



Hinesburg Community  
RESOURCE CENTER

## 2019 Annual Report

The Hinesburg Community Resource Center (HCRC) is a volunteer driven non-profit organization of neighbors helping neighbors. We have served the community since 1986. Our core programs include the Food Shelf, Friends of Families, Emergency Assistance Fund, Medical Equipment Lending, and Hinesburg Rides.

All of our programs are designed to connect people with community and to meet basic needs. Having volunteers so deeply involved in program delivery and governance allows us to put most of our resources into meeting basic needs for residents and providing community programming.



Welcome Baby Brunch Participants

The Hinesburg Food Shelf is run by volunteers and is located at 51 Ballards Corner Road. The Food Shelf had 971 visits this past year. 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 fresh produce; we also offer a full Thanksgiving meal. In addition, we offer vacation food support to Hinesburg Community School families receiving free and reduced lunch. This year HCRC provided 67 vacation food bags, during the school year and over the summer, impacting 34 students.

Recent national statistics suggest that many families could find themselves just one event away from financial crisis, and our community is no different. Food is one place in the budget where many families will cut when faced with an unexpected expense like a car breakdown, loss of a job, or major medical bills. We believe that in a community that has so

much we can all take care of each other so that no one goes hungry. Benefits for families who receive food assistance also last well beyond the initial help of having enough to eat. Long term benefits for children include less risk for chronic health conditions and better academic outcomes.

For those unable to meet basic needs, HCRC offers an Emergency Assistance Fund. This year we assisted 30 families (85 individuals) with utility bills, fuel oil, gas, rent, car repairs, car insurance, clothing, and household appliances. Over the years of offering this kind of assistance, we know that small emergency grants are sometimes the difference between a family being able to get back on their feet or not, and we work in collaboration with area churches and organizations to meet larger needs.

Our Friends of Families program connects young families with a supportive community; programs are free and open to all. We hold regular playgroups throughout the week, and 203 caregivers and children attended one or more playgroups this year. We also offer a yearly Welcome Baby Brunch, two Clothing and Book Swaps, and family activities. Programs for young families are important in building community, and benefits last long after participants age out. We hear many stories from families who met lifelong friends in playgroups or were able to engage in other community activities and programs because of connections made at a playgroup.



Annette's Preschool Food Drive



**CVU Students Helped Paint the HCRC Building This Year**

Medical Equipment Lending is offered to anyone in need, and individuals can borrow this equipment, free of charge. This year, HCRC served 25 people with medical equipment loans. Medical equipment can be costly, and when it is sometimes needed for only a short time it makes sense to share resources.

HCRC offers 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 as more activities are added, and the goal is to work with community partners to bring more free offerings to town.

Last year, Age Well took over the administration of a grant formerly managed by Hinesburg Rides to provide transportation to elderly residents and residents living with a disability. 451 rides were provided to 24 people by volunteer drivers or by Special Services Transportation Agency (SSTA) vans and sedans. Hinesburg Rides volunteers continue to work with that program to provide some of the rides.

The Hinesburg Community Resource Center has grown and changed over the years, in response to community needs. Our building was donated to us by Wind NRG Partners, LLC in December 2018, and we are grateful for this generous gift and excited for the possibilities. We will continue to work with the Town of Hinesburg, community partners, and residents, to meet the needs of the future and to use this resource wisely.

HCRC received support in FY 2019 from Wind NRG Partners LLC, SCHIP, the New England Grassroots Environment Fund, the Vermont Community Foundation, the Towns of 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 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.



**Food Shelf Volunteer Co-Director, Hank White**

*Ginny Roberts*  
Board Chair

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*Amy Sayre*  
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*Roberta Soll*  
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 51 Ballards Corner Road, Hinesburg