

**Holiday Giving**  
**“Friendship Soup in a Jar”**

Similar to the soup mix we offer to our clients, this nutritious and tasty soup mix will be available at your faith community during the holiday giving season. It is beautifully packed in a traditional canning jar with recipe attached – a lovely simple gift - and only \$10 to make 16 servings! Look for it at your holiday bazaar or contact your JUMP representative. You can also buy directly from Beth Dreibelbis at [edreib2@comcast.net](mailto:edreib2@comcast.net)



*Interfaith*  
**Thanksgiving Service**

Sunday, November 20  
 at 7:30 p.m.  
 First Baptist Church  
 81 St. Paul St., Burlington

We will also be selling our  
 Alternative Giving cards and  
 decorative note cards.



**Joint  
 Urban  
 Ministry  
 Project**

38 South Winooski Avenue  
 Burlington, Vermont 05401

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**Joint  
 Urban  
 Ministry  
 Project**

*Fall 2011*  
**Newsletter**

In my almost 20 years as a JUMP volunteer, I have had the opportunity to listen to the stories of clients, to observe the staff and volunteers as they seek ways to help, and to participate in discussions at the JUMP Board of Directors about how to be more effective. I find myself both humble and proud of the work we do. I am humbled by the courage of JUMP clients in the face of poverty, humbled by the amount of work JUMP’s volunteers do, humbled by the kindness, caring, and commitment of JUMP’s staff. JUMP is a work of love. I feel pride in being part of a community that cares and puts that caring into action.



Board President Ginger Hobbs

The question comes up again and again, who do we serve? Sometimes it seems that we are serving mostly families, other times, mostly single people who have no family support. Some have suffered a dramatic change in their circumstances and some long-term grinding poverty. And yet when you put it all together,

we find ourselves serving clients as varied as our community, each coming to JUMP with a personal story of struggle and survival. They come in part to have their voices heard and to receive that little bit of help that makes a difference.

I know what a difference a little help can make. Growing up, my family fell on hard times, and it was the help we received from family, neighbors, and community that brought relief and support. In my years at JUMP, this has never been far from my mind. We have constant discussions about how to do more, how to serve more clients, how to give extra help when needed. What is constant is our commitment to doing what we can and always including time to listen. As you read this issue of our Newsletter, you’ll find personal stories of giving and receiving. These are the heart of JUMP. —

*Ginger Hobbs, JUMP Board President,  
 First Unitarian Universalist Society*

**Collaborative Interfaith Emergency Assistance**



Co-Directors Carol Snow and Jean Palmer

## Volunteers Come and Go

JUMP continues to have a strong and dedicated host of volunteers who serve in the drop-in center. Since the beginning of 2011, we have welcomed 9 new daily volunteers to the JUMP: Paige Corologos, Keith Pillsbury and Kathy Breen from Saint Paul's Episcopal; Joan Matthews and Fran Griffis from College Street Congregational; Rebecca MacDonald from First Congregational Church of Burlington; Patti Lanich from the Shambhala Center; Sue Raimy from First Unitarian Universalist Society and Lorrie Richland from Christ Church Presbyterian. We said goodbye to several drop-in center volunteers this year including Joe Soper, Mary Silverman, Kathy Babits, C.C. McKegney and Barbara Heeter. Thank you for your faithful service! There is always a need for volunteers -- especially for Thursday and Friday shifts and for our new second Saturday of the month hours. Any individual from one of our supporting faith communities who is interested in volunteering should contact Brenda Black at [blackbird814@hotmail.com](mailto:blackbird814@hotmail.com) or [802.540.0746](tel:802.540.0746).



## Thank You Art!

Art Forsythe is a builder. He designed and built the beautiful wooden rolling kiosk at JUMP, where we post information about community events and resources. From old to new: the wood used in the construction is from an old, very old, pipe organ. It started out in the Masonic Lodge and later went to the Methodist church where Art and his wife Ann are congregants. Its life as an organ came to an end but some of the poplar wood from the pipes gave new life for the kiosk.

Art and Ann moved to Vermont from New Jersey 46 years ago because of work related transfer and they are the parents of JUMP Board Member Carolyn Rushford of First Congregational Church of Essex Junction. The house in which they live is within a very short walk to Lake Champlain. The view from their sun room seems to bring the lake even closer. Art constructed the beautiful sun room as well as other additions to their home and he keeps busy with other outside



construction activities. Thank you Art for your generous donation of the labor and materials to make our lovely kiosk! --  
*Merl Grossmeyer*



## Scrumptious Results

Apple, pumpkin and pies of every berry variation crowned the 2011 “Best JUMP Supper Ever” with a traditional New England sweetness. The dining room at the First United Methodist Church was full two times over as the festive fall buffet sold out both seatings for the third year in a row on the first Saturday night in November. Bakers and chefs from more than 20 supporting faith communities contributed to the choices for diners that ranged from Italian casseroles, sauerkraut, colorful salads, and veggies galore to chicken pie and all kinds of rolls and biscuits. The >>>>> Band shared many well tuned oldies as all gathered enjoyed the time in conversation. Special thanks to Margaret Welch and the First United Methodist Church for leadership of this much anticipated annual event that benefits JUMP. See you across the table, November 3, 2012 as JUMP’s Best Supper Ever spreads a banquet again!



JUMP volunteer Barbara Stearns with a portion of her “birthday shampoo”

### *(Social Justice Continued)*

society would look like. Many of these discussions would come to a peculiar climax, as if awkwardly, we didn’t know what more to say ... If we do not have the social capacity to talk about justice, how will we ever work for it?

Volunteering provides new experiences that challenge our perspectives and beliefs. It forces us to see beyond self, to explore a reality founded upon a system of interdependence, and JUMP volunteers often feel that they get as much out of it as do the people they are serving. By volunteering we take the first step (towards the idea of social justice and a common good). Once we have taken this step, it is up to us to proceed with conviction and compassion.”

**We are certain that Jerry Carter will continue to work for social justice with conviction and compassion and thank him for all that he gave at JUMP!**

## A Conversation for Social Justice

His experience at Mother Teresa’s Kalighat Home for the Dying left Jerry Carter starting his sophomore year at Saint Michael’s College with “a lot to process.” Looking for an even broader understanding of the impact of poverty the Sociology, Environment Studies and Economics student decided to volunteer at JUMP. From January through May Jerry devoted himself to JUMP. He served as a drop-in center volunteer and completed a research project about the volunteer experience. Respected for his compassion and listening skills, Jerry befriended his fellow JUMP volunteers and met with many JUMP clients. Here are a few excerpts from Jerry Carter’s academic reflection on his JUMP experience:

“The Joint Urban Ministry Project is a conglomerate of faith-based communities working together to offer assistance. From the one-on-one interviews conducted with clients daily, JUMP volunteers know that every little bit helps. The bedrock of JUMP’s operation is the vouchers given to eleven households, five days a week, that

provide access to local services such as groceries, utilities, laundry, and gas. Valued between \$20 and \$50, depending on family size, these vouchers offer relief to people who sometimes literally have nothing.



JUMP clients are varied: people who are homeless, single parents, disabled adults, elderly, refugees, parolees, and low-wage earning families just struggling to get through tough economic times. Every client is different and meeting the diverse array of needs is complex at best. The truly caring JUMP workers want to help people -- and their physical and mental attendance through every variety of Vermont’s grueling weather is a testament to their commitment. It never ceased to amaze me.

Most days, after we had completed the initial interviews of the clients, the volunteers would gather and talk. Our conversation inevitably seemed to drift to the disparity of it all. We’d sit there intimately engaged in deep discussions of what a just

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Run for JUMP 2011

More than 80 enthused walkers and runners gathered at the Burlington Waterfront on September 24<sup>th</sup> to participate in the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Run for JUMP. The event set several records, including course records and raising over \$15,000 for direct assistance to JUMP clients!

Many thanks to our Event Underwriters: Gadue's Dry Cleaning, Gravel and Shea, and Merchants Bank. Also, for the first time we recognized Team fundraising — congratulations to Shelburne United Methodist Church for raising \$2070 and to the Shambhala Center and First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington for participating. A special thanks goes out to our sponsors, raffle prize, food donors, volunteers and participants who made the morning a great success! Mark your calendars, and we hope to see you next year, for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Run for JUMP on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012.

*Suzie Crews, First Congregational, Burlington. JUMP Board Member and Run for JUMP Coordinator*



## Challenge and Cause

Aidan Powell, age 12, has made the RUN for JUMP a priority two years in a row. His impact? More than \$900 raised for the cause. Aidan runs cross-country for his school and was open to trying JUMP's 5K, he says, because this run just "caught my eye." It seemed like "a good challenge to raise some money." Motivation to run—yes—but motivation to canvas door-to-door, explaining JUMP's mission to those unfamiliar with what we do? Aidan says it "feels good" to have a cause, to know that needy people will benefit from the hours he gives. Go, Aidan! — *Kathy Mihok*

Please "Like" us!

