

“Always try to give from a place of gratitude and abundance. It works SO much better.” MARY FEENEY

Through example, Mary teaches many things; most of all that EVERYONE MATTERS. As former Haven Interim Director Suzanne Stofflet wrote: **Mary celebrates successes in all sizes “miraculous, incremental, and infinitesimal.”** We at the Haven will continue to honor this part of our mission and her legacy.

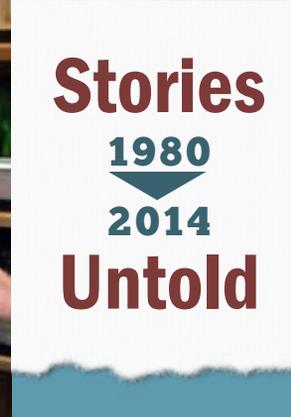
The Haven is a place built by the community, for the community. As former Managing Director, Tom Ketteridge commented at the 25th Anniversary Celebration in 2006, **“The Haven was built just like anything else. One step at a time. One person at a time.”** There are many more stories to be told, and history pages to be written. We urge you to contribute to the legacy, take part in the celebration, and continue to be involved.

To share your story, or pieces of our history, go to:
www.uppervalleyhaven.org

We will be announcing the details for upcoming community events which celebrate Mary, former Directors and the Haven’s history. If you’d like to receive word, please be sure we have a current email address.

Contact: liz@uppervalleyhaven.org or (802) 478-1803

UPPER VALLEY HAVEN
www.uppervalleyhaven.org • (802) 295-6500





The Upper Valley Haven Story

In 1980, the founders of the Haven imagined a safe place with “shelter, sustenance and love” for our Upper Valley community. They prayed “May we continually open our ears, search our hearts...” 33 years later we honor the person who helped this vision remain at the core of the Haven’s mission through its history of growth. **MARY FEENEY** and her husband Paul began their journey with the Haven in 1983, and it is with profound gratitude and sadness that we announce Mary’s plan to retire on December 31, 2014.

The collection of stories that follows frames a loose history of the Haven through the eyes and hearts of some of the people who have been instrumental, and most connected, along the way. The common thread woven throughout is Mary. When asked her perspective on the evolution of the Haven, she wrote, **“The Haven is a continuously ongoing miracle... And, wherever we happened to be in our history, the right people, with just the talents needed for the time, always showed up to lead us forward in our mission.”**

Thank you, Mary, for sharing your talents and love with us and the community for 31 years.



UPPER VALLEY HAVEN

To me, the Haven is a powerful example of a response to our baptismal promise to love our neighbors.

The Haven was started by a group of clergy and laity from different churches that had come together because we consistently saw people who needed shelter and support, and we couldn't always help them through our individual congregations. In **1981**, a local benefactor came forward to help us purchase the farmhouse next to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where I was the priest, and we opened right before Christmas. Clergy and laity who founded and helped grow the Haven in the early years were deeply sustained by an Inward Journey of regular prayer, study, spiritual reflection, and community building. One of my fondest memories was the opening and blessing of the Haven. The shelter host couple's last name was Church, and they welcomed the first family, the Bishops. That was the sign that we were on the right track; it still gives me chills just thinking about it... Funding was a challenge. We relied on the churches and their congregations to keep the Haven running. We had decided from the very beginning not to accept government funds, because it wasn't a stable source of funding. It wasn't until Suzanne Stofflet joined us that we had anyone with fundraising experience on our team. For 30 years I've always told the story of the Haven to other churches and communities, and have dreamed that the Haven could be replicated in other parts of New England. The Haven isn't just a shelter; it provides guests with the tools to help them succeed. It has deepened my heart and my faith...
Bud and his wife Ruth Ann now live in Massachusetts where Bud is known as the "Green Bishop" for his work advocating on behalf of environmental causes in MA and nationally.

the Rt. Rev. Ray "Bud" Cederholm
Founder & Former Board Member



I have volunteered once a week at the Haven since it was founded in 1980, 34 years ago...

One of the original founders of the Haven asked my husband, Peter, and me to help so we jumped right in! I have such fond memories of the ecumenical group working together to get it off the ground. I was there when the first guest family, the Bishops, arrived on December 14, **1981**; and Donna and Kory Church were the host couple. When we first started, there was no staff, so the volunteers were responsible for everything. We had to screen guests, and decide who was going to be able to come into the shelter. Then, I am proud to say, I was part of the committee that hired the first Directors of the Haven, Mary and Paul Feeney. One special memory I have from volunteering was working with a friend whose husband had terminal cancer. Her husband insisted that she continue to volunteer at the Haven. At the time, there was a family of Mexican heritage staying at the shelter. In the evenings, they'd play beautiful music on their guitars and sing. As we listened to the music I could see my friend's spirits lift during a particularly tough time in her life. That reciprocity continues today. The Haven is my way of giving back. I started out volunteering at the desk in the old farmhouse shelter, served on the Board of Directors from 1986 to 1993, and now I volunteer in the Food Shelf that serves more than 1,200 families per month.

Mary Ellen Flanagan
Haven Volunteer & Former Board Member



The Haven is Mary's legacy.

Mary and Paul Feeney were the first people we met at the Haven. Paul would keep us up to date by phone calls, and Mary would write letters. Mary sent us her first letter requesting financial support in **1993**. She asked for \$2,000 and wrote, "I hope for a turn in the economy so that it will lessen the need for my services". Here we are 21 years later, and the Haven is more of a necessity than ever. Another letter came from Mary on May 30, 2000. "You are already helping us to such a great extent! But you did seem interested in this particular aspect of our expansion. So I will ask..." It never even occurred to me to say no to Mary, so we bought the Judy Frost House (now called Bev's House) to become a home for the Haven's host family, John and Jan Lawrence and their two preschool-aged children. We knew the Feeneys and the Haven Board and volunteers were doing such important work. I knew that firsthand because I used to visit the Haven unannounced; I liked to poke around and check on things. Jack and I toured the new Byrne House family shelter when it opened in 2004. I remember Jack asking, "What are you going to use all of these offices for?" Now the Haven barely has enough space with three buildings! I can't think of our community without the Haven. *Dorothy is a wise thinker and caring philanthropist committed to the well-being of the Upper Valley community.*

Dorothy Byrne
Haven Friend



When we were homeless I used to ride my bicycle from the Haven to work in Lebanon, NH every day. Now, 20 years later, I'm still working at the same place, but drive a car from our home to work instead.

We moved back to Ray's home state of Vermont, from Arizona, 20 years ago; but shortly after arriving we ran out of money and ended up living in a local park. We were homeless until a police officer told us about the Haven. When we arrived at the family shelter — which was just a small four-bedroom farmhouse back in **1993** — we were greeted by the Directors, Mary and Paul Feeney. The Haven and the Feeneys gave us a new start and helped us build a foundation for our family that we have relied on ever since. While living at the Haven the Feeneys helped us find jobs and an affordable place to live within months of our arrival. After we signed our lease, however, we went out to celebrate and drank too much. Mary and Paul had a stern talking with us, reminded us that we couldn't make poor choices like that while living at the Haven, and asked us to leave. It was on that day I realized that I couldn't drink anymore, and haven't had a drink since. We wouldn't be who we are today without the Haven holding us accountable, and without the friendship and support of the Feeneys. Our children are the same age, so we have stayed in touch ever since...

Barbara and her husband Ray both work at Listen Community Services. Ray is the Food Programs Manager, and Barbara runs the thrift store in White River Junction, VT.

Ray and Barbara Pecor
Former Haven Guests



I call it the “woo woo factor”; Mary calls it “faith in God”; others call it “Haven magic”.

When I started at the Haven in December of **1999**, everything — Food Shelf, Clothing Room, offices and four guest rooms — was located in the old farmhouse. Suzanne Stofflet was the interim director and the staff had 4 full-time people. The early 2000s was a soul searching time for the Haven, starting when the wooden cross on the front of the farmhouse fell off. Although the organization wouldn't exist without the ecumenical group that started it, some feared the cross discouraged people from coming for help if their religious beliefs weren't rooted in Christianity. There were many long, thoughtful discussions. The cross did not go back up, although the ark remained as our logo, and there has always been a great deal of faith. What's the “woo woo factor”? I remember a December day when we were running out of spaghetti sauce and peanut butter. We expected a lot of people and it was snowing outside. I was getting on my gear to go buy food when a donor came in with five cases of peanut butter and 100 jars of spaghetti sauce. I hadn't told a soul we were low! *Barbara is now retired, and volunteers on a Haven dinner team.* She has recently become reconnected with a woman who stayed in the Family Shelter eight years ago. The woman, who has four children, has a full-time job, a home, and is in a position to give back through volunteering.

Barbara Henzel

Former Haven Employee & Current Volunteer



We always knew how to have a good time while helping others.

I became acquainted with the Haven when Mary Feeney spoke at a new resident's luncheon in **1999**. I had recently moved from California where I had provided counselling services for homeless women and children. At the Haven I volunteered at the Food Shelf; and provided a bit of informal counselling as well. When we were still in the old farmhouse, a woman came in late in the afternoon with three children. The kids were crying, their stressed mother was yelling at them, and you could tell the children were all scared. The woman was leaving her abusive husband, had no place to go, and was an emotional wreck... We ended up taking them into the shelter, and helped her get a job as an LNA so they could find a place of their own and start over. Several months later I came back to the Haven to volunteer and saw the family again. It was a total metamorphosis. The children and mother were relaxed; there was no shouting and crying. It was a wonderful example of what can happen when a family feels safe, has a home and is surrounded by support systems. I think the greatest challenge for the Haven was raising the money to build the new Byrne House. The farmhouse was becoming dilapidated, we needed a larger Food Shelf area, but the idea of raising a million dollars was daunting...

Dorothy lives at Kendal in Hanover, NH, keeps in touch, and encourages others to get involved.

Dorothy Hall

Former Board Member & Volunteer



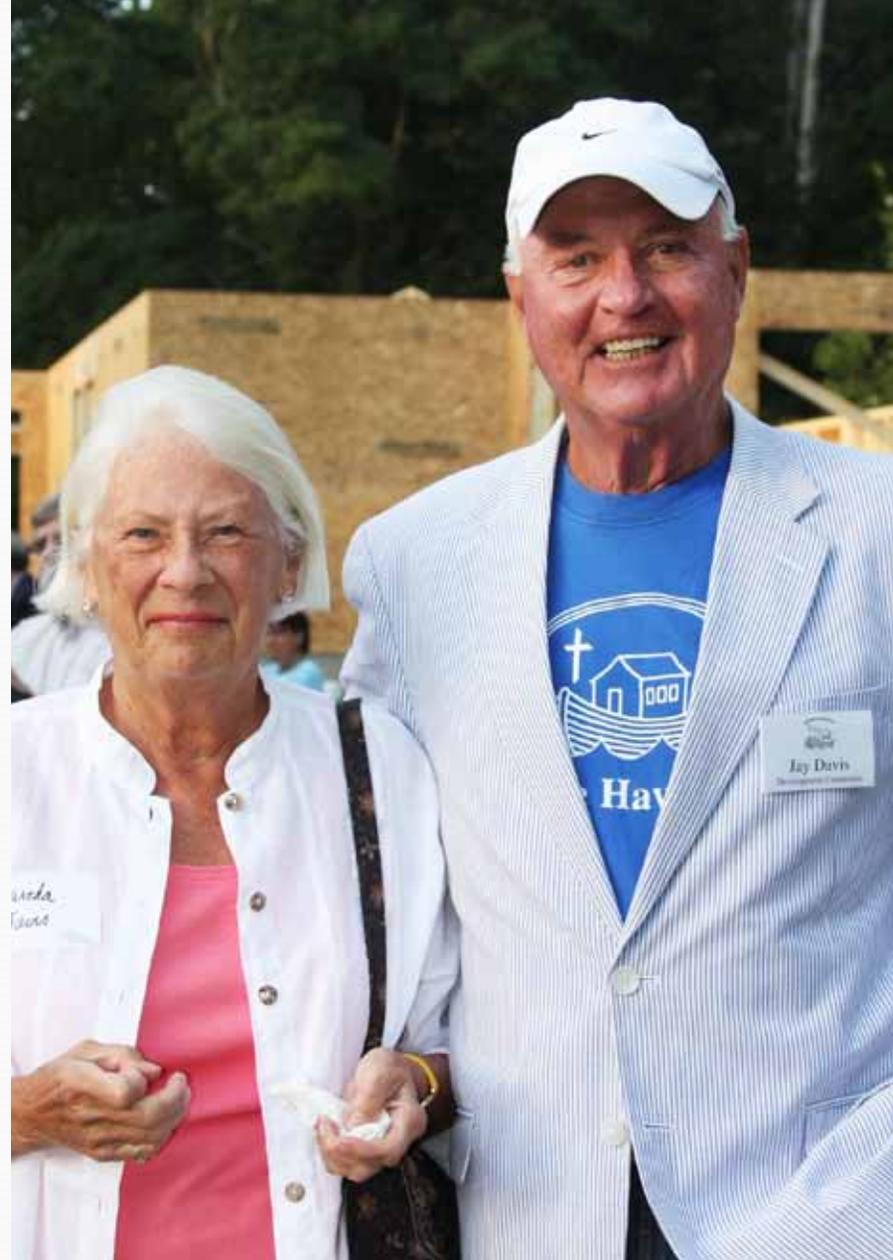
To change lives requires a personal touch, a relationship with a mentor... which the Haven does on a daily basis.

My wife Martha and I moved to the Upper Valley from Connecticut in **2000** after I retired from a business career in New York. I wanted to volunteer in our new community, and someone suggested to me that I visit Tom Ketteridge, Managing Director of the Haven at that time, to see how I might be of service to those in need. I was on the Board when we were searching for a location for the Adult Shelter. The process proved frustrating. We had multiple setbacks; each new location we visited was unsuitable for one reason or another. We were ready to build the shelter, but where? Finally Willy Black suggested we build it in our own backyard, since nobody wanted us in theirs. We decided to convert the original farmhouse into the Hixon House shelter building it is today, ending a rental arrangement with the resident who lived in it at the time. But, we were finally on our way to building a resource that was sorely needed in our community! I will always remember the times I joined the Haven's kids group for their annual canoe trip down the Connecticut River. I paddled while a Haven child enjoyed the expansive view from the bow; we were surrounded by a small fleet of canoes; one big family. What a perfect summer outing with stops for swimming, and snacks...

Jay and Martha have recently moved to Florida, but continue to stay in touch and help from afar.

Jay Davis

Former Board Member & Volunteer



The new family shelter construction project was the best thing that happened while I was on the Haven Board.

The Board was adamant about spending no more than a million dollars on the new family shelter, despite the need for space. We were storing food shelf supplies in the basement, operating the Clothing Room from a bathroom, and experiencing lack of privacy in the shelter. Finally, the Board of Directors took a leap of faith and voted to spend more than their self-imposed cap to build an adequate structure. Thank goodness! A building that seemed large at the time is now bursting at the seams with activity, and the Haven has since added another shelter and moved programming into Bev's House. The Grand Opening Celebration was May 8, **2004**. Board members, staff, shelter guests and their children paraded up the road from the Hartford High School with the Lyme Town Band leading the way. I remember that day vividly; I was a member of the band, and the Chair of the Building Committee. My memories? One of my favorites is taking a group of Haven children to the dentist; three years later, a pre-teen came up to me with a huge smile and said, "See, I still brush daily and have perfect teeth. You took me to the dentist. That was when I got my first toothbrush!" I have made many friends at the Haven that I would have never met in my ordinary life in Hanover....

Willy (pictured here with another long-time volunteer, Toni Jeffery) is a retired art teacher who spends her time serving on non-profits boards, volunteering at the Haven, and playing in the Upper Valley Community Band.

Marilyn "Willy" Black
Former Board Member & Volunteer

