Choosing children

The Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance (BT3), a project of Adirondack Foundation, aims to give all children the best possible chance to become healthy, happy, contributing members of their communities. BT3 is a boundary-crossing coalition of over 30 organizations, agencies, and community members in Clinton, Essex, and Franklin counties, as well as the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, working in unison to support local children 0 to 3 and their families.

BT3 recognizes the profound impact high quality care, nutrition, and education during the first 1,000 days have on successful human development. To make sure every child gets off to a great start, our alliance supports partners working in:

- home visiting for families with newborns and young children
- parenting education
- health services, including screening for social and emotional development
- high quality early education and child care

We are the North Country voice with statewide and broader coalitions advocating for public policy to expand capacity in these areas.

Our goals for 2018 include improving the number and quality of early-childhood caregivers and the number of children served through incentive programs, working with pediatricians to connect families with services, our family education campaign—Adk Basics, and measuring how well we do.

While the programs we support have a variety of funding streams, our BT3 Alliance is funded entirely by private philanthropy. We are especially grateful to the Chapel Hill, Cloudsplitter, and Grabe Family foundations, the Generous Acts Fund at Adirondack Foundation, and caring individuals for their leadership.

When our community members thrive, we all win. We hope you’ll join us.
Our mission
To support comprehensive and sustainable early childhood systems that together prepare young children and their families for success in school and life.

Essential components of the BT3 Alliance include early care and education, physical health, social-emotional development, and family support and education.

Our vision
That all young children are healthy, learning, and thriving in families that are supported by a full complement of services and resources essential for success in school and life.

Why is BT3 important?
Supporting children and their families is one of the best investments we can make.

Brains are built, not born
• 90% of brain development happens in first 1,000 days
• The brain is the only organ not fully developed at birth, forming 700 neural connections, synapses, every second

Early learning delivers lifelong rewards
• High quality early education is directly related to career and life success and less reliance on government assistance
• It is vital to support caregivers as well as children with a two-generational approach
• Positive early experiences build brains and affect life-long health
• “Serve and return” interactions between caregivers and babies strengthen resilience and social skills

Investing in early development today saves money tomorrow
• Birth-to-three programs cost pennies on the dollar compared to later intervention
• Long-term saving in the justice system, social services, education and health

Birth-to-three programs fuel our economy by building our workforce
• Early development is the foundation for a range of skills — language, motor, social and emotional connections, teamwork, ethical thinking, communication and problem solving

“Improving the lives of our youngest citizens, babies and toddlers, is the heart and soul of BT3’s mission. To this end, we must engage these children’s parents and caregivers, and that is exactly what we are working to achieve. Three years ago, we put together a plan with five key recommendations to improve the lives of children. We’re nailing down four of them already and continue relentlessly to forge a path to support families in creative and innovative ways.”

—Jamie Basiliere, Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country & BT3 co-chair
Our achievements

A sample of achievements supported and influenced by the Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance, Adirondack Foundation, and other partners.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**
- CCCCN and ACAP* recruited and trained 13 newly registered child care providers in our 3 counties who can serve some 150 children.
- **5X increase** in the number of child care providers in QUALITYstarsNY, the state's quality rating and improvement system, with best practice coaching and resources.
- Ready, Set, Grow! training for 145 college students and practitioners from our 3 counties on the impact that chronic trauma has on the developing child.
- 36 Head Start slots that were being lost to expansion of Pre-kindergarten converted to urgently needed Early Head Start slots, serving children 0-3.
- Supported North Country Thrive’s effort to achieve uniformity in kindergarten readiness assessments. In 2017-18, 15 of 26 school districts are using Dial-4. As a result, Thrive determined that 38% of those children were prepared for kindergarten.

**HEALTH SERVICES**
- Advocated as members of the Governor’s First 1,000 Days Medicaid Task Force plan. Some programs have made it to the 2019 proposed Executive Budget.
- Working on a potential replication of Help Me Grow to support evidenced-based developmental screening and make it easier for pediatricians and other health care practitioners to connect their patients to community resources.
- Baby Boxes containing essential supplies to new parents distributed through Adirondack Health, benefiting 200 families.

**PARENT EDUCATION**
- Delivered over 200 New Parent Kits, in a pilot for NYS, to expecting and new parents, with a New Parent Guide and What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick. 88% found the kits extremely or very helpful. Because of the positive response, we will produce and distribute more kits this year.

**HOME VISITING**
- Extending Healthy Families NY program of Behavioral Health Services North (BHSN) from Clinton County to serve 48 new families in Franklin County and the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation—thanks to a 5-year, $1 million grant from the Office of Children and Family Services awarded in large part because of our strong alliance of service providers.
- Produced family support service guides specific for each of our three counties available at doctors’ offices.

**ADVOCACY**
- Surveyed the BT3 membership to ID these legislative priorities for 2018-19: affordable childcare, improving access to high-quality health care and insurance, and increasing support for child care providers.
- For advocacy on statewide or broader scale, partnering with the Alliance for Early Success and the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy. With NY Funders Alliance, we plan to support the hiring of a Public Policy Fellow to work on early childhood policy in NYS.

For detailed information about our strategies and goals, please visit www.adirondackbt3.org.

*Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country and Adirondack Community Action Programs
Thanks to donors, these grants to day care providers support upgrades, equipment, and anything that will enhance the daily experience of our children. Our thanks to the Adirondack Community Action Partnership (ACAP) and the Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country (CCCCNC) for facilitation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grants</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>grants to childcare providers across the Adirondack region</td>
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<td>$38,822</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>grants for developmental toys</td>
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<tr>
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<td>grants to get kids outside</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>grants for literacy materials</td>
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<td>grants to professional development</td>
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**BT3 Steering Committee**

Chaired by Jamie Basiliere of CCCCNC, dedicated volunteers meet monthly to set regional strategy and implement it. Bob Frawley, a member of the NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council, with support from Bonnie Keet of Cloudsplitter Foundation, serves as interim director.

- Adirondack Community Action Partnership
- Adirondack Foundation
- Behavioral Health Services North/
  Healthy Families Clinton County
- Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country
- Chapel Hill Foundation
- Clinton County Health Department
- Early Childhood Advisory Council of NYS
- Essex County Department of Health
- Essex County Department of Social Services
- Essex County Women Infant Children
- 4EverKids Family Child Care
- Franklin County Public Health
- Joint Council for Economic Opportunity
- Lake Placid Central School
- Plattsburgh Primary Care Pediatrics
- SUNY Plattsburgh
- Teaching Improves Performance
- Tiny Tykes Day Care

**BT3 advocates**

*The Alliance’s ambassadors and fundraisers:*

- Joan Grabe, Chair
- Nancy Keet
- Annette Merle-Smith
- Ann Schoff
- Nancy Wolcott

**How to give**

Donate online at [www.adirondackbt3.org/give-now](http://www.adirondackbt3.org/give-now).

Mail a check, made out to Adirondack Foundation with “BT3” in the memo line, to Russ Cronin, Adirondack Foundation, PO Box 288, Lake Placid, NY 12946.

Or call us at (518) 523-9904.

We’d love to hear from you. Thank you!

*Healthy Families has had such a positive impact on our lives. Our support worker answered our questions and reassured us when we needed it as first-time parents.*

— Samantha Worthington & Anass Bouyadi, Plattsburgh