



2021 Holiday Giving & Volunteering Opportunities

United Way of Northwest Vermont's mobile-friendly Volunteer Connection search platform connects you to hundreds of volunteer needs with local nonprofits. Go to www.unitedwaynwvt.galaxydigital.com or contact us at megan@unitedwaynwvt.org.



HOLIDAY GIVING



APPEAL FOR GIFT CARDS FOR CHILDREN SERVED BY DCF - As you know not all children experience happy, fun-filled holidays, and this season will be especially difficult. Your response to appeals for local support can make a real difference now. **KidSafe Collaborative** is again coordinating with Chittenden County's Department for Children and Families Family Services to get gift cards for kids and families, e.g., children in foster care, or kinship care, or whose families are struggling and therefore DCF is involved. Please consider making an office/business appeal or donate as individuals or as a family. Old Navy, Walmart, Target, Phoenix Books, Flying Pig Book Store, and grocery store cards in amounts of \$20 or \$25 are just suggestions. Buy cards for donation and mail to KidSafe Collaborative, 45 Kilburn Street, Burlington VT 05401. Families will appreciate these donations, so please get them to KidSafe by December 1st, to allow for delivery to the local DCF holiday coordinator for distribution.

OPERATION HAPPINESS, a Program of United Way of Northwest Vermont helps families in Franklin and Grand Isle counties each year to provide and holiday meal, winter wear, and toys. This effort helps 1,000 local families each year. For information on how you can donate, For more information, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Operation-Happiness-1792921027472820/>

LUND – Due to the many challenges of COVID-19 and our priorities in ensuring the health and wellbeing of our clients, staff, and community, **Holiday Giving** will be different in 2021. We are asking for Gift Cards in place of the traditional items. This will allow counselors to work with clients to purchase an item for their children and to assist Lund for future needs. We would be grateful for gift cards in increments of \$25, \$50 and \$100 to:

- Amazon
- Gas Cards
- Grocery Store
- Michaels
- Old Navy
- Target
- TJ Maxx/Home Goods/Marshalls
- Visa/Mastercard
- Walmart

Gift cards can be mailed to: Sharon Lifschutz

Lund
50 Joy Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403

To support families unable to purchase gifts, Lund is also working with families to add specific toys to an Amazon Wish List. The list will be up year-round. Use the link <https://a.co/95d3z1Y> to view available gifts, which will then be sent to Lund to be given to the families.

In addition to holiday gifts, Lund is also accepting gifts to ensure that families can continue to access their high-quality family-centered services. To give a gift, visit www.lundvt.org/give.

HANDS (Helping and Nurturing Diverse Seniors) – *Donations for Holiday Gift Bags to be delivered December 25*

Every Christmas, we provide a giftbag with our meal deliveries – shhh, please don't tell the seniors. We expect to deliver 1,000 meals and giftbags again this year and we'd love your help. We are seeking financial contributions in any amount, canned goods & nonperishable food items, toiletries, handmade scarves and hats, crossword puzzle books, \$20 Hannaford grocery cards, and other items. We're also seeking volunteers who like to giftwrap and/or stuff envelopes. To learn more about how you can help, please visit <https://handsvt.org/holiday-dinner>. Please contact Jess at jessicahymanvt@gmail.com if you have any questions about donations. Thank you for helping us make the magic happen!

H.A.N.D.S. is also inviting knitters and crocheters to make hats and scarves for Chittenden County seniors. Choose a pattern. Choose the colors. Choose the yarn (washable preferred). And H.A.N.D.S will choose the grateful senior to receive your special gift. For drop-off times/location, contact Jess Hyman at jessicahymanvt@gmail.com or call 802-598-3139.

COTS will be grateful for anything volunteers can provide for people, especially children, who are experiencing homelessness. Gift cards are an amazing way to allow parents to purchase gifts for their children. They are especially helpful when families move into shelter late in the season. There is also an Amazon wish list at <https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/21V47NBALU5TE/guest-view>. The address to ship or drop off packages is COTS, 95 North Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401. To schedule a drop-off time, call 802-343-6903.

THE GIFT OF READING – Fletcher Free Library invites people to share the joy of reading during their annual "Books for Children Gift Campaign." Choose from a list of books or make your own selections, then purchase books at Crow Bookshop or Phoenix Books for a discount. Books can be dropped off at FFL before December 13th. Books will be distributed to children through the Burlington Head Start preschools and COTS shelters. Contact Rebecca Goldberg at 865-7216 or email rgoldberg@Burlingtonvt.gov.

HOWARD CENTER - Help is Here Client Needs Fund provides services to thousands of children, adults, and families each year, many of whom have very limited financial resources. Progress in addressing mental health, substance use, and developmental disabilities happens when basic needs have been met and when people have opportunities for personal enrichment. And so each year we ask for gifts that will directly support clients to buy food and other basics and enable them to participate in holiday observances and cultural and educational activities that enrich their lives.

For more information and the donation form, click here: <http://howardcenter.org/community-education/howard-center-giving/>

Those interested in supporting can either send gift cards of their choosing in whatever amount they would like, or they can give online with a credit card (just choose "Help is Here Client Needs Fund" in the drop down menu

[here](#)), or they can mail a check. Gift cards and checks can be mailed to: Howard Center, ATTN: Client Needs/Holiday Giving Fund, 208 Flynn Avenue, Suite 3J, Burlington, VT 05401

TOYS FOR KIDS OF VERMONT – Vermont Marine Corps League is once again collecting new, unwrapped toys during the Christmas season and oversees their distribution to children in need in Vermont.

Because of COVID 19 this year we have set up a "Virtual Toy Barrel" so that you can purchase toys online ([Amazon](#), [Walmart](#), [Target](#), [Gamestop](#), [Koh's](#), etc.) and have them shipped to us at JeriHill hardware in Jericho Vt. Visit [and](#) click on the donate link above to get the full details.

Toys for Kids of Vermont is a volunteer program sponsored by the Vermont Marine Corps League which collects new, unwrapped toys during the Christmas season and oversees their distribution to needy children in Vermont. All money collected stays in Vermont and is used to purchase age-appropriate toys to supplement donations, and for older children.

STEPS TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - If you are interested in supporting Steps Holiday Giving Program this year, please email the holidayprogram@stepsvt.org for more details. Generally, parents will provide us with wish lists for their children and each child receives about four gifts totaling \$100. Volunteers/donors can donate one gift, a whole list, or as many as they want.

MILTON FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER – If you would like to Adopt-A-Family and provide presents for children in need this winter, please contact MFCC and let us know how many kids you would like to help: gfonton@miltonfamilycenter.org or call 802-893-1457. We will match you with a family and provide information about children's ages and wish lists, and then see that the items go to the right household.



FOOD



Many local agencies and groups will be providing holiday meals for individual and families who might otherwise go without. They would be grateful for any donations you can provide:

Intervale Center Turkey Drive - Help us collect 1,000 Turkeys to "FLIP HUNGER THE BIRD" this holiday season. Drive By Turkey Drop Off: Sunday, November 21, from 1-4pm at the Intervale Center. Coupon for a free pint of Ben and Jerry's ice cream for the first 200 turkeys! Birds of all shapes and sizes are welcome. Smaller families and those living alone appreciate turkey breasts and chicken to roast! Treats from Lake Champlain Chocolates will be brought to you in your car while supplies last!

Virtual Turkey Drive: On Now. Donate turkeys virtually (\$20/bird) by sending money to: <https://gofund.me/ccd4c263> or Venmo: JDZIKI

Feeding Chittenden – Accepting cash donations for its virtual Thanksgiving food drive to purchase meal items at wholesale rates. Donations accepted Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 228 North Winooski Avenue, Burlington. Learn more at <https://feedingchittenden.org/about/>

South Burlington Food Shelf – Accepting donations 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Thursdays and 8 a.m.-10 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. 356 Dorset Street, South Burlington. Learn more at <https://www.southburlingtonfoodshelf.org>.

Williston Community Food Shelf – Seeking donations of non-perishable food, for pets as well as people. Most needed items are cereal, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, juices, coffee, and condiments such as ketchup and mustard. Personal hygiene items are also accepted. Donations accepted 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 8:30-11 a.m. on Thursdays and Saturdays. 400 Cornerstone Drive, Suite 130, Williston. Learn more at <https://www.willistonfoodshilf.com>.

Colchester Community Food Shelf – Accepting donations of turkeys and fixings on Saturday, November 13th and Saturday, November 20th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Other nonperishable food donations can be made on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 245 Main Street, Colchester. Learn more at <https://colchesterfoodshelf.org>.

Winooski Food Shelf – Gratefully accepting non-perishable food, pet food, and hygiene products. They have an urgent need for baby care products such as diapers, baby food, wipes and toiletries. Donations can be made at J & J's Corner Market and the Winooski Senior Center. Learn more at <http://www.winooskifoodshelf.org>.

Sara Holbrook Community Center Food Pantry - Accepting non-perishable items including low-sugar cereal, canned meat and beans, fruit (canned and boxed), soups, peanut butter, jelly, boxed pasta, personal care products, diapers and diaper wipes. 66 North Avenue. Learn more at <https://www.saraholbrookcc.org/food-pantry>.

The Salvation Army Greater Burlington Food Pantry – Accepting donations of non-perishable food, cereal and juice at 64 Main Street, Burlington between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Learn more at <https://nne.salvationarmy.org/gtburlington/food-pantry>.



HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERING



THANKSGIVING MEAL – Dismas House invites volunteers to help cook a portion of their Thanksgiving dinner and then join residents for the meal. A great opportunity for those without plans for the holiday or for small families who want to share a meal with an appreciative group! Contact Kimberly Parsons at 658-0381 or email Cory Bragg at cory@dismasofvt.org

HELP PROVIDE A THANKSGIVING MEAL TO TEENS at Spectrum Youth and Family Services. Looking for a way to give back this holiday season? Sign up to contribute to Thanksgiving meals for the teenagers and young adults living in our supportive housing programs and warming shelter in Burlington! Click here to sign up: <https://ed.gr/dq1g6> We will have a total of about 30 youth gathering at the Landing, Pearl Street Residences, and our Warming Shelter for Thanksgiving Dinner.

You can drop off your dish at the Drop-In Center on 177 Pearl Street on November 24th, between 1pm and 4pm, or November 25th at 11am. Call or text the Drop-In Center Manager, Christina Brown, with any questions: 802-777-3341.

SWEETWATERS CARES – Thanksgiving Day marks our 31st year for this event and things will look a little different.

- The **coat drive** will kick off the day as usual. Donations for clean, warm coats only, can be dropped off at Sweetwaters up until the day before Thanksgiving.
- The **community dinner** will be to-go only from 10:00am – 2:30pm. Due to the nature of this year's event, there are limited volunteer spots available. Please call the restaurant at 802-864-9800 to see how you can help.

MILITARY KIDS VERMONT is seeking volunteers for their Military Skating Night on December 4th, 6-8 p.m., at the Gordon H. Paquette Ice Arena at Leddy Park. Volunteer roles include greeting families as they arrive, making baked goods to be enjoyed at the event, serving food, photographing memorable moments, and more. Sign up at <https://signup.com/go/wHXquXV>.

CELEBRATION OF TREES – Anew Place needs volunteers in the store space at The University Mall starting November 26. Visit their website for more information at <https://www.anewplacevt.org/cotvolunteer.html>

RED BARREL MONITORS – Toys for Kids of Vermont needs volunteers to check the red “Toys for Kids” toy donation barrels at various sites throughout Chittenden County. Volunteers will be assigned one or more barrels to check from November 1 through December 21 with most of the toys coming in the last couple of weeks in December. Collected toys will be delivered to the Salvation Army in Burlington or a Williston collection site. A great job for a family. You do need your own transportation to barrel and collection site. To volunteer, contact John Welsh at 872-0354.

11th ANNUAL RUNNING OF THE BELLS – Virtual or Live Run to benefit Operation Happiness

- **Live Run** *Cost \$10.00 per person – registration required in advance*
The Running of the Bells is being held at the 2021 Holiday Extravaganza on **Thursday, December 2 at 6pm, St. Albans Taylor Park**
A festive one-mile walk and jog. Costumes encourage. Participants are encouraged to bring donations of canned goods and toys for Franklin and Grand Isle County families in need.
- **Virtual Run and Costume Contest** *Cost: \$5.00 per person*
Register online and receive your printable race bib.

Presented by O'Rourke Media Group. A portion of the proceeds benefits **Operation Happiness**. To register, visit <https://runningofthebells.com/>

CHRISTMAS MEALS – Burlington Dismas House is looking for volunteers to help prepare portions of their Christmas meals at both houses. Volunteers are invited to join residents for the meal. Contact Kimberly Parsons at 658-0381 or Cory Bragg at cory@dismasoft.org.