

FEBRUARY 2024



HAVEN HELPERS

Happy New Year!



Hope you had a wonderful holiday season and winter full of merriment, warmth, and rest. The Haven saw a lot of change in 2023 and we have already seen a bunch of newness only two months into the new year of 2024.

In calendar year 2023, the Haven provided:

- Shelter for 13 families in our Byrne Shelter. This includes 24 children and 23 adults.
- Food for 3,306 households with 9,315 members, (including 2,922 children).
- Community Service Coordination for 771 households (not including shelter guests), offering resources and advocacy for housing, employment, transportation, health, and more.
- Housing Navigation and Support to help 46 households move into permanent housing from shelters, hotels, and the community during the year.
- Shelter for 34 individuals in our Hixon Adult Shelter.
- Children's After-School and Summer Programs for 22 children who are, or were ever, guests in our Byrne House Family Shelter.

We are so grateful for all your hard work, flexibility, and dedication to the Haven's mission: *"With the support of the Upper Valley community, the Haven assists those who are experiencing poverty to be free from hunger, to be securely housed, and to pursue a self-directed life."*

The volunteers are a crucial part of that community and make everyday happen here at the Haven.

Have a suggestion for us? Leave one [HERE](#).

VOLUNTEER PULSE

Here are your volunteering numbers for 2023:

We had an average of 215 active volunteers a month in 2023, who totaled 17,284 hours of service. That consists of volunteers who are here regularly, groups, and individuals volunteering in one-off projects across the six Haven programs with volunteers. To put that in perspective, a full-time, 40-hours-a-week job is 2,080 hours over the course of a year. Collectively, Haven volunteers worked the equivalent of over 8 full-time jobs in 2023.

Total Hours of Service by Month and Program

Program							
Month	Cafe	Food Shelf	Front End	Gardening	Hixon MM	MiR	Grand Total
January	134	713	203	0	18	16	1084
February	104	786	166	0	36	16	1108
March	127	930	191	0	42	14	1304
April	91	822	196	12	54	16	1191
May	136	1008	191	60	21	18	1434
June	92	969	153	32	42	12	1300
July	100	933	142	52	39	8	1274
August	124	1103	161	56	27	14	1485
September	91	889	165	52	24	10	1231
October	115	902	132	12	21	16	1198
November	118	920	166	18	24	16	1262
December	93	818	145	0	42	16	1114
Grand Total	1325	10793	2011	294	390	172	14985

Group Hours 2023:	
Q1	584
Q2	464
Q3	549
Q4	547
Total	2144

Are you interested or someone you know interested in working at the Haven? Check out open positions [HERE](#).

Some other highlights from 2023:

The Haven was denied a low-barrier shelter on our main campus, but after some re-evaluation and determination, we found another location that would work both as a low-barrier shelter and a temporary food shelf (both of which were approved by the town). The temporary food shelf at 608 N. Main opened Wednesday, January 24th! And is operating at full speed. Congratulations to everyone who made it happen! We're expecting a few months of renovations to the main food shelf at 713 Hartford Ave. Once the food shelf renovations are completed, the 608 N Main property will undergo its own transformation to become a low-barrier shelter and more offices for service coordinators. To read more about the renovations, go [HERE](#).

We also have seen other towns around the Upper Valley step up to help support our unhoused neighbors. In partnership with the city of Lebanon, the Haven is running and staffing a 15-bed emergency, seasonal shelter at 160 Mechanic St. in Lebanon. It opened on Thursday, January 25th. Huge congratulations to Haven Service Coordinator Gwen and everyone else who was involved with making this happen. We need volunteers at the shelter seven days a week until mid April – helping to prepare dinner and greet guests. If this work interests you and you have time to give, please reach out to Matt at mpickell@uppervalleyhaven.org.