



COVID-19 UPDATES and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - Summer 2020

Moving Beyond Uncertainty

The Joint Urban Ministry Project, JUMP operates a Drop-In Center in downtown Burlington, helping on a first come, first served basis to all vulnerable clients. In 2019, JUMP provided 5846 vouchers to 5,043 individuals valued at \$102,735. Voucher amounts varied, depending upon the number of people in the household. Food assistance was the number one request with \$31,623 distributed in food vouchers, followed by requests for transportation assistance to get to interviews or work, help getting Identification, personal care items, laundry and assistance with utilities.



Based on the current coronavirus pandemic restrictions, clients are unable to attend the Drop-In Center. Within a week, JUMP had changed how services were provided, to be able to continue to meet low income clients' needs by providing online services with mailed vouchers through the new **FLEX Assistance Program**. When the pandemic restrictions end, we would like to be able to continue the FLEX Assistance Program in addition to the Drop-In Center, as it will reach homebound clients as well as clients who are unable to get to the Drop-In Center. We anticipate a significant increase in needs, especially for food, and we would respectfully request funds to directly be used for food vouchers, cleaning supplies and other essential items for health and well-being. While the needs will increase, our income demonstrates a significant short fall related to the pandemic.

Currently, JUMP's [FLEX Assistance Support](#) program continues to provide much needed assistance to our neighbors in need throughout the pandemic. Working together works as expanded community partnerships have been formed to ensure that all in need can access online services through JUMP.

As a result of the pandemic, JUMP has activated a new Quarterly Care Call (QCC) Program. JUMP staff and soon volunteers can reach out by phone, offering a compassionate point of contact to support the wellbeing of each client. The Quarterly Care Program will help us grow JUMP to a new level where we can not only provide a human connection periodically to people who are alone and homebound, but to also proactively identify where food or other needs may exist.



The new [FLEX Assistance Program](#) has proven valuable as clients served are still in line with what we saw before Covid shelter in place. Effective, JUMP has created multiple lanes for clients to access services:

- **FLEX Online application**---eligible clients will receive by mail in 2-4 days
- **FLEX Mail In app** -- you can download, complete, mail in and will receive assistance by mail in 3-5 days
- **Quarterly Care Call (QCC)** – to date we have spoken with, actively listened and signed up 160 clients; our goal will result in over 50 clients every 3 months no longer feeling isolated or alone with the new QCC compassionate point of contact measures.
- **FLEX Call-in application** – Staff help clients over the phone complete their FLEX assistance support application. This resulted from another challenge which impacted JUMP's ability, the phone system. That is until recently, JUMP was able to change over to a Voice over internet protocol (VoIP) system, allowing for "JUMP" to show in the caller ID even when calls made from other remote locations. This created a workable fourth lane to help clients access needed food, cleaning supplies and/or basic essential needs.

Lastly, over 24% of families served during this time of uncertainty have been new, reconfirming the need for assistance in our community is high. As such JUMP will continue reaching out to our most vulnerable population of families and individuals in need--old and new.



"We're proud to support JUMP and their efforts to support food access for individuals and families in Vermont during this challenging time. As food insecurity continues to rise statewide, we're so appreciative of organizations like JUMP who are stepping up and finding creative ways to ensure increased access for those in need. We're excited to support their Flex Assistance Program and hope that these City Market gift cards will help families to stretch their food dollars."

-- Mae Quilty; Assistant Director of Community Engagement

With Appreciation and Gratitude

JUMP's MISSION is to promote the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of people by providing spiritual care, direct assistance to meet basic needs, and advocacy.

Like many non-profits JUMP has been forced to re-imagine surviving the now Covid crisis and post-covid. One primary area has been the call to action to diversify our funding pool to develop a more concise intentional funding strategy.

Our primary diverse pool has been our 28 supporting Faith Communities which we would like to acknowledge and thank. For over 31 years, they have graciously supported JUMP's important work and now during the current Covid-19 crisis.

Thank you supporting FAITH COMMUNITIES: *All Saints Episcopal Ch., Ascension Lutheran Ch., Burlington Shambhala Center, Catholic Daughters of America, Calvary Episcopal Church Underhill, Charlotte Congregational church, Christ Church Presbyterian, College Street Congregational Ch., Dormition Greek Orthodox Ch., Essex Center United Methodist Ch., Faith United Methodist Church of So. Burl., First Baptist Church of Burl., First Congregational Church of Burl., First Congregational Church of Essex Jct., First Congregational Church of Shelburne, First United Methodist Church of Burl., First Unitarian Universalist Society, Grace United Methodist Ch, Malletts Bay Congregational Ch., Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, Religious Society of Friends, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, St. James Episcopal Ch., St. Paul's Cathedral Church, Shelburne United Methodist Ch., Trinity Episcopal Church Shelburne, United Church of Underhill, Unity Church of VT, Williston Federated Ch., Winooski United Methodist Ch.*



Also, thank you Board of Directors, Committee members, Volunteers and Staff for your unwavering commitment and dedication to JUMP's mission.

Further, JUMP would like to offer a special acknowledgement to the following for their "generous gifts" during the pandemic: Ascension Lutheran Church, Bruce and Lillian Venner, Charlotte Congregational Church, College Street Congregational Church, Eleanor Millington, First Baptist Church, First Unitarian Universalist Society Rick Robinson and Sharon Garrels.

Every day, the cost of the Covid impact continues to become more apparent. As such, JUMP remains more and more appreciative of our diverse funding pool since March, especially when...

- *Such pool diversity ranges from the first time ever being awarded by town municipalities*
- *an anti-racist and multi-cultural foundation that is committed to strengthening the movement for social justice in New England*
- *an Old North End fund who believes in acts of kindness toward others*
- *a Co-op whose work aligns with a vision that all residents enjoy an enhanced quality of life*
- *a Community Action Team with focused priorities to address immediate Covid crisis need*

- a Foundation focused on making a difference in our shared community and enhancing quality of life
- A faith community awarded matching Alleluia Funds from Episcopal Diocese to support its major systemic change ministries

Accompanied by the richness of our diverse unified need and interest, present an opportunity to better understand and appreciate our shared commonality and purpose. Founded in 1988, JUMP's purpose in essence "to increase effectiveness of each outreach ministries by consolidating assistance to needy people in the community" remains profound, heartfelt, and relevant in so many ways. To the point, the following caring gifts from our remarkable diverse pool of funding is both humbling and encouraging.

Grant Funding Acknowledgements March thru July

Reflective of shared commonality and purpose, JUMP would like to acknowledge and thank the following diverse range of grantors and the oversight committees who give unselfishly of their time to help support people and communities impacted by COVID-19.

Town of Essex/Human Services -- \$2,000. JUMP was seen as "providing a significant contribution to meeting the needs in our community". Purpose: provide voucher assistance Essex residents in need.

Town of Shelburne Social Service Grant -- \$2000. Funding will be used to help JUMP provide essential basic assistance to Shelburne under-served populations

Haymarket People's Fund -- \$3,000. The COVID-19 Urgent Response Grant helps grassroots and community-led, people of color-led organizations respond quickly to the COVID-19 crisis. Purpose: voucher assistance for food, gas, bicycles, identification expenses, utility expenses as well basic essential goods and Voice over Internet Protocol set up.

ONE Good Deed Fund -- \$500. The COVID-19 Special Relief Fund granted \$29,766.69 to 302 Burlington, VT residents and local non-profits. Brian Moegelin; Owner, Brian's North End Automotive have been a long time RUN 4 JUMP sponsor donated the funds for the awarded round.

City Market -- \$1,950 for gift card purchase. Resulted in 65 JUMP clients being able to request a City Market gift card valued \$30 each to help improve access to healthy nutritious food choices, cleaning supplies and other essential items for health and well-being.

Ben & Jerry's Foundation -- \$2000. Purpose: Awarded for making a difference in our shared community and enhancing quality of life for clients seeking assistance support.

Cathedral of St. Paul, Burlington -- \$6000 Support for JUMP and VIA

The **Episcopal Diocese of Vermont awarded an Alleluia Fund matching grant** to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul to support two of its major systemic change ministries: the Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP), and Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA). During the pandemic, both JUMP and VIA have experienced significant needs and a decrease in contributions. "It is clear to all of us on the Cathedral Jubilee Committee that the faith and secular communities in Vermont cannot afford to lose these organizations or to have their services cease, even temporarily... It is essential to our community to keep these services going."

Global Partners LP -- \$500 transportation gift cards

Global Partners LP working with Jiffy Markets pooled resources and donated (20) \$25 Citco gas cards to help family get where they need to be.



THE GIFT OF SPACE & FUNDS!

First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington provide foundational support for JUMP. Since 1990, the church has donated the space for our Drop-In Center, Offices and parking for volunteers, staff and JUMP clients. Our close, positive relationship with our host congregation helps keep JUMP fulfilling our vital mission throughout the year. We are grateful for the tremendous support and heartfelt welcome. .



The Covid-19 Impact

Like many non-profits, the current crisis has forced JUMP to re-imagine how we operate, how we administer service, how we interact with staff, clients, board and committee members, volunteers, vendors as well community partners. What has manifest, is an opportunity to reconfirm JUMP's purpose, to better focus on our mission, to better consolidate assistance, and to better diversify and stabilize funding to better serve the working poor and economically disadvantaged people – to more effectively "Focus on the future".

---Wanda Hines; JUMP Director



Contributions can be made c/o JUMP, PO Box 1657, Burlington, VT 05402 or Make a Donation TODAY: www.jumpvt.org