

## REPORT OF THE FUNDING REQUEST COMMITTEE

Requests for public support from local non-profit organizations continue to increase to fulfill the need for social services in East Montpelier and the region. Our committee evaluates these requests by considering 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. Most organizations rely on multiple sources of revenue; the local 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 \$22,561 (1% of the budget) to support 27 organizations. This year the committee considered requests totaling \$29,611 from 32 organizations. The town received first-time applications from Good Samaritan Haven and Washington County Mental Health Services. The Selectboard has warned requests from Montpelier Senior Center (\$5,000; third year as a separate article) and Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice (\$5,500) separately in order not to exceed the \$25,000 limit on voted articles. Voters approved the same amount for both organizations last year. The committee's recommendations for other organizations are listed below, totaling \$19,811, a 16% increase over last year, excluding CVHHH.

The FY2017 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, organizes blood drives, 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; \$0; **\$250**)

**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 201 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 8 residents last year with an average of 10 over the last 10 years. (\$750; \$750; **\$750**)

**Central Vermont Council on Aging** (479-0531) provides meal and transportation services, legal advice, case management, and advocacy for Central Vermont elders. CVCOA also operates the RSVP Volunteer Program, linking volunteers with nonprofit organizations. The organization served 73 residents in the past year. (\$1,600; \$1,600; \$1,875; **\$1,875**)

**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. The organization also develops and sponsors prevention programs in local schools. It served 6 residents directly in the past year. (\$675; \$675; **\$675**)

**Downstreet Housing and Community Development** (476-4493) (formerly Central Vermont Community Land Trust) 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. Nineteen residents took advantage of CVCLT services during the past year. (\$150; \$150 **\$150**)

**East Montpelier 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 138 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 childcare. It served 67 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, 2 youths were paired with mentors in East Montpelier. (\$200; **\$300**)

**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 7 families in East Montpelier. (\$300; **\$300**)

**Good Samaritan Haven** (479-2294) provides short-term emergency shelter, meals, and basic services for homeless adults. Federal and state funds support its core program, which provides housing and employment assistance, case management, and referral services. The facility in Barre, which has accommodated 300 homeless people annually, includes 26 beds and 4 cots. (**\$750**)

**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 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. Fifteen people were involved in matches in East Montpelier last year. (\$600; \$600; **\$800**)

**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 91 residents 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; **\$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 12 residents in the past year. (\$1,250; \$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 21 residents participated in its programs. (\$300; \$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 4 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. (\$250; \$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 29 residents in the past year, and others attended various events. (\$750; \$1,000; **\$1,500**)

**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. (\$150; \$0; **\$150**)

**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 3 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. (\$450; \$450; **\$450**)

**Washington County Mental Health Services** (223-6328) operates emergency and community support services for people with mental illness and developmental disabilities. Programs include home-based support for children and families, counseling, residential treatment, and psychiatric and nursing services. It served 41 residents in the past year. (**\$800**)

**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 36 youths in the past year. (\$400; \$400; **\$400**)

*Funding Committee Members*

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