



# JUMP Update



JUMP assists 55 low-income households every week.

September 2011

**JUMP is about**  
**PEOPLE:**  
**Clients**  
**Volunteers**  
**Business Leaders**  
**27 Faith**  
**Communities**  
**& Many**  
**Contributors!**  
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**In this issue —**  
**stories about**  
**some of the**  
**People of JUMP!**

## Support JUMP's Coming Events!

**The Run for JUMP 5K; Youth 1K & Walk!**  
 Saturday, 9 am  
 September 24, 2011  
 Burlington Waterfront

**CROP Hunger Walk**  
 Sunday, 2 pm  
 October 16, 2011  
 First Congregational  
 Burlington  
[bvt.crophungerwalk@gmail.com](mailto:bvt.crophungerwalk@gmail.com)

**Best JUMP Supper Ever**  
 Saturday: 5 and 6:30  
 November 5, 2011  
 First United Methodist  
 Burlington

**Editors:**  
 Jean Palmer,  
 Sosenna Palmer,  
 Kathy Mihok  
 Photos: Lucy Samara



## Creativity and Discipline... Wisdom from Penny

A single mother to her energetic daughter, Penny has full days. Though disability has kept her out of the workforce, Penny is going to college and planning for employment. Managing expenses while relying on subsidized housing and a modest disability benefit is challenging and requires creativity and discipline. Penny says that "JUMP has been a great resource, the help is really practical and the volunteers and staff are always friendly."

Recently a JUMP volunteer asked Penny, "Is there a way that JUMP could be more helpful?" Her response: "It would be great to apply the JUMP voucher amount to my electric or heat bill. Utility bills create the greatest stress for me. I can be creative with cutting food, laundry and other costs, and I watch my utility use. I simply do not have enough money to pay for my utilities in the winter."

In the past, JUMP gave a limited number of utility grants (\$50 to \$75) to households that had a disconnect notice. Though appreciated by those who received them, this approach was a frustration to those who came to JUMP only to find that the last grant had been distributed. JUMP is piloting a new initiative that makes a utility payment one of the regular voucher choices available to each client every three months. By making utility assistance as available as food, gas or laundromat vouchers, staff and volunteers also have regular opportunities to discuss energy saving and budget strategies with JUMP households.

We contacted Penny to extend our thanks for sharing her practical suggestion. Her reply: "Thank you! I am so thrilled that you are able to do this." — *Lucy Samara*

## Kudos to Carolyn!

"When I first walked through JUMP, I thought, 'Do I really feel that giving away vouchers and household supplies is my most worthwhile contribution?'" Two years later, Carolyn Rushford knows that it is not primarily about vouchers – it's about human contact and communication. She remembers clients just interviewed who turn to other clients near them and say "That was really helpful."



Carolyn is now on the JUMP Board and the Operations Committee, where she coordinates material donations. She also maintains contact with individuals in each faith community, encouraging food drives and the donation of toiletries and cleaning supplies. One of three JUMP volunteers from First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, Carolyn also volunteers as a "Family Friend" with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program. At JUMP Carolyn has learned about available social services; with her refugee family she has learned about working within these services. The cross-fertilization helps.

When First Congregational of Essex Junction strengthened its ties with JUMP, adding Carolyn as a Board member, the church already had a Food Shelf and other mission activities, and some were concerned it would be too much. Carolyn observes that "word of mouth is powerful. Once we have a volunteer to bring back the experience of JUMP to the congregation, involvement becomes more personal and proliferates." — *Kathy Mihok*

JUMP, 38 S. Winooski Ave., Burlington, VT 05401 (802)862-4501 [www.jumpvt.org](http://www.jumpvt.org)

Board President: Ginger Hobbs JUMP Co-Directors: Jean Palmer & Carol Snow



## “We Are Your Neighbor”



“We think JUMP is great—we are happy to help!” Joe Romano, a Price Chopper Assistant Manager, commented recently. Price Chopper’s long-term willingness to accept JUMP vouchers has cemented a strong relationship between our organizations and has provided JUMP clients with some of the best-stocked stores in the area to buy food at reasonable prices.

Price Chopper, with headquarters in Schenectady, NY, has over 126 locations in the eastern United States. It is family-owned, with the third generation of the Golub family in charge of all operations. Price Chopper is committed to excellence in customer service, and stocks quality products in the stores’ wide range of departments. Romano and Human Resources Director Leslie Bouchard say that “Price Chopper management has given generously to over 10,000 organizations company-wide and has a lot of pride in the many services that it has provided to the greater Chittenden County community.” In 2010 Price Chopper’s Golub Foundation supported JUMP’s operations with a grant of \$1,000.

Many who come to JUMP for assistance are pleased to learn that shopping for food at Price Chopper will be an option. They have two main reasons for choosing Price Chopper. The first is the fair prices and good values found there and – second - the smiles and genuine sense of friendliness extended to them by the stores’ employees. Together, they clearly go a long way toward ensuring loyalty from JUMP clients.

The company motto: “We’re not just in your neighborhood, we are your neighbor” sums up the spirit that Price Chopper extends to the community. Thank you, Price Chopper. JUMP is proud to have you as one of our most valued and trusted vendors. — *Merl Grossmeyer*

## Support of All Kinds Rolls From CCP to JUMP!

Christ Church Presbyterian’s contributions to JUMP are long-term and varied. Along with dedicated, gifted volunteer and staff support, significant financial donations, and advocacy for those in poverty in our community, CCP members have donated literally thousands of rolls of toilet paper during the congregation’s twenty-year partnership with JUMP. Many faith communities contribute household and toiletry items, not paid for by food stamps, for JUMP to distribute to help people reserve their cash resources for rent and utilities. This humble ministry is much appreciated every day at JUMP.



Reliable, thoughtful and compassionate parishioners from Christ Church Presbyterian have filled many roles at JUMP. Twenty years ago, Reverend Rebecca Strader was a Board Member, and later was hired to be Co-Director. Like Reverend Mark Follansbee, her then Co-Director, Becky’s ministry at JUMP was based in a theology that differentiated JUMP from secular social service agencies, recognizing people’s personal faith and spiritual journeys. Becky wore many hats at JUMP, covering necessary administrative responsibilities, staffing the Drop-In Center, and working closely with the Board to broaden JUMP’s impact and to involve more faith communities in supporting JUMP. CCP’s Janet Patterson was hired to work as Co-Director with Becky. Janet brought a passion for expanding programs at JUMP and helped us establish long-term partnerships with Opportunities Credit Union and City Market.

CCP parishioner Al Brooks was JUMP’s Treasurer and helped us take key steps related to finance as we grew to serve more people in the community. On the Finance Committee Ann Owen orchestrated new and effective procedures. As a weekday volunteer, Ann has been innovative in developing educational programs around cooking with whole foods (beans, rice, etc.) and founded our Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb Distribution Project. Bronwyn Rider has long been an effective weekday volunteer, substitute staff member and Board and Committee Member. Her thoughtful, steady leadership was appreciated by all in her term as Board President. CCP members Valerie Visconti, Lorrie Richland, Ron McGarvey, Ken Brown and others have also shared their skills through JUMP. A congregation known for dedication to social justice, CCP has given an extraordinary amount of time, energy, resources, and creative ideas to JUMP. We are ever-grateful for their participation! — *Catherine Cooke*

