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# Growing the Dream

A College Savings Quarterly, Winter 2006

VHEIP Message

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Calculator

Happy holidays!

Believe it or not, your child's winter break nearly marks the halfway point of the school year. That's one year closer to a high school diploma and the start of college.

Are you on track with your college savings? You've already taken the first step in creating a college investment plan. However, regular contributions are an important component in helping you work toward your investment goals.

Plus, a state taxpayer (or, in the case of a married couple filing jointly, each spouse) is eligible for a tax credit of 5 percent of the first \$2,000 per beneficiary contributed to the plan in each taxable year. Spouses must contribute separately to the plan during the taxable year in order for them both to be entitled to a tax credit (a total of \$200). Starting January 1, 2007, the credit will increase to 10 percent of the first \$2,500 contributed.

Further, I encourage you to utilize the educational tools and programs that you find in this newsletter.

Thank you for investing in your VHEIP account and your child. Enjoy your holiday season.

*Donald R. Vickers,  
President & CEO, Vermont  
Student Assistance  
Corporation*

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Program Director,  
TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing,  
Inc.*

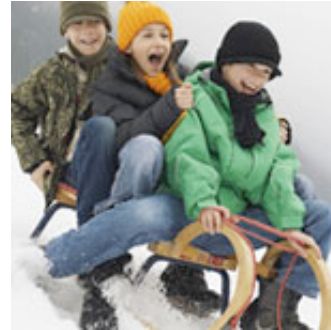
## In The Community

Help create a larger Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan (VHEIP) community. Share with your friends and neighbors how they might be able to take

Season's greetings.

It's that time of the year again. Time to celebrate a fast-approaching holiday season, the end of one year and the start of the next.

This year, as you celebrate the holidays with your family and loved ones, remember the gift you've already begun to give your child—a better future. It's easy to be distracted, especially financially, during the holiday season, but consider [making a contribution to your college savings plan](#). Doing so today makes it easier tomorrow.



### Automatic Contribution Plan

It's an easy way to make regular automatic contributions to your VHEIP account through direct fund transfers from your bank account. To sign up or to increase your automatic contributions, either [print the form](#) to mail in or go [online](#).

## Spotlight Features



### Give Your Children a Gift They Won't Outgrow

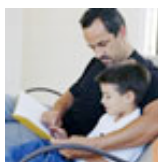
Whether it's the latest video game or a brand-new outfit, your children will outgrow most of their holiday gifts. However, there is one present that will always fit—an investment in their future.

Making a contribution to their college savings may be the best gift you can give this holiday season. The more money you contribute, the more likely you'll be prepared to meet those rising college costs.

You can [contribute now](#).

Plus, with our [gift certificate](#), you—or any family member—can make a contribution and print a gift certificate to give your child!

Interested to see how you're doing against your goals? [Find out using our calculator](#).

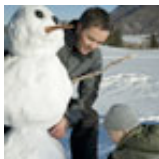


### Challenge Yourself and Your Child to Read a New Book

December is Read a New Book Month. It's the perfect opportunity to discover a new title, author, or even series. Not sure where to find a new title?

Visit [mothergooseprograms.org](#) for babies through K-4 or [KidsReads.com](#) for the latest in children's and young adult literature. And for you? Check out the [Vermont Humanities Council](#) website, the [New York Times Bestsellers List](#) or [Publishers Weekly Bestsellers](#).

advantage of the program to help meet their higher education needs.



## Fun Activities for the Holiday Break

Just because school's out doesn't mean that the fun has to wait for the New Year.

Winter break is an excellent time to introduce your child to the local library. Chances are your library has exciting activities planned throughout the break.

For fun around the house, bring the winter wonderland inside by making your own snowmen. How? Just mix 2 cups of mild, powdered laundry detergent with ½ cup of water. Then, let your imagination run wild with whatever materials you have available. Learn more at [FamilyFun.com](http://FamilyFun.com).

For a more involved project, and one that could last the entire holiday vacation, try building a [gingerbread house](#). It's fun and delicious!

### Account Login Links

- [Make a Contribution](#)
- [Start/Change Automatic Contribution Plan](#)
- [Update Personal Information](#)
- [Check Current Investment Performance](#)

### Services & Forms Links

- [Account Forms](#)
- [Make a Withdrawal](#)
- [Update Personal Information](#)
- [Rollover Form](#)

### Calculator Link

- [College Savings Calculator](#)
- [VSAC EFC Calculator](#)

### Additional Useful Links

- [Vermont Student Assistance Corp.](#)
- [VHEIP Investment Results](#)
- [TIAA-CREF](#)



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**Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expense before investing in VHEIP. Please visit [vsac.org](http://vsac.org) for a [Disclosure Booklet](#) containing this and other information. Read it carefully.**

**Before investing in a 529 plan, you should consider whether the state you or your Beneficiary reside in or have taxable income has a 529 plan that offers favorable state income tax or other benefits that are only available if you invest in that state's 529 plan.**

**The tax information contained herein is not intended to be used, and cannot be used, by any taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties. It was written to support the promotion of VHEIP. Taxpayers should seek advice based on their own particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.**

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