

Holiday Giving

“Friendship Soup in a Jar”

With a NEW recipe this year, JUMP’s “Friendship Soup” will be available for purchase in your faith community soon. 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 Margaret Welch at jumpvt@yahoo.com



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**Joint
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Fall 2012

Newsletter

“One of our clients came in today having had a traumatic experience at her work place. She was not able to go back to work there. Her husband is disabled and sick. The couple was about to have the gas shut off – which meant no heat and no hot water. We were able to get a ‘stay’ on the shut-off. That is what is gratifying about working at JUMP.”

Helen Head, interim staff member at JUMP, likes to make a difference. She’s a wife and a mom. She is also a Vermont State Legislator who chairs the General, Housing and Military Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives. This is her second stint serving JUMP in an interim administrative capacity. Armed with degrees in Political Science and Public Administration, Helen is a big picture woman with a hands-on approach. Getting the “stay” for that couple is the kind of thing that energizes her.

“The lack of affordable housing ... that’s the issue state-wide that is particularly intense in the Burlington

**Helen
Head:
Our
Interim
Blessing
at JUMP**



area,” she says. Helen has witnessed what security in housing can do for a family in crisis. “People who have been able to find housing with Section 8 Vouchers - these people can weather economic storms. They might lose their job or have a health care crisis, but the security of the roof over their head enables them to keep their head above water.”

Helen is as much at home in the high atmosphere of state-wide politics as she is on the ground floor of offering direct service to clients at JUMP. It doesn’t matter whether she is working to streamline the permitting

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Collaborative Interfaith Emergency Assistance

President's Report

We hear much these days about evaluating the effectiveness of work with those in poverty. Can you show that people are moving out of poverty? While we at JUMP want to see that happen, we see our role as helping with immediate needs and that in turn allows people to move to that next step. We see a range of clients including those who have just lost a job and seek help temporarily and those who have needed help regularly. These days we see many more new clients, reflecting the economy as job insecurity continues.

I've often left a morning at JUMP wondering how the people I talked with are going to be able to manage. Will they be able to keep their housing? Will they be able to do what is needed to keep their food stamps or pay their utility bills? Will they lose their subsidized housing? Do they have the support they need? What will happen to their children?

JUMP's mission is to help. What we observe is that more people need help and that housing needs underlie every other need. A few years ago we talked of the need for JUMP dis-

appearing as the economy improved and housing needs were met. It is hard to see that possibility today. Now we are discussing increasing the support for JUMP so we can serve every person who seeks our help.

We are grateful for the opportunity to be a small part of the solution in a community committed to seeing that everyone has their basic needs met.— *Ginger Hobbs, Board President*



Runners from First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

Our Community's Collective Strength

JUMP serves a group of our neighbors for whom things are not going well. For many reasons, the people who turn to JUMP are burdened. Even though they may be working, their money cannot stretch

(continued from Page 1)

process for housing in designated areas, or focused on simply getting that much needed voucher for food to a homeless person right now, her eyes light up either way.

In describing her work with a Bhutanese man, she referred to the struggle some of our JUMP clients have with English. When asked how she connects, she says: "There is a lot of pointing and gesturing, a few words here and there – and plenty of laughter." There is definitely a strong current of commitment in Helen, matched only by her energetic joy.

Her resume includes her work as director of a legal aid office in New Hampshire when mental and developmental health systems were deinstitutionalized. She served as Executive Director of "Project Home" – now HomeShare VT. Her spiritual pedigree is a convoluted mix of Episcopalian, Southern Baptist, a touch of Methodist, with some Roman Catholicism – all of which has come together to land her a Quaker and past board member of the Vermont Ecumenical Council.

Perhaps it is that varied spiritual and theological background that makes her value collaboration. "I'm really impressed with the JUMP board," she says. "And by extension,

I am impressed by the faith communities who come together to support JUMP." JUMP Volunteers? "They are better trained than ever!" says Helen. Jean Palmer? "She facilitates collaboration and connections so effectively. And," she continues, "JUMP works well with organizations like COTS and the Howard Center's Street Worker Program."

With a mind for social change and a heart for on-the-ground service, Helen Head is a blessing to us at JUMP...And we are grateful!
- *Rev. Mark Demers, JUMP Board*



United Church of Hinesburg Team



Father and son age-group winners at the Run for JUMP

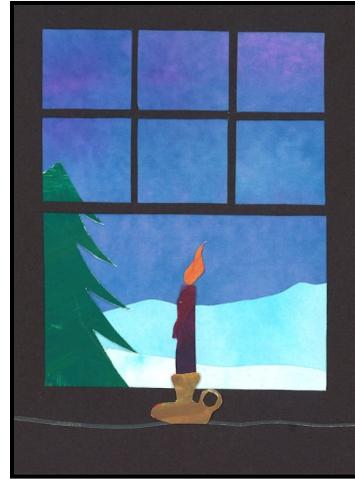
Check Out These Beautiful New Cards!



Our 2012 JUMP **Notecards** are colorful nature watercolors or a holiday candle scene by local artist Thodd Van Allen and come in packs of 8 for \$10.00

The **Alternative Giving Cards** also have a new look this year. These cards represent the ultimate “alternative gift” as the recipient receives a beautiful card - noting that a gift was made in support of the JUMP mission in honor of them - from the donor.

To buy these wonderful gifts that support JUMP, contact your JUMP representative, look for them at your holiday bazaar, or contact Margaret Welch at 862-2428 or jumpvt@yahoo.com



***Thodd G. Van Allen** is an Art Educator in Jericho and Huntington. He is a member of First United Methodist Church in Burlington and has traveled to Africa twice as part of their Volunteers in Mission program. His recent shows include a Blue Ribbon at the Champlain Valley Fair and the BCA postcard contest. He lives in Essex Junction with his wife and two children.*

JUMP

From the JUMP Board

At the last JUMP Board meeting, the Board voted to move forward with plans to hire a Managing Director. JUMP is entering its 25th year of responding to the needs of low-income people in our community.

We have managed to do this to-date with an all-volunteer Board. As we enter into the next 25 years, the Board felt the necessity to put an individual in place that can be their liaison with the Drop-In Center. This concept has been discussed at JUMP for the better part of 10 years and we have actively been doing our homework for the past 9 months to discern the need for a managing director. Last spring, key job descriptions were analyzed and a consultant was hired to help us to clarify our need.

The Board feels that a Managing Director is key to the continued success of JUMP. This individual will manage the day-to-day operations of the Drop-In Center, allowing the Board to tackle the vital tasks of fundraising and outreach. The Managing Director's time will be divided between supervision and management responsibilities,

outreach and direct client service.

One of the next big challenges facing the Board is how to fund this new position. A significant portion of the salary for this new job is already in the budget from the Co-Director position that was left vacant when Carol Snow retired. The remainder will be sought from additional fundraising, grant-writing and probably some tightening of the budget.

We are in a window of change at JUMP. As much as we are convinced that this is the right step forward, we also acknowledge that change can be challenging or even scary. Thank you for trusting us with the vision of JUMP!



Run for JUMP participants

