



THE CUPBOARD

THE WILLISTON COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF
NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter, 2019

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 serve the Williston, St. George, and Richmond communities, 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: 802-735-6303

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
Burta Kelly, V.P. & Treasurer
Jen Daudelin, Asst. Treasurer
Betsy Johnson, Secretary
Larry Pillsbury
Sarah Mason
Jennifer Selwah

Sally Metro,
Operations Manager



Our Major Fundraising event of the year, the *9th Annual Williston Chowder Challenge*, presented by the **Northfield Savings Bank**, was held on Sunday, October 6, 2019. It was perfect chowder tasting weather - a bit cloudy and overcast, but the rain held off. We made \$10,000 to benefit the Food Shelf and the Williston Police Association. What does it take to put on this event?

1. Generous Sponsors

Platinum: Northfield Savings Bank

Gold: Radio North Group, Environmental Hazards Management, Rick's Towing, Munson Earth Moving, New England Air Systems, Office Furniture Exchange

Silver: National Life of Vermont, Otter Creek Awnings, Vermont Paint Company, Essex Agway, Kiss the Cook, F.E. Hart Fence Company, Williston Self Storage, CCR Sales and Service

In-kind: Casella Waste Management, Creed Ice, Eternity Web Design, P & P Septic, Delta Electric, Staples Copy Center, Vermont Tent, Hannaford Williston, Sustainable Williston, Deb Goller, Pete Watson

Friends: Kinney Pike Insurance, Davis and Hodgdon, Bouchard Pierce, Danaher, Attig & Plante, Vermont Bowl

2. Contestants

Vermont Meat and Seafood, El Gato Cantina, Vermont Tap House, Champlain College Dining Services, Smokey's Low and Slow, Natural Provisions, Igor Polenov, Richmond Market, Hairy Paws Grooming, Williston Fire Department, Williston Police Department, Williston Town Clerk's Office, Williston School District, Essex Junction Fire Department

3. Entertainment

Home Depot Kids Build, Hyper Focus Art, Big Blue Train, Top Hat Entertainment, Dorothy Alling Memorial Library Book Mobile and local musician Bob Cotton on the guitar!

4. Vendors

Several local vendors, including Procaffinators, a coffee bar in a converted horse trailer.

5. People

Over 700 Attendees, and 52 volunteers!

And the Winners are:

Traditional Chowder

1st Place: Vermont Meat and Seafood

2nd Place: Smokey's Low and Slow

3rd Place: Richmond Corner Market

Non-Traditional Chowder

1st Place: El Gato Cantina

2nd Place: Champlain College Dining Services

3rd Place: Williston School District

Thank you one and all! See you again next year!

WCFS Turkey Day!

Saturday, November 23, 2019 was our Annual Turkey Collection/Distribution Day! Sixteen hearty volunteers, 5 of whom were St. Michael's College students, helped serve 44 food shelf clients, and collect the 206 turkeys that we received that day. Special thanks to the *New England Federal Credit Union* for the 75 turkeys that they donated, and to *E4H Architecture* for the 27 turkeys that they donated!

Between 11/21 and 11/26/19, we served 135 families or 362 individuals. We collected 238 Turkeys, gave 86 out to our clients, and 30 to Feeding Chittenden in Burlington. We are saving the rest to give to our clients for Christmas. We also received, and gave out, 16 Turkey Dinners from Shaw's Turkey Bucks Program, and many gift cards.

This can be a particularly stressful time of the year when kids are home from school, family may be visiting, and the food budget is being stretched. Our clients are always very appreciative of the generous donations we receive at this time of the year so their dinner tables are not missing any of the traditional "fixins". **A heartfelt thank you to all of you who were able to help support the WCFS mission with either food or gift card donations. We are truly blessed to live in a very generous community**



WCFS President Ginger Morton, Board Member Jen Selwah and a few of our wonderful volunteers, from the Thursday morning crew, accepted a \$2,000 check from Matt Tolosky from the North Country Credit Union on 11/21/19.

Did You Know?

- The Williston Community Food Shelf is a 100% Volunteer Organization. We have no paid staff. We are always looking for more volunteers!
- It takes about 40 hours of volunteers' time to do the pickups, deliveries, administration and shift coverage for us to be open 3 shifts per week. That is a lot of volunteer time!
- We have a dedicated team of volunteers who come the first Sunday of every month to receive the huge donation from the Essex Alliance Church as a result of their Matthew:25 giving program.
- About 90 people have volunteered their time to keep the food shelf running this year. Thank you one and all!
- 65% of our monetary donations come from Individuals, 23% from Businesses, 10% from Fundraising, and 2% from Interest Income.
- We accept donations of new and used Children's Books, as we keep a small library for our clients.
- The Food Shelf collects new Hats, Mittens, Scarves and Socks for our clients during the winter months.
- Each shift, we pick up Produce, Deli, Bakery and Meat products from Hannaford in Williston. In 2019, we have received 23,852 lbs. of meat; 14,428 lbs. of deli products; and 11,956 lbs. of bread products!
- Each shift we also pick up leftover bakery products from Panera Bread and Starbucks Williston Locations.
- Lucy's House, a non-profit in Essex Junction, assists us in providing food for our clients' pets.
- The Food Shelf provides some school supplies in August each year to assist our clients' children with their "Back to School" needs.
- We provide a "School Vacation Bag" full of kid-friendly goodies to our Williston, Richmond and St. George families every school vacation to help fill any gaps created when the School Lunch Program is not available.

Amazon Smile: If you are an Amazon Shopper, did you know that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from customers' eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organizations they select? The Williston Community Food Shelf is an approved Charitable Organization. To make your Amazon purchase, simply log in through this link smile.amazon.com/ch/26-2988391, and we will receive some benefit from the value of your eligible purchases. Your Amazon email and password are required when you log in the first time.

**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