



2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF DUMMERSTON CARES

July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023

The Cares Board is pleased to report that with the help of a committed team of community volunteers, as well as generous donors, Cares once again was able to provide a full roster of programs and support services to Dummerston residents of all ages, at no charge. This return to our programs and services occurred at a measured pace for the Rides, Friendly Visitors and Chores Corps programs. In addition, two noteworthy projects undertaken last year included the End-of-Summer Picnic, a town-wide event that was postponed in 2021 due to COVID. This happily took place at the school on September 11. The other project was the Declaration of Inclusion that was put on the March Town Meeting Warning and was approved by a very strong vote at the Australian Ballot Town Meeting on March 7.

Our application for \$45,000 in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was made to the Select Board in January, but was not acted on. This project would create a Health and Safety Fund to deal with unexpected home emergencies, home fire prevention & safety measures, and assistance for aging-in-place. Cares began on its own—given the Select Board's decision not to act on this request—to plan in the spring of 2023 for part of this project, the part dealing with fire safety. This program will be carried out in partnership with the Volunteer Fire Department with assistance from the American Red Cross. Smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and emergency escape ladders will be made available to all residents who need them.

We are pleased that Steve Mindel joined the Board as a new member this year.

Cares is grateful to the volunteers and donors who continue to make Cares' programs and services possible.

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

MESSAGE LINE. (802) 257-5800 and info@dummerstoncares.org. Residents can contact Cares through this telephone line or by email to request help or information on something that is not an emergency. These sites are monitored daily. Calls and email messages are forwarded to the Cares volunteer who can respond to the request in a timely way. During this year an average of eight calls was received each month. The Message Line and email address are also sometimes used for a Cares community program when advance registration is needed.

Coordinators: Shawn Bracebridge, Message Line; Cindy Levine, Email Messages

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.

Everyone Eats. This program ran for half the year, ending on Dec. 31, 2022. When it started on July 1, 2022, nine families were served; at its end, seven families were served. Families received twice-weekly meals. The total number of meals delivered was 583. This year, everyone was provided a Thanksgiving dinner as well as the weekly meal. Several families wrote to say they really enjoyed the Thanksgiving dinner and were grateful for it.

Coordinator: Pam McFadden

Volunteers: Catie G. Berg, Patty Blomgren, Shawn Bracebridge, Akara Draper, Phyllis Emery, Connie & Norris Evans, Linnie Jones, Gurudharm Khalsa, and Meg Lyons

Putney Foodshelf. Dummerston households were provided food 293 times this year. The highest number of households served in a given week was 15, representing 53 individuals. The number of households served weekly increased throughout the year. At the start, 4–5 households a week were typical; the new normal is now 8–9 households. Also, Cares updated two Foodshelf sandwich boards to advertise the program in Dummerston.

Coordinator: Phyllis Emery

Gentle Yoga. About ten people registered for this program during the year. Classes were held by Zoom.

Coordinator: Bill Schmidt

Teacher: Judy Carpenter

T'ai Chi. Classes were held at the Dummerston Congregational Church, inside and outside depending on weather, for four dedicated participants. The teacher, John Hury, left Vermont for California, leaving the participants to continue confidently on their own.

Coordinator: Bill Schmidt

Volunteer Recognition and Thanks. Cares presents a column that features a “Volunteer of the Season” in our town paper, *The Views of Dummerston*. Recognized were Mary Ellen Copeland, Jean Momaney, Charlie & Bess Richardson, and the Dummerston Historical Society.

Volunteers: Chuck Fish, Catie G. Berg, and Bill Schmidt

End-of-Summer Picnic.

Cares coordinated with Dummerston School, the Volunteer Fire Department, Lydia Taft Pratt Library, the Historical Society, the Conservation Commission, Scott Farm, Rescue, “Hazelnuts” musical duo, and other generous individuals to present the town-wide End-of-Summer Picnic on September 11. Although the forecasted rain held off, its threat put a damper on large attendance. Well over a hundred people, however, enjoyed a “Wheels” Parade, lawn games, an Art Project, stories, music, displays, beverages, and dessert.

Coordinators: Pam McFadden, Akara Draper, Catie G. Berg, and Linnie Jones

Volunteers: Dan Baily, Stephen Berg, Eliza Bergh, Michelle Cherrier, Susan Daigler, Julianne Eagan, Phyllis Emery, Connie Evans, Norris Evans, Sam Farwell and his “tent crew,” Chuck Fish, Laurie Frechette, Cassie Freese, Christine Goepp, Ruth Hoffman, Mark Kracum, Cindy Levine, Rick Looman & WDVFD, Meg Lyons, Dena Marger, Molly McOwen, Rescue, Inc., Erin Robinson, Bill Schmidt, musicians, Dave Schottland & Oriana Barros, Roger Turner, plus others from the school and local organizations

Declaration of Inclusion (DOI).

Cares adopted a DOI on June 23, 2022. It states, *We welcome all persons—regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and 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.* At the Town’s Australian Ballot on March 7, voters approved the DOI by 382 to 34. With residents’ overwhelming support, Cares asked the Select Board to adopt the DOI, but the Select Board demurred, wanting more information. In keeping with Vermont’s move for municipalities to adopt a DOI by Select Boards’ actions, 121 had done so by September 12, 2023. Cares continues to advocate for the Select Board’s adoption of the DOI.

Coordinator: Catie G. Berg

RIDES. This is one of Cares' most-used services. Vetted volunteers provide rides for residents to medical appointments and selected other places, both locally and in the wider area. This year 13 drivers provided 12 residents 150 rides that covered a total of 5,598 miles. This mileage includes 1,824 miles for transporting two school students to an after-school program in a neighboring town. These numbers are the highest by far for a single year of the Rides program.

Coordinator: Akara Draper

Volunteers: Catie G. Berg, Susan Daigler, Connie & Norris Evans, Meg Lyons, Gurudharm Khalsa, Linda Evans, Susan Read Smith, and Roger Turner

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM. This program provides durable medical equipment, such as a walker, shower chair, commode, toilet riser, or wheelchair to residents recovering from an injury, surgery, or illness—for whatever length of time is needed. This year 21 residents used 37 pieces of equipment.

Coordinator: Shawn Bracebridge

FRIENDLY VISITS AND CALLS. This program connects volunteers with homebound, senior-home, and other residents through social visits, phone calls and other kinds of needed assistance. During this year, 82 residents received visits and/or phone calls, some more than once.

Acting Coordinator: Bill Schmidt

Volunteers: Catie G. Berg, Pam McFadden

CHORES CORPS. Volunteers help with simple home repairs, household chores, occasional yard work, stacking firewood and, sometimes, household needs when a resident is away. This service is mainly for residents who require help for immediate needs or who benefit from volunteered service. Friendly neighbors sometimes are asked to provide the needed assistance. This year five requests were received and met.

Coordinator: Norris Evans

Volunteers: Bill Schmidt, Susan Daigler

EMERGENCY HOME-HEATING-FUEL ASSISTANCE. Home heating fuel is available for qualified residents. Cares manages a Fuel Fund, plus partners with SEVCA (Southeastern Vermont Community Action) and the Dummerston Congregational Church's Wood Pantry Program. Two residents received fuel assistance from Cares’ Fuel Fund this year.

Coordinator: Bill Schmidt

FLOWERS, CARDS, AND VALENTINE BOXES. This program supports residents who can benefit from some extra sunshine in their lives. For example, supporting those who are recovering from illness or surgery, or are grieving the death of a loved one. This year 25 residents were sent cards. In addition, 42 residents received Valentine Boxes on Valentine’s Day.

Coordinators: Pam McFadden, Meg Lyons

Volunteers: Catie G. Berg, Susan Daigler, Akara Draper, Phyllis & Ken Emery, Norris & Connie Evans, Cassie Freese, Linnie Jones, Susan Leuchter, Pam McFadden, Steve Mindel, Jody Normandeau, Linda Rood, Bill Schmidt, Roger Turner.

SCHOOL SUPPORT. This varies depending on the needs of students and families, plus requests from the school nurse, social worker, counselor, and principal. This year, food and gas cards were made available to some families, help with transportation was provided two students for a daily after-school program in a neighboring town, and Cares volunteers worked with school staff and others in planning and carrying out the End-of-Summer Picnic on September 11.

Coordinators: Pam McFadden, Akara Draper, Catie G. Berg.

Volunteers: Linnie Jones, Bill Schmidt

LOOKING AHEAD

In the coming year, Cares is committed to offering all the services and programs which are well known to Dummerston residents. Cares is also launching some exciting new projects.

In partnership with Dummerston's Volunteer Fire Department, Cares' new fire safety program—Raise the Alarm—will install both smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and offer throw-down ladders. This program occurs at no cost to those who are interested. Simply apply on Cares' Message Line.

Also on Cares' drawing board is a “Dummerston Walks” program to begin in the spring of 2024. Residents will have opportunity to participate in guided nature walks, among other amblings.

Ideas for community programs are always welcome. Share them with a Board member or record them on Cares' Message Line.

Effort will be made in 2023-24 to **find volunteers to meet specific needs for services and programs.** If you are interested in volunteering for Cares, let us know through the Cares Message Line.

DONORS

Thanks to generous financial and in-kind support that help make possible Cares' programs and services.

Anonymous	Eleanor Fish
Michael C. Barrett	Marlyn Grossman
Sarah Bedichek	Linda Ives
Catie G. Berg	Carolyn Mayo Brown
Sharon Bird	Mary Louise Nelson
Barbara Clark (Heat Fund)	Paul & Jody Normandeau (Heat Fund)
Betsy & Loren Cox Charitable Fund	Ann Shroeder
Andrew Davis	Song-Vogt Charitable Fund (Heat Fund)
Dummerston Community Chest	Gail Sorenson
Eleanor Emery	Robert Taylor
Elysian Hills Living Trust (Heat Fund)	Town of Dummerston
Linda Evans	Cheryl Wilfong
Fita N. Ferguson	

Donors of In-Kind Services or Goods

Dan Baily	Connie & Norris Evans	Meg Lyons
Stephen Berg	Linda Evans	Dena Marger
Oriana Barros	Sam Farwell & Tent Crew	Pam McFadden
Catie G. Berg	Chuck Fish	Molly McOwen
Eliza Bergh	Laurie Frechette	Steven Mindel
Patty Blomgren	Cassie Freese	Rescue, Inc.
Shawn Bracebridge	Christine Goepp	Erin Robinson
Judy Carpenter	Ruth Hoffman	Linda Rood
Michelle Cherrier	Linnie Jones	Susan Read-Smith
Susan Daigler	Gurudharm Khalsa	Bill Schmidt
Akara Draper	Mark Kracum	David Schottland
John Dunham	Susan Leuchter	Sidehill Farm, K & K Naylor
Julianne Eagan	Cindy Levine	Roger Turner
Phyllis Emery	Rick Looman & WDVFD	

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Schmidt, President	Shawn Bracebridge
Meg Lyons, Vice President	Phyllis Emery
Catie G. Berg, Secretary	Norris Evans
Susan Daigler, Treasurer	Pam McFadden
	Steve Mindel

HOW TO CONTACT DUMMERSTON CARES

Dummerston Cares, Inc.
P. O. Box 302
West Dummerston, VT 05357

Message Line: (802) 257-5800
Email: info@dummerstoncares.org
Website: www.dummertoncares.org

Dummerston Cares, Inc.
Annual Treasurer's Report
June 30, 2023

		Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023
General Fund		
Cash Balance at beginning of period	\$	17,216.57
Receipts:		
Contributions		4,262.50
Program Fees		0.00
Town Support		100.00
Interest		7.69
Total Receipts		<u>4,370.19</u>
Disbursements:		
Program expenses:		
Transfer to Heat Fund		0.00
Flowers, Baskets & Cards		450.98
Program facilitators		1514.90
Program space		875.00
Other Program Expenses		2082.48
Direct Relief		1700.00
Messageline telephone		709.85
Chores supplies		0.00
Total Program expenses		<u>7,333.21</u>
Administrative expenses:		
Postage		24.60
Post office box		108.00
Office supplies		0.00
Equipment Purchases		0.00
Printing		588.00
Professional development		0.00
Total Administrative expenses		<u>720.60</u>
Total expenses		<u>8,053.81</u>
Cash Balance at end of period	\$	<u><u>13,532.95</u></u>

Fiscal
Year Ending
June 30, 2023

Edward Jones Account	
Beginning Balance	1,889.30
Contribution	1,007.37
Dividend income	19.14
Market fluctuation	941.11
Ending Balance	<u>3,856.92</u>

Fiscal
Year Ending
June 30, 2023

Heat Fund	
Cash Balance at beginning of period	\$ 3,075.32
Receipts:	
Contributions received	5,410.00
Transferred from general fund	0.00
Interest Earned	2.46
Total Receipts	<u>5,412.46</u>
Disbursements for fuel	954.82
Cash Balance at end of period	<u><u>\$ 7,532.96</u></u>