Vital Communities cultivates the civic, environmental, and economic vitality of the Upper Valley. We bring people together, bridging boundaries and engaging our whole community to create positive change.
Dear friends, partners, and supporters,

By the time this Annual Report reaches you, I will have completed my first year as Executive Director of Vital Communities. What a year of listening and learning it has been been!

I am grateful to lead an organization committed to supporting healthy and sustainable communities. The Upper Valley is a beautiful region with many aspects that make it an attractive place to live—and yet we have challenges. Vital Communities’ work to bridge boundaries to create positive change is important—and it is a tall order.

We are successful thanks in large part to our partners. The 69 cities and towns in our region, as well as dozens of local businesses and nonprofits, are essential to our work of creating thriving and resilient communities.

We are also successful thanks to the hard work of the Vital Communities staff. Over these past 12 months I have been in awe of their knowledge, wisdom, creativity, and dedication. It is truly an honor to work with them, and to celebrate the many and varied achievements that are headlined in this report.

Additionally, we have the good fortune to be guided by a Board of Directors that shares the Vital Communities commitment to celebrating and strengthening a diverse and inclusive Upper Valley, and that offers wise counsel and thoughtful encouragement as we navigate the roller-coaster of our work.

As I reflect on this past year and all that we have accomplished, I am filled with deep appreciation for the financial support that donors throughout our region have provided, enabling us to bring communities together, to share resources and lessons learned, and to collaborate in identifying and implementing solutions that will enable Upper Valley communities to thrive.

A handful of these donors—both new this year and longstanding—are profiled in this report, and all are listed on pages 6–10 as an expression of our gratitude. We could not do our work without your generosity.

The coming year will bring a new Strategic Plan, continued progress on our JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) efforts, additions to our team, and an exciting array of new or expanded projects. We are honored to be on this journey with you.

With gratitude,

Sarah Jackson

Photo Credits:
Vital Communities staff and courtesy photos, plus Jay Davis (p. 2), Sandy Gmur (back cover), Gary Moore (p. 9) and Rob Strong (front cover, p. 5).

Connect with Us
195 North Main Street
White River Junction, VT 05001
Phone: 802-291-9100
Email: info@vitalcommunities.org

/vitalcommunities.org
/vitalcommunities
FISCAL YEAR 2021

**Upper Valley & Claremont Everyone Eats**

117,486 meals distributed to 73,980 individuals

$1,174,860 to Upper Valley restaurants

$75,531 to local farms and food producers

**Everyone Eats!**

2,061 people subscribed to month-long Virtual **Flavors of the Valley**

220 households in 9 towns

borrowed e-bikes through the Upper Valley E-Bike Lending Library

164 farms and businesses were helped by programs run or co-sponsored by Vital Communities such as business and farm consultations, stipends, grants, and more.

$73,483 raised for local initiatives by TLC Upper Valley

68 new housing units in Windham, Windsor, and Orange counties through the Re-Housing Recovery program promoted by Vital Communities and the UV Strong Housing Group

68 COMMUNITY MEMBERS are trained for leadership as alumni of Leadership Upper Valley and 2CLA (Climate Change Leadership Academy)
Thank You, Donors!

This list has been prepared with care. However, if we've inadvertently omitted your name, please contact us!

INDIVIDUALS

UNDER $1,000

Anonymous (24)
Naveed Rahman
Bowen

Thank You, Donors!

What has inspired you to give to Vital Communities? We started giving to Vital Communities around the time it was helping towns hold visioning processes, including our town of Thetford. We believe in acting locally in making change that benefits the world. Vital Communities was engaged in making change that was local, national, and global in its effects.

Concerns about the Upper Valley? We both have long term, ongoing concerns about global climate change, and more recently deepening concern about fair and accessible housing in the Upper Valley. It was never our intention to live in a gated community, yet it feels like that’s what our town is effectively becoming.

What gives you hope? When we interact with youth (now defined by us as under 30)—in a few years, it will be “under 40”! in our community, we come away encouraged and hopeful.

PATRICIA AND TOM NORTON

Longtime Donors - Thetford, Vermont

What has inspired you to give to Vital Communities? We started giving to Vital Communities around the time it was helping towns hold visioning processes, including our town of Thetford. We believe in acting locally in making change that benefits the world. Vital Communities was engaged in making change that was local, national, and global in its effects.

Concerns about the Upper Valley? We both have long term, ongoing concerns about global climate change, and more recently deepening concern about fair and accessible housing in the Upper Valley. It was never our intention to live in a gated community, yet it feels like that’s what our town is effectively becoming.

What gives you hope? When we interact with youth (now defined by us as under 30)—in a few years, it will be “under 40”! in our community, we come away encouraged and hopeful.

Anonymous (24)
Naveed Rahman
Bowen

Thank You, Donors!

What has inspired you to give to Vital Communities? We started giving to Vital Communities around the time it was helping towns hold visioning processes, including our town of Thetford. We believe in acting locally in making change that benefits the world. Vital Communities was engaged in making change that was local, national, and global in its effects.

Concerns about the Upper Valley? We both have long term, ongoing concerns about global climate change, and more recently deepening concern about fair and accessible housing in the Upper Valley. It was never our intention to live in a gated community, yet it feels like that’s what our town is effectively becoming.

What gives you hope? When we interact with youth (now defined by us as under 30)—in a few years, it will be “under 40”! in our community, we come away encouraged and hopeful.

Anonymous (24)
Naveed Rahman
Bowen

Thank You, Donors!

What has inspired you to give to Vital Communities? We started giving to Vital Communities around the time it was helping towns hold visioning processes, including our town of Thetford. We believe in acting locally in making change that benefits the world. Vital Communities was engaged in making change that was local, national, and global in its effects.

Concerns about the Upper Valley? We both have long term, ongoing concerns about global climate change, and more recently deepening concern about fair and accessible housing in the Upper Valley. It was never our intention to live in a gated community, yet it feels like that’s what our town is effectively becoming.

What gives you hope? When we interact with youth (now defined by us as under 30)—in a few years, it will be “under 40”! in our community, we come away encouraged and hopeful.

Anonymous (24)
Naveed Rahman
Bowen

Thank You, Donors!

What has inspired you to give to Vital Communities? We started giving to Vital Communities around the time it was helping towns hold visioning processes, including our town of Thetford. We believe in acting locally in making change that benefits the world. Vital Communities was engaged in making change that was local, national, and global in its effects.

Concerns about the Upper Valley? We both have long term, ongoing concerns about global climate change, and more recently deepening concern about fair and accessible housing in the Upper Valley. It was never our intention to live in a gated community, yet it feels like that’s what our town is effectively becoming.

What gives you hope? When we interact with youth (now defined by us as under 30)—in a few years, it will be “under 40”! in our community, we come away encouraged and hopeful.

Anonymous (24)
Naveed Rahman
Bowen

Thank You, Donors!

What has inspired you to give to Vital Communities? We started giving to Vital Communities around the time it was helping towns hold visioning processes, including our town of Thetford. We believe in acting locally in making change that benefits the world. Vital Communities was engaged in making change that was local, national, and global in its effects.

Concerns about the Upper Valley? We both have long term, ongoing concerns about global climate change, and more recently deepening concern about fair and accessible housing in the Upper Valley. It was never our intention to live in a gated community, yet it feels like that’s what our town is effectively becoming.

What gives you hope? When we interact with youth (now defined by us as under 30)—in a few years, it will be “under 40”! in our community, we come away encouraged and hopeful.
transitions. We always come together to embrace the beauty of what we have here—right
behind them to enhance our Upper Valley. I’ve lived here my entire life and seen so many
businesses close. The underpinning for recruitment efforts is affordable housing and
Concerns about the Upper Valley?

What gives you hope?

What has inspired you to give to Vital Communities?

KIMBERLY GIBBS
New Donor - North Hartland, Vermont
What has inspired you to give to Vital Communities? Participating in the Leadership Upper Valley program was the spark I needed. I was so inspired by the program, the people, and the vision and purpose of Vital Communities!
Concerns about the Upper Valley? Simply put—workers. Whether considering nurses for DHMC or waitresses and others, we can’t continue having our local businesses close. The underpinning for recruitment efforts is affordable housing and transportation.
What gives you hope? The individuals working on so many initiatives and the passion behind them to enhance our Upper Valley. I’ve lived her entire life and seen so many transitions. We always come together to embrace the beauty of what we have here—right outside our doors.

Markell Rips and Jack Kauders
Amanda Roberts
Evelyn Roberts
Tamara Rockwell
Richard Rodenbeck
Allison Rogers Furbish and Shawn Furbish
Virginia and Ellis Rolett
Kathleen Romano
Sarah and Nelson Rooker
Arlene and Barry Rotman
Patricia and Daryl Royce
Alan Rozyczki
Jennifer O’Flaherty and Beth Ryan
Betsy Rybeck Lynd and Lee Lynd
Cameron and Gus Speth
Cynthia and Jonathan Stableford
Sophie and Matt Starr
Amy Stephens
Jane and John Stephenson
Cynthia Stevens
Caroline and Peter Stors
Hope and Stephen Straginn
Marilyn and Skip Sturman
Paul Suhler
Karin Summer
Gina and Steve Surgener
Morgan Swan
Bonnie and Clint Swift
Cynthia Taylor
Sharon Wight
Nancy Wightman
Stephanie and Stephen Willbanks
Alicia J Willette D.D.S.
Fadia and Ted Williamson
Joan and Robert Williamson
Leslie and Doug Williamson
JoAnne Willingham
Doris and Robert Wohlfert
Ashley Wood
Kristen and Stew Wood
Jeanne Woodward-Poor
Susan and James Wright
Susan and John Yiacouvon
Sallie and Tom Yurkosky
Janet and Timothy Taylor
Marie and Tom Taylor
Steve Taylor and Melinda Meyerhoff
Susan and David Taylor
Pete Thoenen
Heety and Iv Thorne
Anne Thomas Donaghy and John Donaghy
Thelma and Peter Thompson
Linda and William Tobin
Amy VanderKool
Cindy and Jim Varmum
Jesse Vazanino
Rodney Viens
Pat Vlamynck
Katrina Wagner
Robert Walker
Suzanne Wallis
Betty Ward and Pip Richers
Sally and Dick Warren
Mary and Bernie Waugh
Lynne and Simon Weatherill
Carol P. Weingeist
Rhonda and Milton Weinstein
Ken Wells
Holly and Robert West
Celeste and Walter Wetherell
Elin Wetherell
Dona and Phil Wheeler
Sandrina and Bruce White
Tilda and Stuart White
Helen Whyte and O. Ross McIntyre
Beverly and Robert Wider

OVER $1,000

Anonymous (4)
Elizabeth and Clay Adams
Cynthia Barrette
Barbara Barry and Michael Pacht
Molly Bonham
Kathleen Dolan
[Il] Anne Eskridge
Kathy and Bill Geraghty
Veronica and Paul Guyre
Punam and Kevin Keller
Sue Krinchich and Chuck Wooster
Jane Kitchel McLaughlin and Peter McLaughlin
Sally Kraft and Bob Staiger
Carola Lea
Jennifer Manwell and Charles Sullivan
Dr. Martha McDaniel and Dr. Stephen Plume
Charlotte Metcalfe
Ron Miller
Gretchen and Rick Mills
Nila and Robert Z. Norman
Mary and David Otto
Andrea Reimann-Ciardelli and Tom Ciardelli

BUSINESSES & FOUNDATIONS
In-Kind Donations in Italics

UNDER $500

Anonymous (1)
Advanced Geomatics and Design
Allenby Charitable Fund
Amazon Foundation
Andrew’s
Ardis Olson Family Giving Fund
Aspinwall Family Fund
Bernice B. Godine Family Foundation
Butler Rahm Family Fund
Cloudland Farm
Dartmouth Regional Technology Center
Edgewater Farm
Ellaway Property Services, Inc
Energy Emporium
Energy Futures Group
Evelyn R Swett Photography LLC
Flag Hill Farm - Vermont Hard Cider
Four Springs Farm
FreshAir Sensor, LLC
FUJIFILM Dimatix, Inc.
Gold/McConnell Charitable Giving Account
Grewal Family Charitable Gift Fund
Hartford Area Career and Technical Center
Haynes and Garthwaite Architects
Hogwash Farm
Howe Valley
Hurricane Flats
Jericho ViVaU and Hill Farms
Keene Sentinel
Lubrano Family Charitable Foundation
Lucy and Jon Hampton Fund
McAlister Family Fund
McCormick Niblick Family Fund
Mighty Yoga
Miles and Patrice Mushlin Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
MorningsStar
NH Center for Nonprofits
NOFA - Vermont
Otto & Associates
Patterson Family Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Peachblow Farm
Peter and Susan Brink Fund
Peyton Place Restaurant at the Historic Mann Tavern
Rawson Dubesul Fund
Revere Farms
Seasonal Brook Farm
Shaker Hill Bed and Breakfast
Son Builders
Spring Ledge Farm
Steven Thomas, Inc
Stratford Historical Society
Sunrise Farm
Sweetland Farm
Ted and Fadia Williamson Family Fund
The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation
Three Tomatoes Tra Toria
Town of Sharon
Town of West Fairlee
UpCountry Cards
VegetaBall’s Pesto
Vegetable’s Pesto
Wild Hill Organics
Wingover Farm
Winter Moon Farm

EMMY AND RICK HAUSMAN
Longtime Donors - Newbury, Vermont
What has inspired you to give to Vital Communities? Rick served on the founding board of Upper Valley 2001 and Beyond. Vital Communities’ predecessor organization. He joined all board members in kicking in to help the fledgling organization fly. Both within and among communities, Vital Communities provides inspiration and leadership that wouldn’t normally arise spontaneously.
Concerns about the Upper Valley? There’s a kind of centrifugal force concentrating activity of all types in the center. For our region, this creates an economic, social, and political divide between the central economic engine and the outlying areas. As a region, we need to continually remind ourselves to counter the tendency to look inward geographically.
What gives you hope? The recent influx of “refugees” from other areas—often places where there have been imminent concerns about Covid and climate change—has the potential to spark a diversity of ideas and approaches, and could provide energy in positive new directions.

Kathy Rines
Chelsey Jo Ring
Barbara and David Roby
Linda and Rick Roesch
Jennifer and Mark Schiffman
Ronald Shaiko
Jane and Bill Stetson
Jean and Bayne Stevenson
Susan and Mark Valence
Jenny and Stan Williams
Debbie Williamson
Sally and Tim Wilson
The financial information above does not include the activity of certain fiscal sponsorship arrangements entered into by Vital Communities or the change in value of the endowment fund held at the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Total revenues, gains, and other support is $2,990,639, and total expenses are $2,499,087.

**Financial Summary**

**REVENUE (FY21)**
- **14%** INDIVIDUALS
- **15%** FOUNDATIONS
- **10%** BUSINESSES
- **47%** SEVCA/EVERYONE EATS*
- **4%** OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS
- **3%** PROGRAM
- **6%** OTHER
- **.5%** IN-KIND DONATIONS
- **.5%** ENDOWMENT

**EXPENSES (FY21)**
- **1.5%** CLIMATE
- **1%** CORPORATE COUNCIL
- **6%** ENERGY
- **49%** SEVCA/EVERYONE EATS*
- **9%** FOOD & FARM
- **4%** HOUSING
- **2%** LEADERSHIP
- **4%** VITAL ECONOMY
- **3%** TRANSPORTATION
- **1%** VALLEY QUEST
- **8%** OUTREACH
- **5%** FUNDRAISING
- **6.5%** ADMINISTRATION

*Southeastern Vermont Community Action funding for Upper Valley Everyone Eats
195 North Main Street
White River Junction, VT 05001
802-291-9100
vitalcommunities.org

To correct your contact information or duplicate mailings, please contact doreen@vitalcommunities.org or x104.