

DEAR FRIENDS,

This 2018 Spotlight celebrates some of our noteworthy work during our last fiscal year (July 2017–June 2018). We hope you feel as inspired as we do by the positive impacts you've helped achieve right here in the Upper Valley.

We're so grateful to you—our donors, volunteers, business and foundation supporters, and community members—for what we've accomplished together over the past year.

For 25 years, Vital Communities has been bringing people together to cultivate the civic, environmental, and economic vitality of the Upper Valley. When our communities work together, we find innovative ways to move forward on the challenges we all face. This is the unique approach Vital Communities brings every day to a spectrum of regional issues. You'll see this reflected in the highlights shared here.

As we celebrate the past quarter century of catalyzing positive change in the Upper Valley, we're excited about what the next 25 years hold. We hope you'll join us throughout 2019 as we reflect on the long-term impact of our work—and build connections, discovering new ways to take action on the issues we all care about in the Upper Valley.

Thank you for being part of this work.



Tom

Tom Roberts
Executive Director

Jenny

Jenny Levy
Chair, Board of Directors

437
VOLUNTEERS

584
INDIVIDUAL DONORS

221
BUSINESS & FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

116,231
MESSAGES SENT BY 36,660 SUBSCRIBERS THROUGH 36 COMMUNITY DISCUSSION LISTS



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: VALLEY QUEST

Seventh-graders at Unity Elementary School in Unity, New Hampshire, explored their town's natural and cultural history as they created the new Marshall Pond Quest at Unity Trail. We teamed up with the Sullivan County Conservation District to guide their research and writing, building the students' connections with both the place they're in and the resources that surround them. Follow the clues on our website to find out what they learned on their Valley Quest!



At least **1,071 PEOPLE** deepened their connections with our region's history, culture, and ecology through Valley Quest treasure hunts and programs



271 ALUMNI are making a difference in their communities with the knowledge and networks they gained through Leadership Upper Valley

22% more people are using Advance Transit's real-time bus tracker since we launched our co-marketing campaign last year



92 people attended our Everyday Bicycling and Travel Training workshops to gain confidence on bikes and public transit

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: TRANSPORTATION

Wilder resident Sally Bellew was excited when she learned about our Travel Training program—an effort to help residents get comfortable getting around the Upper Valley on Advance Transit buses. Sally now volunteers to provide travel training to community members, especially elders and teenagers. "My son now feels confident about getting around the Upper Valley using the bus, which gives him some independence and also helps me, his chauffeur!" said one grateful parent.



109 LOCAL FOOD BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS are participating in our exploration of an Upper Valley food hub



1,200 COMMUNITY MEMBERS attended the 17th Annual Flavors of the Valley

Flavors



111 local businesses and nonprofit members strengthening our region's economy



NEW WORK: ADAPTATION & WORKFORCE HOUSING



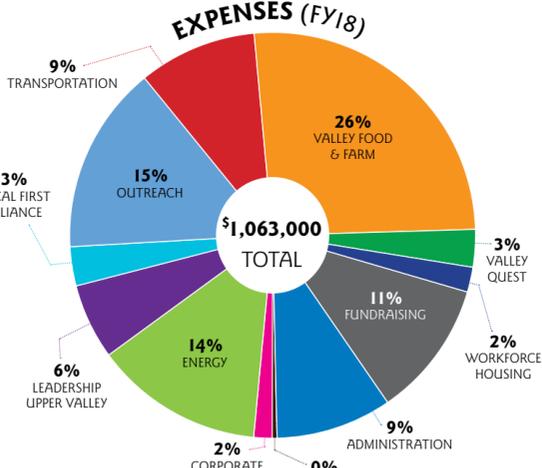
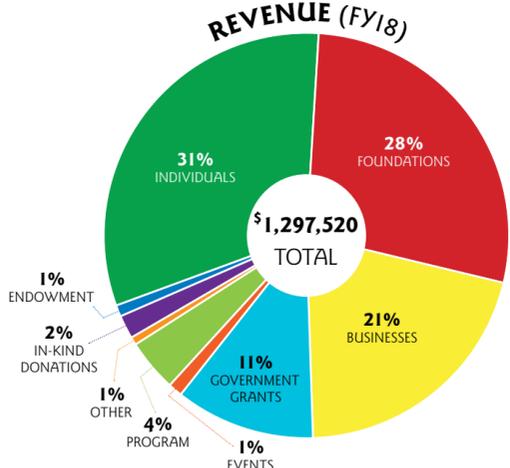
Vital Communities took on two new areas of work in fiscal year 2018: workforce housing and climate adaptation.

More than 300 citizens and business leaders attended public events to learn more, share best practices, and find ways to work together toward solutions that address regional needs and maintain the essential character of our communities.



43 volunteers led Weatherize campaigns in **11** towns

108 homeowners made energy-efficiency upgrades in 2018 through Weatherize Upper Valley



6,788 students in **29** schools had opportunities to celebrate local food and farms in their classrooms and cafeterias with help from our Upper Valley Farm to School Network



264 kids bought **\$1,511** worth of their own fresh, local produce from **12** Upper Valley farmers through our Power of Produce (POP) Clubs

