

United Way of Lamoille County 2008/2009 ANNUAL REPORT

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED.** 

We are happy to report that we exceeded our fundraising goal for this year! We feel extremely fortunate to have done this, given the economic climate. Your support allowed us to make a difference in thousands of lives. Please read on to learn more about our community work.



VERMONT 2-1-1, United Way's Information and Referral program, received 766 calls from Lamoille County last year. The majority of calls were for housing and fuel, followed by temporary financial aid, general information and support services. In the previous year, 450 calls were received from our area.

The success of our **FIREWOOD Program** surpassed our wildest dreams! By partnering with RSVP & the Volunteer Center, we coordinated over 100 volunteers who split, stacked and delivered more than 50 cords of wood to 25 families. This program continues to grow in popularity and we expect it to become much larger this year. Recipients of the wood are asked to help with the program, unless they are physically unable to do so.



The **NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR Program** was developed to provide people in crisis and in need of financial assistance a way to give back to their community. Recipients are asked to donate back to the community by performing one hour of volunteer service for every \$100 received in assistance. So far, eight (8) people have enrolled in the program. (See "Individual Assistance" below)

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE - Our **Ciaraldi Account**, named after one of our founders, Tony Ciaraldi, provides help to individuals and families in crisis situations. During the past year, more than 45 people were supported for things like home heating, health, fire recovery, food and other needs. Funds for this account were provided through generous donations from the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District's bottle redemption program, Copley Hospital and People In Partnership.

Our **PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT Program** gives a 20 to 30% discount on medications to those without insurance. To date, 481 people have used this program in Lamoille County, for a total savings of \$10,397!



This year's **COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE** collected more than 3,000 pounds of food for our food shelves. Special thanks to all the volunteers and our local post offices for their help.

In partnership with RSVP & the Volunteer Center and the VT Center for Independent Living, the **RAMP PROJECT** was able to help six (6) Lamoille County residents get ramps installed on their homes. Our United Way is committed to providing funding to this program so those that become newly disabled have their needs met immediately and are never put on a waiting list.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROJECT: In partnership with Community Action and the Agency of Human Services, a \$14,000 grant was secured to open a transitional apartment in Morrisville. Homeless families are provided with a furnished place to live in a drug, alcohol and smoke-free environment for up to six (6) months. Each family will receive wrap-around services (i.e. budgeting, job retention) to help them overcome the obstacles which have made them homeless.

Program Support - In addition to the work mentioned above, your United Way support also allows us to fund critical programs at these agencies:

*Central Vermont Community Action
Lamoille County Court Diversion
Lamoille Home Health
Meals on Wheels*

*Clarina Howard Nichols Center
Lamoille Family Center
Maple Leaf Farm
RSVP & the Volunteer Center*

UP AND COMING PROJECTS: • We are currently working with the Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control to identify people in our community who may need special assistance in an emergency • In partnership with Lamoille Home Health & Hospice and the Yacovone family of Morrisville, we are starting a support group for caregivers of people with disabilities.

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