

Lamoille Community

Food Share Newsletter



Spring 2007



HEADLINE NEWS!

The past 2 years have brought many “firsts” to Lamoille Community Food Share, Inc. We hired our first manager (part-time), we provided fresh vegetables for the first time (thanks to Salvation Farms) and we found our first new home in 27 years!

2007 has brought us another ‘first’. For the first time ever, LCFS petitioned the six towns we serve for funding. We are pleased to report that every town - Eden, Elmore, Hyde Park, Morrisville, Stowe and Wolcott - approved our request. We want to thank everyone who supported us in their Town Meeting. We are extremely grateful for this vote of confidence from our communities.

The reason for our request was simple and mirrors the basic reason why people come to us for help. Simply put, we are challenged as we try to stretch our dollar further each month. The price of everything just goes up and up as we struggle to shop wisely for the items we need to stock our pantry. We also see an increase in clients when the local economy makes it difficult for them to make ends meet. The weather at the beginning of this winter, for example, was less than ideal for those who are dependent on the tourist trade for their income.

Thankfully, we continue to see food donations on a monthly basis from local religious and civic groups and we benefit from food drives throughout the year. In addition, we honestly could not function without the generous financial support of private donors. Still, it is a juggling act each month to keep our shelves stocked. Our statistics show that folks use our services only when they absolutely need to. We want to be here to help and we know that our supporters want us to succeed.

We are a community made up of many economic levels. What amazes us is that everyone finds a way to share what they can. The idea behind our organization is one of neighbor helping neighbor. We should all feel proud to live in an area where that idea still works.

BOXES!

There's one more first at LCFS! We have new food collection boxes designed and built by Caroline Ballard and Jerry Smith. Construction of these boxes was possible thanks to donations from Aubuchon Hardware, Country Home Center, Morrisville Lumber in Morrisville and Parker & Stearns in Stowe.

THANK YOU!

While we would love to list everyone who has donated to us recently, the list is too long for this newsletter! We are very grateful for all the donations of time, money, and food that we receive - we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for all of you! We thank you, and the families we serve thank you also.

Lamoille Community Food Share, Inc.
P.O. Box 173 Morrisville, VT 05661



Our Wish List: Peanut Butter, Tuna, Canned Soup, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Spaghetti Sauce (in cans so it won't break), Pasta, Tooth Brushes, Tooth Paste, Shampoo, Pork and Beans

Lamoille Community Food Share

Check out our new



collection boxes!

Collection Box

Mac's Market (Stowe)
Stowe Town Clerk's Office
Jewish Community Center of Greater Stowe (JCOGS)
Community College of Vermont (Morrisville)
Copley Hospital Lobby (Morrisville)

Locations:

Springer-Miller (Stowe)
Stowe Mercantile
Price Chopper (Morrisville)

Letter From the President of LCFS: Caroline Ballard

We expect 2007 to be a watershed year for Lamoille Community Food Share. We say goodbye to three directors and hello to three new ones. Mick Heller was fundamental in forming Lamoille Community Food Share from the remains of the Ecumenical Food Shelf. He saw the need to establish an organization that was more than the efforts of a few individuals. He gathered a group of like minded people and managed to obtain 501(c)(3) non-profit status. He recruited both George Spear and Duncan Tingle to join the board. George has served as secretary and all-round booster for the group. Duncan has been president for two years and spearheaded the search for and the move to our new location. Our three new board members represent three generations who will bring fresh ideas and energy to the board. We welcome Beverly Wood, Sara Babcock and Leah Ziegler.

Deb Krempecke is entering her third year with Food Share. In addition to her duties of day to day management of the pantry, she has expanded into outreach with the community. She has made connections with *People in Partnership* and other groups who seek to create a network of help for those in need. She has also reached out to the schools, trying to teach young people about the importance of helping others. Her efforts have gotten our name out generating more donations both of cash and food.

Our new location has made it easier for both volunteers and clients to reach us. We have seen an increase in client numbers which has put strain on our resources, but so far we have managed to keep up. We have several new fundraising projects in the works and hope we can continue to attract volunteers to help us in our efforts.

Fun Facts:



Over 66% of our client families visited just 1-3 times in 2006
Only 6% visited 10 or more times



In 2006 we served 538 families, made up of 1019 adults and
588 children - our pantry was visited a total of 1768 times



Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving is traditionally a time of bounty and sharing and that was certainly in evidence at LCFS last fall. For Thanksgiving 2006 we provided 288 families with a "basket" containing the makings for a holiday meal. There are so many people to thank starting with Warren Miller and Roland Lajoie for organizing the Chris' Challenge turkey drive and all the community members who met that challenge and dropped off turkeys at WLVB. Elise Braun and the Stowe Turkey Challenge provided us with the funds for all the extras.

What were the final numbers? 288 turkeys, 316 boxes of stuffing, 500 cans of gravy, 316 cans of cranberry sauce, 500 canned fruit, 500 Jellos, 1000 total canned corn & green beans, 300 each pie crust mix, canned pumpkin, and evaporated milk, 500 muffin mixes, 300 fresh squash (thanks Footebrook Farm!) and 500 sticks of margarine. Whew! What a meal!

Our thanks go out to the volunteers who found space in their freezers and spare rooms for the storage of some of these items. The 4-H Club was a big help filling the "baskets". The Vermont Records Center again donated boxes and indirectly, so did IBM - donations from their big food drive in the fall come in great reusable boxes. Stowe High students and Tread Not Motorcycle Club also helped hand out "baskets" over the 4 days leading up to Thanksgiving. The families we help really appreciate all the effort and so do we!



BLUE PLATE SPECIAL AWARDS

*We are dependent on each and every donation we receive from the community,
but we couldn't resist recognizing those who got creative*

SIMPLE SOUP SUPPERS started five years ago when Peg Pierson and Deb Clark of St. John's-in-the-Mountains Episcopal Church decided that soup would make a good supper. They've offered a many as five soups at once and it comes with fresh bread donated from Harvest Market. This year, the Stowe Community Church is providing the space as well as cookies for dessert! And since proceeds benefit the Food Share, it's a good meal for a good cause every Wednesday during Lent. Each year an average of \$1,000 is raised for the Food Share this way.

STOWE MERCANTILE offered visits with Santa this December. Donations from this event resulted in a \$1,200 donation for the Food Share.

STOWE ELEMENTARY - Teachers and staff decided to devote one day of their holiday gift exchange to the Food Share. Instead of gifts to each other they collected 250 lbs of food items.

STOLEN MOMENTS a local band from Morrisville are regular performers at Bee's Knees on Main Street where they play a variety of jazz, swing, bossa nova, blues and more. When they play they generously donate their tips to the Food Share. Check out the calendar at www.thebeesknees.vtcom to see when they perform next.

SHOW ME THE GRAVY! The Peoples Academy hockey team wanted to do something to help. Dan Noyes of RSVP came up with the idea. The folks at LARC allowed us to have a collection box available at PA home games. Dominic Scarpinto from Lisa Durocher's Business Administration class at the Green Mt Technical Center worked on press releases. Talk about teamwork! This effort yielded 500 lbs of donated canned goods. Special thanks to Karen Loh for delivering the items to us.

GREEN GODDESS CAFÉ opened last year in Stowe's lower village. Susan Sigsbee and her staff decided they would donate their tips to local organizations. In the first three months of 2007 they raised \$600 for the Food Share.

MORRISVILLE GRADED SCHOOL - Students collected food items to show they care at Valentines Day! Thank you to Mrs. Buckley and Mrs. Gresham for organizing this food drive.

Our Board of Directors: Caroline Ballard, Sara Babcock, Sheila Jourdan, Brian Norder, Dee Johnson, Linda Shaw, Frank Helker, Beverly Wood, Leah Ziegler
Food Share Manager: Deb Krempecke **Newsletter Editor:** Pete Brown



A Sweet Way to Support LCFS

Nothing heralds the coming of spring in Vermont like maple syrup and soon you will be able to enjoy this treat and support the work of Lamoille Community Food Share at the same time.

Food Share board members will be teaming up to produce a special reserve bottling of pint jugs of Vermont's liquid gold. These jugs, labeled with neck tags indicating that the sale supports the LCFS mission, will be available from board members and offered for sale at selected community events over the next few months.

For more information, or if you would like to have the syrup shipped to family or friends as a gift, contact Brian Norder at brian@edcnv.org.

*LCFS is a volunteer-powered organization.
We couldn't do it without you! Thank you for your efforts.*