

## Hinesburg Community Resource Center



The Hinesburg Community Resource Center (HCRC) is a volunteer driven non-profit organization of neighbors helping neighbors. We have served the Hinesburg Community since 1986. Program updates are for our fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021).

Community members continue to show up for each other during these challenging times. Here at HCRC, we are lucky enough to see so much good in action through our volunteers and support from our neighbors.

Groups got creative with their support this year including kids running a lemonade stand to raise funds and Red Wagon Plants donating starter plants for Food Shelf guests. Some other highlights included taking advantage of the warmer months with an outdoor clothing swap and outdoor playgroups for kids and caregivers anxious to get back to some educational social time. The Food Shelf continued to provide excellent service through drive-up pickups and home deliveries.

The Hinesburg Food Shelf is run by volunteers and is located at 51 Ballards Corner Road. The Food Shelf had 756 visits from 120 families. We are open twice per week, and families may visit once per month to stock up on groceries and an extra time per month to pick up more fresh produce; we also offered a full Thanksgiving meal to 95 households. There was steady usage this past year, and those numbers are picking up again as the pandemic wears on and other support for families end.

We were able to provide 120 snack bags and financial assistance to the schools to help children needing food during school breaks. We are currently bringing back our school vacation food program and are providing snacks and meal items directly to children who receive free or reduced lunch. We hope to reach more families this year and continue to grow this program.

For those unable to meet basic needs, HCRC offers an Emergency Assistance Fund. This year we assisted 31 families (73 individuals) with utility bills, heating fuel, rent, car payments, and more. There has been a steady increase in amount of people looking for assistance and the overall cost while other assistance programs offered through the pandemic have slowed down. Along with the financial assistance, we educate families on other available resources.

Our Friends of Families program connects young families with a supportive community; programs are free and open to all. We hold regular playgroups, and 170 visits were made this year by 78 caregivers and kids. We also offered two Clothing and Book Swaps. During the pandemic, we pivoted to provide an outdoor music and movement playgroup and an outdoor clothing and book swap, and moved to an online storytime during the colder weather. We are working with the Carpenter-Carse Library to offer book dedication for new babies born from 2019-2020 and hope to bring back the in-person Baby Brunch when it is safe to do so.

Medical Equipment Lending is offered to anyone in need, and individuals can borrow this equipment, free of charge. This year, HCRC served 24 people with medical equipment loans.

HCRC received financial and in-kind support this year from businesses and individuals, the Towns of Hinesburg, Huntington, Monkton and St. George, farms, faith groups, organizations, social clubs, and private foundations. All profits from our Twice is Nice thrift store also fund our programs. We continue to be deeply grateful for our donors and partners.

*Note from Executive Director Shannon Wheeler:* I have been in this role for only a few weeks now, but it did not take me long to see the hard work and dedication from all of the volunteers and incredible support from neighbors, businesses, surrounding towns and the Town of Hinesburg. It all goes a long way to help neighbors in need and the overall health of this amazing community. We thank you for the generosity.

Shannon Wheeler, Executive Director