

## BUILDING NETWORKS OF SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY

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The Hinesburg Community Resource Center (HCRC) has been serving the Hinesburg community since 1986. This volunteer-driven non-profit organization offers connection to community families and provides services to neighbors in need. HCRC programs include the Hinesburg Food Shelf, Friends of Families, Emergency Assistance Fund, and Medical Equipment Lending Closet. Program updates are from FY2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023).

The Hinesburg Food Shelf is located at 51 Ballards Corner Road and is open twice a week. Thanks to partnerships with local farms, generous business and community member donations as well as membership at the Vermont Food Bank, HCRC is able to provide a vast variety of food choices for our clients. The food shelf provides pantry staples, fresh produce, frozen meats, dairy items, personal care products, diapers, pet food, and more. We provide indoor shopping, curbside delivery and home delivery options to our clients to ensure everyone is supported and cared for. The food shelf is run entirely by volunteers who are dedicated to serving their community. In FY 2023, we have been able to serve 170 clients with 813 visits at the food shelf.

The HCRC Emergency Assistance Fund is available to community members living in Hinesburg and St. George who may need financial assistance due to unexpected job loss or medical expenses. This year, the fund helped several families pay for basic needs such as utility bills, heating fuel, and car repairs. In the past year, we have been able to assist 117 individuals (46 families) with emergency assistance requests. HCRC also provides education and connection to other resources that may be available to those in need.

Our Friends of Families (FOF) program provides a space for young families to connect through weekly playgroups, twice-yearly children's clothing and book swaps, and our annual Welcome Baby Picnic. Playgroups are held at the United Church of Hinesburg and provide connection through open play, music and story time. Our free children's clothing swaps allow families to donate and pick gently used clothing and books for their children. In partnership with the Carpenter-Carse Library, our welcome baby picnic celebrates the newest members of the Hinesburg community each spring.

The HCRC's Medical Equipment Lending Closet allows community members to borrow medical equipment such as walkers, wheelchairs, commode and shower chairs as needed. There is no fee for borrowing and all equipment items are provided via donation.

The HCRC relies on financial and in-kind support from local businesses, individuals, organizations, faith groups, private foundations, and Town funding from Hinesburg, Monkton, Huntington, and St. George. All profits from our Twice is Nice Thrift store are utilized to fund our programs. The Hinesburg Community Resource Center is grateful to utilize this support to continue our work in connecting our community and assisting those in need.

Anna Main, Executive Director