



THE CUPBOARD

THE WILLISTON COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2024

Established in 2008

Mission Statement: Our mission is to provide high-quality food to those in need in our community, and to help connect our clients, and their families, with essential support services. We are the primary Food Shelf for Williston, St. George, and Richmond, and provide Emergency Bags for anyone in need.

We are a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.

Website: www.willistonfoodshelf.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1605, Williston, VT 05495

Physical Address: 400 Cornerstone Drive, Suite 130, Williston, VT 05495

Telephone: 802-578-0586

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday:

5:00-6:30 pm

Thursday:

9:00-11:00 am

Saturday:

9:00-11:00 am

WCFS Board of Directors

Ginger Morton, President
Cindy Marcotte, V.P./Treasurer
Ilene Snow, Asst. Treasurer
Betsy Johnson, Secretary
Jennifer Selwah
Larry Pillsbury
Elise Polli

Sally Metro,
Operations Manager



Long time Food Shelf supporter, Matt Tolosky of the North Country Credit Union presented Ginger Morton a check for \$750 to purchase 15 Wheeled Carts for our clients who walk to the Food Shelf.



Jill Lange Volunteer of the Year

Each year, the Board chooses to recognize one Volunteer who we feel has gone “Above and Beyond” the call of duty for the Food Shelf. The Annual Award is named in honor of the wonderful *Jill Lang*, who started the Williston Community Food Shelf in 2008. This year we chose Amy Saladgo. Amy has worked at the Food Shelf for many years. She works diligently, and prefers to stay under the radar. Amy can “do it all” at the Food Shelf. We are very thankful to have her. Saturday Shift Leader, Carmen LaFlamme presented Amy her award in January.



The Food Shelf tries to have a small selection of Personal Hygiene products for our clients. We all know that Dental Hygiene is very important. The Food Shelf would like to sincerely thank Champlain Orthodontics, Williston Road Family Dental, Associates in Orthodontics, and Ryan Gosselin, DDS for donating Toothbrushes and Toothpaste to us. Each of these practices has also agreed to donate again in 2024. Together we are making a difference!!

Members of the Junior League of the Champlain Valley volunteered at the Food Shelf on Turkey Day. Because they liked what they saw, the Junior League has asked us to partner with them for the **Little Black Flannel Initiative**, a fundraiser benefitting both organizations. There will be multiple events and an online silent auction. Please check out the website at:

<https://champlainvalley.jl.org/community/curent-projects/lbfi/>

As part of the Little Black Flannel Initiative, the Food Shelf will be hosting an

Open House on Wednesday,
April 17, 2024
from 5:00-7:00 pm.



SAVE

THE



APRIL 14-20
2024

DATE

President's Page

What a year 2023 was for the Williston Community Food Shelf. I had absolutely no idea that there could be a more challenging year to guide a food shelf than during the pandemic. I was wrong!

As you can from the statistics below, we saw a very large increase in clients served.

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
<i>Total # of Families Served</i>	1,925	2,371	3,609
<i>Total # Individuals Served</i>	5,416	6,503	9,721
Monthly Average	451	542	729
Seniors	1,119	1,318	1,501
Children	1,567	1,949	2,846
<i>New Clients</i>	125	128	245

When there is a 52% increase in Families Served, and a 91% increase in New Clients walking through the door, it is my job to make sure there is enough food to feed them and enough volunteers to serve them. Volunteers are not the problem. Most operate with the motto "Bring it On, We Can Do This!"

Feeding all of these folks, however, is a bit more of a challenge. **The Food Shelf has no guaranteed source of funding. We are 100% dependent on the generosity of our local community members.** I went in front of the Selectboard in October and asked that the Food Shelf be considered for some of the AARPA Funding. I also went to them again in January asking that the Food Shelf be included as a line item in the Town Budget. Unfortunately, the Selectboard did not approve either request. We did receive a \$5,000 grant from the Town of Williston Social Organization Committee, which is most appreciated. We mailed a flyer to each Williston address and P.O. Box in November which netted us about \$30,000. Thank you to all residents and businesses who participated in that campaign!

We sent letters to 25 large businesses in Williston last Fall, asking them to do Food Drives for us then and again in 2024. Sincere thanks go out to New England Chimney Supply, DEW Construction, Flex-a-Seal, Polly Insurance, Village Hardware, and the Trinity Baptist School for doing Food Drives for us. If you would like to do a Food Drive for us, there is a tab on our website www.willistonfoodshelf.com, some helpful hints.

Despite of the food donations we receive, three times a week, from Hannaford, Panera Bread, Starbucks, and twice a week from Shaw's, **we spend \$10,000 per month on Food.** We also spend \$3,750 each month in rent and utilities. While doing the volume that we do with volunteers could be difficult, our volunteers do amazing work. I am thankful that we do not have to use our funds to pay for salaries and benefits, thereby allowing us to use most of our money to actually Feed our Hungry Neighbors.

In 2024, we will continue to search for other funding sources, and make connections in our community. Thank you all for your continued support and generosity. We could not be Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors without you!

Sincerely,
Ginger Morton, President

Thinking about Spring? If any of you are planning your summer gardens, please consider planting extra plants and sharing some of your harvest with the Food Shelf. Our clients LOVE the opportunity to choose fresh veggies, fruit and flowers when they come to shop. Usually, the only fresh produce that we have is the produce that Hannaford donates to us when they can no longer sell it. Over the years, we have taught many clients how to cook/serve fresh veggies. We welcome goodies from your gardens!



**Williston Community Food Shelf
P.O. Box 1605
Williston, VT 05495**

The Williston Community Food Shelf Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Donation Amount: _____

May we please have your email address? _____

Checks Payable to: Williston Community Food Shelf -P.O. Box 1605 Williston, VT 05495

On-line payments are available through PayPal. www.willistonfoodshelf.com