

Anne Lezak

My husband and I moved to “suburban” Rutland decades ago, knowing no one. We connected with our community and loved raising our three children there. I've long done consulting work with nonprofits with expertise in strategic planning, board development, and leadership and was a grant-writer and editor, editing five books and many reports. For many years I've led grant-writing courses and workshops. I managed a three-year federally funded grant project aimed at helping Vermont nonprofits improve performance and led programming at Mercy Connections, an inspiring nonprofit in Burlington, where I now live.

When my husband ran for state representative, I was his campaign manager. He won and I jumped into politics, most recently serving as Vermont Democratic Party Chair in 2022-23.

We joined Peace Corps Response in 2017 and spent a life-changing year in Mbarara, Uganda. I've returned to Uganda seven times, supporting the nonprofit where I volunteered, most recently for four months last year.

I've been telling stories at the Burlington Moth and other venues for awhile now. My experience is that sharing my personal stories in public and hearing others tell their own tales creates a gratifying sense of community spirit.