Fall 2022

vital COMMUNITIES

Sense of Place: WHY IT MATTERS

NEW FACES at Vital Communities

Updates On HOUSING, ENERGY, ECONOMY

Thank You, DONORS
Vital Communities cultivate the civic, environmental, and economic vitality of the Upper Valley, a region composed of 69 towns spanning the Connecticut River. We bring people together, bridging boundaries and engaging our whole community to create positive change. We offer programming and resources to help households, communities, schools, and workplaces build resilience. We work with dozens of partner organizations in New Hampshire and Vermont to craft shared strategies and coordinate our services. Our agenda and programs emerge from and are driven by regional needs and community interests. We encourage collaboration across public, private, and nonprofit sectors to test new approaches and share our learning.

vitalcommunities.org | 802-291-9100
195 North Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001

Staff
Email: firstname@vitalcommunities.org except where noted
Arianne Arnold, Development Director, x112
Rebecca Bailey, Communications, x108
Leona Bergman-Gaul, Communications & Events, x107
Sarah Brock, Climate, Energy, Transportation Director, x109
Sarah Danly, White River Valley Consortium, x105
Rachel Darrow, Finance & Administration Director, x115
Andrew Deaett, Place-Based Education, x120
John Drew, Place-Based Learning Director, x124
Anna Guenther, Energy and Transportation, x117
John Haffne, Housing and Transportation, x113
Ellen Hender, Housing and Transportation, x122
Erica Hiller, Climate, Agriculture, Energy, Economy, x119
Cameron Huftalen, Upper Valley Everyone Eats, x123
Sarah Jackson, Executive Director, x101
Nancy Larowe, Economy, Food & Farm Director, x106
Heather Mixon, Development, x126
Shantida Oakheart, Bookkeeper, x121
Esther Palmer, Early Care & Education, x125
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Jen Risley, Economy, The Local Crowd, x116
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On The Cover: An Upper Valley preschooler explores her school garden during the summer months—weeding, watering, and taking a break to smell the flowers. Photo by Jody Lowes.

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Belonging to a Place

“Only by understanding where I live can I learn how to live.”
—Scott Russell Sanders, Staying Put

I grew up in New Hampshire and, although I moved away as an adult, I visited regularly, savoring a sense of connection and groundedness each time. But my deeper appreciation for this region took hold after I moved back to New England five years ago, settling with my family in Randolph, VT. The town was in the midst of “R3—Randolph Region Re-Energized,” a community-driven process facilitated by the Vermont Council on Rural Development to catalyze economic vitality and environmental sustainability. Intrigued, I joined a committee working on issues including economic development, downtown revitalization, and childcare—and soon connected with people, places, and aspects of the region I might never have found as just a resident. New as I was to Randolph, I started to feel that I belonged.

Fostering a sense of belonging for all who live or work in our region is what motivates us at Vital Communities. When people feel that they belong to an area, they are more likely to invest in its future through volunteering, buying local, caring for the environment, building relationships, developing shared solutions, and contributing to positive change.

But not everyone who lives in the Upper Valley enjoys a sense of belonging. We all know people who have been excluded from our communities. Abenaki peoples no longer have access to territory that they stewarded for centuries, and thus struggle to maintain a connection with their land-based traditions and culture. Over 85 percent of Black people and other people of color, people with disabilities, and immigrants in New Hampshire reported being discriminated against most or some of the time in a 2021 survey. A recent episode of Vermont Public’s Brave Little State entitled “Why Do People Leave Vermont?” featured stories from Black and Brown former Vermonters who spoke of mistreatment and fear while living here.

How can we work together to create an Upper Valley where all people belong?

“Placemaking”—the ways that Vital Communities builds connections to what our region has to offer, and where we can focus to improve it—is the focus of this issue of our newsletter. While we still have a tremendous amount to do as we fulfill our commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, we are striving to make our work—and our region—more welcoming and inclusive for all.

We are excited by the potential for placemaking to create shared experiences that foster connections, fuel positive change, and contribute to overall community vitality that resonates with all people.

We hope that you have found—or will find your connection to the Upper Valley, and that you will join us in celebrating all the good that comes from building our collective sense of place. This work couldn't happen without the support of many people and organizations, acknowledged in the list of donors on pages 12 through 16 and in four donor profiles. We invite you to contribute to this effort by making a gift in the envelope provided or online at vitalcommunities.org/donate.

With appreciation,

Sarah Jackson
Executive Director
sense of place:
Why It Matters

Think of a place you love in the Upper Valley. Why do you love it? Because of how it looks, sounds, smells, feels? The experiences you have had there? The people you had them with? Stories you know about the place?

All these elements and more give locales what has come to be called a “sense of place”—the combination of factors that make people value and feel connected to particular places and make those places unique.

Sense of place is individual: the same places mean different things to different people depending on their values, culture, knowledge, and personal history. Sense of place is also collective: when a place has meaning and appeal to a lot of people, that’s a powerful force.

A locale’s sense of place can be strengthened through “placemaking”—intentionally enhancing those elements that make places feel good individually and collectively. Placemaking includes everything from reclaiming Abenaki place names, to welcoming new Americans, to opening up public spaces to foster belonging.

Placemaking should draw into the community people who have been marginalized or excluded, says a statement from the International Project for Public Spaces. “When people of all ages, abilities, and socio-economic backgrounds can not only access and enjoy a place, but also play a key role in its identity, creation, and maintenance, that is when we see genuine Placemaking in action.”

Vital Communities focuses on building a sense of place and on placemaking because doing so can help people feel like they belong. This focus inspires the communal energy and commitment needed to work together on immediate and long-term concerns. When people feel attached to a place, they are more likely to put their time and resources into taking care of it and working with others to do so. Taking care of the place makes them love it even more, thus creating an upward spiral of community care and energy.

“Sense of place asks the question, ‘Where do we belong?’” said Rob Schultz, Vital Communities’ outgoing Director of Place-Based Learning. “If we feel like we belong in a place then we’re more likely to pay attention to it, its physical, geographic, and social dimensions. And that leads to almost everything Vital Communities does.”
Sense of place and placemaking also play a direct role in many key aspects of Upper Valley community life, including economic prosperity, viable farms, education, effective citizen action—and, through it all, bringing people together. “Having a sense of place is an anchor for moving into action and engagement and volunteerism,” said Gabrielle Smith, Project Manager of Vital Communities’ Valley Quest program. “You get a broader, more whole understanding of what ‘your’ place is. A strong sense of place goes beyond your day-to-day life where you live and work—it is built on what you value, your interests, and your growing awareness of your place, your fellow residents, and community as a whole.”

Strong Local Businesses

“A strong small business presence—especially one that thrives in the context of a busy, livable, walkable downtown—is what gives a community its character,” wrote Quint Studer of Strong Towns, a national nonprofit supporting local vitality. “It creates that sense of place that attracts tourists, young people and empty nesters (increasing numbers of both groups want to live downtown), a talented workforce, and yes, bigger businesses and other investors who drive further growth.”

In addition are the well-known financial benefits of local independent businesses. A 2020 study commissioned by Vital Communities conducted by Civic Economics found that for every dollar customers spend, local retailers and restaurants return a share to the local community that’s up to four times as big as that of chain businesses.

Vital Communities supports local independent businesses through a host of initiatives under our Vital Economy banner, including:

- **Local First**, a membership group of local independent businesses that receive year-round promotion through a rotating calendar of month-long promotions
- **The Local Crowd Upper Valley**, a nonprofit crowdfunding platform for starting and growing local businesses and enterprises
- **The Vital Guide**, an online guide to locally owned businesses and enterprises

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- **Upper Valley Adventures**, a set of five online maps of trails linking distinctive locally owned businesses under themes like “General Stores & Farmstands” and “Beer, Wine & Spirits.”

Want to know ways to support local independent businesses? Go to vitalcommunities.org/vital-economy

Thriving Farms

Farms also are critical to our sense of place. They connect us to the land and seasons and the people who work the land. They are part of a burgeoning artisanal food and beverage sector that sets the region apart, makes it attractive to tourists, and offers opportunities for learning and professional growth. Of all the types of local independent businesses, none plow more of their income back into the local economy than Upper Valley farms. And to be resilient in the face of possible shocks like pandemics and climate disasters, we need strong local food producers.

“In a very physical sense, local farms represent food security,” said Ben Nelson, a Vital Communities Board member who grew up in a farm family and continues to grow and sell farm products through Claremont Spice & Dry Goods.
“But even more, it’s the sun and the land coming together and physically nourishing us. It’s very connecting and centering and really gives people a sense of control and existence in their community, whether that food is coming from a home garden or a full farm. People better understand the value of good food.”

Vital Communities supports local farmers and food producers through a host of initiatives under its Food and Farm banner, including:

- **Direct business and technical assistance** for farmers
- **Digital toolkits** for climate adaptation and mitigation on the farm and marketing organic produce as climate-friendly
- Support for the **Every Town Project**, which creates farmland access for BIPOC in Vermont
- Campaigns to educate the public about the climate benefits of **regenerative agriculture**
- **Farm to School** programs that help schools serve more locally grown food and grow their own.

Want to know ways to support local farms? Go to vitalcommunities.org/food-and-farm

**Effective Citizen Action**

Remember that upward spiral of attachment and caretaking? “Citizen action” is another name for it. Not just any action, however: research has found that **action needs to make a tangible difference for it to inspire one’s attachment to place.**

Vital Communities helps citizens take effective action through leadership training programs and the coordination of citizen organizations, including:

- **Leadership Upper Valley**, which since 2007 has prepared some 400 people to have greater impact in the Upper Valley through a 10-session training that introduces them to some of the sectors of life in this region and some of the topics and leaders within them, including Education, Environment, Economy, Justice, Government, Health Care, and Arts and the Creative Economy.

- **The Climate Change Leadership Academy (2CLA)**, co-managed by Vital Communities and the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup, in which Upper Valley community members learn about climate science, mitigation, adaptation, and justice and also build their own skills to lead and support equitable, community-based climate projects.
Convening 35+ Town Energy Committees so they can share ideas and collaborate on campaigns like the recently concluded three-year Energy Savings project to help residents of mobile homes save energy and pay their home heating/cooling bills.

The White River Valley Consortium, pulling together representatives from 14 towns along the White River Valley to tackle questions that affect the region. Its first priorit is developing more housing, especially for entrepreneurs and entry-level workers. The project is headed by a core team of about 10 people and three subcommittees that seek broader public input through surveys, meetings, and tabling at community events. Throughout this work, Vital Communities aims to foster inclusive decision-making that creates a stronger sense of community. For example, the White River Valley Consortium “first came together around a vision of creating a White River Valley that allows everyone to feel a sense of belonging and to access economic opportunities in order to live their best lives, whatever that might be,” said Sarah Danly, who manages the Consortium project. “Our goals for the three-year program are to work on housing and simultaneously build relationships and a new model for how we can work together, across municipal borders and different silos of the population: the public sector, private sector, economic development and social services professionals, volunteers, and community organizers—basically all players coming together.”

Learn more about the programs mentioned at vitalcommunities.org/town-energy-committees, /leadership-upper-valley, /2cla, and /white-river-valley-consortium.

Learning Inspires Stewardship

Learning has a lot to do with sense of place. The more you know about a place—its stories and special cultural and geographic features—the more attached to it you tend to feel. This inspires you to learn still more about the place, and love it more and—you guessed it, another upward spiral.

“I see knowledge and sense of place as interconnected—sometimes knowledge is the chicken and sometimes it’s the egg,” said Vital Communities’ Gabrielle Smith. “Learning about a place leads to a stronger sense of place, and that sense of place can lead to learning more about the place.”

Smith oversees Vital Communities’ Valley Quests, an online library of more than 100 self-guided tours of special places throughout the Upper Valley. Each Quest was created by people sharing their knowledge of a place—from school groups to lone adults, kids and their grandparents, local business and farms. Each tour unfolds as a series of clues, usually in rhymed couplets, that share stories or facts about the place and its features and require the participants to stay alert to the environment.
“A Valley Quest is a lovely way to see a place through someone else’s eyes. You may even know the place but not with that perspective. Are you noticing that flora and fauna? Were you aware that the trail has that little spike where, if you look down, you can see the foundation of an old mill from 150 years ago? It’s a wonderful way to remind people that there’s always something new to learn about your place,” she said.

Quests are for anyone, but Vital Communities also supports place-based learning specifically for schools through managing the Upper Valley Teaching Place Collaborative, a network of educators interested in connecting their schools and students to the local community and environment. Members receive a regular newsletter sharing teaching resources and ideas and events, and they gather at an annual conference. After being paused since 2019 due to COVID, the annual conference returns this November.

Vital Communities also supports Farm to School programs, for which the primary classroom is a school garden and, often, composting facility. Vital Communities staff members coach local teachers who go through the Shelburne Farms year-long Farm to School certification program; maintain a library of FTS learning materials; and offer mini-grants for FTS projects.

“Place-based education provides students with the tools and resources to not only discover the environmental and cultural wealth around them, but to also become agents of change for a sustainable future in their own communities,” said Andrew Deaett, Vital Communities’ Place-Based Education Project Manager.

Citing the work of educator David Sobel, Deaett said the first steps should be to spend a lot of time outdoors, keep a nature journal, and work in a school garden. “Young learners really are not ready to take on the weight of the world. What comes first is a foundation of understanding, of love and joy, which is arguably a more productive foundation to work from. And then as students get older and develop the capacity for nuance and abstraction, you can bring up the problems we face, giving them tools to discover root causes and where they might have impact.”

Learn more about the programs mentioned at vitalcommunities.org/valley-quest, /upper-valley-teaching-place-collaborative, and /farm-to-school.
Building Community Digitally

Instilling a sense of belonging can happen through digital spaces. One example is the set of email Community Discussion Lists (AKA Listservs) for Upper Valley communities, overseen and hosted by Vital Communities. Free to all and managed by volunteers, each list is a sort of virtual town green where public officials can post meeting minutes and announcements and residents can offer items for sale, express thoughts about town issues, and hear about local businesses and events. Vital Communities hosts 54 community discussion lists across our region to help people in our communities talk with and learn about one another.

Another regional online tool for building community is the Upper Valley chapter of the Vermont Welcome Wagon Project, which matches up new arrivals to the area with established residents who can help them get settled and connected after they are first introduced through an online database.

Learn more about the programs mentioned at vitalcommunities.org/community-discussion-lists/ and /upper-valley-vermont-welcome-wagon-project.

Deepening Your Connections

How can we start or deepen our connections to the Upper Valley? Whether you are a new arrival or a resident of many generations, you can increase your sense of belonging by supporting local businesses and farms, getting involved as a resident in municipal and community activities, and learning about the Upper Valley through Valley Quest or school-based programs. Maybe the next place that gets “made” will be something you helped create.

"Human beings have a strong connection to the places that we call home,” said Smith. “For thousands of years, humans were relatively confined to a certain part of the world and had a very strong sense of place. That attachment to place is connected to a sense of well-being for themselves, the community, and the land. As we have become more mobile and less rooted, it’s important that we connect to where we live. That sense of place grounds us to the world around us and to each other because we begin to see how, despite differences, we all do care about the place we call home.”

The June 2 Housing Breakfast—Vital Communities’ first in-person event since January 2020—drew a large, diverse, engaged crowd, both at the Hilton Garden Inn in Lebanon and online through CATV. Although survey respondents would have liked more time for questions, they were enthusiastic about the presentations and eager to take the next steps. Wrote one participant, “Thank you for convening this conversation. I was impressed with the wide-ranging efforts profiled and the knowledgeable and collaborative way each organization presented.”

Watch the presentation at vitalcommunities.org/housing-breakfast-6-02-22

Members of the Upper Valley’s 35+ Town Energy Committees gathered online May 12 for the 15th Annual Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable. They received a concise account of what each committee had done in the past 12 months and heard presentations spotlighting particular Energy Committee projects, this time including a report on the joint campaign by the Windsor and Cornish committees to get homeowners to install solar electric. Wrote one participant, “It is always wonderful to learn what other energy committees are doing. It is so important to make these connections and be reminded that we are all working toward the same goals.”

Watch the presentation at vitalcommunities.org/may-2022-local-energy-showcase
Housing numbers for 2021 are encouraging, according to Counting New Homes, an annual study by regional planners, commissioned by Vital Communities, that compares data going back to 2010. More homes were added last year than in any since 2010. While the number still fell short of what’s needed to equal demand, especially in the low- and medium-price category, “It is just good to see that, while there is still much work to be done, new units are coming online,” says Ellen Hender, a Program Manager on the Vital Communities Housing and Transportation Team.

Read the study at vitalcommunities.org/housing/counting-new-homes

Engaging with traditionally marginalized people has been the focus of a number of recent crowdfunding campaigns by The Local Crowd Upper Valley, managed by Vital Communities. Newport’s Aurora Bakery raised $20,000 to expand its Main Street operation where people with disabilities learn work and life skills while serving their community. Peanut’s Dog Treats raised $1,570 toward a permanent downtown Springfield, VT, location that offers affordable healthier dog treats and supplies.

As this issue went to print, the Northeast Organic Farm Associations of New Hampshire and Vermont were hoping to jointly raise $5,000 to help more people purchase Farm Shares for fall and winter crops from local organic farms. “While community-based businesses and nonprofits may be rich in social capital, they’re often cash-strapped and don’t have access to the financial capital they need to grow,” said Jen Risley, TLC Coordinator. “Our crowdfunding program helps transform social capital into financial capital—boosting the businesses that build more equitable communities and a stronger local economy.”

More than 100 people took the “Staycation” challenge in July, pledging to buy only from local independent businesses for a duration of time of their choosing. Participants enjoyed being gently pushed to find local sources, according to their responses in a post-challenge survey. Wrote one participant, “Spent more time exploring local trails in Fairlee and ate at Broken Hearts Burger for the first time. Shopped at the local hardware stores for our bathroom remodel instead of travelling to the big box stores.” Stay tuned for a new Holiday Shop Indie Local challenge coming in October!

Learn more at vitalcommunities.org/vital-economy/buy-local

Learn more at vitalcommunities.org/the-local-crowd-upper-valley
When the **Upper Valley E-Bike Lending Library** finishes making its rounds this fall, it will have gone to a record 11 towns and two workplaces, allowing hundreds of Upper Valley residents to try out whether an e-bike can help them be less reliant on cars for travel. Newbury, NH, hosted the library for the first time this year. “We had a great response,” said Town Administrator Dennis Pavlicek. “People liked being able to try out different models without having to purchase anything. E-bikes can work really well in our community because there are beautiful places to ride, such as around Lake Sunapee, but we have a lot of rugged topography. E-bikes really help, especially as you get older.”

*Learn more at vitalcommunities.org/upper-valley-e-bike-lending-library*

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Eighteen Upper Valley employers have committed to working together to foster diverse and inclusive communities and workplaces in a statement titled **“A Commitment to Inclusion and Belonging from the Upper Valley’s Major Employers.”** The statement was drafted by a discussion group on diversity, equity, and inclusion that was initiated by Vital Communities’ Corporate Council, which brings together top representatives of Upper Valley employers to discuss issues of importance to them and their employees.

*Read the full statement at vitalcommunities.org/corporate-council-commitment-to-inclusion-and-belonging*

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People entering the childcare field can now complete their required background checks much more quickly, thanks to the Vital Communities Early Care & Education Initiative. Hearing that this step was slowing down the process of hiring badly needed new childcare workers, Lebanon City Manager Shaun Mulholland, a member of the Initiative Steering Committee, asked the Lebanon Police Department to set aside time each week when prospective childcare workers from either New Hampshire and Vermont could get fingerprinted. “This is such an amazing effort on your part,” wrote Amy Brooks, Executive Director of the Early Care and Education Association. “It means a lot to providers to feel like they have people supporting them in their community!”

*Learn more about the Early Care & Education Initiative and its work to increase the affordability and availability of high-quality childcare at vitalcommunities.org/early-care-education*
New Faces at Vital Communities

Over the past several months, Vital Communities has added staff to increase what we’re able to do and to replace some staff members who are moving on.

Andrew Deaett joined Vital Communities as Place-Based Education Project Manager working on Farm to School, Valley Quest, and the Upper Valley Teaching Place Collaborative. His experience in place-based education includes seven years of classroom teaching in Maine and Wisconsin, during which he developed a field-based AP Environmental Science curriculum and helped establish school gardens and forestry research plots.

Erica Hiller and Alana Redden are Program Managers sharing the work areas of Climate, Agriculture, Energy, and Economy. Erica is an experienced program manager who has dealt with issues including earthquake resilience, medical systems in Haiti, and women’s empowerment programs in post-conflict, post-natural disaster environments. Alana has worked with a number of place-based organizations across Vermont that ranged in focus from agriculture and economic development to gender equity and postsecondary education and training. She has also authored studies on climate migration in Vermont and the housing shortage in Burlington.

Hank Stommel, the new Administrative & Human Resources Coordinator, brings office and customer relations skills acquired through their significant work in healthcare administration as well as professional experience as a farmer, boat hauler, and cook.

Cameron Huftalen, the new Project Manager of Upper Valley Everyone Eats, has a background in helping to cultivate resilient local food systems, most recently working with the Kearsarge Food Hub in Bradford. Over the past several years they have worked to connect local farms and farmers to community members and food access programs.

Esther Palmer, the new Coordinator of the Early Care and Education Initiative, comes from an administrative coordinator role at Middlebury College in which she employed skills in systems thinking and team and data management.

Heather Mixon, the new Development Coordinator, is a fundraising professional with experience in database management and other systems for tracking giving and grants.

John Drew, the new Director of Place-Based Learning, is a career-long environmental science teacher who has led schools since 2007. He will coordinate Vital Communities projects focused on sense of place and belonging, including Leadership Upper Valley, Valley Quest, the Upper Valley Teaching Place Collaborative, and Farm to School. He writes, “A place-based approach offers what I believe is the best opportunity for people to work in, and to build, partnership, developing the passions and skills that the world needs from all of us.”

We offer huge thanks to staff members who have moved on over the past year: Andra Dannhauer, Early Care and Education; Tony Grasso, Food and Farm, Economy; Lauren Griswold, who worked on Upper Valley Everyone Eats, Farm to School; Mike Kiess, Housing; Beth Roy, Food and Farm, Farm to School; and Becka Warren, Food and Farm.

On the Vital Communities Board of Directors, Amy Lappin moved from Vice Chair to Chair to replace outgoing Chair Monique Prestley. Also, the Board welcomes new Tuck Revers Fellows Elizabeth Barry and Andrew Key, and thanks departing Fellows Mary Guay and Alyssa Lo.
Thank You, Donors!

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Cody Hussey
Hope Hutchinson
John Ikerd
Aare Ilves
Meredith Jackson and David Brooks
Sarah and Robert Jackson
Pam Jenkins and David Kotz
Lisa Johnson and Greg Norman
Penelope and Stuart Johnson
Susan Johnson and Jason Kelley
Kathryn Jorgensen
Helina and Tim Josephson
Krista Karlson
Elizabeth and Peter Keene
Andy Kelley
Susan Kellogg
Rainie and Larry Kelly
Ruth Kennedy
Joyce and Paul Killebrew
Laird Klüngler
Nancy and Joel Kobert
Debra Kraemer and Bob Walker
Sally Kraft and Bob Staiger
Virginia Quinn and Hiroshi Kumazawa
Kathryn Labrecque
Linda Labriola
Steve Lagasse
Frank B. Lamson
Katie and Reese Madden
DeWitt Mallary
Jean Marchant
Anne Margolis
Gordon Marshall
Lucretia Martin
Suzanne and Jim Masland
Marjorie and James Matthews
Mary Maxfield
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McAllister
Denise and Barry McCabe
Betsy McCann
Penny McConnel and Jim Gold
Joanne and John McCormick
Marie McCormick and Adam Niblick
Jim McCracken
Joyce and Ronald McGarvey
Elizabeth McGaughy-Willis
Suzanne McGilvray
Patricia McGovern
Susan and Bruce McLaughry
Lucy and Robert McLellan
Pat and Tim McNamara
Lelia Mellen and Bill Shepard
Margaret and Edward Merrens
Nancy Merrill
Carolyn and Peter Mertz
Susan Mills
Theresa and John Minelli
William Neukomm
Cortney Nichols
Kerstin Nichols
Peter Nichols
Caroline and John Nininger
Sara and Kenneth L. Norcross
Joanne and Richard Norton
Patricia and Thomas Norton
Nancy O’Brien
Sharon O’Connor and Geo Honigford
Laurelæa Oehler
Jennifer O’Flaherty and Beth Ryan
Linda and Ernst Oldtmann
Hildegard Ojibway and Bruce Duthu
Bineke and Abraham Oort
Rosamond Orford
Rosemary Orgren and Norman Levy
Robin Osborne, PhD
Nancy Osgood
Char Osterlund
Chelsea Paige
Nelly and William Palmer
Ramsey Papp
Rebecca and Peter Paquette
Eszter Pattantyus
Ruth Payne
Barbara Payson
Elyse Payson
Amy Peberdy

MARK AND JEN SCHIFFMAN, LYME
Lyme, New Hampshire

What has inspired you to give to Vital Communities over the years? From identifying and articulating collective values, to finding ways of promoting, preserving, and improving those aspects that make this place special, Vital Communities serves an essential role as a bridge and connector. Our region is interconnected in so many ways, yet most of the governmental structures are town- or state-based and, by definition, serve those constituencies first. The connections that Vital Communities continues to forge through its initiatives create the critical foundation that makes this a better place to live for all our neighbors. If Vital Communities was not here to bring people together in these ways, so much just wouldn’t happen.

What’s a place you cherish in the Upper Valley, and why? The Lyme Pinnacle is an incredibly special place: over 240 acres and 4.5 miles of trails have been conserved, with improved access, and a very bright future, thanks to key citizen leaders and broad community support.
TOM AND SALLIE YURKOSKY, LYME
Lyme, New Hampshire

What first motivated you to give to Vital Communities? We liked how the organization focused on bringing local communities together to work on important regional issues.

What has inspired you to continue giving to Vital Communities over the years? We have seen the Vital Communities programs make a difference and inspire community action. Leadership Upper Valley is a terrific program that makes a major impact in our community.

What’s a place you cherish in the Upper Valley and why? Right now, it’s the Lyme Hill Conservation area. It’s right around the corner from our home and it’s a great place to walk our dog.

What gives you the most hope as you look ahead to the Upper Valley’s future? We see a growing awareness and interest in our community to address and solve issues such as housing, transportation, and climate change.

$500-$4,999

Anonymous (6)
Elizabeth and Clay Adams
Susan Almy
Liora Alschuler
Barbara Barry and Michael Pacht
Jody and Rick Biddle
Martin Blumberg
Dr. Carol F. Boerner, M.D.
Molly Bonhag
Judith and Phil Bush
Dove and David Cogen
Sophia and Fred Crawford
Anne Eskridge
Kathy and Bill Geraghty
Paul Gerke
Li Shen and Stuart Blood
Kathleen and Jack Shepherd
Sarah Shipton
Anne and Peter Silberfarb
Helen Skeist
Mary Margaret Sloan and Howard Krum
A.L. Smith
Corinne Smith and Kevin W. Geiger
Erin Smith
Gabrielle and Michael Smith
Renee Snow
Joyce Solomon
Susan and Larry Solomon
Cameron and Gus Speth
Cynthia and Jonathan Stableford
Jane and John Stephenson
Lynn Sudlow and Ted Jerome
Gina and Steve Surgenor
Elizabeth Swanton
Cynthia Taylor
Janet and Timothy Taylor
Steve Taylor
Susan and David Taylor
Hetty and Irv Thomae
Frederic Thomas
Thelma and Peter Thompson
Linda and William Tobin
Leah Todd
Chiara Tosi-Nelson and Ben Nelson
Jo-Anne Unruh
Sandy Gmur
Michelle and Steve Goldsmith
Janet Miller Haines
Linda Hallock and Stephen Bobin
Emmy and Richard Hausman
Patricia Hightberg
Christina R. Hill
Punam and Kevin Keller
Robin and Janice Kilfeather-Mackey
Sue Kinninchip and Chuck Wooster
Sara and Ron Kobylenski
Carola Lea
Sydney Lea
Jennifer and Campbell Levy
Jennifer Manwell and Charles Sullivan
Ruth Mayer and Peter Blodgett
Bill McCalpin
Phebe and Timothy McCosker
Dr. Martha McDaniel and Dr. Stephen Plume
Kristin and Dan McGee
Charlotte Metcalf
Gretchen and Rick Mills
Corb Moister Jr.
Amy and Joseph Morel
Allison Moscow
Patrice and Miles Mushlin
Abbie and Don Penfiel
Pam and Ed Piper
Arturo Ramos
Heidi and Jim Reynolds
Anonymous
Veronica and Paul Guyre
Jane and Bill Stetson

Jean and Bayne Stevenson
Kathleen Dolan
Susan and Peter Weaver

Mary and David Otto

$20,000-$49,999

Ron Miller
Andrea Reimann-Ciardelli and Tom Ciardelli

$50,000 AND ABOVE

Anonymous
Dorothy Byrne

Jane Kitchel McLaughlin and Peter McLaughlin

BUSINESSES, FOUNDATIONS & GOVERNMENT

UP TO $500

Anonymous (3)
A Farm Girl’s Finds
Allenby Charitable Fund
Amazon Foundation
Andrea’s
Aspinwall Family Fund
Bernice B. Godine Family Foundation
Bull Pine Realty
Butler-Rahman Family Fund
Cashdan/Stein Great Grandmother Fund of Vermont Community Foundation
Cathleen and William Emmons
CATV
Christ Redeemer Church
Community Resilience Organizations
Creative Lighting Designs and Decor
Dartmouth Regional Technology Center
DesignGold
EarthShare Construction
Electric Bikes of New England LLC
Ellaway Property Services, Inc.
Energy Futures Group
Engineering Ventures
FreshAir Sensor, LLC
FUJIFILM Dimatix, Inc.
Good Commons
Great Eastern Radio
Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation
Green Mountain Power
Grewal Family Charitable Gift Fund
Haynes and Garthwaite Architects
Inner Lift Yoga, LLC
J. Andrew Daubenspeck Giving Fund
Jake’s Market & Deli and Jake’s Coffee Co.
James C. McCracken Charitable Fund
Karen Williamson Fund
Kayen & Liepmann PC
Laura Hallahan, Realtor
Levy/DeFelice Giving Fund
Liberty Hill Farm and Inn
LockNLube
Lubrano Family Charitable Foundation
Lucy and Jon Hampton Fund
MA+KE Architects
Mane Street Salon, LLC
McAllister Family Fund
McCormick Niblick Family Fund
Naughty Nellie’s Inc
New England Construction Engineering PLC
Open Door Studio
Patterson Family Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Peter and Susan Brink Fund
Peyton Place Restaurant at the Historic Mann Tavern
Phillip Mulligan and Susan Morse Fund
PlantLust Botanicals
ReVision Energy
Riverview Farm
Root 5 Farm
Scratch
Shipton Giving Fund
Smith & Vansant Architects
Solaffect energy
Son Builders

What first motivated the Co-op to give to Vital Communities? The team at Vital Communities delivers lasting impact to this region. To step up and support their work is a natural extension of the principles that guide our cooperative.

What has inspired the organization to continue giving to Vital Communities over the years? Inspiration is nothing without action. The Hanover Co-op’s role is to be supportive, then ask, how else can we help?

What’s a place you cherish in the Upper Valley, and why? For me, all of French’s Ledges in Meriden is cherished land. Its quiet places deliver needed solitude whenever life gets too busy.

What gives you the most hope as you look ahead to the Upper Valley’s future? This region is strengthened by locals and newcomers alike. It is easy to find hope or the future if you pause long enough to observe their passion and hear their story. Doing so also gives you good reason to chip in.

HANOVER CO-OP FOOD STORES
Allan Reetz, Director of Public and Government Affair

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**KING ARTHUR BAKING COMPANY**

Molly Lawrence, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager

**What first motivated King Arthur to give to Vital Communities?** Our mission is to inspire connections and community by spreading the joy of baking. That means working to build stronger, healthier communities. Vital Communities helps create equitable solutions to our region’s challenges.

**What has inspired you to continue giving to Vital Communities over the years?** We’ve been partnering with Vital Communities since 2005 because we deeply believe in the impact they continue to have on our Upper Valley community. From the Food & Farm program to the Leadership Development program, their initiatives are crucial to creating a thriving ecosystem.

**What’s a place you cherish in the Upper Valley, and why?** We cherish the Connecticut River as it bridges our community.

**What gives you the most hope as you look ahead to the Upper Valley’s future?** The Upper Valley is deeply rooted in support of and respect for one another which will cultivate a culture of inclusion where people from all backgrounds feel they can thrive. We believe our differences make us stronger, enrich our lives, and bring innovation and creativity to our community. This sense of belonging gives us hope for the future.

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### $500-$4,999

- Aloha Foundation
- Bruce M. and Sarah T. Schwaegler Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- Carola Lea Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- Celdara Medical, LLC
- Charlotte S. Metcalf Trust - 1987
- Chelsea Green Publishing Co.
- Claremont Savings Bank
- Daniel and Kristin McGee Family Fund
- FB Heron Foundation
- Gerke Family Charity Fund
- Gillette Hill Fund
- Humanitarian Grants Program
- John R. and Katherine Duff Rines Gift Fund
- Kendall at Hanover
- Land for Good, Inc.
- LaValley Building Supply, Inc.
- Ledyard National Bank
- Local Motion
- Miles and Patrice Mushín Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- Morel Family Fund
- National Young Farmers Coalition
- New Hampshire Farm to School
- Nomad Communications
- Norwich Solar Technologies
- Skinny Pancake
- Spring Ledge Farm
- Stan and Jenny Williams Family Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- Stettenheim Foundation
- The Greenspan Foundation
- The Valence Donor Advised Fund
- Town Fair Tire Foundation
- Tyler, Simms & St. Sauveur
- Valley News
- Vermont Housing Finance Agency
- Whit and CLOSEY Dickey Legacy Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- Wright-Hager Foundation

### $5,000-$19,999

- Ann H. Symington Foundation
- City of Lebanon
- Green Mountain Foundation
- Hanover Co-op Food Stores & Auto Service Centers
- Harris and Frances Block Foundation
- Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce
- King Arthur Baking Company
- Lubbe Family Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- Stevenson Family Fund of Gulf Coast Community Foundation
- Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education - Northeast SARE
- Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Foods & Markets

### $20,000-$49,999

- Dartmouth-Hitchcock
- Emily Landecker Foundation
- High Meadows Fund
- HOPE Foundation
- Kettering Family Philanthropies
- Mascoma Bank
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority
- Peter J. McLaughlin and Jane Kitchel McLaughlin Family Fund
- USDA
- VT Housing and Conservation Board

### $50,000 AND ABOVE

- Canaday Family Charitable Trust
- Cotyledon Fund
- Dartmouth College
- Federal Reserve Bank of Boston (Working Communities Challenge)
- Jane’s Trust Foundation
- SEVCA
- The Couch Family Foundation
- The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation
- Vermont Agency of Transportation
The financial information above has not been audited; the audited numbers will be available at vitalcommunities.org by January 1, 2023. The information also does not include (1) 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; and (2) portions of multi-year pledges that apply to future fiscal years. Inclusive of these, total revenues, gains, and other support are $3,007,500, and total expenses are $2,338,019.
One of the busiest newer Upper Valley places is the Northern Rail Trail and the Mascoma River Greenway. Combined, they run 50 miles along the former route of the Boston & Maine Railroad, from the Dudley Bridge in West Lebanon to Franklin, NH. When complete, the trail will reach the former railyard below West Lebanon Main Street.

The result of decades of collaboration by residents, nonprofits, and government groups, the route offers a four-season transportation corridor for bikes and pedestrians and more, connecting Lebanon’s neighborhoods with workplaces, schools, open spaces, shopping areas, restaurants, a medical center, and transit stops. “The best part is seeing how frequently used they all are. I am never alone on the trail,” wrote Lebanon resident Barb Jones on the Greenway blog. “It was a long hard slog to get to this point, but wow, is it worth it.”

What’s an Upper Valley place you love, and what do you love about it? Share your place by October 15 and be entered in a raffle or a Placemaking Prize package! Simply:

• Choose a place that you love that’s open to the public
• Take a photo of it and write what you love about it
• Share your photo and text on Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag #uvplacemaking

Learn more about this and other activities that are part of Upper Valley Placemaking Week (September 25 through October 1) at vitalcommunities.org/placemaking.