



2020 Annual Services And Financial Report

Can you stand the idea of a family in Shelburne going hungry?

Neither can we.

Letter from the Chair

Whew! What a year! We are happy to provide you with our 2020 Annual Financial and Services Report. This year, like no other, we have to give so much thanks to our intrepid board members and generous volunteers. Everyone has worked incredibly hard to keep the Shelburne Food Shelf going. I cannot imagine what would have happened without your help.

We also have to thank especially the amazing Shelburne community which has been so generous with its time and money. Our ability to respond to the difficult COVID-19 situation was (and is) only possible because of the community's support.

None of us could have imagined last summer that this year would see a one hundred percent increase in demand on our services. Nor could we have imagined moving to a delivery model in order to protect our vulnerable populations and our volunteers. It was – and still is – a lot of work, but with the community's support we have made the transition.

Continuing to work at this level of activity is not sustainable over the longer term, and we are seeking other options for providing needed support (both food and emergency funds) to those who are food insecure. We welcome your suggestions and ideas. Please email us at shelburnefoodshelf@gmail.com with any thoughts you have.

Thank you again for all help and support. We have needed it - and we still do!

Sincerely,

Susan Stock, Chair



Bags all packed and ready for delivery.

Statement of Impact

Food Shelf Operations:

Fiscal year 2020 was unlike any other for the Shelburne Food Shelf. The year was split in two in terms of how the Food Shelf operated. For the autumn and winter, the Food Shelf's operations were as they have been since its inception with shoppers coming to the Food Shelf to shop during our operating hours four times each month. With the emergence of COVID-19 in the spring of 2020, the Food Shelf adapted to new ways of dealing with multiple challenges, creating new operational modes, preparing for increased numbers of shoppers and being flexible as never before.

The board, in conjunction with the Town of Shelburne, realized having shoppers visit the Food Shelf, located in the town offices' building, to obtain their groceries would not be safe for the shopper nor the Food Shelf volunteers. Therefore, a new method was needed to ensure shoppers could still access needed food.

An on-line survey was developed which shoppers could access through the Food Shelf's website. The survey's purpose was to give shoppers the ability to select grocery items they desired from a list prepared for each twice monthly distribution. The survey offered choices of items from among what was available at the Food Shelf. The shopper filled out the survey by the Monday before the distribution.

Based upon the choices selected on a shopper's survey, board members and their family members packed individual bags of groceries reflecting the choices made by the shopper. For two distribution weeks (March 23 and April 13) shoppers obtained their groceries by driving to the back of the



Snowy distribution, March 2020

town office building where board members placed their bags in the car. However, it was determined the drive-by grocery pick-up was not the best way to distribute the groceries. The board terminated the drive-by distribution method and inaugurated a bag delivery method. Twice a month thirteen dedicated volunteers from the community delivered the pre-packed bags to each shopper's address. If an individual or family did not fill out the survey, and thus did not have groceries delivered, a board member was available on the Thursday afternoon of the distribution week to hand out a pre-packaged bag or bags, depending on the size of the family. The Thursday pick-up was discontinued as it was decided that shoppers who missed the survey could call the emergency food telephone number.

Increase in Numbers:

The number of Shelburne residents accessing the Food Shelf rose steadily as the effects of the COVID-19 were felt. In February (pre-COVID-19) there were forty-three shoppers, a decrease from February 2019. By June, the volume had increased to one hundred and six shoppers (a 140% increase). There has been an ever-increasing need for food. Through a combination of the monthly Vermont Foodbank deliveries, purchases made at local grocery stores and Costco and the generous donations from community members, by and large, the requests for grocery items have been fulfilled.

Food Programs:

Now in its sixth year of operation, the Food Shelf generally has experienced an increase year-to-year in the number of households. When the SFS began under its current model five years ago, it served about twenty households per month. In the first months of this past fiscal year, we served between sixty to seventy households per month. Now, during COVID-19, we are delivering to more than one hundred



Fresh Strawberries! Vermonters Feeding Vermonters grant

households per month. Through two Vermonters Feeding Vermonters grants, the SFS was able to provide local fruit, vegetables, and beef.

School Age Children:

The Food Shelf continues to work with the Shelburne Community School and Champlain Valley School District, Vermont (CVSDVT) through our “Food That’s in When School is Out” Program when school is out of session. Typically, the Food Shelf serves between thirty-five and fifty children (twenty plus families). COVID-19 changed the program with CVSDVT providing pick-up lunches for children throughout the pandemic. However, many of the families the Food Shelf serves have non-school age children who also rely on the groceries available through the “Food That’s in When School is Out” program. To help these families, the Food Shelf continued its program through the summer, providing breakfast and lunch staples, fresh vegetables, and fruits for pick-up at the school.

Non-Food Programs:

The largest impact on Non-Food Assistance for the Food Shelf was caused by COVID-19 pandemic and the governmental actions to attempt to mitigate the financial impact on low income families. Governor Scott’s Emergency Declaration included orders to delay evictions and utility shutoffs until the Executive Order is exhausted. Prior to its implementation, the Food Shelf had assisted four families with emergency fuel assistance, four families with housing assistance, three with utility assistance, one with a car repair, and one with a dental emergency. It is anticipated there will be additional requests for housing and utility assistance when the Executive Order expires.

One of the positive notes of the community reaction to the financial distress of many Food Shelf participants was a significant increase in financial donations received. These funds were used for a one-time cash benefit to sixty-one Shelburne families to help with rent or utilities. The funds assisted many

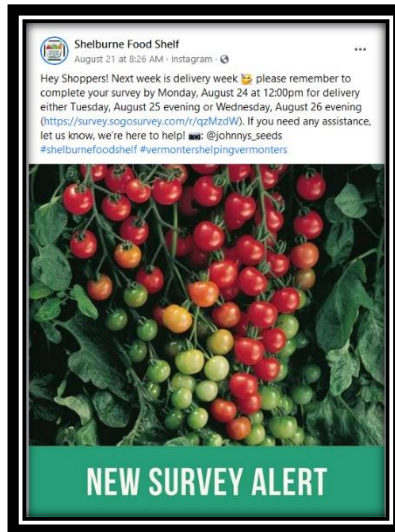
families with their immediate cash needs and was much appreciated.

Communications:

In the increasingly digital world we live in, a social media presence is an effective and efficient method to share updates and information. Thanks to Senja Kling, the Food Shelf has increased its social media presence giving donors, shoppers and other interested parties another insight into what the Food Shelf does to address the issue of food insecurity in Shelburne.

We continue to work to increase the awareness of and the use of the Food Shelf by:

- Posting regular notices of the twice monthly distributions on the website and on the tent sign in front of the town office building.
- Increasing the use of social media such as Instagram, Facebook and Front Porch Forum.
- Placing posters at Harbor Place and Harrington House.



Instagram post alerting shoppers the survey is available.

Treasurer's Statement

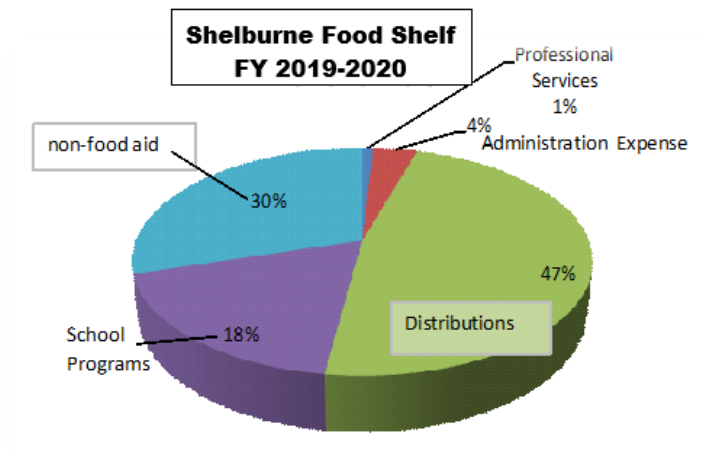
Last fiscal year our income exceeded our expenses, in large part due to the generosity of our wonderful community in the midst a global pandemic. We supported the summer and school break food programs at the Shelburne Community School and provided a grant to help make sure children have access to snacks during the school year to support their learning. These school programs amounted to eighteen percent (18%) of our expenses, which is less than last year because the school provided meals most of the summer.

Forty-seven percent (47%) of our total expenses last year went to purchase food and personal care items used in our regular Food Shelf food distribution. Thirty percent (30%) of our expenses went to non-food aid, which included payments toward rent and water bills for our clients.

We were able to keep our administrative expenses low, allowing us to put near \$.95 of every dollar donated direct to helping our neighbors in need.

We are very grateful for the community and the support we receive. We could not assist our neighbors in need without it.

Thank you.



Thank you!

The Food Shelf board members want to acknowledge and thank Shelburne residents and area businesses for their generosity in donating money, supplies and goods used by the Food Shelf to assist food insecure individuals and families. When the devastating effects of COVID-19 became apparent, the Food Shelf became the recipient of very many unsolicited financial contributions, ample food donations from individuals and food drives orchestrated by students, and local businesses providing meals and gift certificates for Food Shelf shoppers as well as masks and other supplies needed for distributions. The Food Shelf also appreciates shoppers continually “rounding-up” at the Shelburne Market.

Businesses and Others:

David Webster of A. M. Peisch
& Company, LLP

New Village Farm

Archie's

Chef Leu's
House

Coldwell-Banker
Hickok &
Boardman

Cucina Antica

Empire Janitorial
Supply

Folino's

Hannaford's



Shelburne Farms

Shelburne Market

Shelburne Tap
House

Vermont Teddy
Bear

Vermont Zen
Center

Village Wine and Coffee

Wake Robin

WCAX

Food Drive Donations:

Students and teachers at Vermont Day School

Students and teachers at the Shelburne Community School

Ella Kenney, CVU student & Ethan Whitcomb, SCS student

Testimonials:

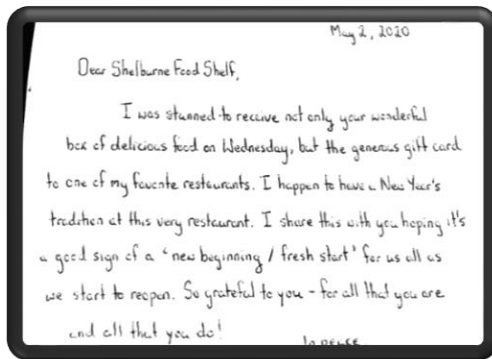
Shelburne residents who have received groceries and other help from the Food Shelf have expressed their gratitude. Here's a sampling of a few of the many thank you letters the Food Shelf has received:

"We can feel blessed that there are so many people that truly care for each other."

"Thank you for all the dinners and all the help you did for us."

Thank you for taking the time away from your families to pack and deliver the food to this community. This means a lot to us."

"Thankful so much for your care and generosity. The extra help was greatly appreciated."



Board Members:

Susan Stock, Chair

Kevin Kenlan

Pam Brangan, Vice-Chair

Toby Knox

Amy Nickerson, Secretary

Allan Merritt

Betty Jean Bogue, Treasurer

Dana Valentine

Rose Dubois

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