

## 2019-2020 PROGRAM SUPPORT

### Working Bridges™

We understand that barriers such as childcare, reliable transportation and acute need for emergency financial assistance get in the way of continuous employment. Through shared resources, we work with employers and employees to minimize employment barriers and maximize the supports working Vermonters need to be successful and improve their lives.

### Tatum's Totes

Every day throughout Vermont, children enter the foster care system often with as little as a garbage bag filled with their few personal items, and somethings they have nothing to call their own. In partnership with DCF we provide children entering foster care a backpack filled with caring items they can call their own.

### The Volunteer Connection

We work with nonprofit organizations to recruit and coordinate volunteers to serve the needs that help them meet their missions. We also help volunteers find organizations and opportunities that fuel their passion.

### K.E.E.P. Financial Coaching Program

This train-the-trainer style program gives nonprofit client-facing staff and volunteers the coaching and financial literacy skills to help people to achieve financial stability while working toward their larger life goals.

### The Pheonix Recovery Program

In partnership with The Pheonix, we offer a free, sober, fitness and community to individuals who have suffered from a substance use disorder. Through peer support, members heal and rebuild their lives.

Questions about our programs or impact areas? Contact us: [cstahler@gmunityway.org](mailto:cstahler@gmunityway.org) | 802-613-3989

### Community Impact Stories

**One thing we can all understand is that life does not always go as planned.** One family's life events brought them to our K.E.E.P. Financial Coach. Alice\* came to meet the United Way Financial Coach because she was close to bankruptcy. Alice and her husband have worked all their lives and have an adult daughter with disabilities. Until her husband got cancer they were able to take care of themselves, but now their medical bills and credit card debt were so large that they did not know what to do. Gifts like yours provided them with financial coaching services at no cost.

Thanks to you, this family is now receiving guidance to help them obtain low-cost legal services in order to prepare a living will and help them understand potential financial obligations after the death of a spouse so they can plan appropriately. Without you, they would not be able to face their future or understand the complex choices that face them. Our coaches, thanks to your support, are able to guide them through the steps they need to take to deal with their debt and their future. *Your gift could make a difference for a family.*

**Food is just one way communities come together** – sometimes it is the best way to make change. Recently our volunteers work alongside residents and our partners at the Vermont Foodbank and Rural Edge (the low-income housing agency in the Northeast Kingdom), to restock their struggling food shelf with much-needed healthy food. As we unloaded donated provisions into their small community food pantry, other residents shopped for fresh, healthy vegetables at the Veggie-Van-Go. It was inspiring to see the progress that had been made in just 12 months. Because of support like yours we have been able to be part of a small team working to empower Angela and other leaders among the residents learning to manage their own food shelf and improve the food security of their entire community. A well-managed food shelf will ensure the children, parents and grandparents who live there have enough to eat; kids will have full bellies and parent's stress will be lower because they have better access to healthy, nourishing food, all because of your gift and your care for your community. We could not make this happen without your pledged support. *Your gift could help feed a community!*