

REPORT OF THE FUNDING REQUEST COMMITTEE

Our committee reviews requests for public support from local non-profit organizations and recommends appropriations to the Selectboard. The committee considers the nature of the services provided, the number of residents served, the availability of other funding sources, and each organization's ability to meet specific community needs, such as those of the disabled, vulnerable youths, or seniors. (Residents age 65 or older represent approximately 16% of the town's population.) Support from our town often provides the match necessary to secure funding from federal and state agencies or private donors.

Last year voters agreed to appropriate \$21,911 (1% of the budget) to support 27 organizations. This year the committee considered requests totaling \$25,111 from 27 organizations. New applications were received from Good Beginnings of Central Vermont, OUR House of Central Vermont, and Girls/Boys First Mentoring. Once again, the Selectboard has chosen to warn the Montpelier Senior Center request separately. The committee's recommendations are listed below, totaling \$22,561, a 3% increase over last year.

The FY2016 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.

Capstone Community Action (formerly CVCAC) (479-1053) 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 156 residents during the past year. (\$500; \$500; **\$500**)

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 nine residents last year with an average of ten over the last 10 years. (\$750, **\$750**)

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-five 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. The RSVP Volunteer Program, linking volunteers with nonprofit organizations, was incorporated into CVCOA this year. CVCOA served 73 residents in the past year. (\$1,600; \$1,600; **\$1,875**)

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 56 residents with home care last year. (\$4,200; \$5,500; **\$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 (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 present prevention programs in local schools. The organization served 7 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 141 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 referral services for child care. It served 95 residents in the past year. (\$500; \$500; **\$500**)

Friends of the Winooski River (882-8276) 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. (\$200; \$200, **\$200**)

Girls/Boyz First Mentoring (229-4798) was originally part of Community Connections. It currently provides the link between at-risk youths, ages 8-18, and volunteer mentors, who encourage healthy activities and can make a positive difference in their lives. In the past year, there was one youth paired with a mentor in East Montpelier. (**\$200**)

Good Beginnings of Central Vermont (595-7953) provides free home visitation services and workshops for new parents. Volunteers visit for one to three hours per week for up to three months to connect new parents to community support and provide supplies and information about good parenting. In the past year, it served 20 residents in 6 families. (**\$300**)

Green Mountain Transit (223-7287) is a community transportation service that matches requests for rides from local residents, who are either disabled or elderly, with available transport, including vans, volunteer drivers, and van/pools. It served 20 townspeople and provided 955 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. (\$1,366; \$1,366; **\$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 8 residents last year. (\$600; **\$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. Approximately 150 residents participated in programs at the center. (\$750, \$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 53 adults and 38 children in East Montpelier in the past year. (\$1000; \$1000; **\$1,000**)

OUR House of Central Vermont (476-8825) works closely with DCF and law enforcement to provide a safe space, supportive environment, and counseling for sexual assault victims, survivors, and non-offending family members during the investigative process. Six residents benefited from services in the past year. (**\$250**)

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 18 residents in the past year. (\$950; \$1,250; **\$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 80 residents participated in various training programs (\$250; \$300, **\$300**)

Project Independence (476-3630) provides adult day 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 6 residents. (\$250, \$250; **\$250**)

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. Two residents received direct assistance last year. (\$200; \$250; **\$250**)

Twin Valley Senior Center (223-3322) serves meals three days a week and sponsors health clinics and classes at its new location on US Route 2 in East Montpelier. The organization delivers meals-on-wheels to seniors and provides rides to the center for meals and programs. It provided direct services for 17 residents in the past year, and others attended various events. (\$750; \$750; **\$1,000**)

Vermont CARES (371-6222) supports and advocates for people infected with HIV/AIDS. The organization works to prevent infection through testing and awareness programs and served 10 residents last year. (\$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 2 residents in the past year. (\$245; \$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 16 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 45 youths in the past year. (\$400; \$400; **\$400**)

Funding Committee Members

LYN BLACKWELL
CHARLIE CATLIN
RHODA CHICKERING
LINDY JOHNSON
KEVIN NADZAM
ANN STANTON