin Buckwalter before she returned to graduate studies at UVM, and welcomed AmeriCorps Member Dawn Graham to the staff in September.

The Hub received funding from individual donors, the Vermont Children's Trust Fund, the Vermont Department of Labor, Bristol Friends of the Arts, the United Way of Addison County, the Vermont Coalition of Teen Centers, the Vermont Women's Fund, the Anne Slade Frey Charitable Trust, and the Vermont Department of Buildings & General Services. The Hub has received in-kind support from many individuals and businesses including S.D. Ireland, Ken

Weston, the Town of Hinesburg, Kingsbury Companies, Talent Skatepark, Bond Auto, Porter Knight, Richard and Eliza Rudinsky, Ian and Raedia Albinson, and other generous contributors. The Hub especially thanks the Town of Bristol and the Bristol Recreation Club for their continued support.

The teen center has proven to be a vibrant center for youth and teens, providing them with a welcoming and supervised space of their own to socialize and learn in. The staff looks forward to building on this year's successes with the creative ideas and energy of our Hub teens and the support that affirms the value and contributions of Five Town teens to our community.

James Lockridge, Director  
Ryan Krushenick, Program Manager  
Dawn Graham, AmeriCorps Member