



Upper Valley Haven

Donor Impact Report

WINTER
2023

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I'm nearly speechless, so I'll keep it brief.

You made 2022 a year to remember at the Haven.

Every dollar you gifted, every moment you volunteered your time, each way that you embraced your neighbors in need all culminated in incredible service to those who need a helping hand.

People turn to the Haven in crisis. **With your generosity, not only do you give them shelter, food, and guidance, you show them the power of community.**

We are so fortunate to have friends like you who pass no judgment on those in need and instead offer a warm welcome uplifting so many.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for a stellar year of service to your neighbors!

Michael

Michael Redmond
Executive Director

19 DAYS OF THE VALLEY

Ten successful years— all thanks to you!

As always, I am overwhelmed by our wonderful community. **The 10th anniversary of the 19 Days was our best ever, with donations for the Haven still rolling in—\$450,000 including the generous match by The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation!**

There is still a buzz in the air here in Norwich. Our community is filled with a sense of accomplishment and togetherness. *Thanks to each and every one of you who participated, donated, and showed up for the Haven and your community!*

Every year of the 19 Days looks a little different, but it's always a blast. This year, Andrea was the sole participant in the Bonding of the Beauticians, taking the lead on dressing up with her crew and decorating her shop two weeks in a row—and she raised more than \$16,000!

Nico, Manager of the Norwich branch of Ledyard Bank, went all out with his hair dying, as usual. Mascoma Bank's Norwich branch also hosted a breakfast time meet and greet with Santa—a treat for families who didn't have to travel far or wait in line to fulfill their children's holiday dreams of meeting Santa and Mrs. Claus.

My favorite part of the 19 Days is always the participation. Not only did you put the spotlight on the Haven, but you supported our local businesses by shopping, visiting, and having fun with each other.

Check out some more of my favorite highlights inside this report. Know that each smiling face is thanks to your commitment to building a stronger, safer, more united community.

Dan Fraser, Dan & Whit's



You gave Angie (and Kita) the strength to “keep on keeping on!”

“Without the help of Katie and the other Community Service Coordinators at the Haven, I would not be here today,” says Angie.

Angie left a relationship in 2020 and found herself homeless. Out of options, she called #211, the national three-digit number for information and referral to health, human, and social service organizations.

Vermont #211 helped place Angie in a local hotel. Living off her disability check, she struggled to find income-based housing she could afford. Adding to her difficulties, Angie continued to battle physical and mental health challenges.

Thanks to generous friends like you, Haven Service Coordinators follow up with people who find temporary shelter through #211.

One of our Coordinators, Katie, helped Angie



navigate and complete housing applications and assistance forms. ***It wasn't long before Angie was out of the hotel and in secure and safe housing with her service dog, Kita.***

Angie is just one of our many clients who receive the gentle guidance and support they need through Haven staff and services—**just one of the *many* lives you touch through your selfless compassion.**

Angie remains connected to Katie and to Haven services. “In the very beginning Katie said to me, ‘keep on keeping on’ and that has been my mantra ever since. It has helped me keep going day after day. I will not give up.”



Light on the longest night

The Annual Homelessness Awareness Vigil is a national event held to shine light on friends and neighbors throughout the U.S. who are experiencing homelessness. We gathered with advocates on the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, to raise our voices for policy change on behalf of the lives lost or uprooted due to the homelessness crisis. Thank you to everyone who came to inspire compassion and change!

2022 SNAPSHOT

Food, Shelter, & Stability at the Haven



16,005

Food Shelf visits

1,237

New household
Food Shelf visitors

48 adults from **40 households** found safety in one of our shelters

22 adults, 23 children, 15 families were guests in the Byrne Family Shelter

52 individuals moved from our shelters into permanent housing in the community!
A special measure of success!



*Pet Contest:
They're all
winners!
Meet
Despereaux
of Trumbull
Lane, Peaches
and Sunny,
and Nala!*

19 DAYS OF *joy*



1. Newly elected Vermont Senator Peter Welch visited the Haven before Thanksgiving to help in our Turkey Day efforts. 2. The Children's After School Program annual holiday party was a blast! Hosted by the Jeffrey S. Holmes Post No. 84, the food, fun, and laughs at this party are a highlight of the year for these young ones. Thank you to the jolly Post crew for bringing joy! 3. The Nugget Theater in Hanover hosted its annual screening of Christmas movies for kids—with plenty of popcorn and snacks!



The stunning Giving Tree, courtesy of the always-generous Norwich Lions Club, was a must-see!



The 14th Annual Norwich Turkey Trot was the unofficial kick-off to the 19 Days of Norwich! Started by Molly Turco, this fan favorite event had runners working up an appetite before their big feast. And work they did! Runners raised more than \$7,500 which was matched by The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation in honor of the 19 Days. Thank you for your hard work on and off the pavement!



Haven Board Members (and dedicated Turkey Day volunteers!)



That's a lot of Turkey! Hartford High School was the location of the Haven's annual Turkey Day. In the week before Thanksgiving, more than 1,000 households received the traditional bird and fresh ingredients for all the fixings!

To those who give
the precious gift of
time and presence—
thank you!

Upper Valley Haven
volunteers wowed the
community in 2022 by:

- Donating **14,701 hours** of their time
- Joining together with **400 volunteers** from **58 towns**
- Serving many Haven programs by cooking, gardening, working in the Food Shelf, and **helping where help was needed**

Five neighboring towns really stepped up in service: the most volunteers came from **Hanover, Lebanon, and West Lebanon** in New Hampshire, and **White River Junction** and **Norwich** in Vermont.

Shout out to our one-time volunteers who came to help while visiting the Haven—some from out of state and even one from London, England!



THE **Google** REVIEWS ARE IN—

Haven clients are grateful for everything you make possible!

Allison C. ★★★★★

I am grateful beyond words for the Upper Valley Haven and their service to myself and the community. In financial crisis, I was crying wondering how I would eat and stay warm in the snow. I turned to the Haven and they provided me with warm winter boots, filled my fridge with fresh produce, my cupboards with canned goods, and gave me lunches I could take to work. Everyone was welcoming, friendly, and nonjudgmental. I was reminded that every little bit helps—God bless the Upper Valley Haven!

Robin H. ★★★★★

I can't express how much I love the people at the Haven. They are so understanding and helpful. I don't know where I would be without them.

Hachi N. ★★★★★

The Upper Valley Haven does so much more than provide food—they give you a helping hand you can depend on. We all need support, and I know there are too many people looking away from the struggle we are facing. Don't think you don't deserve help. The Haven will welcome you whoever you are!

Leslie D. ★★★★★

The Upper Valley Haven has been awesome. The staff is polite and have helped me and my wife through the holidays. If I had a vehicle, I would love to volunteer there! I just want to say thank you very much.

