



Upper Valley Haven

Donor Impact Report

WINTER
2024

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Haven,

I am honored and filled with joy as I greet you with this salutation – **Friends of the Haven**. It is only because we have you as a friend that we're able to accomplish all we do for the Upper Valley community.

This report provides some recent and notable examples of how your friendship has made a difference.

Last year, there were more than 3,000 donors to the Haven, over 400 volunteers lending thousands of hours of service, and untold numbers more who participated in community events to help those in need who count on us.

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

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being a friend who thinks and cares about our community and the people who need our help.



Michael

Michael Redmond
Executive Director



Thanks for giving Will and his friends a warm welcome!

Will Hunter is a staple at the Haven. Every other Thursday, he makes a trip to the Food Shelf and picks up carts brimming with fresh and nutritious groceries.

What is Will up to? In his words, he's "helping people where they are and treating people so they feel valued. Many institutions don't."

Will runs several sober houses for formerly incarcerated individuals. Since Will purchased the homes and advertised them on Craigslist as sober housing, he has saved countless people leaving incarceration from the risks of being unhoused, welcoming

diversity and maintaining compassion for all.

The Upper Valley Haven plays an important role in Will's community. His tenants can use the Haven's services, and after Will picks up each person's Food Shelf orders, he prepares a group dinner.

"The Haven's culture is so welcoming and kind," Will says. "Very different from other food shelves. It's so important to these people, who have had the hope and possibility knocked out of them a long time ago."



It's friends like you who help make the Haven such a welcoming space for Will and the people he serves. Will is so grateful for the privilege of working with the Haven and neighbors like you to create a supportive community for those who need it most!



LIGHTING THE WAY FOR CHANGE

The 2023 Upper Valley Memorial Candlelight Vigil was held on the longest night of the year, December 21st, an annual tradition. We paid tribute to current and prior Haven clients and shelter guests who had experienced homelessness and who died in 2023. Katie Edwards, a Haven staff member, read each name and a brief bio our service coordinators had written

to remind everyone in attendance of these sad, premature losses of life.

This year's Vigil was a community event uniting the Upper Valley, with a symbolic walk across the Lyman Bridge from Vermont to New Hampshire. Several people also slept outside on this very cold night as a symbol of unity and empathy for those without homes.

The services of the Haven—shelter, community outreach, service coordination, and supportive housing—help address these challenges every day. **We are grateful to the community for its financial support which truly makes a difference.**

The 2023 Upper Valley Memorial Candlelight Vigil was jointly planned



Photo by Jennifer Hauck, courtesy of Valley News

and sponsored by several Upper Valley organizations, including the Haven, the City of Lebanon, Dartmouth Health, LISTEN, Headrest, and Doorways Into Good Shelter.

PARTNERSHIPS AT WORK

Have you heard? **A small building on Mechanic Street in Lebanon, purchased by the City, is now the brand-new Lebanon Seasonal Shelter.** The doors opened on January 25th. The Seasonal Shelter serves individuals experiencing homelessness, offering them safety, warmth, and refuge during these hard winter months.

The city executed funding and renovation successfully, creating a shelter that includes showers, a washer and dryer, and a compact kitchen. But one essential element



was missing: staff. The Haven, invited by the City of Lebanon due to our expertise, reputation, and mission, is proud to partner on their project.

There are two Haven employees on site per shift, plus Gwen Williams, Haven Community Service Coordinator, who serves as supervisor and intake coordinator, and volunteers

who assist in meal preparation and social engagement. On opening night, Gwen said, "I am excited to open the doors to welcome unhoused community members into a warm, safe and caring environment."

A shelter like this saves lives. The Haven is proud to offer our skilled and caring staff to give those seeking shelter the comfort and resources they need. We are grateful for the donors who have supported the project and appreciate Lebanon's tremendous work to open for this winter 2024.

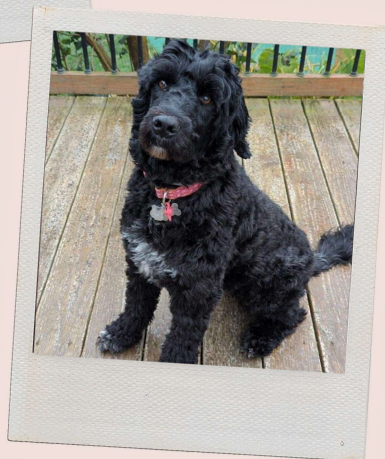


The annual Memory Tree looked picturesque on the Green, courtesy of our always-generous friends at the Lions Club who set up the beautiful tree to honor loved ones.



The Nugget Theater in Hanover welcomed children and their parents to a special screening of the Christmas classic *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer*. Admittance was through a donation of food or dollars to the Haven.

Cuteness overload! The ever-popular pet contest for the 19 Days was filled with tail-wagging contestants. While Nala took the crown, all the adorable pets are winners in our eyes!



Beloved Norwich beautician, Andrea, and her staff once again donned costumes to delight customers in support of the Haven. What else could it be but the Year of Barbie?!

The 11th annual **19 DAYS OF THE VALLEY** was a tremendous success—thanks to neighbors, local businesses, and friends like you! With the generous support of so many we were able to meet the \$200,000 match from The Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation.



First Congregational Church of Lebanon was host to *A Christmas Spectacular*. The Borowsky Family and an array of musical friends performed holiday favorites. Ice sculptor Tony Perham's angel added an extraordinary touch outside the church.



The 15th annual Turkey Trot was the unofficial kick-off to the 19 Days. Started by Norwich native Molly Turco, this fan favorite event had hundreds of runners showing up on the Green to work up an appetite before their big feast. Runners raised a record-setting \$13,500 for the Haven, fully matched by The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation.

Our friend Ted Arbo, pictured here with Jessica Pecora of the Haven, proudly presents a check for \$16,000 to the Haven. Ted's 37th annual holiday toy drive fundraiser is an extraordinary community event that supports many regional organizations in addition to the Haven.



**Gobble
Gobble!**

Welch & Balint serve up turkeys and more!

Longtime friend and Norwich neighbor Senator Peter Welch and newly-elected Congresswoman Becca Balint took time out of their busy schedules during the week before Thanksgiving to spend time at the Haven's Food Shelf.

During their time on campus each helped serve Food Shelf customers with turkeys and other groceries, and spoke to constituents.

We are grateful that busy Vermont members of Congress value the work of the Haven and choose to spend time here when they return home for the holidays.

**Thank you for an incredible year of food,
shelter, and stability at the Haven in 2023!**



365 active volunteers
745 one-time volunteers
19,442 total hours served



18,811 Food Shelf visits
1,165 New household
Food Shelf visitors



34 adults found safety in Hixon House

13 families including 23 adults & 24 children

were guests in the Byrne Family Shelter

TWENTY households moved from our shelters
into permanent housing in the
community! **A special measure of success!**

46 households moved into permanent housing from
shelters, hotels, and the community during the year.

