If we had to pick a slogan for 2021 it would be “Hurry Up and Wait”. We spent the first months making contingency plans and then in a flash, everything came together. In the end we were able to operate all but one of our programs (and we are so excited to welcome Camp Kaleidoscope back in 2022). We rebooted by keeping public health front and center and by leaning into the natural assets of our site. Fresh air and open space are in ample supply here, so our programs went al fresco.

CGC ended 2021 by beginning a strategic planning process. Much of that work is focused on datapoints which is informative. However, our team often struggles to fit our work into metrics because CGC provides something that is often intangible. As we consider all that has changed in our daily lives over the past few years, it’s increasingly clear just how vital some of those intangibles truly are. Consider the smiles on faces that have been hidden behind a mask. Or the sense of calm and serenity that families experience together while they’re here. What about that child who sees a bull frog up close or watches a tadpole race away from their little feet? The return of these moments doesn’t track on a spreadsheet, but we are certainly proud to be part of making them happen.

The real magic of the past year was seeing how our community valued those all too critical moments. People were able to share a meal without worrying about sharing anything else, we had open air singing, children had their first s’more, went birdwatching for the first time, and yes—there were skinned knees (a key measure of success here at CGC:). As we prepared this report we decided to play with this idea of measurement in our own absurd way, but the reflection that went along with it was valuable to us all.

I hope you’ll look for ways to connect with us and with each other in coming years,

Sincerely,

Connor Timmons, Executive Director
CGC continued its relationship with ReSource’s Youthbuild program to add more outdoor dining in the form of picnic tables. But the biggest change came when two large tents arrived at camp. These allowed campers to connect in the fresh air without masks. In addition, we were able to find a secondhand trainset to add to our Kidville playground. The new features not only made our programs possible, but also quickly became favorite destinations for our campers.
In 2021 CGC recruited our 4th musketeer! Kate Bentley joined our merry band of year-round staff members as our Rental Coordinator this past September. With Kate onboard Emily Gibbs was able to make the move to Program Director. Christa Finnern, our Communications Coordinator, successfully ushered CGC into the online registration age and managed the redesign of our website. Executive Director Connor Timmons is now more focused on strengthening our board, creating new partnerships and generally ensuring the magic of CGC is available for everyone who needs it.
To say that we were excited to welcome back families after a year away was an understatement. We had planned to reduce the number of weeks of Camp Common Ground to three in 2020, so this was the first year with the new schedule. All three of our Adventure Camps (winter, spring, summer) came back too!

3 weeks of family camp
(+3 Adventure Camps)
We are so honored to work with Outright Vermont to provide a home for Camp Outright, a residential camp for queer and allied youth between the ages of 13-17. Navigating the world for our young people can be challenging and Camp Outright does a fantastic job building solidarity and resiliency in its campers. The demand for this camp has long exceeded the capacity for the one week program, so we were excited to offer a second week in July of 2021.
A much needed improvement to our commercial kitchen was finally installed in July 2021. This hood and fire suppression system allows us to have peace of mind that our campers, rental groups and partner organizations are safe and sound when using our kitchen. It would not have been possible without the generous support of a few key community members and represents a huge step forward for us as we make site upgrades.
COVID-19 cases transmitted

This might be the measure we appreciate the most. 2021 felt like a leap of faith for us and standing back to appreciate that our decisions paid off and kept the people we care about safe...that’s a source of immeasurable joy!
Income: $668,376

- Program: $215,599
- UBI: $85,986
- Misc Income: $718
- Donations: $120,539
- *Grants: $185,960

Expenses: $560,256

- Personnel: $343,203
- Operating: $109,706
- Facilities: $107,346

2021 Financials

*Support included COVID recovery funds through PPP loans and state and federal grants.
CGC continues to be a beautiful canvas where diverse groups create their own art and music. We’re proud to serve as a community hub for our partner organizations and look forward to more impactful collaborations in 2022.
We are grateful to our committed donors, who help us make every day possible at CGC.