



Donor Impact Report

From The Executive Director

A BIG THANK YOU

To the Haven's incredible community of supporters, **I want to say thank you.**

Winter in the Upper Valley serves as a stark reminder of the importance of the work we do together to feed, shelter, and provide lifesaving resources for anyone in our community seeking help.

Your friendship means the world to those we serve. Last year, more than 3,500 of you made generous gifts to the Haven. Over 400 of you volunteered, lending your valuable time.

I am eternally grateful for all the ways you help make our community safer, stronger, and a better place to call home. I hope you enjoy this report showing just some of the many ways our partnership touches lives all over the Upper Valley.



Gratefully yours,

Michael

Michael Redmond

You helped Kathryn and Jason's family build the "foundation for a second chance"



Looking at Kathryn and Jason in their cozy new apartment with their happy children, you'd never know that just a short time ago, the family was facing serious challenges and found themselves unhoused.

Kathryn was eight months pregnant when they visited the Haven's Community Food Market. There, Kathryn met Gwen, Haven Community Service Coordinator, who told Kathryn about all the services available to people needing a helping hand.

Their family found safety in the Byrne Family Shelter, but their struggles weren't over. Kathryn and Jason temporarily

lost custody of their children as Jason sought treatment for substance misuse. "I really gave up at that point," recalls Jason.

But because of your dedicated support of the Haven, Kathryn and Jason were empowered to take control of their situation and learned to trust the Haven's staff and services. With Jason in treatment and Kathryn living at the Hixon adult shelter, they both continued to find stability as Haven Service Coordinators helped them reunite with their children.

They worked with Haven Community Service Coordinator

Continued inside

Your time to shine at 608

North Main Street

We are excited to share big news with you! The Haven is publicly announcing the **608 North Main Street Capital Campaign**.

Capital funds raised in this campaign will help us construct a 9,000 square foot adult shelter and Resource Center to serve your most vulnerable neighbors.

Once complete, 608 North Main will allow us to provide over 5,000 safe, warm bed nights to an estimated 100 people annually.

Breaking ground this spring and opening one year later, 608 North Main will operate on harm reduction principles, utilizing our holistic approach to addressing homelessness regardless of sobriety, identification, pet ownership, and other typical barriers to shelter.

Friends like you are essential to the success of 608 North Main Street. This new project will require more of the Haven's time, staff, and funding. Your generosity to the Haven and those we serve helps us provide essential, lifesaving resources to our clients free of charge. We look forward to partnering with you on this incredible opportunity for the Upper Valley—stay tuned!



Continued from front

Brie, who helped them navigate the challenges of finding permanent housing. Brie encouraged Kathryn and Jason to apply through longtime Haven partner Twin Pines Housing Trust and helped them obtain a housing voucher to reduce their rent to a manageable amount.

Now in their new home, Kathryn and Jason use what they learned from the Haven to continue to build stability and move forward.

"They help everybody," Kathryn says of the Haven. "It's not just food, like I originally thought. They help with housing, bills, after-school programs. The

Haven is there for you."

To be so actively supportive of our clients is no small feat—and it's not something we can do alone. *Your generosity gives us the ability to staff incredible Community Service Coordinators, fund our food, shelter, and assistive programs.*

Most of all, you help families like Kathryn and Jason's build what they call "the foundation for their second chance." Thank you!

Your kindness multiplies: *Dave & Mystic* tell everyone about the Haven!

Dave and his beloved dog, Mystic, have a long history of finding judgment-free help through the Haven's shelters, Community Service Coordinators, and lifesaving resources.

Throughout his years of being unhoused, winters have been the hardest. Now Dave and Mystic utilize the Lebanon Seasonal shelter, a warm, safe space to sleep, shower, and escape the frigid nights. **Since opening on January 8th, the Lebanon Seasonal Shelter has been full, serving 14 individuals (and a few pets) each night.**

Warm shelter is just one of the Haven's many resources Dave has found helpful. When he or Mystic face health issues, need

food, a shower, or even a little financial help when his disability check is stretched too thin, he always finds the uplifting, compassionate support he needs at the Haven.

Dave sees firsthand how far a little kindness and respect can take someone—thanks to your generosity and support of the Haven.

"When someone doesn't have a lot of money, I let them know about Hixon House, the Byrne Family Shelter, the Community Food Market," Dave says. "The Haven has so many resources to act as a stepping stone for people who need a helping hand."

Thank you for providing that helping hand. Because of you,



Dave and Mystic

the Haven is able to offer winter shelter guests the critical, wrap-around resources that they need, and ease the way for community members like Dave and Mystic.

As Dave says, it's all about "answering the call to help and trying to show love whenever you can."

Fun & Fundraising WITH THE 19 DAYS OF THE VALLEY



We are so grateful to all who made the 12th annual 19 Days of the Valley a huge success! With your help, we surpassed our fundraising goal and unlocked the extraordinary \$200,000 match from The Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation. Thanks to everyone who had fun with our biggest community effort of the year!

- 1** *The 16th Annual Turkey Trot, started by Molly Turco, served as the unofficial kick-off to the 19 Days on Thanksgiving. Runners raised \$13,500, which was matched by The Byrne Foundation.*
- 2** *Thanks to ever-generous donors, the beautiful Lions Club Giving Tree, a 19 Days staple, proudly honored loved ones in our community and beyond.*
- 3** *While all of the adorable contestants in the annual Pet Contest are winners in our eyes, the Goatlieb Gals proved to be un-bleat-able as they took first place.*
- 4** *The Nugget Theater in Hanover hosted the annual 19 Days screening of Christmas movies! Entry was through donations of food or dollars to benefit the Haven.*

The power of community

Longtime local friend, Vermont Senator Peter Welch, joined us for our annual Turkey Day event to help distribute more than 900 turkeys and holiday meal ingredients. As he watched families and individuals being served on the Hartford High School campus by enthusiastic Haven volunteers, Senator Welch was moved by the power of our community.

“Our local folks are volunteering to do so much for other local folks who need some help,” he says. “No one is forgotten, and it makes a huge difference in the lives of so many.”



YOUR IMPACT

on food, shelter, & stability at the Haven in 2024



14 FAMILIES
with 24 children
were housed in our
Byrne Shelter

46 ADULTS
were housed in our
Hixon Shelter



21 children took part
in after-school and
summer programs

3297 households were served
in the Community Food
Market during **18,572** visits



During the holiday season alone, between
Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, **1010**
households were served in our Market.



500+ households received
Community Service
Coordination



Thank you!



For further information, to give a gift by phone, or make a gift of stock, contact Laura Gillespie, Director of Development & Communications, at (802) 478-1803 or laura@uppervalleyhaven.org