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1772 Foundation Awards \$50,000 for VYCC's East Monitor Barn

Richmond, VT, February 11, 2009 – The VYCC announced today that the Connecticut-based 1772 Foundation has generously awarded the VYCC with a \$50,000 grant to support the rehabilitation of the recently purchased East Monitor Barn. Once renovated, the East and West Monitor Barns and nearly 400 accompanying acres will return to a single, conserved ownership for productive and sustainable, agricultural, educational and recreational use. These combined facilities will be training headquarters for the VYCC, allowing for continued organizational growth, including the expansion of a year-round and statewide alternative education program.

In April of 2008, following the purchase and successful rehabilitation of the West Monitor Barn, the VYCC acquired the neighboring East Monitor Barn, Carriage Barn, Farm House and 160 acres in order to fully develop the *'Monitor Barn Leadership, Education and Training Center.'* Representing a highpoint in human and animal powered agriculture, these turn-of-the-century barns are one among Vermont's most important examples of architectural and agricultural heritage. The barns' unique ventilating system runs from the windows in the clerestory to the stalls in the lowest floor, and allowed farmers to "monitor" the air flow. At the time of their construction, they represented a major advance in agrarian architecture.

Initially, the East Monitor Barn will need to be raised, a new foundation will be installed, and internal post and beam rehabilitation work completed. The VYCC is in discussion with various contractors and hopes to begin the first stages of work later this year.

Support from the 1772 Foundation makes this first phase of work possible, and according to Tom Hark, founding President of the VYCC, "this gift symbolizes a new beginning for a great Vermont structure. These barns are a great source of pride and we can't wait to use them in ways that strengthen our programs and deepen our ties to the traditions and landscape of the region."



The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps is a nonprofit youth, leadership, service, conservation, and education organization that instills in individuals the values of personal responsibility, hard work, education, and respect for the environment. This is accomplished by using conservation projects as the vehicle for learning in an intense environment.