

# History of Howard Center

<b>1865</b>	Home for Destitute Children founded to provide a home for orphaned daughters of Civil War veterans. It soon expanded to serve neglected and destitute children and orphans.
<b>1868</b>	Permanent Fund established to be invested and the income used to support the Home and extend its services.
<b>1873</b>	Ladies Aid Society founded.
<b>1882</b>	Ladies Aid Society renamed Howard Relief Society in appreciation for a gift from John P. Howard.
<b>1884</b>	Howard Relief Society chartered “to ameliorate suffering providing a friend in need to the destitute, more especially to aid any poor man in his efforts to give his children an education in the public schools”.
<b>1893</b>	Fire destroyed the Home, 71 children left doubly-homeless by the disaster. New building dedicated December 8, 1898.
<b>1945</b>	Home for Destitute Children renamed The Children’s Home to reflect the change from an orphanage providing long-term substitute care to a treatment-oriented institution serving children with special needs.
<b>1950</b>	Superintendent replaced by the Home’s first Executive Director, Mr. Leland Horne, and first professionally trained social worker added to staff.
<b>1951</b>	The Howard Relief Society was asked by the Burlington Community Council of Social Welfare to undertake a professional marriage and counseling service.
<b>1952</b>	The Howard Family Service Center was established and a psychiatric social worker was employed. The center received funds from the Community Chest, a predecessor of the United Way of Chittenden County.
<b>1957</b>	The Family and Children’s Counseling Services (of Howard Family Service Center) was formed in cooperation with the Division of Mental Health of the Vermont Department of Health.
<b>1960</b>	The Children’s Home renamed the Josephine B. Baird Children’s Center to go along with the completion of a new facility better suited to the needs of emotionally disturbed children. New facility is current location on Pine Street.
<b>1966</b>	Use of live-in child care staff was discontinued reflecting the knowledge that the job of The Baird Center was not to replace parents but to provide a professional staff to work intensively with children to prepare them for a rapid return home.
<b>1966</b>	Howard Family Service Center was designated by the Vermont Department of Mental Health as the community mental health agency for Chittenden and Southern Grand Isle Counties.

**Color Key Coding for Timeline Items:** Baird Center for Children and Families | Howard Center | Champlain Drug and Alcohol Services | Merged into one organization



<b>1971</b>	Agency name changed to Howard Mental Health Services.
<b>1971</b>	North Country Counseling Services and Alcohol Information and Referral Services begin providing clinical services in Chittenden County.
<b>1972</b>	One of the Baird Center residential units was converted to a day treatment unit.
<b>1976</b>	The major source of funding for the Baird Center shifted from DCF to the Department of Mental Health.
<b>1982</b>	The Baird Center launched home-based services, now called Intensive Family-Based Services.
<b>1982</b>	With the guidance of the Vermont Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, these two agencies (North Country Counseling Services and Alcohol Information and Referral Services) merge to form Champlain Drug and Alcohol Services (CDAS).
<b>1983</b>	CDAS starts Green Mountain Teen Institute week-long programming retreats focused on substance use prevention.
<b>1983</b>	Josephine B. Baird Children's Center was renamed The Baird Center for Children and Families.
<b>1983</b>	CDAS begins providing employee assistance services.
<b>1986</b>	CDAS begins providing alcohol treatment services within the Chittenden County Correctional Center, the first structured program of its kind in Vermont.
<b>1986</b>	CDAS opens ACT 1.
<b>1988</b>	CDAS, in partnership with other agencies, including Howard Mental Health Services, develops a successful proposal for federal funding for the Homeless Health Project. CDAS provides drug and alcohol outreach services.
<b>1989</b>	CDAS begins providing services to intravenous drug users in Chittenden County.
<b>1992</b>	CDAS initiates a specialized intensive outpatient program for adolescents called Kaleidoscope. To become Centerpoint in partnership with NFI and Otter Creek.
<b>1993</b>	Howard Mental Health Services changes name to Howard Center for Human Services to better reflect the wide array of services provided by the agency.
<b>1994</b>	Howard Center merges with The Baird Center for Children and Families and Champlain Drug and Alcohol Services to bring the strengths of their boards, staffs, and service delivery systems to the combined organization. Services are provided through four major divisions: Howard Community Services, Community Counseling and Support Programs, the Baird Center for Children and Families, and Champlain Drug and Alcohol Services. Howard Center continues as a member agency of the United Way of Chittenden County.

**Color Key Coding for Timeline Items:** Baird Center for Children and Families | Howard Center | Champlain Drug and Alcohol Services | Merged into one organization



<b>1995</b>	Kaleidoscope becomes Centerpoint.
<b>1997</b>	Agency management is restructured, creating Director of Operations position and combining Community Counseling and Support Programs and Champlain Drug and Alcohol Services into Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services for program management and administrative purposes.
<b>1997</b>	In partnership with CMC and WCMH, Howard Center expands its outpatient substance use disorder treatment services in Washington County, opening Central Vermont Substance Abuse Services (CVSAS) in Berlin, VT.
<b>1999</b>	In July the Board of Trustees votes to undertake a capital campaign – Campaign for a Caring Community – to raise funds for a new facility for Child, Youth & Family Services and for building and endowment funds for the entire agency.
<b>2000</b>	Street Outreach Program.
<b>2001</b>	Safe Recovery.
<b>2002</b>	Chittenden Clinic.
<b>2004</b>	Campaign successfully completed. New Baird Center building dedicated and agency endowment increased.
<b>2005</b>	Howard Center partners with WCMH and CMC to form Collaborative Solutions Corporation to open Second Spring, a Community Recovery Residence (CRR) in Williamstown, VT, followed in 2013 by a program in Westford, VT.
<b>2007</b>	Agency name changes to HowardCenter. All service areas and program names are identified as part of HowardCenter. Major service areas include administrative services; Child Youth & Family Services; Developmental Services; and Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services.
<b>2012</b>	Agency implements electronic health records system after completion of two-year, large-scale project that prepares organization for state and national healthcare reform.
<b>2013</b>	Agency opens second Chittenden Clinic medication assisted treatment program in South Burlington.
<b>2014</b>	<b>Agency name changes to Howard Center with tagline Help is here.</b>
<b>2015</b>	Agency begins a two-year reorganization that integrates client care and services across the organization with the primary goals of ensuring responsiveness to client needs in a timely, engaged, and compassionate manner and simultaneously making Howard Center a rewarding and supportive place to work. Agency management is restructured to include a six person executive leadership team and a thirty person strategic leadership team.

**Color Key Coding for Timeline Items:** Baird Center for Children and Families | Howard Center | Champlain Drug and Alcohol Services | Merged into one organization



<b>2017</b>	As part of the Agency integration designed to improve the client experience and access to care, three separate and distinct mobile crisis teams (adult, children, and developmental services) merge into one team, as do three separate and distinct outpatient teams (adult, children/family, and developmental services) to further the mission of providing co-occurring and family-focused treatment. The new 24/7/365 mobile crisis service and hotline team is named First Call for Chittenden County.
<b>2018</b>	Community Outreach Team launched.
<b>2018</b>	Low Barrier Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) begins at Safe Recovery in October giving clients access to MAT on the day they request it, ensuring that when the person is ready, the system is ready.
<b>2018</b>	Chittenden Clinic UHC Campus MAT merges with the San Remo Drive Clinic Campus to unify care and create efficiencies in a single location.
<b>2019</b>	Agency launches an integrated Access and Intake service with one single phone number for people seeking information or services: 802-488-6000. In addition to improving accessibility, the service offers same day, next day, and mobile options for intake assessments and targeted outreach to underserved populations.
<b>2019</b>	<i>New culture code established: mission, vision, and values (see chart on next page).</i>
<b>2019</b>	Agency receives national award for “Excellence in Addictions Treatment” from the National Council for Behavioral Health conference in Nashville, Tennessee.
<b>2020</b>	Agency pivots to continue to provide services remotely via phone and video telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic that begins in Vermont in March. Residential and crisis in-person services remain in place throughout pandemic. Significant resources are required to facilitate the safety of clients and staff and to ensure that services remain available to the community.
<b>2021</b>	Agency and its partners close Northern Lights—a program to help women build healthy, productive lights after incarceration—in the historic Varney House in downtown Burlington. The Vermont Department of Corrections terminated funding support to shift to a new housing model.



HOWARD CENTER'S CULTURE CODE

# Mission \* Vision \* Values

MISSION

We help people and communities thrive by providing supports and services to address mental health, substance use, and developmental needs.

VISION

Howard Center is a national leader in the delivery of integrated and seamless community-based supports for individuals, families, and communities in need. [Help is here.](#)

VALUES

- Clients are at the heart of our decision making.
- We are committed to individual and collective well-being and success.
- We are responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us.
- We are steadfast in our practice and pursuit of excellence.

