

JUNE 2023



# HAVEN HELPERS

## SPRINGING INTO SUMMER

Happy Pride month, everyone! And summer, too!

If you haven't noticed the relatively new flag out on the shed, this is what it looks like:



You can read about what each part means - and about other LGBTQ+ Pride flags - [HERE](#).

You can also take a look at the bulletin board in the lobby of the Byrne main building to learn more about Pride flags and their evolution.

The flag was selected for its inclusivity by the Haven's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Committee - made up of staff and volunteers. Here at the Haven, we want everyone to feel welcome, and we hope that this flag shows that sentiment to all passersby and visitors.

Homelessness affects the LGBTQ+ community at higher rates than the straight, cisgendered population. According to studies by the Journal of Adolescent Health, University of Chicago, and UCLA, LGBTQ+ youth have a 120% higher risk of experiencing homelessness than their peers, and that 40% of the 4.2 million homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+, while LGBTQ+ youth only comprise of 9.5% of the U.S. population. You can read more about it [HERE](#) or [HERE](#).

Volunteer Services received feedback recently about volunteers desiring training and resources about best practices for pronoun usage. At the Haven, we want to embody unconditional hospitality in the words we use around the Haven and with the people we interact. [HERE](#) is a good starting point. When in doubt, leave gender out. Refer to people using their names or use they/them/their.

And finally, [HERE](#) is a link to the Pride events in the area. White River Junction will be having its Pride parade on July 29. The Haven will be there, and we hope to see you there, as well.

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

# FOODSHELF NEWS

A portion of the note from Director of Food Programs Jennifer Fontaine and Food Shelf Manager Shannah Stone about current food supply:

*I would like to take a few minutes to update you on the food supply constraints the Haven has been experiencing over the past several months. I know volunteers, staff and customers are concerned about what is perceived as a lack of food available on our campus. I hope my email will help alleviate some of the concern and shed light on some of the issues we are facing. I know that you are aware we have been several weeks without a full-time driver, and that is affecting our ability to move product around. Our search is underway for Nate's replacement, and we hope to have some news about that soon. You also probably feel the effect of the number of visitors coming for food increasing, as has the percentage of visitors receiving monthly food shelf orders. These two things impact us, both so do some other external factors.*

*For those of you who have been with us for a while, you may remember the overload of food coming in during 2020-2021 when the pandemic sent food producers scrambling to find places to accept their products. The glut of food, especially fresh food, was an amazing gift for organizations like the Haven, and in turn, the people we serve. As 2022 rolled in, we started to see business operations tighten, with companies focusing on their bottom line more closely and more need for their products in sales. More recently, Hannaford has been assessing their donation totals and making specific reductions in the volume of food they produce and purchase, to help with their bottom line. We saw a similar trend with the Vermont Foodbank. All through 2020 and 2021, most products from the Vermont Foodbank were given to us at no cost. In the Fall of 2022, the Foodbank returned to its normal operations, charging for most of their items. The amount and variety of product at the Foodbank also changed in 2022, due in large part to the business changes mentioned earlier in this note. [CONTINUED... READ MORE HERE](#)*

**If you know of someone who may be interested in the Delivery Driver & Inventory Specialist position, apply [HERE](#).**

## Foodshelf Numbers March - May

### Donations Received

March: 54,234  
April: 53,482  
May: 47,997

### Households Served:

March: 4,085 individuals | 1,545 families  
April: 4,132 | 1,533  
May: 4,721 | 1,775

## Housing & Low-Barrier Shelter Updates

In housing news, the Vermont hotel program for unhoused people is ending at the end of June. You can read more about the issue [HERE](#) or [HERE](#). The emergency funding for rental assistance in New Hampshire ended in April. Lebanon is currently in the process of determining a suitable site for a homeless shelter. Read about it [HERE](#) or [HERE](#). The Haven's service coordinators have been working tirelessly to find housing for our clients. As for the low-barrier shelter that the Haven has been working towards building, a location has been tentatively selected. You can read Haven Executive Director Michael Redmond's thoughts about the matter [HERE](#), or check out the VT Digger story [HERE](#).