

Central Vermont Food, Fuel, and Transportation Coalition

Workgroup Updates
September 3, 2008

Steering Committee Update

Steering Committee

Accomplishments to Date

- Outlined a set of responsibilities and roles
 - Maintaining a schedule of subcommittee meetings
 - Internal & External messaging/communication
 - Coordination of subcommittee requests for contacts with donors, select boards, and media
 - Reporting on measurable results
 - Development of communication/resource materials
 - Maintaining enthusiasm & commitment to achieving results

Steering Committee

Accomplishments to Date

- Agreed to serve as catalyst for this area's Wood Warms program.
- Supported local canning workshops.
- Created a webpage located on the Green Mountain United Way website to serve as a repository of local coalition activities and information
- Organization of larger community meetings
- Secured support from Barre Rotary in fundraising effort: "Give a Gallon" which will be at area businesses
- Activities for September:
 - Meeting with Town Service Officers
 - Meeting with area clergy association

Food Action Team

Food Goals & Progress

■ Goals:

- Connecting with other interested parties
- Encouraging donations of extra garden produce to local food shelves (which will be the topic of the next *World* article)
- Organization of more canning workshops, such as the ones organized through the Grange
- Organizing a major food drive for Central Vermont food shelves in the winter (on a major holiday such as Valentine's Day or MLK, Jr. day)

■ Progress:

- The Vermont Foodbank has secured support from WCAX for publicizing a winter food drive.
- The Vermont Foodbank has agreed to list all area food shelves on their website. www.vtfoodbank.org

Weatherization Action Team Update

Weatherization Goals & Progress

- **Goal:** Contact every household within our region with information on where to access weatherization information
 - Developing a weatherization checklist to be distributed via the newspaper and webpage
 - Obtained a DVD copy of a weatherization workshop held in Hardwick. It is now available on public access TV and in the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. More copies are available by contacting: hardwicktv@comcast.com or (802) 472-6655
 - Drafting a letter to send to each of the 23 towns' energy committee or designated energy person encouraging the use of information about weatherization, encouraging towns to present Energy Fairs where information can be presented about weatherization (including assistance for low income and landlords at Central Vermont Community Action Council)

Weatherization Goals & Progress

- **Goal:** Contact every household within our region with information on where to access weatherization information *(Continued)*
 - Began process of identifying volunteers to assist in weatherization efforts: Norwich University students, RSVP, and high school students trained in weatherization audits.
 - Identified website to help residents prevent fires caused by new sources of heat: www.vtfiresafety.org *(click on newsletters)*
 - As part of a weekly series of articles for *The World* an article about weatherization will be submitted during the week of September 18th.

Weatherization Goals & Progress

- **Goal:** By the end of August determine the feasibility of purchasing do-it-yourself weatherization supplies wholesale and offering them to homeowners or renters at cost or under cost, if we can find sources of subsidy
 - Determined that we could not pre-buy weatherization products, but can give a suggested resource for groups wishing to buy such products; discounts are possible for non-profits and community groups through: Energy Federation Incorporated www.eft.org

Transportation Action Team Update

Transportation Goals & Progress

- **Goal:** To guide and execute outreach and publicity efforts within Central Vermont to educate communities on available transportation services resources. In addition, there is an effort to identify growing areas of need and how funding and services can be secured to support a vulnerable segment of the population.

Transportation Goals & Progress

■ Implementation:

- **Individual Outreach:** ongoing to execute outreach through disbursement of materials at community forums such as town energy meetings, human service agencies, local churches, senior housing locations, medical facilities and day to day interaction with the public.
- **Media Outreach:** in the effort to reach those most dependent and educate the new "at risk" population, publicity has been achieved on specific transportation needs and services through the following media pieces:
 - ***Times Argus*** August 17th Vermont Sunday Magazine— Front page article Ride On offering a step by step guide on how to ride the bus and \$ saved
 - ***Times Argus*** August 23rd – Pain in the Gas highlighted the changing ways of commuters and needed public transportation services

Transportation Goals & Progress

- **Media Outreach:** *(Continued)*
 - ***The World-*** Ongoing steering committee collaboration on weekly articles
 - ***WDEV:*** Radio Interview scheduled on Equal Time to discuss the current state of public transportation and the growing demand
 - **Flyers:** on going distribution of Ticket to Ride and volunteer Driver flyers to general public, town select boards & committees, human services and medical locations

Transportation Goals & Progress

- Established Transportation Service and Programs:
 - **GMTA/CVCOA Ticket to Ride program:** provides transportation to the elderly and people with disabilities
 - **GMTA Medicaid Transportation:** provides medical transportation through bus, taxi, or volunteer drivers for people attending medical appointments under the payment of Medicaid
 - **GMTA Critical Care Transportation:** provides needed transportation to those receiving medical services for critical care such as cancer treatment and dialysis

Transportation Goals & Progress

- **Established Transportation Service and Programs:**
 - **GMTA/Hannaford's Shopping Shuttles:** provides *free* public transportation to Barre and Williamstown to Hannaford's Grocery each Tuesday
 - **GMTA Fixed Route/Commuter Services:** general bus service in Montpelier, Barre, Berlin, Waterbury, Middlesex, Morrisville³, Stowe and commuter service to Burlington.
 - **CVCOA elderly transportation programs** to support medical, meal site and shopping transportation needs.
 - **VTrans GoVermont/Rideshare:** providing a coordinated van and car pool program for commuters within the state of Vermont

Transportation Goals & Progress

- New Service Initiatives:
 - CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) grant application completed and submitted by GMTA to the state for a new Northfield free weekly shopping shuttle to support access to:
 - Grand Union/ affordable
 - Food Stamp outpost
 - Food Shelf
 - Local medical center
 - Senior center meal site and service access
 - Boys & Girls Club

Notification of grant acceptance/denial early fall

Transportation Goals & Progress

- Program Collaboration Initiatives: there is continuing work to find areas in which collaboration efforts can occur to provide more service alternative for communities in need
 - GMTA & Vermont Agency of Transportation offering joint presentations to share not only bus service information but car/van pool program which can support commuter needs where bus route service is not available.
 - Discussions with local town officials on merging multiple town local match funding resources to develop needed commuter routes

Communication and Education Action Team

Communication and Education Goals and Progress

- **Goal:** Distribute and publicize user friendly, short, concise guides and/or templates of information/resources both for those who need help and those who can give help
- Possible distribution: House Candidates can distribute door to door while campaigning, town and agency newsletters and websites, senior centers, day care centers, home delivered meals, newspaper
- Items Included: Vermont 2-1-1, Senior Help Line, Other resources, resources for "after hours" help, opportunity for town "personalization", opportunities for fundraising

Communication and Education Goals and Progress

- Progress:
 - Winter preparedness cards with key contact information and space for town personalization has been developed and is being distributed to the following:
 - Central Vermont house candidates
 - Political party headquarters for statewide dissemination
 - Vermont League of Cities and Towns
 - Municipal offices
 - The key is to ensure that information contained in the town/city box is consistent for all cards being handed out in individual towns and cities.
 - Once finalized cards will be given to schools, senior centers, town service officers, libraries, non-profits and other gathering places.
 - We will recommend that municipalities have these cards available at both the primary and general election polling places

Communication and Education Goals and Progress

- Progress:
 - The World is now running weekly article(s) on winter preparedness and has published several related articles
 - Other weekly newspapers will be contacted to see if they are interested in doing the same or a similar approach
 - Contacted and partnered with the Administration and Legislative Council as well as the public Service Department to coordinate state, regional, and local efforts

Websites

- www.vtfoodbank.org
- <http://www.gmunityedway.org/fuel-food.shtml>
- hardwicktv@comcast.com
- www.vtfiresafety.org

