



Hinesburg Community
RESOURCE CENTER

2020 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, and our goal is 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.

We owe thanks to so many people this year. First, we are grateful to our volunteers and staff for rolling up their sleeves, donning masks (and smiles underneath!) and getting to work to invent new systems, take on new safety measures, and get creative to meet the needs of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Thanksgiving Boxes

There has been hard work this year for sure, but there have also been so many moments that warmed our hearts. Children did a fundraiser for the Food Shelf by selling dandelions. People donated stimulus checks because “someone else needs it more.” A thoughtful community member brought over handmade masks for volunteers. Thank you to everyone for your time, your consideration and your care for neighbors.

The Hinesburg Food Shelf is run by volunteers and is located at 51 Ballards Corner Road. We believe that in a community that has so much we can all take care of each other so that no one goes hungry. The Food Shelf had 949 visits from 159 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. Our Food Shelf saw steady usage this past year, and those numbers are growing as the pandemic wears on and other supports for families end. 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.

This year, 55 Hinesburg Community School kids received school vacation food support, and 550 snack bags were delivered to kids during the pandemic-related school closure. We also supported school meal efforts over the summer and the startup of a food pantry at Champlain Valley Union High School.

For those unable to meet basic needs, HCRC offers an Emergency Assistance Fund. This year we assisted 19 families (51 individuals) with utility bills, heating fuel, rent, baby items, and household appliances. Pauses in electric shutoffs and evictions slowed requests for a little while, but we are now seeing an increase in requests (and for higher amounts) as families continue to struggle during the pandemic. Over



Fresh fruits and vegetables are always offered at
the Food Shelf



A creative shoe display at the outdoor Children's Clothing & Book Swap

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

Our Friends of Families program connects young families with a supportive community; programs are free and open to all. We hold regular playgroups, and 304 visits were made this year by 171 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 swap, and currently playgroup has moved online during the colder weather. 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.

Medical Equipment Lending is offered to anyone in need, and individuals can borrow this equipment, free of charge. This year, HCRC served 19 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 received additional 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. More than ever, we are grateful to our donors and partners, who help us meet basic needs and make sure people are connected and supported in our community.



A message of hope from a kind neighbor

Ginny Roberts
Board Chair

Patty Whitney
Treasurer

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Secretary

Anna Main
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Board Member

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Board Member

Heather Purinton
Board Member

Amy Sayre
Board Member

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 • Food Shelf located at 51 Ballards Corner Road, Hinesburg