

REPORT OF THE FUNDING REQUEST COMMITTEE FOR FY2023

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 \$21,466 (just under 1% of the town budget) to support 35 organizations. This year the committee considered requests totaling \$23,966 from 36 organizations. There was one new organization, the Vermont Bar Foundation, the state's leading funder of groups that provide free and low-cost legal aid services to those in need. The committee's recommendations are listed below, totaling \$23,666, a 10.2% increase resulting largely from the addition of the Vermont Bar Foundation and a sizeable boost in funding to support the worthy efforts of Good Samaritan Haven.

The FY2023 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, Northern New England Region (800-464-6692) 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 to provide support when necessary. (\$250; \$250; **\$250**)

Big Heavy World (802-865-1140) is a volunteer-run independent statewide music office and archive of Vermont-made music, working to inclusively promote and preserve all kinds of music made across Vermont. Its work is designed to serve all Vermont musicians, inclusive of East Montpelier artists. (\$250; \$250; **\$250**)

Capstone Community Action (formerly CVCAC) (802-479-1053) 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 76 residents during the past year. (\$500; \$500; **\$500**)

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education (802-476-4588) 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. CVABE provided service to 4 residents during the past year. (\$750; \$750; **\$750**)

Central Vermont Council on Aging (802-479-0531) 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 48 residents in the past year. (\$1,875; \$1,875; **\$1,875**)

Central Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team (802-505-7677) provides shelter for family pets when their owners are unable to care for them due to a natural disaster or extended emergency, often working in conjunction with the Red Cross. CVDART works closely with towns, including East Montpelier, to create and maintain emergency plans for pets during disasters. (\$200; \$200; **\$200**)

Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity (802-522-8611) provides homeownership opportunities to low-income families. Many of you may have participated in the recent CVHH home-building project in East Montpelier and the organization hopes to do more projects here in the future. The organization served 3 residents in the past year. (\$250; \$350; **\$350**)

Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center (802-229-5900) operates the ice-skating rink used by area schools and offers open skating times for residents in East Montpelier. The Civic Center also serves as a Red Cross emergency shelter. (\$1,000; \$1,000; **\$1,000**)

Circle (802-476-6010; 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 9 residents directly in the past year. (\$675; \$675; **\$675**)

Community Harvest of Central Vermont (802-229-4281) brings our community together through gleaning to recover surplus food produced on area farms to feed those with limited access to healthy, fresh local food, and in the process helps the community to gain a greater awareness and appreciation of the local food system, healthy eating, and waste reduction. It served approximately 200 residents during the past year. (\$250; \$250; **\$250**)

Downstreet Housing and Community Development (802-476-4493) (formerly Central Vermont Community Land Trust) develops and manages affordable housing projects; it provides education, counseling, loans, and financial services for homeowners through its Homeownership Center and facilitates community development projects. Seventeen residents took advantage of Downstreet services during the past year. (\$150; \$150; **\$150**)

East Montpelier Community Connections (802-223-7936) provides after school, vacation, and summer programming for preschool and school-age children, including mentoring and youth outreach, and creates opportunities for children to learn from community members. It served 49 students in the past year. (\$2,500; \$2,500; **\$2,500**)

Family Center of Washington County (802-262-3292) provides services for children and families, including preschool playgroups, parent education, home visits, and referral services for childcare. It served 54 residents in the past year. (\$500; \$500; **\$500**)

Friends of the Winooski River (802-279-3771) 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. In 2021 East Montpelier residents have access to free stormwater assessments and free plantings to reduce lawn size. (\$200; \$200; **\$200**)

Girls/Boyz First Mentoring (802-224-6500) 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. (\$300; \$300; **\$300**)

Good Beginnings of Central Vermont (802-595-7953) 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 5 families in East Montpelier. (\$300; \$300; **\$300**)

Good Samaritan Haven (802-479-2294) provides emergency shelter and support services to people experiencing homelessness in central Vermont. Federal and state funds support its core program, which provides housing and employment assistance, case management, and referral services. Service was provided to 350 central Vermonters last year. (\$750; \$900; **\$2,000**)

Green Mountain Transit (802-223-7287) 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. 36 townspeople were provided services in the past year. The company, along with Rural Community Transportation, 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 (802-229-4586) uses town funds to provide Green Up Day bags, posters, publicity, and information for town chairpersons to promote roadside cleanup and litter control on Green Up Day. (\$150; \$150; **\$150**)

HomeShare Vermont (802-863-5625), which has replaced Home Share Now in our area, 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. HomeShare Vermont served 8 town residents last year. (\$800; \$800; **\$800**)

Mosaic Vermont, Inc. (formerly Sexual Assault Crisis Team of Washington Co.) (802-476-1388; hotline: 802-479-5577) operates a hotline and provides emergency medical assistance, shelter, counseling, advocacy and legal advice for victims of sexual violence. (\$250; \$250; **\$250**)

North Branch Nature Center (802-229-6206) 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 200 East Montpelier residents participated in programs at the center. (\$750; \$750; **\$750**)

Onion River Food Shelf, Inc. (802-223-6548) provides emergency food for three days for those in need in East Montpelier, Plainfield, Calais, Marshfield, and Cabot. It served 30 residents in the past year. (\$1,000; \$1,200; **\$1,000**)

OUR House of Central Vermont (802-476-8825) 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. Nine residents benefited from services in the past year. (\$250; \$250; **\$250**)

People's Health & Wellness Clinic, Inc. (802-479-1229) 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 10 residents in the past year. (\$1,250; \$1,750; **\$1,250**)

Prevent Child Abuse of Vermont (802-229-5724) 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 7 residents participated in its programs. (\$300; \$300; **\$300**)

T. W. Wood Gallery (802-262-6035) provides educational art services for children, families, seniors and other Central Vermont residents, including exhibits of contemporary local art, art camps for children, afterschool programs, and art classes for all ages. (\$500; \$500; **\$500**)

Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (802-505-4006) provides training and support services to children and adults with vision problems, either blindness or impairment, to maintain independence. Last year it served 2 East Montpelier clients. (\$150; \$150; **\$150**)

Vermont Bar Foundation (802-223-1400) provides access to essential legal services for low-income Vermonters. The foundation funds organizations like Vermont Legal Aid, Have Justice-Will Travel and the Vermont Law School's Legal Clinic. Agencies funded by the foundation served 148 East Montpelier residents last year. (\$0; \$0; **\$1,500**)

Vermont CARES (802-371-6222) supports and advocates for people infected with HIV/AIDS. The organization works to prevent infection through testing and awareness programs. It served 8 East Montpelier residents last year. (\$150; \$150; **\$150**)

Vermont Center for Independent Living (802-229-0501) provides services and advocacy for people with disabilities. The organization helps disabled people lead active and productive lives with as great a degree of independence as possible. It served 4 residents in the past year. (\$300; \$300; **\$400**)

Vermont Family Network (800-800-4005) is a statewide organization whose mission is to empower and support families of children with special needs. Programs & services include trainings, parent matches, school meeting support, and a helpline. VFN served 1 local family last year. (\$200; \$200; **\$200**)

Washington County Diversion Program (802-479-1900) 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 6 residents in the past year. (\$600; \$600; **\$600**)

Washington County Mental Health Services (802-229-1399; Hotline: 802-229-0591) 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 66 East Montpelier residents in the past year. (\$800; \$800; **\$800**)

Washington County Youth Services Bureau – Boys and Girls Club (802-229-9151) 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 5 East Montpelier youths in the past year. (\$400; \$400; **\$400**)

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (802-778-3178) promotes the conservation, development, and wise use of lands, water, forest, and wildlife across its service area. Residents can receive technical assistance in invasive species management, native plant selections and stormwater erosion control. WNRCD provides access to grant funding for farm improvements as well as training and workshops on a range of water quality and habitat topics. (\$500; \$600; **\$800**)

Funding Committee Members

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