

REPORT OF THE FUNDING REQUEST COMMITTEE

The Selectboard relies on our committee to review requests for financial support from local non-profit organizations that provide essential social services or environmental protection and education for the community. The committee considers the nature of the services provided, the number of residents served, the availability of other funding sources, and each organization's unique ability to serve residents of East Montpelier. Appropriations for these organizations represent approximately 1% of the town budget. Our support acknowledges their value to the community and often provides the match necessary to secure funding from federal and state agencies or private donors.

Last year voters agreed to appropriate \$18,811 to support 25 organizations, including a separately warned appropriation for the North Branch Nature Center. This year the committee considered requests totaling \$24,661 from 27 organizations, with new applications from Central Vermont Adult Basic Education and Home Share Now. The Selectboard has chosen to warn the Montpelier Senior Center request separately, as it did last year. (See Article #14) The committee's recommendations are listed below, totaling \$21,911, a 16.5% increase resulting largely from the addition of two new organizations and a significant increase in funding for Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice.

The FY2015 funding recommendations appear **in bold** in the list below along with the amounts approved in the previous two fiscal years. If available, we have included the number of residents directly served. Please feel free to contact these organizations when in need, to volunteer your own time and skills, or to make additional financial contributions.

American Red Cross, Vermont and Upper Valley Chapter, (802-660-9130) provides immediate relief and shelter for victims of disasters, works to educate citizens on health and safety issues, and provides local personnel with trainings on disaster preparedness and shelter operations. The organization did not provide emergency assistance to any families in East Montpelier last year but is ready for support when necessary. (\$250; **\$250**)

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, (476-4588) provides free basic education and literacy services for adults and teens over sixteen years. Approximately half of the students receive help preparing for GED certificates or alternative high school diplomas. Services were provided to eight residents last year with an average of ten over the last 10 years. (**\$750**)

Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc. (477-5180 or 800-639-1053) works with families to build better lives and to create thriving local communities through Head Start and Early Head Start, Community Economic Development programs, and other Family & Community Support services, including Emergency Food and Crisis Fuel, Home Weatherization assistance and more. It served 193 people in 108 households in the town during the past year. (\$400; \$500; **\$500**)

Central Vermont Community Land Trust (476-4493) develops and manages affordable housing projects; it provides education, counseling, loans, and financial services for homeowners through its Homeowner Center and facilitates community development projects. Twenty-eight residents took advantage of CVCLT services during the past year. (\$150; \$150 **\$150**)

Central Vermont Council on Aging (479-0531) provides meal and transportation services, legal advice, case management, and advocacy for Central Vermont elders. It served 70 residents in the past year. (\$1,500; \$1,600; **\$1,600**)

Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice (223-1878) provides nursing and hospice services in residents' homes and offers public health and educational clinics. Town funds assist uninsured or underinsured residents with vital in-home care. In addition to those attending clinics, CVHH&H served 71 residents with home care last year. (\$3,200; \$4,200; **\$5,500**)

Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center (229-5900) operates the ice skating rink used by area schools and offers open skating times for residents in East Montpelier. (\$1,000; \$1,000; **\$1,000**)

Circle (formerly **Battered Women's Services and Shelter**); (476-6010; Hotline: 877-543-9498) serves families in Washington County in cases involving domestic abuse. The shelter provides safe homes, emotional support, legal assistance, food and clothes, and a 24-hour hotline; staff presented 79 prevention programs in local schools in FY2013. The organization served 18 residents directly in the past year. (\$675; \$675; **\$675**)

Community Connections (223-7936) provides afterschool, vacation, and summer programming for pre-school and school-age children, including mentoring and youth outreach, and creates opportunities for children to learn from community members. It served 134 students in the past year. (\$2,500; \$2,500; **\$2,500**)

Family Center of Washington County (828-8765) provides services for children and families, including preschool playgroups, parent education, home visits, and child care financial assistance and referral services. It served 68 residents in the past year. (\$500; \$500; **\$500**)

Friends of the Winooski River (655-4878) is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Winooski River, including its tributaries and watershed, from Cabot to Colchester. Members monitor water quality, conduct river cleanup projects, and educate landowners and students in river stewardship. (\$150; \$200, **\$200**)

Green Mountain Transit (223-7287) is a community transportation service that matches requests for rides from local residents with available transport, including vans, volunteer drivers, and van/pools. It served 13 townspeople with 426 residential trips in the past year. The company also operates the commuter bus service along U.S. Route 2 supported by a separate appropriation in the town budget. (\$1,300; \$1,300; **\$1,366**)

Green Up Vermont (229-4586) uses town funds to provide biodegradable bags, posters, publicity, and information for town chairpersons to promote roadside cleanup and litter control on Green Up Day. (\$150; \$150; **\$150**)

Home Share Now (479-8544) provides affordable housing options through facilitation of shared housing. Formerly operated under the Central Vermont Council on Aging, the organization matches

people needing housing with those who wish to remain in their homes. Services and in-kind contributions are exchanged for housing. It served six residents last year. (**\$600**)

North Branch Nature Center (229-6206) offers environmental education through nature programs and summer camps and provides open trails on its 28-acre property. The Educating Children Outdoors program trains teachers to operate programs in our local schools. (\$750; **\$750**)

Onion River Food Shelf, Inc. (223-6548) provides emergency food for three days for those in need in East Montpelier, Plainfield, Calais, Marshfield, and Cabot. It served 74 residents in the past year. (\$800; \$1000; **\$1,000**)

People's Health & Wellness Clinic, Inc. (479-1229) provides basic primary, preventive, and oral care to the uninsured and underinsured through a team of volunteer doctors, nurses, and a dental hygienist. It also assists patients with healthcare financing and insurance applications. The clinic served 11 residents in the past year. (\$950; \$950; **\$1,250**)

Prevent Child Abuse of Vermont (229-5724) works to prevent child abuse and neglect through parent education, support, and public awareness programs. The Care for Kids program trains childcare professionals, parents, and others who interact with children to prevent child sexual abuse. Last year 19 residents participated in various training programs (\$250; \$250, **\$300**)

Project Independence (476-3630) provides adult day health services for the elderly and disabled to enable them to remain in their homes while also providing respite for regular caregivers. Services include mental and physical health therapies, nutritious meals, and recreation at the center. Last year the organization served nine residents. (\$250, \$250; **\$250**)

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program for Central Vermont and Northeast Kingdom (828-4770) links retired and senior volunteers with organizations (hospitals, schools, and nonprofits) that can use their volunteer skills. Funds help offset travel expenses, insurance, and volunteer training. Fifteen volunteers from East Montpelier participated in the program. (\$275; \$275; **\$275**)

Sexual Assault Crisis Team of Washington Co. (476-1388; hotline: 479-5577) operates a hotline and provides emergency medical assistance, shelter, counseling, advocacy and legal advice for victims of sexual violence. Three residents received direct assistance last year. (\$200; \$200; **\$250**)

Twin Valley Senior Center (426-3447) serves meals and sponsors health clinics and classes at the Schoolhouse Common in Marshfield and delivers meals-on-wheels to seniors in the local area. It provided direct services for 11 residents in the past year, and others attended programs. (\$500; \$750; **\$750**)

Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (828-5997) provides training and support services to children and adults with vision problems, either blindness or impairment, to maintain independence. It served one resident in the past year. (\$100; \$100; **\$100**)

Vermont CARES (371-6222) supports and advocates for people infected with HIV/AIDS. The organization works to prevent infection through testing and awareness programs. (\$150; \$150; **\$150**)

Vermont Center for Independent Living (229-0501) provides services and advocacy for people with disabilities. The organization assists disabled people to lead active and productive lives with as great a degree of independence as possible. It served three residents in the past year. (\$200; \$245; **\$245**)

Washington County Diversion Program (229-0536) offers first-time offenders a one-time opportunity to take responsibility for their offenses by compensating crime victims and providing community service hours to local organizations. The program saves tax dollars that would have been spent on court proceedings. It served 20 residents in the past year. (\$350; \$350; **\$450**)

Washington County Youth Services Bureau — Boys and Girls Club (229-9151) helps youths and their families create healthy conditions in their lives. Emphasis is on problem resolution; crisis intervention; individual and family counseling; and substance abuse prevention, including early intervention, and treatment. It served 20 youths in the past year. (\$400; \$400; **\$400**)

Funding Committee Members

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