



Hinesburg Community  
RESOURCE CENTER

## 2018 Annual Report

The Hinesburg Community Resource Center (HCRC) is a community based non-profit organization of neighbors helping neighbors. Our core programs include the Food Shelf, Friends of Families, Emergency Assistance Fund, Medical Equipment Lending, and Hinesburg Rides.



Hinesburg Food Shelf

The Hinesburg Food Shelf is run by volunteers and is located at 51 Ballards Corner Road, in a building that was donated to us this year by Jan Blomstrann. We serve the towns of Hinesburg, Shelburne, Charlotte, Huntington, Monkton, and Saint George. The Food Shelf had 935 visits this past year. We are open twice per week, and families are able to visit once per month to stock up on groceries and an extra time per month to pick up fresh produce; we also offer a full Thanksgiving meal. A family visiting the food shelf receives produce, frozen meats, eggs, cheese, canned and boxed staples, and personal care supplies. We recently partnered with the Champlain Valley Junior League to regularly offer diapers at the Food Shelf, and we are committed to efforts like these to help struggling families with costly items that are not able to be purchased with Federal assistance.

We partner with the Hinesburg Community School Partners in Education (PiE) and Lantman's Market to offer vacation meal bags to families receiving free and reduced lunch. This year HCRC provided 61 vacation food bags, impacting 24 families (53 students); bags include healthy snacks, fruits and vegetables, protein, and simple meal items.

For those unable to meet basic needs, HCRC offers an Emergency Assistance Fund. This year HCRC assisted 21 families (62 individuals) with utility bills, fuel oil, gas, rent, car repairs, car insurance, bedding, and heating system repairs. Small grants from community agencies and churches are often the last line of defense for working families who start to struggle financially. Many families in Hinesburg work so hard and barely make enough to meet expenses; they also do not qualify for many state or federal assistance options because they "make too much," but a few financial setbacks can have a devastating effect.



CVU High School Volunteers

The 2017 Hinesburg Town Plan shows that Hinesburg has the 5th highest percent of households earning below the federal poverty level in Chittenden County with about 10% of Hinesburg families with children under 18 living below the poverty level. The number of Hinesburg households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, 3Squares program in VT, formerly Food Stamps) benefits has also risen dramatically since 2009. Programs that meet basic needs, close to home, are critical to helping families thrive, and we are committed to providing that support.

Our Friends of Families program connects young families with community resources; programs are free and open to all. We hold regular playgroups throughout the week, and this year 272 caregivers and children attended. Our



Playgroup Participant

facilitators plan a weekly activity and healthy snack, as well as early learning concepts through song and circle time activities. Friends of Families also offers a yearly Welcome Baby Brunch, two Clothing and Book Swaps, kindergarten transition support for families in cooperation with Hinesburg Community School, parent education programs, and family activities. All Friends of Families programs work toward the Town Plan objective to provide for the social needs of our community, and we know these programs are an investment in the next generation of Hinesburg residents.

Hinesburg Rides provided 304 rides to elderly and disabled residents to get to doctor's appointments and errands. Residents get rides with volunteers or with Special Services Transportation Agency (SSTA). Hinesburg Rides also promotes riding the bus, rideshare/carpooling and other alternative means of transportation.

Medical Equipment Lending is offered to anyone in need. Donations of gently used equipment can be made to the HCRC, and individuals can borrow this equipment as long as needed, free of charge. This year, HCRC served 22 people with medical equipment loans.

This year, we launched a Senior Calendar on our website to gather area activities for seniors in one place. We hope to be able to offer this in print in the future, and the goal is to work with other community partners to bring more offerings to town (we were able to demonstrate a need to the United Way for Bone Builders classes, and those are now offered, and the class is regularly full).

The work we do is already in high demand by residents, and many rely on our programs. With county-wide trends like an aging population, and the Town of Hinesburg's priority of building more affordable housing, we will see even more need for our programs and will have to be ready to adapt to community needs. We look forward to working with community partners to address these needs and to plan for the future.

HCRC received additional funding this year from The Vermont Community Foundation, SCHIP, the Vermont Food Bank VT Fresh Program, the Towns of Hinesburg, Huntington and St. George, the Hinesburg Business and Professional Association, area faith groups, and donations from individuals, organizations and businesses throughout the community. All profits from our Twice is Nice thrift store also fund our programs. We would like to thank the many generous volunteers, donors and food drive organizers who have given time, dedication and resources in the past year. We are all neighbors helping neighbors, and we are grateful to partner with you all in this work to make sure basic

needs are met and people are connected and supported in our community.



Girl Scout Food Drive

*Karla Munson*  
Board Chair

*Ginny Roberts*  
Vice Chair

*Richard Pritsky*  
Treasurer

*Amy Sayre*  
Secretary

*Paul Hawkins*  
Board Member

*Suzy Mead*  
Board Member

*Heather Purinton*  
Board Member

*Barb Segal*  
Board Member

*Roberta Soll*  
Board Member

*Patty Whitney*  
Board Member

*Rachel Kring*  
Executive Director

***Building Networks of Support to Strengthen Community***

Hinesburg Community Resource Center • PO Box 444, Hinesburg VT • (802) 482-4946  
[www.hinesburgresource.org](http://www.hinesburgresource.org) • Food Shelf located at 51Ballards Corner Road, Hinesburg