

“Third Time’s a CHARM...”

The grandmother of three from Milton drove to Burlington twice in one week for needed assistance; she was turned away twice since we had reached the 11-household limit for the day. Next, a woman in her late 60’s who came twice during one week was turned away as well, although she did stay for coffee and thoughtful conversation with me and our daily volunteers. These scenarios are not uncommon because each month, 70-80 of our communities’ most vulnerable who are in need or crisis are turned away due to lack of resources.

The next day, the third time was a charm for the smiling Bhutanese woman who had visited JUMP twice on days during the past week and had been turned away. At last she had arrived in time to secure a spot on the schedule! I said to her “I guess the third time is a charm.” She replied, “yes, I got here at 6:30 this morning!” I then said “I notice you are so upbeat, smiling and happy....regardless of having to come back three times.” She replied “I am happy because of the good work JUMP does to help the community. You help everybody, you do good work. I am happy to be here.”

Following this conversation I assisted a woman who said the senior resource material JUMP had given her the day before had helped to expedite her Social Security Disability claim so she could move into housing sooner.

Currently she lives in her car in a specific supermarket parking lot because it has a bathroom she can use to wash up. I suddenly recall that I was the one who had given her the senior resource material, coffee and conversation when JUMP was full. She looked back at me and said, “you were right....the third time is a charm. I’m glad I came back. Thank you.” I helped her pack up her food bag, personal hygiene items, gas voucher and food gift card. She headed back to

...providing a thoughtful and faithful response to families who are confronted by a multiple of difficult life circumstances

the only place she could call home...a supermarket parking lot.

Again, the third time is a charm: the parents of two children arrive early enough for the third visit in two weeks; they receive voucher assistance. They are homeless, sleeping in a storage unit with their belongings, and in need of basic necessities like food, gas and wheelchair-accessible housing for the husband. Hope undaunted, the parents seemed to accept their incredibly difficult circumstances and prepare to hunker down in the storage unit for as long as necessary.



Every day, JUMP has the privilege of providing a thoughtful and faithful response to families who are confronted by a multiple of difficult life circumstances. Even though we may not be able to solve their problems, we can empathetically acknowledge and lessen the pain and sorrow. We try to be mindful that the core spirit of EMPATHY is the ability to see the world through the eyes of another person and to share and understand another’s feelings, needs, concerns and/or emotional state. In the same way, JUMP is that place where faith and secular community convey immense empathy and caring.

JUMP needs you to consider making a contribution to help our most vulnerable community members stay healthy and maintain dignity. Then we need you to consider again and again, reminiscent of 1Samuel 3:8, we trust “THIRD TIME IS A CHARM”.

- Wanda Hines
director@jumpvt.org

A Message from the JUMP Board President: Beth Dreibelbis

When I was a girl I sometimes complained of leg pains and my mother told me I had “growing pains”...perhaps she was right, but the real message she was giving me was that in life we change and grow and sometimes growing can be uncomfortable – but you must grow and become strong.

JUMP has spent the last year with some growing pains but grow we must. We have integrated our new Managing Director position, new board formation, and new

committees into our mission, worked through changes, finances, and much more. We have kept focus on our mission – to help others, and we have succeeded in our transition to a new JUMP.

We will be continuing to change, to grow, and most importantly to serve those who need us in our community. That will always be our focus. With help from our faith communities, individual sponsors, and local businesses we will serve in all the ways we can. I hope you will join

us as JUMP continues to serve our neighbors in need as we work to create a caring community.



Beth Dreibelbis

Faith Communities Hard at Work! by Linda Gross

Did you know that there are 25 Faith Communities in the greater Burlington area who support JUMP in very major ways? In the most recent fiscal year, these communities have donated \$66,500 in “in kind” donations. What does this phrase mean?

Many of our area faith communities are responsible throughout the year for one particular JUMP need. One provides baby formula, another donates toilet paper, another is respon-

sible for cereal. The list goes on and on to include all the basic items that JUMP provided for the 1700 families and individuals JUMP helped in 2013. Some donations arrive as bags of just one thing, and at other times we receive a bagful of goodies that would be similar to what we would give to a family of four or five individuals. All items are joyfully and gratefully accepted and get logged into a notebook as they arrive in our facility. Eventually we figure out the estimated dollar amount of how much these items would cost to buy in a grocery or drug store; this is how we come up with that “in kind” total figure.

JUMP is extremely grateful to all these faith communities; in fact we couldn't exist without each and every one! As you read this article, please consider how your community gathers and delivers your particular donated item. JUMP is supported most heavily during the winter

holidays when all our thoughts turn to the giving season. Please remember, though, that the need for help is there throughout the year. During the summer months giving typically drops off drastically. We are approaching that time now; please remember to lend a hand by donating to JUMP as the weather warms us as well. JUMP sees clients every day and all volunteers know that often the cupboards are woefully empty of some items.

A JUMP goal this year is to have an identified volunteer assigned to each faith community. We think this would serve a dual purpose: it would be a way to get the word out of all the great work that JUMP does and it would also have the potential of raising more donations. If you have ideas on how these individuals could be identified, **please let us know.**



Grandchildren and friend of volunteer Claire Willis from the College Street Congregational Church dropping off needed Personal Hygiene items

THANK YOU for your continued support: All Saints Episcopal Church, Ascension Lutheran Church, Burlington Shambhala Center, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Charlotte Congregational Church, Christ Church Presbyterian, College Street Congregational Church, Dormition Greek Orthodox Church, Essex Center United Methodist Church, Faith United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, First Congregational Church of Burlington, First Congregational Church of Essex Jct., First Unitarian Universalist Society, First United Methodist Church of Burlington, First United Methodist Church of Shelburne, Grace United Methodist Church, Malletts Bay Congregational Church, Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, Religious Society of Friends, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Trinity Episcopal Church of Shelburne, Unity Church of Vermont and Williston Federated Church

ECHO Science Center: How I discovered JUMP by Nyame Nti Aya Fawohodie, Community Partner



ECHO ELR Outreach Presentation at JUMP. Left to Right: Adline Robertson; New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church, Bill Elliston; ECHO Public Education Manager and Eric Le; AmeriCorp member/VT Legal Aid

When I think of community partnerships I feel that it is very important to include the actual community. Often time organizations get caught up in titles and names and forget about the people whom should benefit the most from their services. I am no different. My name is Nyame Nti Aya Fawohodie. My formal title is Pre School Science Facilitator at ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. I am a Burlington AmeriCorps member and a volunteer/humanitarian for over 7 years. My position interacts with the caretakers and toddlers of our **Early Learning Readiness (ELR)** pilot program and provides community outreach and recruitment.

New to Burlington, I found it a challenge to get the information and resources to the people in the community that needed it the most. In my efforts, I left no stone unturned and that is how I discovered JUMP on several faith based websites with links. It has been such a wonderful experience to work with and see JUMP's dedication to meet the most intrinsic needs of people who live Burlington.

My hope is to continue establishing a great partnership as well as get the word out about ECHO's many opportunities for various community neighbors at large. I would say at this point we are certainly off to a great start. THANK-YOU!!!

Telling JUMP's Story: Jack Kearnan by Wanda Hines

Jack Kearnan, a former client, says that if it were not for JUMP, his life would have fallen apart when he moved to Vermont in 2010. He had just accepted a job in Burlington but the job was no longer available when he arrived. Out of resources and socially isolated, Jack was living in his car when he decided to attend St. Paul's Cathedral where he first saw a JUMP flier. When I asked what attracted him to JUMP he said, "I felt respected and everyone was responsive to my many needs."

JUMP was the first place Jack received needed assistance in Vermont. At JUMP he had a comforting non-judgmental experience; upon leaving he felt confident and hopeful. Jack used JUMP services to help guide his next steps and ultimately made informed decisions to secure homeless support services as well as housing referral assistance.

A local hero, Jack now serves on the Vermont Council on Homelessness (VCH). As a person with Aspergers (an autism spectrum disorder); he is able to see critical circumstances most people do not see. Jack is hopeful that his seat at the VCH table and his personal experience of being homeless will help the VCH better understand the reality that many of Burlington's homeless fall through the cracks, leaving life on the streets difficult and stressful.



Jack Kearnan

"Open Heart and Listening Ear..." by Brenda Black

An open heart and listening ear is the key to being a JUMP volunteer. Everything else can be learned. There are resources at the JUMP walk in center that help our volunteers know how best to support our clients through advocacy and referrals to our community partners. In addition, JUMP offers three welcomed in-services per year to our volunteers to learn more about community resources and ways to better serve their neighbors.

For inservice presentations, we often draw from our community partners for knowledge and inspiration. For example; a two part series was presented this past year on the New American experience. We heard from members of the Bhutanese and the Somali-Bantu community. More recently, Matt Young from the Street Outreach Program at the Howard Center shared information and insights about their work with individuals in the downtown Burlington Business District. We have gleaned information from many community partners throughout Chittenden County and beyond.

JUMP is so blessed to have such compassionate and knowledgeable volunteers!

JUMP FACT: JUMP served nearly 1700 families and individuals over 2800 times in 2013. While that was a slight decrease from 2012 when we were able to operate our drop-in center on Saturdays, it is an increase in demand during the hours we're open. Over \$117,000 worth of vouchers and gift cards and approximately 5,000 lbs of food and toiletries were distributed last year.



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...a proven, consistent resource for Vermont households facing the challenges of poverty.

Recent GRANTS Received:

JUMP awarded \$8,000: The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont has awarded JUMP two grants for direct services to our clients. The **Alleluia Fund through a Stirrings of the Spirit grant** is giving \$6,000.00 and JUMP will also receive a \$2,000.00 McClure grant for a total of \$8,000.00 from the Diocese. Stan Baker, the Deacon at St. Paul's Cathedral. and Rick Robinson, JUMP Board member and long time volunteer, applied for the grant. JUMP Board President Beth Dreibelbis very much appreciated the grants saying "This money will help so many people."



Rick Robinson

Also, we are very grateful to the **Shelburne Charlotte Hinesburg Interfaith Projects (SCHIP)** and the **Robert Fleming & Jane Howe Patrick Foundation** for their recent grants to JUMP! Their support is deeply appreciated and will be so helpful during the summer months when need is high.

SAVE The DATE: the 17th Annual RUN for JUMP

"Goal: raise \$16,000 to support JUMP"

Saturday, September 27th on the Burlington Waterfront

We'd like to express our gratitude to the generous Underwriters for the 17th Annual Run for JUMP; **Gravel and Shea, Northfield Savings Bank and O'Brien Brothers Agency.**

These local businesses, along with our sponsors and participants, provide the critical support that makes this event a success! Please save the date and look for information this summer in your mailbox and on our website.

JUMP on the web to give:
www.jumpvt.org

