

The Cupboard



Volume 1 Issue 2

Mission of this Newsletter:

TO EDUCATE AND INFORM PEOPLE ABOUT THE WILLISTON FOODSHELF, HUNGER IN VERMONT AND HOW THEY CAN HELP

September 2009

September is Hunger Action Month

One in ten Vermonters struggles with hunger in our community. That is why the Vermont Foodbank and the Williston Community Food Shelf are stepping up this September during Hunger Action Month to feed more Vermonters than ever before through the “Give a Little, Feed a Lot” campaign.

When you look around these days, you see more and more people brown bagging it. We’re eating out less so we have more left at the end of the month. But there are many in our community who don’t have the luxury of even a brown bag lunch. Will you join us and take action by “brown bagging it” a little more often and donating what you would have spent on eating out in the month of September? Even \$10 goes a long way toward alleviating hunger.

4th of July Parade



During the 4th of July parade and evening fireworks display, Williston donated over \$1800 and a pickup truck full of food to the Community Food Shelf! This generous support completely funded our Summer Program for Kids which provides breakfast and lunch supplies

to children who, during the school year, receive these subsidized meals at school. We believe that no Williston child should ever go hungry and clearly so do many, many of you.

From the Board...

When we first began the campaign to bring a food shelf to Williston in the summer of 2008 gas prices were sky high and it was being forecasted that home heating oil costs would be more than double the previous year’s. None of us anticipated the devastating economic downturn that hit our country just as we opened our doors in November. Now, almost a year later, we are serving 150 families a month: our neighbors who might otherwise go hungry.

The Food Shelf’s success is entirely due to the sustained commitment and generosity of our donors and volunteers: schools, churches, businesses, Girl Scouts, Postal workers, and kids who donate their birthday money. We couldn’t do this without you!



Postal Workers in Vermont collected boxes and boxes of food and donated them to food shelves around Vermont.

Our Newest Sponsors

Essex Alliance Church

The members of the Essex Alliance Church have dug deep to sponsor the Food Shelf. The first Sunday of each month the Church holds a massive food drive. Sunday afternoon trucks pull up at 121 Connor Way to unload 6 to 8 huge recycling bins and 30 to 50 boxes of non-perishable food and toiletry items. We could not have met the increased food needs this summer with their help!



Rose Computer

You wouldn't think to run a business these days without computer support, but the Food Shelf Board could not justify the expense of hardware, support and internet service while struggling to meet the needs of the hungry. David Rose of Rose Computer Technology Services which provides local companies with comprehensive Information Technology Services came to our aid. We now have the tools to better communicate with stakeholders and efficiently deliver much needed services to our

Williston Observer

OK, The Williston Observer is not a NEW sponsor—our local paper has been a key part of our success since the beginning. This summer however, the newspaper and its staff has gone above and beyond the call of duty with its "Plant a Row for the Hungry" program. Local gardeners planted just a bit more than they need this spring and have sent the surplus to us. Master Gardeners have a plot in Williston specifically devoted to the Plant A Row program. Food Shelf clients have enjoyed fresh, locally grown lettuce, herbs, and vegetables all summer long. Thanks to the Williston Observer and to all you generous gardeners out there!

Outstanding Volunteer!

Our outstanding volunteer for this issue of The Cupboard is Ryan Simmons. Ryan is a 2009 graduate of CVU High School. The summer before his senior year, he attended the early organizational meetings of the Food Shelf and volunteered to help. Ryan became a board member and then turned this interest into his capstone graduation project.

Ryan's first job was to

build three or four yellow food collection boxes to be placed around town, then we needed five, then six. Now you see them all over. His next task was tougher: he and Dylan Hudson held a teen concert fundraiser at the Old Brick Church and raised \$950. Ryan also was a regular volunteer on the Tuesday night shift at the Foodshelf. In his spare time, he designed and built our website.

"I chose this topic because I thought it would be a good way for me to give back to the community," says Ryan. "The part I enjoyed most was helping the customers shop and have them be so grateful that we could provide them with food."



Visit our website for updated information in between newsletters. Our page includes:

- Contact Information
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Community Events
- Donation form
- Much more...

Ways to Help:

Volunteers are always needed!

Volunteers are needed for our Tuesday night and Saturday morning shifts. To sign up, email Iwantto-help@willistonfoodshelf.com or just stop by during our hours of operation.

Volunteers must be 18 years old or older

Old Brick Church Concert Series

Friday October 16th

Alturas Duo

Proceeds benefit the Williston Community Food Shelf

More information at
www.brickchurchmusic.com

Art Auction

Look in the Williston Observer for our "Art Piece of the Week". Bids can be made on line or purchase it outright by emailing IN-FO@willistonfoodshelf.com. See the pieces live at the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library

Are you an IBMer?

The Williston Food Shelf is now listed as an official charity on the Employee Charitable Contribution Web Site. Please support your favorite charities.

Williston Community Food Shelf
PO Box 1605
Williston, VT 05495

Williston Community Food Shelf Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Donation: _____

Please Make Check Payable to: Williston Community Food Shelf

May we Use you name in a list of donors? Yes No

Are You Interested in Volunteering? Yes No