



## **2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **June 30, 2017**

#### **REORGANIZATION**

With founder Shirley Perkins' move from Dummerston in spring 2016, Dummerston Cares (Cares) was in need of fresh energy and reorganization. With encouragement from the Congregational Church and Transition Dummerston, a Cares reorganization group was formed and began its work in June.

The group incorporated Dummerston Cares as a non-profit under Vermont law on Aug. 8 and on Sept. 22 approved bylaws and then elected a six-member board that adopted the bylaws and elected officers. Two members were added during the year. Soon thereafter, on Sept. 29, Federal IRS tax exemption status was secured, retroactive to Aug. 8. Formal reorganization was now complete.

With reorganization Cares expanded its **mission** which now, as stated in the bylaws, is *to strengthen the Dummerston community through support of all residents with health and other wellness needs through services, programs and resources of its own and those of related local, regional and state organizations and agencies*. A significant change from the earlier Cares' organization is that Cares now serves all residents, not just seniors.

#### **SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

The existing Helpline telephone and emergency fuel assistance services continued under reorganization and several new services were initiated: a Rides Program, Friendly Visitors, Chores Corps, Medical Equipment Loan Program, and Welcome Baskets. Fifty-five services were provided sixteen residents. Cares had a total of 48 committed volunteers, including board members, this year.

Volunteer recruitment and orientation materials were developed for the Rides, Friendly Visitors and Chores Corps services and, of special significance, work began on a handbook of volunteer policies and procedures. The Handbook was completed in August 2017.

#### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

On Election day Nov. 4, 2016 information about Cares was given people exiting the polling area and a needs survey was done to get their thoughts on the health and wellness needs of town residents. Some 170 townspeople identified needs for services with home maintenance help, fuel oil assistance, rides to medical appointments, and home weatherization topping the list. Also, 62 people expressed interest in volunteering for Cares.

At the March 2017 Town Meeting Cares information was distributed and a Cares report was given under "other business."

Cares articles appeared regularly in The Views and some news releases to the Reformer and Commons and at year's end construction of a Cares website was well under way.

### **AS WE MOVE FORWARD**

Current programs will continue and be further developed , one example being our referral service to other agencies. As need arises, additional services will be provided. One possible service is that of a part-time community nurse like the nurses Guilford and Westminster Cares have.

More volunteers will be sought, when called for, and training will be given them. Ongoing training will be given current volunteers, including specialized training on how to respond to situations where abuse is encountered. Cares' new Volunteer Handbook will be distributed.

The addition of some community programs will be considered; for example, exercise programs and public meetings and workshops on specific topics such as elder abuse, aging in place, affordable housing, and end of life planning. There may be programs in collaboration with partners like the Congregational Church, Grange, Transition Dummerston, Three Generations Collaboration and other Cares' organizations through Windham County Cares. One or two community celebrity suppers are possibilities.

In outreach, a Cares brochure will be prepared to “get out the word” to townspeople about Cares' services and programs. There may also be some special mailings and other things done to let residents know what Cares offers. Information about Cares will be distributed to area hospitals, nursing homes with rehab services and related organizations.

In relation to Cares all-volunteer management and services and the new Volunteer Handbook, the subject of liability insurance will be revisited.

### **FRIENDS OF DUMMERSTON CARES**

The extent, kind and quality of Cares services and programs correlates directly with its volunteers, donors of money and goods, and services' partners in related organizations and agencies. All are considered Friends of Dummerston Cares.

### **CARES VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS DURING THE YEAR WERE:**

**Helpline** – Akara Draper, Heidi Fischer, Bill Johnson, Shawn Bracebridge. John Wilcox

**Rides Program** – Akara Draper, coordinator. Amy Balin, Sarah Bedichek, Catie Berg, Alex Blakeson, Patricia Blomgren, Kelly Carlin, Steve Casabona, Ellen Crockett, Linda Evans, Judy Fink, Heidi Fischer, Jim Greenwood, Sharon Hart, Bill Johnson, Gurudharm Khalsa, Judy Morton, Greg Moschetti, Christopher Olsen, Susan Read-Smith, Matthew Rink, Linda Rood, Catherine Simpkins, Ron Svec, Roger Turner

**Friendly Visitors** – Bill Johnson, coordinator. Cindy Bacigalupo & Randy Hickin, Catie Berg, Lisa Blake, Alex Blakeson, Akara Draper, Peter David, Margaret Evans, Robert Evans, Linnie Jones, June Levinson, Judy Morton, Bill Schmidt

**Chores Corps** – Bill Schmidt, acting coordinator. Sarah Bedichek, Peter David, Akara Draper,

Eugene Ferrara, Jim Greenwood, Linnie Jones, Linda Hellus, Lew Sorenson

**Medical Equipment Loans** – Heidi Fischer, coordinator, Merrill and Ruth Barton, Will Collins, Bill Schmidt

**Emergency Fuel Fund** – Bill Schmidt, coordinator

**Welcome Baskets** – Akara Draper, coordinator.

Also, for other services to specific individuals and/or help in reorganization: Barbara Clark, Ginci Bunker, Bob and Margaret Evans, Linda Hellus and Jean Momaney.

**Donors** over the past year were Sarah Bedichek & Jim Greenwood, Mary Ellen Copeland, Akara Draper, Dummerston Community Chest, Eugene Ferrara, Jonathan Flaccus, Jean Momaney, Paul & Jody Normandeau, Charlie & Bess Richardson, Gene Rostov, Donna Saunders, Bill & Mary Lou Schmidt, Town of Dummerston, Trust Company of Vermont, Cheryl Wilfong, John Wilcox, Elizabeth Williams. Anonymous. **In-kind donations** were received from Cindy Bacigalupo & Randy Hickin, Dennis & Debbie Baker, Brattleboro Area Hospice, Susan Daigler, Marguarite DeMott, Jacki Durant, Ken Emery & Family, Roger & Faith Evans of Evans Maple Farm, Dave Greenleaf for Basketville, Lynn Levine, Lydia Taft Pratte Library, Read & Malah Miller of Dwight Miller & Son Orchards, Ian & Evelin Martin, Dan Maravell, Kristina Naylor of Side Hill Farm, Mary Lou Schmidt, and Dan Snow.

*Special appreciation is offered to Graphic Designer and Art Director Michael Kelly for development of Cares logo and other assistance, Website Designer Cindy Levine for development of a Cares website, and Computer Guru Linnie Jones for building a database of all of Cares' Friends.*

#### **2016-17 Board**

Ruth Barton 2017	Heidi Fischer 2017
Rev. Shawn Bracebridge 2017	Bill Johnson, Vice President 2018
Susan Daigler, Secretary 2019	Bill Schmidt, President 2019
Akara Draper 2017	John Wilcox, Treasurer 2018

Note: Dates are end of term of board membership

**Dummerston Cares, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 302**  
**West Dummerston, VT 05357**

**HELPLINE: 802/257-5800**

**Dummerston Cares, Inc.**  
**Treasurer's Report**

	<u>Actual</u> FYE 6/30/17	<u>Budget</u> FYE 6/30/18
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>		
Cash Balance at beginning of year	\$ 3,504	\$ 5,680
Receipts:		
Contributions	3,455	3,500
Interest	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>
Total Receipts	3,459	3,510
Disbursements:		
Telephone	417	410
Postage	131	200
Post office box	90	90
Office supplies	20	150
Printing	0	300
Professional services	225	500
Professional development	0	500
Organization costs	400	0
Facility rental	0	500
Program facilitators	0	400
Equipment purchases	0	800
Website hosting	0	75
Transfer to Heat Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>500</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>1,283</u>	<u>4,425</u>
Cash Balance at end of year	\$ <u>5,680</u>	\$ <u>4,765</u>
<b><u>Heat Fund</u></b>		
Cash Balance at beginning of year	\$ 1,026	\$ 1,329
Receipts:		
Contributions received	302	300
Transferred from general fund	0	500
Interest Earned	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Receipts	303	801
Disbursements	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Cash Balance at end of year	\$ <u>1,329</u>	\$ <u>1,130</u>
 <u>Detail of Contributions:</u>		
Town of Dummerston	\$ 400	
Community Chest	550	
Individuals	<u>2,807</u>	
	\$ <u>3,757</u>	

*Note: total includes general fund and heat fund*