



THE CUPBOARD

THE WILLISTON COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2022

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

At our Annual Meeting on February 16, 2022, our WCFS Board said goodbye to Burta Kelly, Jen Daudelin and Sarah Mason.

Burta had been on the Board since 2013, and had been our Treasurer for the last 5 years. Burta CARES! She has been a fierce and compassionate supporter of our clients. She juggles a lot, but always wears a smile, and has managed to keep us financially on track.

Jen had been on the Board since 2013, and has been the Assistant Treasurer for 5 years. She created a wonderful system for recording donors and assuring that thank you notes go out to them on a timely basis. Jen has also moved a fair number of groceries that have been purchased from Shaws over the years, but she isn't giving that up!
Jen is moving on to working full time.

Sarah had been on the Board for 4 years. Sarah is always willing to do whatever needs to be done, and she has brought a lot of community knowledge to us.

We thank them all for their time, energy and kindness, and wish them well!

We would like to welcome Cindy Marcotte, Ilene Snow and Kevin Mazuzan to the Board. Cindy brings years of accounting knowledge to us and has agreed to takeover as Treasurer. Ilene is a retired registered nurse, and dedicated food shelf volunteer. She has agreed to become the Assistant Treasurer. Kevin is the Director of the Vermont Red Cross and brings with him a wide range of skills in the social services field.

It Takes a Village, by *Ginger Morton, President.*:

Every time I go to our little Food Shelf, I am amazed. In the 13 years of its existence, the Food Shelf has moved 3 times, each time to get bigger and better. We continue to serve thousands of people each year, cheerfully, **with no paid staff**. In December of 2021, we hit the 100,000 people served mark! We **ARE** fulfilling our mission of Feeding our Hungry Neighbors, and we have money in the bank to pay the rent!!

In our most recent move, that occurred last fall, we swapped our shopping area and stock room. Our landlord pulled up carpet, put down flooring, painted walls. We bought 2 commercial freezers and 3 commercial refrigerators from Big Apple Appliance in Colchester, and some more shelving, and WOW what an improvement. We have been able to expand our cold offerings with cheese and yogurt, and are able to keep produce refrigerated now. We can also stockpile meat as we have much better freezer space. When we allow clients back into the food shelf, the substantially larger shopping area will allow for much safer distancing. The move and upgrades cost about \$20,000, and was funded by an anonymous donation that we received in March of 2020.

There are a few partners within our community who allow us to be as successful as we are:

Hannaford donates bakery, deli, produce and meat to us **every shift**

Panera Bread, Starbucks and Boyea Fassetts donate bread products to us **every shift**.

We are very grateful for these donations, and they make a great impact on what we are able to offer our clients.

Every week, about 20 hearty souls volunteer for a shift, at the Food Shelf, to shop for customers, restock shelves, and distribute extra food. A heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you. We couldn't do it without you!

We also have several unsung heroes who work under the radar, behind the scenes to keep us going smoothly:

Dave Rose of Rose Computer has paid our internet bill for the last 10 years, and he keeps our computer current and safe at no cost to us.

Steve Stoddard and Pete Dwyer do weekly pickups at our donation bins at Hannaford, Shaws, Healthy Living and the Library.

Andre Parent, Alice Michalak and Drew Nelson do early morning Tuesday, or late evening Monday, pickups at *Panera* and *Hannaford*.

Reed Parker, Andrew Beecher, Walter Nardelli and Chris Stewart meet, and unload, the monthly delivery from the Vermont Foodbank.

Jan Ellis-Clements from Lucy's House provides us with dog and cat food.

Coffee Enterprises in Hinesburg regularly donates ground coffee to us.

The Williston Community Food Shelf is proof that "It Takes a Village." I would like to sincerely thank each "Villager" on behalf of the Williston Community Food Shelf and our clients.

Many Thanks! The Board of the Williston Community Food Shelf would like to offer our sincere thanks to the ministers and congregation of the *Essex Alliance Church*. On the first Sunday of each month for 10 years, the congregation of the Essex Alliance Church donated about 40 cartons, and 6 large plastic trash bins, FULL of food to us under their M25 (Matthew 25) Food for the Hungry program. Because the Church has chosen not to go forward with their plan to build a new campus in Williston, they have decided to give the food from their M25 program to Aunt Dot's Place in Essex, where their campus is.

When the Alliance Church began donating to us, their donations were the only ones that we could count on. We knew that on the first Sunday of each month, their generous congregation would provide food for our clients. Over the years, the Alliance Church donated thousands of pounds of food to us. The Food Shelf is blessed to have had the Alliance Church ministers and congregation on our team.

Looking Forward to Summer: As the school year comes to a close, and people go on vacation, the number of Food Drives conducted for the Williston Community Food Shelf **dramatically decline**, as do other Food Donations. Unfortunately, **Hunger does not "Go on Vacation"**.

In addition to the fresh produce, bakery products and meat donated to us every shift, each client that comes to the Food Shelf receives Pasta and Pasta Sauce; Canned Soup, Fruit, Beans, Diced Tomatoes and Vegetables; Peanut Butter and Jelly; Boxed Macaroni and Cheese; Laundry Detergent; Personal Hygiene Products; Dog/Cat Food; Juice; Crackers; Toilet Paper; Snacks; Milk; Butter; Cheese; Yogurt and Eggs.

We also provide a "School Vacation Bag" full of kid-friendly goodies to our Williston, Richmond and St. George clients all summer, to help fill any gaps created when the School Lunch Program is not available.

Also, the Food Shelf provides some school supplies in August each year to assist our clients' children with their "Back to School" needs.

Please consider using the drop boxes at Hannaford, Shaw's, Healthy Living, or the Dorothy Alling Library, or stop by the Food Shelf when we are open, if you wish to help with our summer needs.



New this summer, we have contracted with a local Farmer to provide weekly deliveries of lettuce for our clients. We also hope to work with other local farmers to buy in season produce this year. We do, happily, accept produce donations from the gardens of local citizens.

During the COVID Pandemic, stopped having clients actually come in to the Food Shelf. We created a large Grocery List, which clients fill out in their cars. A Volunteer then chooses the groceries requested, and brings them out to the client's car. This method has worked well for keeping both clients and volunteers safe. We are carefully watching the COIVD numbers in Vermont, listening to the guidance from medical personnel and communicating with other Food Shelves in the area, to determine when the correct time is to allow clients to come back inside again.

Jill Lang 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 for the wonderful *Jill Lang*, who started the Williston Community Food Shelf in 2008. The 2021 Recipient of the Award was Jane Stickney. Jane is a retired Guidance Counselor who volunteers for many causes within our community. Jane has worked with the Food Shelf since we opened. She has guided citizens in need to our doors, shopped at the Food Shelf for shut-ins, and quietly driven food we have left over from the Tuesday night shift to it’s distribution place EVERY Wednesday morning. Jane prefers to travel under the radar in whatever she does, but we felt it was time that she received some recognition. THANK YOU, JANE!

**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