



FY2023 Annual Services and Financial Report

(7/1/22-6/30/23)

Our Mission

To improve food security for community members of Shelburne through food distribution, and to provide emergency assistance grants, while preserving the dignity of our shoppers

Letter from the Chair

The Shelburne Food Shelf hit a good stride this past year, with shopping offered 6 times a month, food delivery to those who were unable to come in person to the Food Shelf, and assisting many with emergency grants to help pay for non-food needs (e.g., rent, gas, utilities).

The average number of households served per month increased from last year to more than 100 households served per month. Thanks to the Vermont Food Bank and many generous donations, we have been able to keep our shelves stocked to support the increase in shoppers. Our partnerships with Shelburne Farms, Head Over Fields Farm, New Village Farm, and a new partnership with Bread & Butter Farm allowed us to offer our shoppers fresh produce throughout the year.

Thanks to a new website developed by Ecopixel, our message to shoppers, volunteers, and donors has been simplified and streamlined. Our shoppers can easily sign-up to shop and community members interested in volunteering can complete a simple online form to get started. In the vein of improving communication, we also added texting capabilities to our phone system. This small change gives us one more way to communicate with shoppers and those needing financial assistance.

Our partnership with the faith community in town keeps the Tiny Pantry stocked with food that can be accessed any time of day or night.

In September, we awarded Lisa Phelps the Val Martel Award. Lisa helped run the “Food That’s In When School Is Out” Program; her dedication helped us provide healthy, nutritious foods and fun recipes to school children during the summer and school breaks. Administration of this program is challenging, although it is only offered 4 times during the school year and throughout the summer. Without Lisa’s leadership and

assistance, this program would not be as successful.

As a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative, we created a youth advisory position on the Food Shelf Board to provide valuable youth perspectives on community needs, as well as to act as a conduit to potential volunteers. We brought on a CVU student to connect with the CVU Food Shelf and work with the Shelburne Community School to raise awareness about our services and make sure the youth voice was represented on the Board.

All our efforts to assist Shelburne residents in times of need were made possible thanks to the amazing support of the community of Shelburne and our wonderful volunteers. Our services are entirely dependent on volunteers, donations, grants, and space provided by the Town of Shelburne. If you would like to help, you can find information on our website (<https://www.shelburnefoodshelf.org/>).

I am truly grateful for your generosity!

Pam Brangan, Chair



Statement of Impact

Food Distribution Operations

We continued to see an increase in the number of households we serve. On average, we served 104 households each month over the past year, mostly through in-person shopping. This was an increase over last year's average of 89 per month.

We continued to deliver a standard order to a small group of shoppers that were unable to come to the Food Shelf. We also continued our program of emergency food deliveries. Our emergency delivery numbers were low for most of the year; however, June 2023 saw a huge jump from an average of 2 per month to 12 in one month. This uptick coincided with changes in the state's motel voucher program.

Based on shopper feedback and suggestions, we added non-food items such as laundry detergent, paper towels, and personal hygiene items. Every year we ask our shoppers if there are items they would like us to carry and strive to add them to our shelves.

We continued to build relationships with local farms. In the winter, fresh produce was obtained from Bread & Butter Farm and Shelburne Farms. In June, we offered CSA Choice Cards to shoppers allowing them to purchase fresh produce from Head Over Fields Farm at the Shelburne Farmers Market or at their farmstand in Charlotte. We also partnered with the Friends of the Pierson Library to offer our shoppers free cookbooks and the Spice of the Month club.



Focus on Children

The Food Shelf continued to work with the Shelburne Community School (SCS) and Champlain Valley School District through our “Food That’s In When School Is Out” Program, providing supplemental nutrition assistance when school is out of session. In July and August, the program provided breakfast and lunch staples and fresh vegetables and fruits for pick-up at the school or delivery, if a family had no transportation. During the school year vacations, we opted to deliver to families requesting this supplemental program.

For summer 2023, we began operating this program during our usual Food Shelf hours. Now, a family with school-aged children can pick up breakfast and lunch staples, fresh fruits and vegetables while at the Food Shelf.

The program served between 40 and 50 children. In addition, we provided SCS with a grant to purchase snacks for children throughout the school year.

Emergency Assistance Grants

The Food Shelf provided two households with emergency fuel assistance, four households with housing assistance, seventeen households with utility assistance, five households with clothing assistance, thirteen households with transportation assistance, two households with an emergency food voucher, one household with dental assistance and assistance towards the funeral of one shopper. The grants were provided as gift cards or direct payments to vendors.

We gave quarterly gift cards to all shoppers, alternating between the Shelburne Market and Hannaford, to assist with food not available at the Food Shelf.



Treasurer's Statement

The Board of the Shelburne Food Shelf thanks the community for its continued generous support of our mission.

In addition to donations from community members, a Vermont Fresh Mini-Grant of \$150 was used to purchase two shopping carts, a \$3,750 grant from Vermonters Feeding Vermonters was used to purchase meat and fresh produce, and a \$1,200 grant from SCHIPS was used for CSA Choice Cards to be distributed to our shoppers.

Overall, 73% of our expenditures was spent on food and non-food grocery items, such as laundry detergent, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, and grocery gift cards; 10% was spent on the "Food That's In When School Is Out" Program, and 12% was spent on non-food aid. We continued to keep our administrative costs to a minimum (5%) by using space provided by the Town and relying on an all-volunteer staff.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Shelburne community, we were able to commit 95 cents of every dollar spent to the direct benefit of our neighbors in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Ellwood, Treasurer

Thank you!

The Food Shelf Board sincerely thanks Shelburne residents and area businesses for their generosity in donating money, supplies, and goods used by the Food Shelf to improve nutrition security for individuals and families. Thank you to the Town of Shelburne and all our volunteers who support us every day! The Food Shelf also appreciates the Shelburne Market and its customers, who “round up” at check-out to support us.

Thank you to the following businesses and organizations:

- Adventures in Early Learning
- All Souls Interfaith Gathering
- B&R Developers
- B&R Electric
- Bimbo Bakeries USA
- Boy Scout Troop 602
- Brett Lewis Promotions
- Champlain Valley Lions Club
- Coffee Enterprises
- Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman
- Cub Scout Pack 607
- David Webster & A. M. Peisch & Company, LLP
- Dreambridge Films
- Earthkeep Farmcommon
- Friends of the Pierson Library
- Global Maritime Transportation
- Grass Cattle Company
- Head Over Fields Farm
- Klinger's Bakery and Cafe
- Lake Champlain Chocolates
- Natale Partners 2, LLC
- Perrigo Nutritionals
- Portico Apartments, LLC
- Precourt Investment Company
- Rice Lumber
- Rotary Club of Charlotte, Shelburne, Hinesburg
- Shelburne Athletic Club
- Shelburne Charlotte Association of Travelers & Landowners of VAST network

- Shelburne Community School
- Schwab Charitable Fund
- Shelburne Farms
- Shelburne Market
- St. Catherine of Siena Parish
- Sweeney DesignBuild
- TD Bank
- The Terraces
- Town Fair Tire Foundation
- US Postal Service
- Vermont Commons School
- Vermont Day School
- Vermont Diaper Bank
- Vermont Food Bank
- Vermont Gas
- Vermont Zen Center
- Village Wine and Coffee
- Wake Robin

Testimonials

Our shoppers and volunteers often contact us to express their gratitude:

- Your compassion and support throughout COVID and continuing has made a significant difference in our quality of life.
- Thank you is so inadequate. God has truly blessed the great work you all do.
- Thank you for ALL you do! My life would be very complicated without this assistance!

Board Members

Pam Brangan, *Chair*

Allan Merritt

Georgene Grover, *Vice
Chair*

George Mills

Dana Valentine

Nina Regan, *Secretary*

Kristen Ellwood, *Treasurer*

Brandie Benoit

Tom Bonnette

Amanda Broder

Ruth Hagerman

Youth Advisor

Eliza “Lulu” Sarandos

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Our statement:

The Shelburne Food Shelf condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, age, or disability, such that everyone feels safe and welcome in our community.

We condemn all discrimination in all of its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and strive to ensure all of our actions, policies, and operating procedures reflect this commitment.

Our commitment:

We recognize that our core client base is composed of individuals from marginalized communities who are experiencing food insecurity. These individuals are often socially isolated and may have emotional and addiction issues. Many are dis- or differently-abled, are elderly, or very young. A large number of them live in inadequate housing and often have financial and transportation impediments.

To best assist our clients in a non-judgmental and equitable fashion, we commit to:

- Ensuring the safety and comfort of all our clients in our distribution models by applying an equity lens to all aspects of our work, including marketing, program design, service delivery, and customer privacy.
- Educating ourselves about injustices within the food system, and establishing procedures to address inequities in local food systems.

Our progress:

As we progress in this learning journey:

- We developed a Shopper Code of Conduct to ensure fair and just treatment of volunteers and fellow shoppers.
- We created a youth advisory position on the Food Shelf Board to provide valuable youth perspectives on community needs, as well as to act as a conduit to potential volunteers. We brought on a CVU student to connect with the CVU Food Shelf and work with the Shelburne Community School to raise awareness about our services and make sure the youth voice was represented on the Board.
- We continued to work to understand different food cultures and traditions and encourage our clients to celebrate these traditions.
- We recognized that our clients have different skill sets and bases of knowledge around foods and their

preparation and presentation, and continued to expand our knowledge of these differences.

- We supported our local agricultural systems by purchasing from them whenever possible and offered our clients assistance to enable their participation in local food systems, including local farmer's markets and farm stands.



Shelburne Food Shelf

P.O. Box 763

Shelburne, VT 05482

The Shelburne Food Shelf is an IRS-approved 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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