



Upper Valley Haven

SUMMER
2022

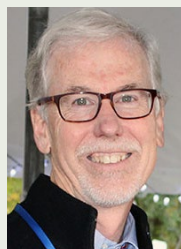
Donor Impact Report

A letter from Michael

**Thank you for being
so neighborly...**

***Believe me, it's needed
now more than ever!***

I continue to be overwhelmed with gratitude for the way you have stepped up for your neighbors in the Upper Valley, especially over the past few years.



We have all seen many changes during this time.

The pandemic threw our lives upside down and we're still not out of the woods. And now, with record inflation including food prices, I'm so worried about its impact on the people the Haven serves.

But then there is you. Despite undoubtedly feeling the negative effects of these challenges, you have continued to be a role model and a good neighbor. You choose kindness over self-preservation.

One of my favorite quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaks to these qualities. Do you know it?

Michael's letter continues inside!



Twin Pines Housing Project

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

You know the stability, comfort, and warmth that a *home* brings.

The Haven is excited to announce that, in partnership with Twin Pines Housing Trust and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, we are creating more places for our neighbors to call home.

Twin Pines will turn an acre of the property purchased from St. Paul's Church, next door to the Haven, into 18 affordable apartments, offering permanent, supportive housing for single adults who have experienced chronic homelessness.

Affordable rental units are essential in our ongoing efforts to address homelessness. This new housing project will create stable, long-term housing with convenient access to public transportation, the Haven's Food Shelf, and proximity to the

White River Junction business district. A Haven Service Coordinator will be assigned to work with the new residents, provide individualized services and appropriate levels of intervention and support including employment coaching, housing support, community integration, and connections to an array of additional services.

Ultimately, supported housing makes our communities safer. Better places to live—for all of us.

Twin Pines hopes to begin construction this fall with a building opening in 2023.

**Thank you for your
commitment to making
the places we live less
"house" and more *home*!**





Hitting the pavement for a good cause!

On Sunday, June 5th, thousands of runners from across the country and the world, as well as from the Upper Valley, laced up their running sneakers for the **30th annual Covered Bridges Half Marathon**.

The route weaves through spectacular back road landscapes

in Pomfret, Woodstock, and Quechee VT, coursing through four covered bridges along the way.

The best part? *The race is organized by a volunteer staff and more than \$100,000 in proceeds are donated to local nonprofits in the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire!*

The Haven fills 50 registration spots each year. Our participants run to raise money that fuels our Food Shelf, shelters, and unique community programming.

Thank you to everyone who raced, fundraised, and cheered along the generous runners this year!



Awards Season at the Haven: “Nonprofit of the Year!”

In May, the Upper Valley Business Alliance awarded the Upper Valley Haven with a most humbling award—**Nonprofit of the Year!**

What’s an award without an acceptance speech? Here goes!

The Haven has been recognized for our work during the pandemic—remaining open, meeting the needs of our communities through new initiatives, and adapting our services safely.

*We could never have done it without our dedicated staff, volunteers, and most of all, generous donors like you. **Your support enables us to pivot and serve our communities every day, prior to, during, and far beyond the pandemic.***

There are so many nonprofits doing incredible work for the people and places we love. Winning Nonprofit of the Year is a privilege. **Know that you were right beside us—where you always are—as we accepted this honor!**

You made Sean's wish come true!

Sean Elsass has some advice worth hearing.

"Instead of judging a book by its cover, we should open the book and get to know someone's background," he says.

In particular, Sean advocates for those who are homeless, have mental health issues, the elderly, and those managing substance misuse. "I wish people would be kinder to each other," Sean says.

That's why Sean is so grateful for your kindness! You see, in 2019, Sean became ill and could not

work. He quickly used up his savings and then lost his housing. He went from employed and secure to living in his car in just a matter of months.

"Your dignity is gone when you hit a low like that in life. Homelessness is the worst feeling ever—especially when people look at you like you're less than human," Sean recalls.

Thanks to generous friends like you, Sean was able to turn to the Haven. He worked with Nancy Griffin, one of our Community

Continued on back



"The homeless aren't a stereotype; they aren't thieves and addicts. They are worth your time and are someone's mother or brother."

— Sean Elsass

Continued from front

He said, "The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and therefore, brothers."

You continue to choose humanity over fear of the unknown, and for that we are endlessly grateful.

You are the reason why the Haven can continue to work with individuals, couples, and families to focus on their most immediate needs, like food security. It's no longer just a problem for families in poverty, but for broad swaths of our community.

Here's something I found shocking. The Haven recently ran a survey of 100 of our clients about food security. **More than 70% said they worried about running out**

of food before having money to buy more—and a staggering 64% actually did.

Your generosity combats this growing crisis in our communities—giving them access to meats and proteins, produce, bread, dairy products, a wide variety of non-perishables, and other essential staples. You also help us supply much needed items like baby formula, diapers, and period products.

Because of you, our Food Shelf is stocked and available to anyone struggling with food insecurity.

"The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and therefore, brothers."

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

You create a safe, judgment-free community where no parent, child, or friend has to live without food.

For this reason, your gifts—of any amount—are absolutely priceless.

My deepest thanks for your steadfast support as we help make our communities stronger, safer, and more resilient.

Warmly,

Michael

Michael Redmond
Executive Director

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION!



The warmth of food— for here *and* to go!

14,443 visitors to the
Food Shelf in 2021

2,718 households served
through the Food Shelf

250 dinners made for adult
shelter guests in 2021

Over **20,000** meals—**100**
a day!—made to grab
and go at the Café

5,000 meals and snacks
prepared by volunteers for our
Moms in Recovery Program

The warmth of kindness: Volunteering at the Haven

In 2021, our 452 generous volunteers...

Worked **14,722** hours in our
food programs—equal to
seven full-time employees!

Helped manage the **833,915** pounds
of food donated to the Haven!

Allowed us to add **10 more**
outside programs to
our food services!

Delivered **77,000**
pounds of food to
neighbors in need!



Continued from inside

**Service Coordinators, and secured
a place in Hixon House.**

Not only was he at risk due to
his illness, Sean was also hesitant
about shelter living because he
is a transgender man. The staff at
the Haven reassured him, gave
him kindness when he needed it

most, and helped him feel safe in a
judgment-free environment.

**Sean's story demonstrates
your generosity at work.
With your support, Nancy's
guidance, and Sean's
determination, he secured his
own apartment in Vermont.**

"The homeless aren't a stereotype;
they aren't thieves and addicts,"
Sean wisely reminds us. "They
are worth your time and are
someone's mother or brother. I'm so
appreciative of the kindness I was
shown. **Thank you!**"

