

THE CUPBOARD

THE WILLISTON COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2023

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
Kevin Mazuzan

Sally Metro,
Operations Manager

Happy New Year One and All! The Williston Community Food Shelf closed out it's 14th year in business with Flying Colors.

Once again, our dedicated volunteers staffed:

- 3 shifts per week of shopping with clients (averaging 3 hours per shift),
- 9 pickups per week of Hannaford, Starbucks and Panera Bread shift donations,
- 8 pickups per week of food donated by citizens, at collection bins around town,
- 1 pickup per week of groceries we ordered to supplement our supplies,
- 6 pickups per week of bread and meat donations,
- 1 monthly diaper pickup in So. Burlington,
- 1 monthly produce pickup in So. Burlington,
- 1 monthly delivery from the Vermont Food Bank
- our annual Turkey Day where 150 Turkeys were collected
- 20 hours per month keeping track of donations and finances and sending out thank you notes.

That, is an AMAZING number of volunteer hours to support our less fortunate neighbors. Thank you to each of our dedicated volunteers for your contribution to our success!

There once was a girl named Clara

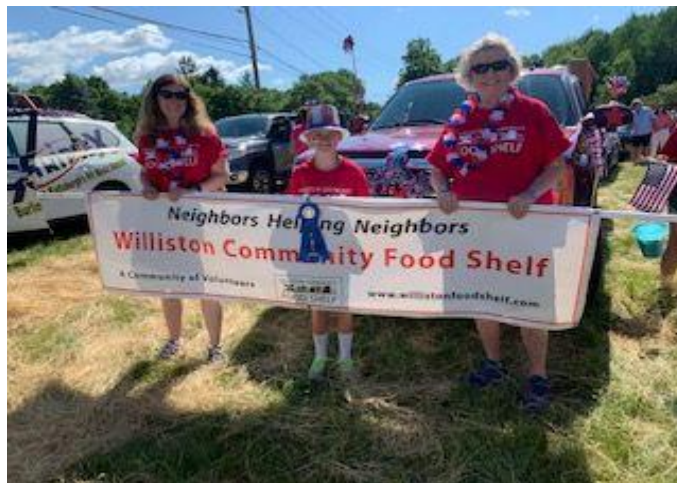
Most years, the Williston Community Food Shelf has a presence in the Williston 4th of July parade with walkers, a float or something. This past year none of the usual organizers were able to step up, and the Board decided we would forgo participation.

Clara (pictured in the top photo) is a 10 year old girl from Williston who has been part of the parade for many years. She was a bit heart broken when she heard that the WCFS would not be in the parade in 2022. Clara wrote a letter to one of our Board members drafting a proposal that she had come up with to make a float and gather a group of walkers.

Clara, and a few close friends, gathered boxes and painted them to look like packages of food. She convinced her Dad that he should let her load them in the back of his truck, which he should then drive in the parade, and she recruited a pack of volunteers to walk in the parade, food shelf banner and all!

Clara, and her crew not only collected several bins of food and \$268.00 in cash donations for the Food Shelf, her float also won first place for the Best Organization in the Parade!!

Thank you Clara, from the bottom of our hearts, for a job well done! We so appreciate your efforts and enthusiasm!



Some things that the COVID Pandemic taught us:

1. During the pandemic, we stopped having clients actually come in to the Food Shelf. We created a large Grocery List, which clients filled out in their cars, a Volunteer chose the groceries requested, and brought them out to the client's car. This method worked well for keeping both clients and volunteers safe. What we didn't consider though, was that some of our clients have medical issues that prevent them from comfortably coming inside to shop. Now that clients are allowed back in to the Food Shelf, we still have some who prefer to use our curbside/grocery list method.
2. Our clients are very grateful for us staying open during the pandemic and for all that we do for them. They are very flexible and understanding.
3. We live in a very generous community. Citizens and Businesses stepped up their donations of money and food to assure that we can continue to meet our clients' needs.
4. The Supply Chain issues that surfaced during the pandemic are not resolving quickly.

Presently, we have lost our Coffee Supplier. If you are out shopping, and want to make some folks VERY happy, feel free to pick some up for us. We are also running short of wet dog and cat food for our clients' furry friends.

While we all thought that the COVID years, 2020-2021, were the most difficult years for our clients, and were thinking that 2022 would be better for them, that is not what our statistics show. As indicated in the chart below, in 2022, the Williston Community Food Shelf saw a significant increase in the number of clients that we are serving.

	<u>2021</u>		<u>2022</u>	
<i>Total # of Families Served</i>	<i>1925</i>		<i>2371</i>	
Monthly Average	160		194	
Family Size: 1-3	1268	66%	1633	70%
Family Size: 4-5	432	22%	508	21%
Family Size: 6+	226	12%	223	9%
 <i>Total # Individuals Served</i>	 <i>5416</i>		 <i>6503</i>	
Monthly Average	451		542	
Seniors	1119	21%	1318	17%
Children	1567	29%	1949	30%
 <i>New Clients</i>	 <i>125</i>		 <i>128</i>	

With prices still rising, and the former Towne Place Suites property being purchased by the Champlain Housing Trust and renovated into apartments for the previously homeless, the WCFS Board is anticipating that our numbers will continue to grow in 2023.

Sincere thanks to the following businesses, and community organizations for their large contributions of food/money this year:



Rose Computer, USCIS Feds Feed Families Program, DEW Construction, Hannafords, Global Foundries Food Sculpture Contest, Roadside Motor Sports, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Mac's Market, NEFCU, North Country Federal Credit Union, E4H Architecture, Town of Williston Social Organization Committee, an Anonymous benefactor, Shaw's Stuff-A-Truck Event, EPS, Flex-A-Seal, Polli Companies, Community Bank Foundation, Tuberville, Wellfound Physical Therapy, Williston Federated Church, Williston Boy Scouts, Benevity Community Impact Fund, Healthy Living Café & Market, National Life Group, Rice Lumber, Adams Farm Market, Town Fair Tire Foundation

We do not publish the names of private citizens who donate to us.

Photo is of a Vermont National Guardsman delivering food to us from the Shaw's Stuff-a Truck event in November.

Thinking about Spring? If any of you are planning your summer gardens, please consider planting some 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 client 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