



# **FY2024 Annual Services and Financial Report**

**(7/1/23-6/30/24)**

***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 past 3 years as Chair of the Shelburne Food Shelf have been very fulfilling for me. I have gotten to work alongside amazing volunteers and board members, and I have gotten to know many wonderful Shelburne residents that shop at the Food Shelf. I have witnessed incredible generosity from the Shelburne community (and beyond). This generosity has enabled the Food Shelf to help many folks. The Board is always listening to shopper needs and always looking for ways to improve so that we can continue to provide food, personal hygiene products, and/or financial assistance.

The increased need in our community has been disheartening, though. The average number of households visiting the Food Shelf each month has continued to increase - averaging about 131 this past year. Thanks to the Vermont Food Bank, a large grant from the State of Vermont, and many generous donations we have been able to keep our shelves stocked to support the increased need. One generous donor not only provided funding, but also did research on where we could purchase halal chicken to meet the needs of some of our shoppers. Our partnerships with Shelburne Farms, Head Over Fields Farm, Bread & Butter Farm, Frog Song Farm, and the Shelburne Farmers Market allow us to offer our shoppers fresh, local produce throughout the year.

In November 2023, the Food Shelf was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the State of Vermont (administered by CVOEO) to provide those experiencing homelessness with shelf-stable foods as well as items like sunscreen, bug repellent, and personal hygiene items. In addition to adding these types of items to our shelves, we also used these funds to help Harbor Place stock its newly created food pantry.

In September 2023, the Board awarded Georgene Grover the Val Martel Award. Georgene served on the Shelburne Food Shelf Board for 3 years. During Georgene's daily walks around town, she would check donation bins (and still does), sorted & stocked the donations, managed ordering bread, eggs, and meat for the Food Shelf, as well as for our "Food That's In When School Is Out" Program, and was always willing to run over to the Food Shelf when needed. In Georgene's 3rd year on the board, she served as Vice-Chair helping troubleshoot and problem-solve issues that arose.

All our efforts to assist Shelburne residents in times of need were made possible thanks to the amazing support of the community of Shelburne (& beyond) and our wonderful volunteers. Our services are entirely dependent on volunteers, donations, grants, and space provided by the Town of Shelburne. We have forty-nine active volunteers that help keep things running smoothly. We continue to add more volunteer jobs because

our volunteers want to do more! If you would like to help, you can find information on our website (<https://www.shelburnefoodshelf.org>).

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have served on the Shelburne Food Shelf Board for the past 6 years!

*Pam Brangan, Chair*



## Statement of Impact

### Food Distribution Operations

As in the past few years, the trend of Shelburne residents frequenting the Food Shelf has continued to increase. This past fiscal year we have seen an average of 131 shopping interactions each month, a 26% increase from last fiscal year's average of 104 households. Shoppers are encouraged to shop twice a month, although not everyone does.

Over the past year, we have seen a decrease in the number of food deliveries. This indicates shoppers are comfortable with signing up to shop on our website and finding their own way to the Food Shelf to select items from our shelves that they want. We

continue to provide emergency food deliveries. Our emergency delivery numbers were low for most of the year; however, July 2023 saw a huge jump from an average of 1 or 2 per month to eight. This uptick coincided with changes in the state's motel voucher program. The decreasing number of emergency food deliveries could be due to our improved communication and collaboration with the Shelburne Police Department. The Shelburne Police Department now has access to the Food Shelf, so that they can provide someone in an emergency situation with food without having to contact someone on the Board.

We continue to seek feedback from our shoppers on items that are needed. Over the course of this past year, we have added dishwashing soap and more vegetarian and halal options as well as continuing to stock paper towels and laundry detergent. A generous donation from a private citizen has allowed us to purchase halal chicken, something a few of our regular shoppers really appreciate. Thanks in part to the large grant from the state, we also have on hand items helpful to those living in their car, tents or motels, items like can openers, bug repellent, sunscreen, and shelf stable meat.

We continue to build relationships with local farms. In the winter, fresh produce was obtained from Bread & Butter Farm and Shelburne Farms. We are using grant funds from Vermont Food Bank to purchase produce from Adam's Berry Farm and Frog Song Farm. Thanks to a generous donation from SCHIP, beginning in June we have provided shoppers with Shelburne Food Shelf branded tokens (each token is worth \$5) to be used at any food vendor at the Shelburne Farmers Market. These tokens will be tallied by the Farmers Market and returned to the Food Shelf to be redistributed.

While financial donations, the Vermont Food Bank, and grants help us keep the shelves stocked it should also be noted that we benefit greatly from the many food drives held by schools, businesses, neighborhoods, and local organizations such as the Champlain Valley Lions Club and the Rotary Club of Charlotte- Shelburne- Hinesburg, not to mention many generous residents who regularly donate food to the Food Shelf.

All of this could not be done without our wonderful volunteers who are always ready to help.



## **Focus on Children**

The Food Shelf continued to work with the Shelburne Community School 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 and during the school year vacations, the program provided breakfast and lunch staples and fresh vegetables and fruits for pick-up at the Food Shelf.

For summer 2024, we are offering families with school age children the chance to shop during our regular shopping hours. Families also had three other dedicated times to come to the Food Shelf for food (with a focus on breakfast, lunch, and snacks). These special shopping times were held once in June, July, and August. Non-food items were also distributed for every child: books donated by the Friends of Pierson Library and others, and games in June; art kits donated by Color Our World (COW) group in July; and school supplies and backpacks donated by the community, Wake Robin residents and the Food Shelf, and purchased with funds from a grant from SCHIP.

Because many of the families staying at Harbor Place have no transportation, as well as because these families do not always stay at Harbor Place, we began an additional program this year. We provide 20 bags filled with shelf stable breakfast, lunch and snack foods to the staff at Harbor Place each school vacation week. The staff hands out the bags to families with school age children. The \$15,000 grant from the State of Vermont has helped us to purchase these items. Although the grant monies have been spent, we intend to continue this program.

The program served between 35 children at the Food Shelf and an additional 20 children at Harbor Place for a total of 55 children during each summer's special shop (2024) and 75-100 children each school food distribution during the school year. This significant increase during the 2023/2024 school year was due to a large number of new Americans residing in Shelburne. Many have since moved to other communities, as their accommodations in Shelburne were temporary.

In addition, we provided Shelburne Community School with a grant to purchase snacks for children throughout the school year.

### **Emergency Assistance Grants**

The Shelburne Food Shelf provided \$11,177 to households for utility assistance, \$9,075 for Shelburne water/sewer assistance, \$7,191 for lodging assistance, \$1,668 for Shelburne property tax assistance, \$982 for fuel assistance, \$947 for transportation assistance, \$505 for emergency gas or food vouchers, and \$403 for cremation services for one shopper.

The Food Shelf also gave out quarterly gift cards to area grocery to all shoppers to assist with food not available at SFS.



# 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 \$3,000 grant from Vermonters Feeding Vermonters was used to purchase fresh produce, and a \$3,000 grant from SCHIP was used for tokens to allow our shoppers to purchase food at the Shelburne Farmers Market. In addition, Aubuchon Hardware generously chose to support the Food Shelf with their change round up campaign. The Aubuchon Foundation also very kindly matched the donation made to the Food Shelf by the Shelburne Aubuchon Hardware.

Overall, 66% of our expenditures was spent on food and non-food grocery items, such as laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, and grocery gift cards; 8% was spent on the "Food That's In When School Is Out" Program, and 22% was spent on non-food aid. We continued to keep our administrative costs to a minimum (4%) 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 96 cents of every dollar spent to the direct benefit of our neighbors in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Ellwood, Treasurer



# Thank you!

The Shelburne 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

- Aubuchon Foundation
- Aubuchon Hardware
- B&R Developers
- B&R Electric
- Champlain Valley Lions Club
- David Webster & A. M. Peisch & Company, LLP
- Dragonheart Vermont
- Educational and Institutional Insurance
- Employees Community Action Council
- Frog Song Farm
- Global Maritime Transportation
- Mysa, LLC
- Perrigo Nutritionals
- Precourt Investment Company
- Rice Lumber
- Rotary Club of Charlotte, Shelburne, Hinesburg
- SCHIP
- Shelburne Farms
- Shelburne Holiday Stroll
- Shelburne Market
- St. Catherine of Siena Parish
- The Terraces
- Town Fair Tire Foundation
- US Postal Service
- Vermont Food Bank
- Village Wine and Coffee



# Testimonials

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

- No judgments ever. We are so very blessed in this town to have not the “food shelf” but the volunteers and the board who make it so. Who treat everyone fairly and with compassion and humanity.
- Our family is so thankful for all you do for me, my son, grandkids, and our family! We love you.
- Thanks for all the special things you do. Your thoughtfulness and support are always greatly appreciated!



# Board Members

Pam Brangan, *Chair*

Brandie Benoit, *Vice Chair*

Amanda Broder, *Secretary*

Kristen Ellwood, *Treasurer*

Nancy E. Baker

Tom Bonnette

George Mills

Marleen Moore

Kathleen O'Brien

Dana Valentine

Lori York

## 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 farmers' 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.

[shelburnefoodshelf@gmail.com](mailto:shelburnefoodshelf@gmail.com)

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