



what matters.™

# Community Connection

Green Mountain United Way

Serving the communities of Caledonia, Essex, Orange,  
Orleans and Washington Counties of Vermont

Mission: To improve lives by mobilizing the caring powers of communities.

October 2007

*Inside this issue:*

Local Housing Issue

New Associate Member Agency

Planned Giving Corner

Dates to Remember

#### Board of Directors

**Dan Pudvah**, President

Central Vermont Medical Center

**Stuart Williams, MD**, Vice President

Family Health Associates

**Linda Roberts**, Secretary

Retired, New England Telephone

**Jason Lemery**, Treasurer

Northfield Savings Bank

**Timothy Barre**

Northfield Savings Bank

**Kenneth Bruno**

Social Security Administration

**Bethany Chenette**

National Life Group

**Nicole DiDomenico**

Norwich University

**John Gardner**

Gardner Insurance Services

**Paul Knox**

Green Mountain Council Boy Scouts

**Stephen Moss**

Central Vermont Medical Center

**Connie Peck**

BlueCrossBlueShield of Vermont

**E. Hale Ritchie**

Retired, VT Agency of Natural Resources

## GMUW Celebrates Another Campaign Kick-Off

GMUW launched its 32<sup>nd</sup> annual fundraising campaign at a kick-off breakfast on September 18th where Campaign Chair, Steve Post, formally announced the goal of \$625,000. Post is CEO of the VT State Employees Credit Union, which fully sponsored this kick-off event. During breakfast, Post awarded the Thomas Pelletier Loaned Executive Awards to Megan Cicio and Diane McCormack, the Business Community Impact Award to Jo-Ann Fabrics, the Community Spirit Award to TD Banknorth, the Worksite Coordinator Award to the Merchants Bank, the Best First Campaign Award to North Country Hospital and the Campaign Champion Award to Tim Barre.

The attendees were entertained by Step'N Time Line Dancers who were one of the first place winners at "A Kaleidoscope of Talent" event this past February.

The dining room at The Steak House became as quiet as could be when Chris Tonkovich spoke of his disability and subsequent difficulty in finding employment. His description of the help and confidence he received from the Green Mountain United Way staff, while a volunteer in their office, were what moved him to a level of knowing that there were definitely some things he could accomplish and do for others. His wish of getting a paying job and becoming self-sufficient was recently realized when he was hired by the Vermont Center for Independent Living. Leading initiatives that place individuals back in the workforce is one of the ways GMUW works for the local people and community. Chris is a perfect example of that focus and positive results attained.

Those attending the kick-off left very enthused about the campaign and ready to go to work to help the local United Way achieve its goals. A few local companies have already become pacesetters by starting their respective campaigns early this summer. Central VT Medical Center, UPS and Kennametal, Inc. are happy to report that they are well on their way to surpassing last year's campaigns.

## Greg Stone Joins GMUW as Loaned Executive

GMUW has been extremely fortunate this fall in having the assistance of Greg Stone as a Loaned Executive. Greg is Marketing Coordinator for the VT State Employees Credit Union. He will be working with businesses to assist them in conducting their annual campaigns.

Greg, originally from Lyndonville, is married and now lives in Barre. He states, "I am very honored to be helping with fundraising efforts as a loaned executive. I strongly believe in GMUW and appreciate that it supports the people and communities in the area in which I live and work."

Contact GMUW in Berlin, VT at 802-229-9532

### **GMUW Explores Local Housing Issue**

This is the first in a series of articles on housing by Nicole DiDomenico of Norwich University. She is also a member of the GMUW Board of Directors.

Do you currently spend 30% or more of your income on housing costs? If so, you are not alone. In fact, you are amongst thousands of Vermonters who also fall under the category of being "cost burdened" according to the 2007 update of "Between a Rock and Hard Place" – a report on housing costs vs. wages in Vermont. Simply put: Vermont housing and rent costs are simply increasing at a faster rate than wage growth.

"Affordable housing is a critical issue for everyone," says George Malek, Executive Director of the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce. Not only is it an issue for young families, first-time homebuyers and life-long low-wage earners, Malek explains, but it's also impacting businesses since it's increasingly more difficult to encourage recent graduates and unskilled laborers to remain in Vermont.

According to MaryEllen Mendl, Director of Vermont 2-1-1, the state's information and referral system hotline for community resources, received 105 calls from Washington County residents in June 2007. Sixty-one of those calls were requests for housing and shelter resources. The most common questions, Mendl says, had to do with finding affordable housing or needing temporary financial assistance for rent or utilities. Often times, 2-1-1 operators will direct callers to Central Vermont Community Action Council, the State Housing Authority or [www.HousingData.org](http://www.HousingData.org), which offers affordable renting options.

Though there are many agencies and organizations out there to assist Central Vermonters with balancing their wages with their housing costs, however, knowing how and when to ask for help is sometimes the most difficult step. For more information, visit [www.WeNeedHousing.com](http://www.WeNeedHousing.com), or call Vermont 2-1-1.

### **CV Community Partnership Council Merges with GMUW**

After several weeks of discussions, the Central Vermont Community Partnership Council has decided to join forces with Green Mountain United Way in order to better meet the needs of the local community. Dan Pudvah, President of the GMUW Board of Directors, and Jeff Hunsberger, Chair of the CVCPC, agree that the goals of each organization are very similar. Each has outcomes that focus on improving the lives of the local people by determining the needs of the area and building coalitions to meet those needs. Hunsberger recently stated, "the Partnership has been a strong player in addressing community needs and, by merging, it will strengthen both organizations' efforts".

The Partnership has become a program of the United Way and is now located in the Green Mountain United Way offices on Paine Turnpike in Berlin.

### **Kate Binns Named Program Director**

Kate Binns joined Green Mountain United Way in her role of Program Director on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Her focus will be on advancing community programs. She will be staffing GMUW's Community Impact Committee and the Central Vermont Community Partnership Council. She will be involved in the Allocations process and the Goods & Services program. Kate will be continuing activities on several coalition initiatives, such as Central Vermont Health Coalition, Housing Coalition, Community Hunger Assessment, Intervention & Resources Project, Building Brighter Futures as well as other initiatives.

Kate hails from Norton in the Northeast Kingdom and states, "I am honored to be part of such a pivotal organization... I can't wait to begin bringing people and programs together to address the community issues at hand." We welcome Kate and all those involved in the partnership and look forward to together making an even bigger difference in our communities.

## GMUW Provides Emergency Relief Funds After Barre Flooding

We all remember well how quickly the river waters rose early this summer and overflowed their banks spilling over into downtown Barre and causing a devastating amount of damage to many businesses and organizations. One of those organizations, the Peoples Health and Wellness Clinic on North Main St., is a coalition partner of Green Mountain United Way. Peter Youngbaer, Executive Director of the clinic, stated they lost everything in their basement including the furnace, hot water heater, washer and dryer and more. "This is truly a hardship for us", he said.

In July, Nancy Zorn, Executive Director of GMUW, presented the clinic with \$1,000 of emergency funding to help them get back on their feet and resume helping their clients. Even now, three months later, there are non-profit organizations still suffering from the damage and extra costs inflicted on them by this force of nature.

## GMUW Welcomes New Associate Member

After successfully making application to GMUW to become a member agency, Turning Point Center of Central Vermont has been accepted as an associate member for 2007-2008. They are located at 489 North Main St. in Barre.

Turning Point Center serves as a safe place for support for individuals in recovery from substance abuse, and their families. Quoting from their brochure, TPS recognizes "that recovery from addiction often requires individual involvement in activities that include communing with others who suffer from addiction. Providing a secure and accessible location for promoting such community is paramount to our mission..."

TCP Executive Director, Steve Woodward, recently stated, "We are so thankful to have been accepted as an associate member of Green Mountain United Way. Our affiliation with them will open up unlimited opportunities for us to get the community involved. It is our goal to become self-sustaining through community support."

Welcome aboard Turning Point Center of Central VT!

## The Planned Giving Corner

October has been designated as LEAVE A LEGACY® month, so it's a great time to sit down and take stock (no pun intended).

Should you make out a will?

If you already have a will, does it need updating?

Is there a bequest you'd now like to include?

Do you have a favorite charity that you'd like to name as a beneficiary?

Do you have some assets that you really don't need anymore, like stocks and bonds or real estate, that you could turn over to a non-profit organization like Green Mountain United Way and save yourself some taxes?

Have you considered changing the beneficiary on one of your life insurance policies to Green Mountain United Way?

We recommend you consult an attorney, tax accountant or estate planner before making any changes. But, do it now and feel good about making a difference in your community.

## GMUW Announces 2007 - 2008 Funded Programs

After many hours of scrutinizing applications received by local health and human service agencies, our Allocations team was pleased to recommend awarding funds to the following:

AWARE  
Area Agency on Aging for NE VT  
Central VT Council on Aging  
Clara Martin Center  
Family Center of Washington Co.  
Foster Grandparent Program  
Girl Scout Council of VT  
Good Beginnings of Central VT  
Good Samaritan Haven  
Maple Leaf Farm Associates, Inc.  
Northeast Kingdom Human Services  
Orange Co. Diversion Program  
O.U.R. House of Central VT, Inc.  
Oxbow Senior Independence Program -  
Adult Day Services  
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont  
Project Independence  
RSVP & Volunteer Ctr. for Central VT & NEK  
Turning Point Center of Central VT  
Vermont Center for Independent Living  
Vermont Children's Aid Society  
Washington Co. Diversion Program  
Washington Co. Mental Health Services

Congratulations to all of you!



Green Mountain  
**United Way**  
 963 Paine Turnpike N #2  
 Montpelier, VT 05602-9163

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT NO. 33  
 MONTPELIER, VT

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Dates To Remember**

- October 2007: Designated as LEAVE A LEGACY® month. It's the perfect time to think estate-planning.
- Oct. 1 - 6, 2007: "National Aging in Place Week". The Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern VT is sponsoring the Aging in Place Expo on Oct. 1 at IROC in Derby and on Oct. 4 at the Charlie Carter Center in Lyndonville. For more information, contact Pat Himes at [phimes@nevaa.org](mailto:phimes@nevaa.org) or call her at 802-748-6684.
- Nov. 15, 2007: GMUW Fall Member Agency Training meeting. 8:30 a.m. until noon at GMUW Conference Rooms, Berlin, VT. Topic: To be announced.
- Feb. 23, 2008: The second annual "Kaleidoscope of Talent" talent show for the benefit of Green Mountain United Way at Spaulding High School. Auditions applications will be available soon. For more information, call GMUW at 802-229-9532.

**The Phacts (facts) of Giving**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>P – Passion</b>    | - Pick something you are passionate about.            |
| <b>H – Heart</b>      | - Whatever you do, make sure it comes from the heart. |
| <b>A – Action</b>     | - Act upon your passions; take action and do.         |
| <b>C – Compassion</b> | - You must have compassion for those you are helping. |
| <b>T – Time</b>       | - You must find the time to take the time to help.    |

(Designed by Tim Barre for this 2007–2008 Fundraising Campaign)

**GMUW Contact Information**

Nancy Zorn, Executive Director  
 Madeleine Roy, Community Development/Marketing  
 Kate Binns, Program Director  
 Wanda Baril, Executive Assistant  
 Brenda Thompson, Administrative Assistant  
 802 229-9532 Berlin Office  
 802 223-0273 FAX  
 802 525-9597 Barton Office  
[gmunitedway@madriver.com](mailto:gmunitedway@madriver.com)  
[www.gmunitedway.org](http://www.gmunitedway.org)

Visit us on the web at: [www.gmunitedway.org](http://www.gmunitedway.org)