



## **2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF DUMMERSTON CARES**

**July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**

COVID was still with us at the start of this year. Some programs like Rides, Medical Equipment Loans, Emergency Home Fuel Assistance, and Valentine Boxes continued as planned, taking COVID into account when called for. Chores Corps and Flower Arrangements were put on hold. Some friendly phone calls were done in place of friendly visits. Cards of condolence and various other cards were sent. Community programs were a mixture with COVID, as noted below.

Sadly, the End-of-Summer Picnic, to be held on the school grounds on Sunday, September 12, had to be postponed to 2022. School District administrators were concerned about the possibility of an increase in infections from COVID'S Delta variant in a setting where hundreds of people would be gathered.

By spring 2022, COVID eased to let the hibernating programs and services commence, though indoor community programs remained at a standstill.

As always Cares thanks the volunteers and donors who continue to sustain programs and services to the community. Special thanks go to Heidi Fischer and Cindy Levine, who left the Cares Board this year. Cindy continues to help as Cares' webmaster, with emailing our occasional newsletters, and with graphics design for projects like Cares' brochure. New board members this year are Phyllis Emery, Norris Evans and Meg Lyons.

### **PROGRAMS**

**MESSAGE LINE:** (802) 257-5800. This telephone line is a way for residents to contact Cares to request help or information about something that is not an emergency. The Message Line is monitored daily. Calls are forwarded to the appropriate Cares' volunteer who can respond to the request in a timely way. During this year, an average of six calls were received each month. The Message

Line and email address are also used at times to register for a Cares community program when advance registration is needed.

Cares website is [dummerstoncares.org](http://dummerstoncares.org) and the email address is [info@dummerstoncares.org](mailto:info@dummerstoncares.org). Residents may be asked to call the Message Line or to send an email to register for a community program when prior registration is requested.

**Volunteers:** Shawn Bracebridge, Coordinator, Message Line  
Cindy Levine, Coordinator, Website e-mails

**COMMUNITY PROGRAMS:** These programs were a mixed bag this year, some operating a full strength, some limited by COVID, plus two new programs.

**\**Summer Food Program for Students:*** Organized by the School District, this program provided breakfasts and lunches M-F to students who signed up for the program. The meals were prepared at the high school and delivered to Dummerston Center where they were distributed. Compared to the previous year, half the number of participants used the program this summer. The program also lasted a shorter time. Approximately 420 meals were provided to 12 children by eight volunteers over seven weeks.

**Volunteers:** Bill Schmidt, Coordinator, Catie G. Berg, Akara Draper. Connie Evans, Pam McFadden, Ellen Nam, Ty Smith, Ron Svec

**\**Everyone Eats:*** In sharp contrast to the above program, Everyone Eats continued through the entire year with some short breaks. Volunteers picked up dinners in Brattleboro on Tuesdays and Thursdays and distributed them in Dummerston Center to those who signed up for them. By June of 2022, 3,653 meals were delivered to 22 families by seven volunteers.

**Volunteers:** Pam McFadden, Coordinator, Akara Draper, Catie G. Berg, Shawn Bracebridge, Connie and Norris Evans, Meg Lyons

**\**Putney Foodshelf:*** Served Dummerston residents 113 times. Cares also publicized the Foodshelf with two sandwich boards and notices in The Views and Cares' occasional newsletter.

**Volunteer:** Akara Draper, Coordinator

**\**Gentle Yoga:*** This program continued on Zoom with about ten participants.

**Volunteers:** Lesley Fishelman, Coordinator; Judy Carpenter, Teacher

**\**T'ai Chi***: This class continued erratically through the year. Not able to use Zoom, classes were held outdoors when weather permitted in the summer, fall and following spring. With COVID waning by spring 2022, a few classes were held indoors at the Congregational Church. Four dedicated townspeople participated. **Volunteers:** Bill Schmidt, Coordinator; John Hury, Teacher

**\**Volunteer Recognition and Thanks***: Cares began a new “Volunteers Recognition” column this year in each of The Views. Recognized this year were the Grange's Kitchen Crew, Gurudharm Khalsa, Sallie May and the Fire Department.

**\**End-of-Summer Picnic***: Unfortunately, as noted, this event, which was to take place on September 12, had to be postponed. Considerable planning for it was done by an enthusiastic group of townspeople from several organizations and Town boards. It was to take place on the school's grounds. School District administrators, concerned about the upswing of COVID infections in Vermont due to the COVID Delta variant, decided that it was prudent to postpone this event to another time.

**\**Declaration of Inclusion***: An outcome of the murder of George Floyd in 2020 was a Proclamation of Inclusion by Governor Scott in 2021, designating the second week of May, henceforth, as “Inclusion Week.” This was done to recognize the place of Vermonters in the human community. In support, many towns and organizations throughout Vermont adopted and are adopting their own Declarations of Inclusion. Dummerston Cares did so in the spring of this year, pledging to accept all the town's citizens with equity and respect. Cares' Declaration follows:

- We welcome all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, differing ability, economic status, and education;
- We commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community;
- We value respectful civic engagement in all forums.

**RIDES:** This is Cares most used program. Nine volunteer drivers took 13 residents to medical appointments and other places, both locally and in the wider area. A total of 81 rides was provided, with 1,961 miles travelled. Drivers and riders observed COVID-safety on a case-by-case basis.

**Volunteers:** Akara Draper, Coordinator, Catie G. Berg, Susan Daigler, Connie and Norris Evans, Linda Evans, Gurudharm Khalsa, Susan Read Smith, Roger Turner

**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM:** This program continues to provide durable medical equipment – such as a walker, shower chair, commode, toilet riser, wheelchair – to residents recovering from surgery, injury, or illness during which time medical equipment is needed. This year 13 residents used 25 pieces of equipment. Some people used more than one piece of equipment.

*Dear Dummerston Cares,  
I want you to know how much my husband and I appreciated the medical equipment we were able to borrow as I recovered from a fractured ankle. It was such a help to find what we needed and ready for use. It is a wonderful program!  
Thank you! - LE*

**Volunteer:** Shawn Bracebridge, Coordinator

**FRIENDLY VISITS & CALLS:** This program connects volunteers with homebound and senior-home residents through social visits and other kinds of needed assistance. It's available to any resident who has limited mobility due to long-term illness, a chronic health condition, or some other limiting situation. COVID affected this program's outreach this year but even so there were 17 visits and approximately 45 telephone calls made.

**Volunteers:** Bill Schmidt, Acting Coordinator, Catie G. Berg, Akara Draper, Pam McFadden

**CHORES CORPS:** Volunteers help with simple home repairs, household chores, occasional yard work, and sometimes household needs when a resident is away. This service is mainly for residents who are unable to do what is needed themselves or who lack the means to pay a trades person. Friendly neighbors sometimes join Cares' volunteers in responding to requests for assistance. This year five requests were received and two chores – installation of a mailbox and stacking firewood – were accomplished. The other three chores were beyond the capability of Cares' volunteers to do. COVID limited the number of requests for this service.

**Volunteers:** Norris Evans, Coordinator, Bill Schmidt, Acting Coordinator (part of the year), Susan Daigler, Pam McFadden, Tom Simeon, Lew Sorenson, Lew Teich

**EMERGENCY HOME HEATING FUEL ASSISTANCE:** Fuel for heating one's home in winter is available to qualified residents. This program works cooperatively with State-sponsored and SEVCA (Southeastern Vermont

Community Action) fuel assistance programs, the Windham County Heat Fund, and the Congregational Church's Wood Pantry. One resident received fuel assistance this year.

**Volunteer:** Bill Schmidt, Coordinator

**FLOWERS, CARDS & VALENTINE BOXES:** This program supports residents who can benefit from some extra sunshine in their lives, for example, when grieving the death of a loved one, recovering from illness or surgery, experiencing a special need, and receiving special acknowledgement on Valentine's Day. Thirty-six residents received cards and 38 residents received Valentine boxes.

**Volunteers:** Pam McFadden, Coordinator, Akara Draper, Catie G. Berg, Phyllis Emery, Norris Evans, Cassie Freese, Linnie Jones, Meg Lyons

**SCHOOL SUPPORT:** This varies each year depending on the needs of students, families and requests from the school nurse, social worker and counselor. This year food and gas cards were made available to some families, the school's grant application for funds to build a pavilion was supported, two board members participated in the school's spring work day, and there was communication with school staff in the planning of a September End-of-Summer Picnic at the school.

*Dear Cares Board,*

*I just wanted to send a short note of thanks for all the support Dummerston Cares has provided for Dummerston School children and families over these last extremely challenging years. I appreciate so much the consistency of your care, kindness and generosity. These acts of giving make huge differences in the lives of children and make it possible for students to learn and grow together in their community....*

*Sincerely,*

Julianne Eagan, Principal

**Volunteers:** Catie G. Berg, Susan Daigler, Akara Draper, Linnie Jones, Pam McFadden

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

While COVID concerns eased somewhat at the end of this year, in June 2022, they did not completely disappear - and life did not return to pre-COVID normal by this year's end. Some concern persisted over what the coming winter would bring and how Cares' programs would be affected by COVID at that time. Some programs and services like Rides, Medical Equipment Loans, and Emergency Home Heating

Assistance hopefully will continue to be available throughout the year.

Indoor programs like Friendly Visitors, Chores Corps and most indoor community programs depend on COVID's level of threat. The extent to which such programs can be provided remains uncertain. One exception may be the renewal of a walking and hiking program in the spring and summer of 2023. Friendly phone calls, sending cards of condolence, and Valentine Boxes can certainly occur. Direct services to individuals, especially those with special needs, will continue regardless of what happens with COVID. Support to school students and families, as requested, will be provided to the extent possible.

At this writing, in July 2022, it is very much hoped that an End-of-Summer Picnic will be able to be held on September 11. Plans are being made for it.

A relatively small corps of volunteers currently provides Cares' services and programs. To the extent that revival of services like Friendly Visitors, Chores Corps, and community programs occurs, more volunteers will be needed. Townspeople will continue to be kept aware of the availability of Cares services and programs through *The Views of Dummerston*, Cares website, the occasional newsletters to the Friends of Cares.

## DONORS

We are very grateful to the many residents of Dummerston whose generous financial and in-kind support makes all of Cares' services and programs possible.

Cliff Adler & Lynn Levine  
Ellen Ahrenholz  
Michael Barratt  
Connie Baxter  
Catie G. Berg  
Jeanne Bristol  
Shawn Bracebridge  
Sandra Campbell  
Chroma Technology Corporation  
Jeffrey & Melissa Clark  
Mary Ellen Copeland  
Betsy & Loren Cox  
Judy Davidson  
R. Marguerite DeMotte  
Dummerston Community Chest  
Charles Dunn

Bill Guenther  
Susan Herbert  
Lyle Holliday  
William Johnson  
Carol Kocher  
Meg Lyons & Jim Johnson  
Carolyn Mayo-Brown  
Mary Louise Nelson  
Paul & Jody Normandeau  
Ellen O'Bierne  
Shirley Perkins  
Linda Rubenstein  
Bill Schmidt  
Song-Vogt Foundation Trust  
Lew & Gail Sorenson  
Stephen Tavella

Eleanor Emery  
Charles Fish  
Veronica Friedman  
Frank & Una Gallup  
Marlyn Grossman  
Anonymous (2)

Town of Dummerston  
Rebecca Waxman  
Judy Johnston Wexler  
Cheryl Wilfong  
Hugh Worden

## **DONORS OF IN-KIND SERVICES AND/OR GOODS**

Catie G. Berg  
Shawn Bracebridge  
Judy Carpenter  
Susan Daigler  
Akara Draper  
Connie & Norris Evans  
Linda Evans  
Heidi Fischer  
Lesley Fishelman  
Cassie Freese  
John Hury  
Linnie Jones

Gurudharm Khalsa  
Cindy Levine  
Meg Lyons  
Pam McFadden  
Susan Read-Smith  
Bill Schmidt  
Ty Smith  
Lew Sorenson  
Ron Svec  
Lew Teich  
Roger Turner

## **2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Bill Schmidt, President  
Catie G. Berg, Secretary  
Susan Daigler, Treasurer  
Shawn Bracebridge  
Akara Draper  
Phyllis Emery  
Norris Evans  
Cassie Freese  
Cindy Levine  
Meg Lyons  
Pam McFadden

## **HOW TO CONTACT DUMMERSTON CARES**

**Dummerston Cares, Inc.**  
**Post Office Box 302, West Dummerston, VT 05357**

**Message Line: (802) 257-5800**  
**Email: [info@dummerstoncares.org](mailto:info@dummerstoncares.org)**  
**Website: [dummerstoncares.org](http://dummerstoncares.org)**

Dummerston Cares, Inc.  
Annual Treasurer's Report  
June 30, 2022

		Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022
General Fund		
Cash Balance at beginning of period	\$	13,460.21
Receipts:		
Contributions		7,930.00
Program Fees		0.00
Town Support		1,300.00
Interest		8.07
Total Receipts		<u>9,238.07</u>
Disbursements:		
Program expenses:		
Transfer to Heat Fund		0.00
Flowers, Baskets & Cards		648.33
Program facilitators		604.95
Program space		500.00
Other Program Expenses		425.00
Direct Relief		1400.00
Food & Gasoline Aid		1000.00
Other Aid		0.00
Messageline telephone		611.81
Chores supplies		0.00
Total Program expenses		<u>5,190.09</u>
Administrative expenses:		
Postage		150.80
Post office box		100.00
Office supplies		29.43
Equipment Purchases		0.00
Printing		11.39
Professional development		0.00
Total Administrative expenses		<u>291.62</u>
Total expenses		<u>5,481.71</u>
Cash Balance at end of period	\$	<u><u>17,216.57</u></u>



	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022
Edward Jones Account	
Beginning Balance	1,334.85
Contribution	1,054.44
Dividend income	9.36
Market fluctuation	<u>-509.35</u>
Ending Balance	1,889.30

	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022
Heat Fund	
Cash Balance at beginning of period	\$ 3,061.39
Receipts:	
Contributions received	400.00
Transferred from general fund	0.00
Interest Earned	<u>1.62</u>
Total Receipts	401.62
Disbursements for fuel	<u>387.69</u>
Cash Balance at end of period	\$ <u><u>3,075.32</u></u>