

## LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY!

Planned gifts are a wonderful way to make a lasting impact, leave a legacy, and further the cause you believe in. The Feeney Legacy Circle honors Mary and Paul Feeney, the first live-in host couple for the family shelter. Mary and Paul guided hundreds of individuals from despair to hope, with a mix of warm welcome, minestrone soup, faith, connections to jobs and resources, and tough love for 23 years.

Please contact **Laura Gillespie, Director of Development**, by phone 802-478-1803, or at [laura@uppervalleyhaven.org](mailto:laura@uppervalleyhaven.org)



*Coming Full Circle // continued from inside*

When it was time to move out of the shelter and into their own apartment, Corey and Krysta met monthly with Amy Beston, Family Supportive Housing Service Coordinator at the Haven.

"Amy helped us with budgeting, working on our credit, and planning for our future," Corey notes. "Most importantly, she helped me find a job that worked better with maintaining my sobriety."

**Life for Corey and his family looks a lot different in 2021, thanks to donors' generous support of the Haven and all our assistive programs.** Corey holds a meat cutter position at Co-op Food Stores, he and Krysta are engaged to be married, their son is now eight, growing and healthy, and they are saving up to buy their first house.

"We wouldn't be where we are without the Haven," Corey gratefully acknowledges.

***And the Haven wouldn't be there for so many people like Corey, Krysta, and their son without selfless, caring people like you.***



## Upper Valley Haven Donor Impact Report

SUMMER  
2021

### TOGETHER WE CAN END HUNGER

The compassionate work that you enable the Haven to do does not go unnoticed—not by us, not by the families who receive life-changing support from our services, and not even by Congress and national anti-hunger organizations!

On June 3, 2021, Joel Berg, CEO of Hunger Free America, visited the Upper Valley Haven, along with leaders from Hunger Free Vermont and New Hampshire Hunger Solutions, Vermont Congressman Peter Welch and staff from the offices of Senator Bernie Sanders and New Hampshire Congresswoman Annie Kuster.

Mr. Berg and other speakers highlighted the continued impact of COVID-19 on low-income families struggling with food insecurity in the Upper Valley and beyond and what steps can be taken to help erase the crisis. One in three people in Vermont experienced food insecurity in the past year. The



*"The Upper Valley Haven has been a critical resource and a frontline provider to so many struggling Vermonters throughout the pandemic."*

— Vermont Congressman Peter Welch

risk of hunger doubled for families with children and for Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

Congressman Welch noted that *"the Upper Valley Haven has been a critical resource and a frontline provider to so many struggling Vermonters throughout the pandemic.* It was great to join Joel to highlight the incredible work of our local organizations and advocates. As we reopen our towns and rebuild our communities, we need to make sure that no one falls through the cracks."

***You help the Haven ensure we can prevent as many Vermonters as possible from being left behind in the struggle with food-insecurity.*** Without you, we could not do the work that Joel Berg, Congressman Welch, and Congresswoman Kuster say keeps our communities stronger and healthier as they fight for legislative action to end the hunger crisis.

For more on this visit and next steps from our state government, visit [uppervalleyhaven.org/hunger-free-2021](http://uppervalleyhaven.org/hunger-free-2021)



**HUNGER  
FREE  
AMERICA**

Visiting the Haven in June, with Michael (from left), Joel Berg, CEO of Hunger Free America, Anore Horton, ED of Hunger Free Vermont and Laura Milliken, ED of NH Hunger Solutions.

READ INSIDE

**A letter from Michael: 40 Years of the Haven thanks to you!**



#### Most Needed

- Yogurt (6-16 oz. sizes)
- Cooking oil
- Bottled water
- Shelf-stable milk
- Beans

#### Always Needed

- Tuna/Canned Chicken
- Pasta
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Tomatoes
- Canned Fruit
- Pasta Sauce
- Soups or Broths
- Macaroni & Cheese

#### Personal Items

- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Dental floss

#### Other Needs

- Bug repellent spray
- Small tents
- Gift cards
- Can openers
- Adult size backpacks





# 40 years of the Haven, thanks to you!

a letter from Michael

With the Upper Valley Haven's 40th anniversary this year, I've spent a lot of time reflecting on the work that you and I have done together.

From thousands of people fed through our Food Shelf and community food programs, to the hundreds of families who've found a safe place to live at the Byrne and Hixon shelters, to the community service and children's programs that help build healthier and safer families and neighborhoods—

**You've been right here with us, helping us provide security, food, and kindness to those in critical need.**

When I didn't think it was possible to be more grateful for you and your generous spirit, the pandemic devastated our nation and our communities. Suddenly, hundreds more people were out of work and out of money, leading to a dangerous spiral into food insecurity, homelessness, and desperation.

**And still you were right here with us.** When the number of visits to the Haven per household *doubled* over the last year, and *hundreds* of new families turned to us for help, your selfless giving ensured that we were able to provide the loving support they needed, when they needed it most.

The road ahead of us will be long,

even as vaccinations increase and things return to "normal." **But I feel confident that, with you by our side, the Haven can continue to help our neighbors, our family, and our friends find hope and light in the most uncertain of times.**

It's what we've been doing together for 40 years, long before the pandemic.

**My deepest thanks for demonstrating your incredible humanity and for caring,**



*Michael*

Michael Redmond  
Executive Director

## YOU Helped to Keep People Safe During the Pandemic

Vermont's pandemic response, a model in the country to keep people safe and healthy, included covering the cost of housing around 2,000 people who were experiencing homelessness in over 70 hotels across the state—including 160 households in five hotels in the Upper Valley.

**This is why, as always, we are so grateful for your support of the Haven. You enable us to pivot our programs, services, and staff to best serve Vermonters in this time of unprecedented need.**

To help with the physical, mental, and emotional safety of those now housed in hotels, the Haven has two full-time Hotel Case Workers, Rebecca and Katie.



*Thanks to your support, we hired two full-time Hotel Case Workers to assist Vermonters currently living in hotels across the state.*

helped as they navigate their new lives and plan for the next steps—and made them feel at home in an uncertain situation.

Rebecca and Katie have personalized their assistance to best support individuals and families. Their assistance includes referrals to local health clinics and connections to mental health or substance use services. Recommending COVID-19 resources including vaccinations as well as childcare options so parents can return to work. Katie and Rebecca also work on obtaining essential documents like social security cards or state ID cards needed for housing.

For those living in hotels, even having someone to simply listen to their fears, frustrations, and goals has

Yet with one-third of those housed by the state in hotels having lost their eligibility for the program in early July, the need for the Haven's housing services in our area is greater than ever. Throughout the pandemic, even with very tight recency rates, the Haven helped people transition into permanent housing and start a new life. With new challenges, our work is even harder.

***You are absolutely essential to the work our community service and support teams here have done so far, and their journey with our neighbors in need as they look toward the future.***

## COMING FULL CIRCLE: "We wouldn't be here without you!"



Corey & Riley

When you give to Upper Valley Haven, you are providing so much more than just food and shelter.

Just ask Corey, a recipient of housing and family supportive services from the Haven.

**"The Haven gives people independence. I'm almost in tears talking about it—I'm so grateful,"** he says.

You did so much for Corey and his family. When he, his girlfriend Krysta, and their 2-year-old son moved to Vermont in 2015 looking for a fresh start, it was not as easy as they had hoped.

"We struggled to find jobs and somewhere to live, all while working hard to fight our substance abuse issues," Corey recalls.

Then their young family landed at the Haven's Byrne Family Shelter, where everything began to change. "We were so lucky," Corey says. "We finally had a stable place to live helping us get back on our feet."

**Getting back on their feet involved taking advantage of many of the services you make possible at the Haven.** Corey and Krysta were connected with addiction services so they could remain sober and focused.

*Continued on back*

**THIS IS OUR SHOT, VERMONT!**

[HealthVermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://HealthVermont.gov/MyVaccine)



## Part of the Solution

On June 15th, the Upper Valley Haven hosted a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinic on our campus, in motels providing emergency housing as well as other community locations providing services. Partnering with the Vermont Department of Health and the Good Neighbor Health Clinic, 41 people received vaccinations!

Because of donors like you, neighbors in need have come to recognize the Haven as a safe place to seek comfort, shelter, and guidance to help them from the hardest of times to a bright future.

Hosting a vaccination clinic fits right into the mission you help us uphold: providing a safer and healthier life for everyone in the Valley, regardless of their financial status. Thank you!