

FOIA MARKER

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	re: SSNs [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (3 pages)	06/04/1996	b(6)
002. list	re: SSNs [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (4 pages)	00/00/0000	b(6)

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AmeriCorps
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2013-0661-F

rc3040

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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6/04/96

10. MEMBER DATA:

OP SITE ID: C50A

Site Supervisor: Barri Gladstone
 Agency/Org Name: Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps
 City: Waterbury, VT

PHONE: 802-241-2462

FAX: 8022412593

STATE: VT

No. of Members Allocated by USDA: 31

			HOURS								
Member Name		SSN	SER STAT	PGM STAT	TRT STAT	1st Rpt	2nd Rpt	3rd Rpt	4th Rpt	Total	
AMES	, JENNIFER	M.	F	AE	AC	447	425	<u>17</u>	—	889	872
ASHTON	, MICHAEL	S.	F	A	A	327	548	<u>481</u>	—	1356	875
BALLINGER	, JOHANNA	M.	F	A	A	475	501	<u>462.5</u>	—	1438.50	996
BILL	, DEBORAH	D.	F	A	A	390	496	<u>455.25</u>	—	1341.25	886
BODKINS	, ALEXANDRA	.	F	A	A	460	550	<u>429</u>	—	1439	1010
BROWN	, SAMANTHA	L.	F	E	C	0	0	<u>0</u>	—		0
BUSH	, RICHARD	E.	F	A	A	474	532	<u>454.5</u>	—	1465.5	1006
CASSAN	, PETER	C.	F	E	C	146	0	<u>0</u>	—		146
CHALIDZE	, FRANCESKA	N.	F	A	A	457	530	<u>452.5</u>	—	1439.50	987
ELWERT	, CATHERINE	.	F	A	A	472	525	<u>424.5</u>	—	1421.5	997
GIBSON	, ERICA	J.	F	A	A	470	541	<u>425</u>	—	1436	1011
HALL	, MARY	E.	F	A	A	480	508	<u>589.25</u>	—	1461.75	888
HEMMINGS	, DOUGLAS	C.	F	A	A	450	576	<u>497.25</u>	—	1523.25	826
HICKS	, ALLISON	K.	F	A	A	448	530	<u>424.75</u>	—	1402.75	978
HOWARD	, LYNNE	F.	F	E	C	131	0	<u>0</u>	—		131
HUARO Huorid	, FRANK	E.	F	A	A	452	530	<u>424</u>	—	1406	982
HYNES	, ROWIAN	J.		A	A	466	546	<u>424.75</u>	—	1475	1012

[001]

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Member Name		SSN	SER STAT	PGM STAT	TRT STAT	1st Rpt	2nd Rpt	3rd Rpt	4th Rpt	Total	
IRIS	, SUZANNE	D.	F	A	A	483	552	<u>478</u>	___	1513	1035
JESSUP	, JOHN	P.	F	A	A	469	523	<u>431.75</u>	___	1423.75	992
KEOUGH	, ELIZABETH	J.	F	A	A	472	527	<u>439.25</u>	___	1438.25	999
LESNIAK	, ERICA	L.	F	A	A	371	584	<u>494.75</u>	___	1449.75	955
MAY	, SHAWN	R.	F	A	A	470	522	<u>452.5</u>	___	1444.50	992
MCCARTHY	, CAROL	A.	F	E	C	439	0	<u>0</u>	___		439
NELSON	, ROBERT	I.	F	A	A	439	545	<u>534.75</u>	___	1518.75	904
PALMER	, GRACE	M.	F	E	C	0	0	<u>0</u>	___		0
PEARSE	, MARGERY	S.	F	A	A	484	499	<u>493</u>	___	1476	983
PETOT	, JULIA	G.	F	A	A	423	529	<u>462.25</u>	___	1414.25	952
RUBDI	, VICTOR	W.	F	A	A	146	470	<u>573.25</u>	___	1189.25	16
SCHECHTER	, JAMES	A.	F	E	C	478	77	<u>0</u>	___		555
SMITH	, BRIAN	R.	F	A	A	490	537	<u>457</u>	___	1484	1027
SPENCER	, GORDON	A.	F	E	C	241	497	<u>0</u>	___		738
ST. JEAN	, JOYCE	A.	F	A	A	483	540	<u>445</u>	___	1468	1023
TANNER	, JESSICA	E.	F	A	A	483	513	<u>442.5</u>	___	1438.5	996
WARD	, SUE	A.		A	A	246	550	<u>526.5</u>	___	17	5096

(b)(6)

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			HOURS							
Member Name		SSN	SER STAT	PGM STAT	TRT STAT	1st Rpt	2nd Rpt	3rd Rpt	4th Rpt	Total
WHITEHALL, AUDREY	A.	(b)(6)	F	A	A	256	591	504.75		1351.75
WILLARD, ERIN	E.	(b)(6)	F	A	A	466	535	446.25		1447.25
Total Hours:										2798.00

-
- * The number of Members allocated should equal the number of active members, those members whose trust status is "A" and whose Program Status is "A". If your report shows five members with "A" "A" status and yet you only have four active members, this means you have not submitted an end of term of service form for the member for the member who is no longer active. Conversely, if your report shows five members with an "A" "A" status and you actually have six members active, you have not submitted an enrollment form for the active member whose name is not shown on this report. If that is the case, list the names, SSN, Status and hours of the missing members on this sheet and send the enrollment forms to the USDA Director of National Service. If enrollment form was sent directly to the Corporation, send copies to the USDA Director of National Service immediately. If you have replaced members be certain to indicate whether the replacements are full or part-time [NOTE: The USDA Director of National Service must approve conversion of full-time slots to part-time slots IN ADVANCE.]

REMEMBER, MEMBERS WHOSE FORMS HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED AT USDA ARE NOT CONSIDERED ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM AND THEIR BENEFITS (EDUCATION AWARD, ETC.) ARE JEOPARDIZED!!!

11.Total Number of Volunteers	1st Qtr. 491 vol.	2nd Qtr 464 vol.	3rd Qtr 436 vol.	4th Qtr	Total
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12.Total Number of Volunteer Hours	1st Qtr 2334 hrs	2nd Qtr 2394 hrs	3rd Qtr 2854 hrs	4th Qtr	Total
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13. Progress Towards Accomplishing Original Community Service Objectives

state	Op site	obj no.	pgm code	object/impact statement	year qty target	quantity unit of measure	3rd qtr qty	year success target	success unit of measure	3rd qtr success
Vt	C50 A		EN-H023A	Outreach provided on Commodity Supplemental Food Program	5	sites	17	3000	people served	1307
Vt	C50 A		EN-H038A	Recruit volunteers for youth anti-hunger clubs	20	volunteers	193	100	hours	886
Vt	C50 A	1	EN-E005B	Community Gardens Improved	10	gardens planted	17	500	people fed	1004
Vt	C50 A	1	EN-H035A	Increased number of food shelves	15	food sites created	2		number of people newly served	127
Vt	C50 A	1	EN-H036A	Improved food shelves	15	food sites restored	10	5000	increased number served	654
Vt	C50 A	2	EN-E005B	Develop school gardens	8	gardens planted	11	400	number of children fed	410
Vt	C50 A	2	EN-E007B	Increase number of participants in share holder community supported agriculture	50	groups	63	200	= % increase people fed	433
Vt	C50 A	2	EN-E005C	Involve correctional facilities in food production	15,000	pounds of food produced			number of people fed	

13. [Continued]

state	Op site	obj no.	pgm code	object/impact statement	year qty target	quantity unit of measure	3rd qtr qty	year success target	success unit of measure	3rd qtr success
Vt	C50 A	3	EN-H015A	Nutrition Education	500	people participate	2047	75%	report increased knowledge and/or behavior change	75% - 100%
Vt	C50 A	4	EN-H031A	Develop new school breakfast sites	4	new sites/ programs		100	number of children served	
Vt	C50 A	4	EN-H044A	Improve home delivered meals program capacity	4	meal sites served	7	550	number of people served	1081
Vt	C50 A	4	EN-H043	Improve existing summer food sites	5	existing food sites	16	100	# of additional children served	401
Vt	C50 A	4	EN-H042	Improve existing school breakfast sites	5	existing sites		750	# of additional served	
Vt	C50 A	4	EN-H042	Improve existing community meal sites	5	sites restored	14	2500	# of additional people served	3031
Vt	C50 A	4	EN-H040A	Develop new summer food site programs	7	new summer food sites	2	200	# of people served	195

14. Progress Towards Accomplishing Additional Community Service Objectives

No new objectives were added. During this quarter the objective target numbers were reviewed in terms of how realistic they were based on community interest and opportunity. They were modified for the next year's grant.

15 Community Service Objectives Narrative

We have met some of our objectives better than others, because of several factors that are actually new opportunities for this year, and in an expanded and more formalized version for next year. For example, this year one of our strong partners, the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, was awarded a grant to establish school breakfast and summer food programs. Consequently, our focus has changed in collaboration with them, to more promoting enrollment and program sustainability in existing programs, rather than starting new programs of which they and the Vermont Department of Education are taking the lead. Next year we will be more active as their outreach partners in promoting and developing new feeding programs.

This year the Vermont Food Bank has begun to do outreach to communities to help develop new food shelves. Next year we will be developing some joint education and technical assistance activities with community food shelves and meals.

16. Community Building Objectives Narrative:

During this quarter, we haven't added any new objectives, but are giving more attention to other aspects of our project and community involvement. The focus has been to evaluate our involvement in the committed objectives, with special attention to the sustainability of the projects. Our goal is to support the capacity of the partner organization to be able to maintain the effort without on-going dependency on the VAHC. Consequently, we are putting attention on the organizational and community needs and resources *in addition* to the activities themselves.

Also, as our August 21st service year closing approaches, Members are working on the documentation of their projects as a whole, with one goal being the development of a replicable model for future efforts, which is also shared and developed with the partner organization. Another screen applied to the project work at this time, is looking at opportunities for those benefitting from service to learn new skills, information, and gain understandings, and to have a more influential role in planning and implementing service projects. If, for example, we are planning nutrition education activities, we should ask and involve as much as possible, consumers of services in as much of the planning process as possible. We are working on strategies to involve customers of services more and to approach them as partners as much as possible, as opposed to partnerships just with the organizations who provide services to them.

Our focus now, in addition to getting those things done that we stated we would, is to review our service to make sure we are empowering beneficiaries and communities, to document our efforts, to assess and learn from our mistakes, and to leave information that can provide on-going program assistance. To accomplish this level of

support, we are putting significant effort into volunteer recruitment and volunteer manual development for organizations, by helping them develop volunteer "job descriptions," a central compilation of organizational policies, procedures, and resources, and a listing of contact names and phone numbers available to their volunteers. We are also working alongside organizations and community groups to plan and identify additional community resources to meet on-going support needs. An example from one of our projects developing a community garden, was to bring together area resources such as the Vermont State Department of Buildings and State lands, local farmers, the area Senior Citizen Center, churches, the Town Food Shelf, the University of Vermont Extension Service Master Gardener program, and area greenhouse businesses to collaborate to get the community garden going.

17. AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:

I, as Director, have *finally* come to understand what everyone else does, that *everything* we do especially if done right, has multiple benefits on several levels. We have a new Vermont Commission on National Service Director who is very supportive of service, our program, and AmeriCorps in general. She has sought opportunities for our program to participate and network with other AmeriCorps programs both in Vermont, and with our New York, and New Hampshire neighbors, and has offered to pay the travel and lodging costs for our attendance. She has also joined us at several events. Our Members and staff have attended Member conferences in both states, and have participated in several Vermont, New Hampshire, and New York days of service. As a result of this experience, we have all gained perspective, knowledge, and new contacts for future collaborations of training, technical assistance, and larger scale service possibilities. Our "country" Members, were given the opportunity to meet and serve with inner city AmeriCorps Members, to discuss challenges that other Corps experience such as neighborhood violence, and share some of the challenges we face such as providing rural service and outreach to isolated areas during long periods of severe winter weather.

In addition to our "basic" training, some Members as part of specific projects on which they are working, and because of deeper interests, have gained advanced training in such areas as Master Gardening, health clinic and nutrition screening skills through WIC, videography, curriculum development, and as part of a community/school french Canadian wood fired oven/nutrition/micro-business, french Canadian culture and history.

We are conducting interviews for our next year's program now, and are finding that every one of our five teams has at least one person [up to three] Members interested in returning for a second year. This is very different than last year at this time. What they all say, almost verbatim, is that they feel like they just got started building relationships and learning how to be effective, respectful partners. One of our Members from this year, who was a baker for some years, from a "blue collar" family background, became visibly moved when he spoke about all he has learned this year, and how humbled and appreciative he feels being invited into the homes of families in low income housing complex because of a collaborative garden project with us and the residents.

Section V- Success Stories:

18. Unique Successes or Great Stories:

One of the projects that I consider a great success is the **Highgate Community Garden project**. Highgate is a subsidized housing complex made up of low income families, Senior citizens and people of all ages with disabilities. Last year during our first year of the program, the Central Team was invited to meet with members of the Residents Association by the Social Services Coordinator of the Housing. Together, the residents and our members developed a survey of all the residents to determine what it was they wanted to work on to address hunger in their resident community. They indicated that they wanted more access to information that would support broader and healthier nutrition, so a cookbook drive and library was established for the residents. They wanted to learn and/or have the opportunity to do some gardening near their homes, so our members arranged for donations of necessary materials [seeds, manure, gardening] and support, including having gardening classes which three resident families attended. Finally, they involved the local Culinary Institute students in providing cooking lessons to interested resident children, and conducted a Utensil Drive to get people the needed equipment they needed to continue that which they learned in the lessons.

It represented, for me, a truer partnership with those in need, as opposed to the usual model of giving and requiring beneficiaries of services. It was an approach that treated people as their own resource, as opposed to as a liability, and added to them as opposed to the current trend of taking away. Our members were somewhat discouraged because the resident involvement was small compared to the larger pool of residents available. This year, the new Central team, reviewed the project from last year, and went back to the residents to ask if they wanted to do more.

This year, building on the relationship began last year, the Residents and our members determined that having more gardening opportunities for the residents, along with information, and technical assistance was what they wanted. Together, the residents and our members approached the facility Management company to get permission for the larger garden spaces. The members were hoping to get more interest and involvement than last year and asked for a sign-up and commitment by interested residents. **Not only did 25 resident families sign up, but more were put on a waiting list**, when it was determined that the company would only allow 25 sites this year. The company wanted contained gardens that had to be attractive and well maintained, as opposed to plowed areas, so the resident and member garden "team" got donations of lumber, soil, and all necessary materials and built them together. A volunteer from the Master Gardener program conducted gardening classes which were well attended, and our members conducted nutrition/gardening activities for the resident kids.

All along, the residence staff and the facility Management were discouraging of our members giving so much time and energy to this project. They consistently said to our members that the residents don't care, and that they rarely participated in services and activities they offered. So far they have been overwhelmed and pleasantly surprised. All activities, from classes to garden container building have been very well attended. Our members talk about how powerfully affected they feel being invited into the residents homes and affectionately recognized by the resident parents and kids as a real partner and welcomed member of the community of residents. They are called the "Garden Boys" by the residents, even though they are 40+ and 30+ respectively. Our members have articulated how satisfied they feel in observing the difference they are contributing to in building the confidence, pride, skills and knowledge with the residents as a way to give them the capacity to maximize their resources

and support their view of themselves as more competent and self-sufficient. The area businesses who donated report feeling really satisfied and well thanked, in having contributed to their community. Personally, I think that this is what welfare reform should be about, giving and investing not taking and regulating.

There are lots of other successes, such as our Duxbury Garden Project which was recognized by the American Beautiful Foundation, our innovative Nutrition Education programs, the school community service/hunger initiatives we're just starting this year, and the Senior Citizen Reminiscence Discussion groups we are promoting to build congregational meal attendance, to name some.

Section VI Challenges

19. Difficulties Faced by the Program:

One difficulty we struggle with is the lack of planning time which we have remedied by building in a month between each program year, as opposed to the week we had this year. Another related difficulty is the hesitation we feel to pursue long range planning and evaluation of our real contribution to the condition of hunger, because of our condition of year to year funding. To this end, as the Program structure is becoming somewhat more mature and requires less attention than the management of it, we are looking to participate more actively in the community of anti-hunger organizations in the effort to support more community food security.

The 10% cuts we had to make in next year's program resulted in significant change in one regional programming, and a reduction in staff to implement the changes. It can be done, but requires significant planning time now, while we are still actively involved in this service year.

Along this same line, we are working to add the financial requirements into our structure, which is a shift from exclusive program focus, and are doing that by working with some of our significant statewide partners, such as the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, the Vermont Foodbank, and the Vermont Nutrition Network to develop collaborative grant proposals that include some funding for us to meet our cash match. Starting with no existing organization, such as L.A. had the Interfaith Hunger Coalition, has required us to be involved in building every aspect of a program and an issue-based organization. This has involved developing personal policies to educating staff, in some cases, to hunger and/or service values, programs, resources, and best practices.

20. National Identity: Our staff and Members have participated, during this quarter in:

- *New Hampshire AmeriCorps day of Service
- *New York State AmeriCorps Conference
- *Vermont "Tune-Up for Green-Up" service days
- *Day of Service with the Vermont Fish/ Wildlife Dept stocking 26,396 salmon in 13,800 feet of the Black river
- *On the Planning Committee of the Vermont State AmeriCorps Conference to be held in August
- *Participated in several US Postal Service Food Drives
- Attended and helped staff the Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council Annual Campout

21. Organizational Changes:

None this quarter. As of next quarter we expect 3 changes.

TO: [unclear]
FROM: [unclear]
DATE: [unclear]

VAHC NORTHWEST TEAM
Project Development List
July 16, 1996

I. FOOD SAFETY NET (Food Resources and Food Assistance)

1. SARA HOLBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER HOLIDAY BASKETS

Planning, soliciting donations, matching recipients, and packing 200 food packages for Thanksgiving and an additional 400 food packages including gifts for the Channukah/Christmas/Kwanzaa holiday. The sustainable portion of this experience is that we are leaving an extensive "How To" manual for Sara Holbrook for next year's effort.

Status: Completed. Evaluation Completed. Final documentation being polished.

Point person: Erica Gibson

Planning group: Francheska Chalidze, Erica Gibson, Jack Jessup.

Workers/support: Johanna Ballinger, Catherine Elwert, Ron Hynes and Shawn May.

2. CHITTENDEN EMERGENCY FOODSHELF SUPPORT

**Substituting for student workers in the distribution room while they're gone for the holiday break. Wrapping Christmas/Channukah/Kwanzaa gifts for foodshelf recipients in need.*

**Constructing and supplying a children's playspace corner. We are also offering a six-month "maintenance contract" on the space while we train several volunteers to continue in this capacity in a more sustainable way.*

**Creating some training materials for future distribution room workers about certain special diets, and creating some brochures for non-English speaking foodshelf recipients who read Russian, Serbian and Vietnamese. These would list what items of information are necessary to make application to use the foodshelf.*

Status: All of these projects are completed, with the exception of the playspace "maintenance contract". Evaluations are being written currently.

Point persons: Elizabeth Keough for holiday project, Ron Hynes for childcare space, and Francheska for brochure translation and special diet information.

Workers: Entire team for holiday project, Elizabeth Keough for childcare space.

3. CVAA MEALS ON WHEELS RECIPIENT NUTRITIONAL INTAKE AND REFERRAL
(approved by Bari)

Working in the Champlain Valley to evaluate qualifications, nutritional behaviors and associated needs of elder recipients of Meals on Wheels. Ensuring sustainability of this project through partnering with UVM MSW and BSW internship program, as well as creating a file of all applicable intern possibilities for all Champlain Valley colleges.

Status: Intakes are ongoing. Future intern replacements from the UVM BSW program are being interviewed and matched for Fall 1996. A timeline is being finalized for the creation of the intern file. This project of the portion will be completed before the end of the collegiate spring term.

Point person and member doing intakes: Elizabeth Keough
Support for sustainable piece: Shawn May.

4. WIC SUPPORT

This project involves helping WIC with their clinics: weighing infants, children and mothers under the age of 21, and taking hematocrits when appropriate. Other supporting projects include as prioritized:

- * Procuring a rocking chair for breastfeeding mothers for the waiting room.*
- * Setting up nutritionally sensitive waiting room activities for children and adults.*
- * Assisting in a four county region with the Farm to Family program to do follow-up and compilation work on the 1995 pilots which included nutrition education components for the first time. This aspect may include us creating a Farmer's Market video or other curricular materials for use at the nutrition information sessions.*
- * Providing language assistance for refugees.*

Status: Erica and Catherine have completed their training and are doing unsupervised clinics. We have procured a rocking chair, and are completing ongoing taskwork associated with the next three goals.

Point person: Erica Gibson.

Other member doing clinics: Catherine Elwert. Members interested in various aspects: Johanna Ballinger, Francheska Chalidze, Jack Jessup and Shawn May.

5. FOODSTAMP POSTERING in CHAMPLAIN VALLEY

This project would extend our work in this area last year for the Foodstamp Outreach workers of CVOEO. We would leave them with a better system for identifying which stores are good "hotspots" for outreach materials.

Status: Addison county's quota for the first two quarters has been met. Chittenden county's postering has been completed.

Point person: Jack Jessup.

Other members: Ron Hynes, Erica Gibson, Shawn May, et al.

6. UTENSIL DRIVE

This project will involve collecting pots, pans and kitchen utensils from various restaurants, housing cooperatives, and church and synagogue congregations and giving them to community partners Chittenden Emergency Foodshelf and Vermont Refugee Resettlement Center for further distribution to needy families and individuals, as well as to the H.O. Wheeler Family Room.

Status: We have gathered and redistributed over 35 boxes of utensils solicited from JUMP (Joint United Ministries Project), Trinity College, and St. Mike's MOVE student service group.

Point person: Shawn May.

Members involved: Johanna Ballinger, Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes, Jack Jessup and Elizabeth Keough.

Related Activities:

1. EXPANSION of S.H.A.R.E. PROGRAM in NORTHWEST VT.

Community organizing in Vergennes as a result of our Climate Survey work resulted in the creation of a new community organization, "SOAR" (Share Our Area Resources), which accomplished as one of their first tasks the establishment of a new SHARE site. Joining with CVOEO/FGICA as a community partner, several members have done outreach in Franklin and Grand Isle counties to create interest around the potential establishment of another site in that region.

Status: This is an ongoing effort. To date several key community members have been consolidated in Franklin county to continue this work.

Involved members: Shawn May, Jack Jessup, Francheska Chalidze, et al.

2. ASSORTED TRAINING ACTIVITIES INCLUDING MEALS on WHEELS ASSISTANCE.

Status: Completed. Point person: Elizabeth Keough. Members: Entire Team.

3. FOOD DRIVES in ADDISON and WASHINGTON COUNTIES. Also: PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE in CHITTENDEN COUNTY.

Status: Completed. Members involved: Catherine Elwert, Johanna Ballinger et al.

4. REPAIRING CVAA FOODCART for SUMMER DISTRIBUTION to ELDERS.

Status: Repairs, painting and papering nearly completed. Members: Ron Hynes and Catherine Elwert.

5. For MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY of DIRECT SERVICE: PAINT FOODSHELF FLOOR for ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION/CVOEO. ALSO CLEANED FOODSHELF.

Status: Completed. Members involved: Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, Jack Jessup, Erica Gibson, Shawn May and Johanna Ballinger.

6. DISTRIBUTED VAHC IN-KIND DONATION OF 343 FAMILY TURKEY DINNERS to BURLINGTON MOW (MEALS ON WHEELS), CEFS (CHITTENDEN EMERGENCY FOODSHELF), FGICA/CVOEO FOODSHELF AND ASHAI (ABENAKI SELF-HELP ASSOCIATION) FOODSHELF.

Status: Completed. Members involved: Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, and Jack Jessup.

7. NETWORKING BETWEEN BURLINGTON MEALS ON WHEELS, CVAAA AND THE UVM LEARN-AND-SERVE OFFICE TO PROVIDE COMPUTER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MOW.

Status: Completed. Members involved: Jack Jessup.

8. COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANCE

Helping CVOEO in all four counties with key distribution sites. We are working with all four counties to make the transition experienced by recipients due to the termination

of this program as smooth as possible. We are doing more fact-finding at this stage, and expect to combine some survey techniques of recipients with some type of referral system.

Status: Ongoing through July 1996 (which is slated as the last distribution in the four county region). Point person: Jack Jessup. Members involved: Entire team.

9. STAFFING CVAAA OUTDOOR MEAL CART FOR DISTRIBUTION FOR ELDERS.

Status: Ongoing. Member involved: Elizabeth Keough.

II. SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (establishment and increased utilization)

1. SFSP IN FRANKLIN AND GRAND ISLE COUNTIES

Our focus has been to ensure the sustainability of the St. Albans program, which we helped start last year. Toward that end, we have secured indoor space for the kids to eat under a roof in case of inclement weather. A grant has been obtained from VCECH to fund the un-donated half of the pool passes. We are working closely with the sponsor to identify other potentially weak areas regarding the program's sustainability.

Point person: Jack Jessup.

Members involved: Johanna Ballinger, Catherine Elwert and Francheska Chalidze.

2. SFSP IN ADDISON COUNTY

In Addison County, we have resolved the "team member exclusion" issue with CVOEO/ACCA, and have re-evaluated our position about assisting them with SFSP as the major county sponsor. We will be assisting with site visits, and have worked to increase enrollment at the Bridport and Bristol sites. In addition, we have networked with a home-schooling group in Orwell and provided them with technical assistance and referrals.

Status: Outreach has been completed, and members are being trained on how to do site supervision.

Members involved: Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes and Shawn May.

3. SFSP IN CHITTENDEN COUNTY

In Chittenden County, we have attended many of the organizational meetings with H.O. Wheeler school to ensure the sustainability of this program. Due to creative problem-solving and creative collaborating with the Burlington Parks and Rec. Dept. and the Boys and Girls Club under the auspices of the YMCA, we feel that our most appropriate involvement this year will be limited to outreach and nutrition education efforts. Beyond the greater Burlington area, we have developed a great start-up model for a brand new program in Milton, where a group of (supervised) teenage girls will be learning small business management skills in a team setting while administering the program.

Status: Outreach completed, and Milton, a new program, is enrolled!

Involved members: Johanna Ballinger, Shawn May, et al.

III. SCHOOL BREAKFAST (program creation or increased utilization)

1. COMMUNITY WIDE BREAKFAST PROMOTION with VCECH

Ron Hynes and Jack Jessup.

3. OLD NORTH END GARDEN

Expanding on our involvement last year by creating curriculum for gardening activity workshops, nutritional education activities for children, and helping create a "father's group" as part of the participating family structure. Partnering with Sarah Sinnott of the H.O. Wheeler Family Room.

Status: Have completed many activity days, 2 fathers' group meetings, and a pot luck or two as indicated in the timeline for the project. The garden site has been double-dug and planted, trellises have been built, and we replaced the underground irrigation hose to the site as well.

Point person: Shawn May.

Other involved members: Johanna Ballinger, Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, and Ron Hynes.

4. GLEANING PLANNING FOR CSA'S AND COMMUNITY GARDENS FOR FALL '96.

This is a follow-up of our completed fall '95 gleaning activity involving the Intervale CSA and several local Community Garden sites. The gleaning project will take this idea and plan it better, coordinating with CSA managers and Community Garden site managers and coordinators, so that the '96 effort will run smoothly.

Status: Letter written to Maggie Luegers of Burlington Parks and Recreation to discuss preliminaries of contacting various community garden site supervisors to assess potentials of this project. A letter has also been sent to regional CSA's. We are beginning to contact individual site supervisors to set up a plan. This project falls into the category of "pre-planned projects" for next program year's team.

Point persons: Johanna Ballinger and Catherine Elwert.

5. FARM-TO-FAMILY COUPON DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANCE (see #5 in part I.)

This project may involve some participation in each of the counties of the Champlain Valley.

Status: Initial contacts made with WIC supervisors of this project in all three county locations. Ongoing assessment of appropriate role occurring, and planning for specific activities being worked on.

Point person: Erica Gibson.

Members involved: Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, Jack Jessup, et al.

6. MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN SUPPORT

This project will explore ways of expanding the community garden portion of the ACCAG garden. Adult Basic Education of Bristol, the Bosnian population that lives behind the garden site, and other community members have been involved as participants to improve and strengthen community relations. We also located a site for an ACA/CVOEO garden. We are partnering with two former members of the Northwest VAHC Team on this project, Dave Perry and Sam Spencer.

Status: ACA/CVOEO chose not to use the site we found for them, but we are trying to secure it as a site for the following year, when this year's chosen site will

This project is piggybacked with the Central team's version, and makes use of some of their groundwork (radio spot production, costume identification). It involves tabling at several public sites, including the YMCA, the foodshelf, grocery stores in the Old North End, etc., doing some PSA's on the importance of breakfast, surveying children to see where/what they eat (for) breakfast, and an in-school promotion during National Breakfast Week. The target schools include H.O. Wheeler, Lawrence Barnes and Burlington High School in Burlington's North End, as well as the Milton community.

Status: Completed. Undergoing evaluation.

Point person: Shawn May

Other team members involved: Johanna Ballinger, Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes and Jack Jessup.

IV. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

1. NORTHWEST STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY GARDEN

Partnering with CVOEO/FGICA, we will be working on several aspects of this program that we worked on last year, with a greater focus on long-term sustainability. We are soliciting seeds, seedlings and some supplies for the garden. We did create a new networking linkage with Mississquoi Valley Union Middle School's agriculture class to involve the students with the growing of many of the seedlings for the project. We also did some groundwork in helping establish an on-site well and irrigation system, as much produce was lost last summer to the drought.

*"MIRACLE MARIGOLDS" FUNDRAISING PROJECT

This is a sub-project of the NWSCF Garden. We are researching market strategies for the marigold seeds produced by the facility as a way to supply ongoing revenues to the project as a sustaining resource. The story behind this aspect of the project has great "human-interest" appeal.

Status: Further clarifying roles of VAHC and the Community Partner for the project. Seedling solicitation complete. Marigold seeds packaged and being distributed to retail outlets, and sold at community events.

Point person: Shawn May

Other interested/involved members: Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, Jack Jessup and Ron Hynes.

2. N.O.F.A. FARM SHARE PROGRAM (see Central Team's Project List)

Members are organizing a restaurant fundraiser to support NOFA "scholarships" for low-income families for area CSA's. A separate fundraiser has been completed in partnership with the Magic Hat Brewing Company and The 3 Needs Bar.

Status: We are working on further fundraising efforts to supply at least three shares to at least three different CSA's. One working share will be going to the Lund Family Center which will provide several mothers-to-be with an opportunity for fresh produce as well as an opportunity to learn gardening skills.

Point person: Erica Gibson (Julie Petot for Central)

Members involved: Johanna Ballinger, Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert,

**Expanding and improving upon last year's team's nutrition education curriculum, and piloting with 2 (larger) groups of youthful offenders.*

**Identifying and procuring a gardening site for YO's.*

Status: The classes are completed and evaluated. The gardensite has been located.

We have been asked to conduct a mini-version of the nutrition class with a third group of YO's, and are negotiating potential appropriate involvement.

Point person: Shawn May.

Members involved: Instructors: Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes and Shawn May. Curriculum Development: Johanna Ballinger and Elizabeth Keough. Support: Jack Jessup.

2. OLD NORTH END FOOD PROJECT NUTRITION CURRICULUM REPLICATION AND PILOTING BEYOND BURLINGTON'S OLD NORTH END

This project involves doing nutrition education activities at various summer food service program sites, and finding a volunteer base to continue this work in the future. Possible sites are located in all four counties of the northwest region. A second involvement in this project includes distributing nutritional education materials and recipe samples at the Old North End Farmer's Market.

Status: Four county schedule is complete.

Point person: Johanna Ballinger.

Other members involved: Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes, Jack Jessup and Shawn May.

VI. EMPOWERMENT

1. EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT OUTREACH AND PROMOTION

(directed by Bari)

After identifying where free tax assistance is available, we worked to identify how much this has been advertised, who is not being served with the existing outreach, how to measure/quantify the numbers of people taking advantage of the EIC, and how we can fill in these gaps through postering, PSA production, door-to-door outreach, and interviewing various tax assistance groups. Information was also distributed at March commodities distribution.

Status: Completed postering, PSA's and other outreach. Evaluation completed.

Point person: Jack Jessup.

Members involved: Entire team.

2. UVM FOODSHED COALITION to DEVELOP MODEL FOOD POLICY for VT. MUNICIPALITIES

Status: Team Leader Lisa Guccione has taken over the networking with this project. Members Francheska Chalidze and Elizabeth Keough attended the last meeting with her.

DIRECT SERVICE COMPLETED

be less appropriate. The gardens are planted, and a community activity is being planned.

Point person: Ron Hynes.

Members involved: Francheska Chalidze, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes.

7. FGI COMMUNITY GARDEN SUPPORT

This project involves assisting members of the community garden in FGI to garden most effectively, and also to provide a demonstration garden at the community site, the produce of which will be donated to the house-bound elder who donates his yard to make the garden possible. We are currently exploring what needs the gardeners involved have.

Point person: Francheska Chalidze.

Members involved: Francheska Chalidze, Jack Jessup and Elizabeth Keough.

8. VALLEY VIEW REMINISCENCE PROJECT IN VERGENNES

This potential project involves gardening activities with the residents of Valley View, as well as doing a creative/documentation piece with the participants recording their food and agricultural memories.

Status: The garden has been planted including a demonstration plot. Remiscence groups are planned, using the video medium to focus the discussion.

Point person: Elizabeth Keough.

Other members involved: Francheska Chalidze and Ron Hynes.

9. WAKE ROBIN CONTAINER GARDENING

This project involves container gardening with the elderly residents of this congregate housing project.

Status: The gardens are planted and ongoing meetings with residents is happening.

Point person: Elizabeth Keough.

Interested members: Erica Gibson and Jack Jessup.

Related Activities:

1. DIGGING IRRIGATION DITCH FOR THE INTERVALE FOUNDATION BERRY PROJECT

Status: Completed. Involvement: Entire Corps.

2. HELPING THE NATIONAL GARDENING ASSOCIATION BUILD A CHILDREN'S MULTI-CULTURAL GARDEN at ETHAN ALLEN HOMESTEAD.

Status: Completed. Involvement: Francheska Chalidze, Jack Jessup and Ron Hynes.

V. NUTRITION EDUCATION

1. LIFESKILLS for YO'S (approved by Bari)

Working with Ellen Sklar at Probation and Parole in the Dept. of Corrections in Burlington.

1. NCCC ASSISTANCE in TRAILBUILDING for RIVERWALK TRAIL. (Catherine Elwert and Ron Hynes).
2. SERVICE DAYS with TEAMMEMBERS from OTHER TEAMS: ASSISTANCE for ELDERS at LENS in JOHNSON for the HOLIDAYS. (Entire Team).
3. For MLK DAY: CLEANED, SORTED AND ORGANIZED the STORAGE LOFT for THE VERMONT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CENTER. (Johanna Ballinger, Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes, Jack Jessup and Elizabeth Keough).
4. NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE: TUNE-UP FOR GREEN-UP. Cleaning up the Dog River in Northfield and the railroad bed by the Winooski River in Montpelier. (Entire Team).
5. REPRESENTATION AT THE CHAMPLAIN INITIATIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY MEETINGS. (Jack Jessup and Shawn May).
6. FACE-PAINTING for the "HANDS ARE NOT FOR HITTING" COMMUNITY EVENT. (Johanna Ballinger and Jack Jessup).
7. WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST: WILDLIFE CLEARING CLEANING (Francheska Chalidze and Erica Gibson) and ORGANIZING FOREST-CENTER FILES (Johanna Ballinger).
8. CVOEO DOOR-TO-DOOR OUTREACH for THE OLD NORTH END FOOD PROJECT. This project includes the Old North End Farmer's Market, WIC outreach for Farm to Family Coupons, and nutritional information for kids involved in local day camps. (Ron Hynes, Jack Jessup, Elizabeth Keough, and Shawn May).



The Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps

Northeast Advisory Group Newsletter

May 22, 1996

Advisory Group Members,

Planning for year three is underway and I would like to again thank those of you who have posted the recruitment flyers. Our application deadline of June 21 is coming right up! Please let me know if you can use more flyers or applications. Currently, several members are thinking about returning for another year of AmeriCorps service. We will keep you updated on future plans...

There has been so much activity and progress on the Northeast Team, that I could not pass up the opportunity to share it with you all...plus the month of April has breezed by before I could send you a Project Update. Please consider this newsletter our new project update!

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Members Audrey Whitehill and Mary Hall have been very busy with community partner Mike McCoy as they open the **Kingdom Community Food Shelf** in St. Johnsbury. In addition to contributing to the policies and procedures for this food resource, they have been getting in shape for summer gardening by unloading boxes of food and building shelves! The newly opened food shelf runs in coordination with the Kingdom Community Lunches, and home base is at the United Methodist Church. On Wednesdays and Fridays, food packages are available at the North and South Congregational Churches respectively, as lunch is served at those sites. The Kingdom Community Food Shelf will serve Caledonia county and southern Essex county residents.

Northeast team members are also working with the Orleans county volunteer organization, People Helping People (PHP), to organize the **PHP Food Shelf**. The site for the food shelf has been decided on—unused garage space at Newport NEKCA will be renovated by a volunteer construction team, and

turned into an easily accessed community food pantry. Currently, Sue Ward, Mary Hall and other PHP members are planning presentations to different area churches and other organizations, to enlist volunteers to staff the food shelf. This collaboration with PHP has turned into a great working relationship, as Sue has become a member of the board, and PHP has agreed to keep the **Orleans County Food Resource List** updated.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Several successful collaborations are being cultivated in the garden as well. Plans for the **Danville School Garden** are underway.

Jim Graves, a vocation education advisor at the Danville School, has been working with members Jessica Tanner and Sue Ward to find seed and tool donations, and set up the calendar of activities for the summer program. This is the first year of a garden project that will



include students from Danville and Walden. One of the goals will be for students to learn the business aspects of organic gardening. If you know of any interested farmers who would be willing to spend a day with us out in the field, we are looking for guest speakers and sites for field trips! The produce from the garden will go to local food shelves, community meals and possibly to congregate meals.

In **Hardwick**, Mary and Audrey are working with Garden Coordinator Allison Martin on a **Gardens For Learning** project. Interested children from Hardwick elementary school will care for a plot in the Community Garden and participate in fun and educational group activities. (They are also looking into possible field trips and creative garden

experts!) The summer food service program will be the main recipient of the harvest, and the garden project will be an activity option for those children who are already in town for the lunch. Food Works of Montpelier has been instrumental in this project and the Danville garden by providing trainings and other support.

Beginning on May 16, the **Newport Town School Oven Project** will be breaking ground. Speaking of the oven, this has been a month of in-kind donations—members were successful at getting just about all of the materials donated, including the plywood, cement, hemlock ties, buckets and soap stone! Seventh grade students, their teacher and Principal Judy LeBlanc will start gathering alder branches and collecting buckets of mud with Anti-Hunger Corps members from the NE and Central teams. The clay, Quebec style, wood fired oven will become a learning tool for teachers to use with their Common Roots curriculum.

Other Project News....

The **Utensil Drive Project** with St. Johnsbury Youth Services and the Extended Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) has been ongoing. Reverend Jay Sprout generously bought needed items from the North Congregational Church Bazaar and donated them to the project. Other donations have been collected by Youth Services, and members continue to follow up with other churches and their congregations.

A puppet stage that

complements the **Food Guide Pyramid Activity** has been completed and put to use at the Walden Wellness Fair, the Coventry Health Fair, Wonder and Wisdom Daycare in Barton and Guildhall Elementary. Currently, community partner Heidi Cooperstein from WIC is planning to use the puppet stage at several summer food service sites.

In Canaan, VT, a member solicited two post offices to participate in a **Postal Food Drive**. Since these two do not handle rural delivery, the VAHC provided them with drop boxes from NEKCA to keep at the office. The food will go to the Canaan Food

Shelf.

Finally, although we won't be playing a large role in the **summer food service program in Newport** this year, we will be working with the Department of Health and four sites involved in **promoting** the program.

Activities

April and May have provided us with many opportunities to set up and participate in one day events. These usually turn out to be hard working days where the entire team can perform together and see immediate results. How rewarding!

April 25 was **Youth Service Day at Sutton Graded School**. Working with the teachers and Principal of the school, Mary Hall put together a morning of community service activities that included raking, planting and cleaning. The NE Team had a wonderful time rolling up our sleeves on a brisk morning and working with the students to clean up their neighborhood. By the end of the activity, students were excitedly talking about what they would do for their next day of service.

For the National Day of Service on April 23, some NE members joined the Central and NW teams in Northfield and Montpelier to do a riverbank and railroad track clean up. That warmed us up for our regional **Tune-Up for**



Green-Up Day in Canaan. Thanks to the Canaan Town Clerk, Linda Hikel, and the Memorial School Principal, Mrs. Jeannette, we were able to help organize and participate in a clean up of the whole

town, including Beecher Falls. It was a pretty impressive site to see 190 students pour out of the gym in multi-aged teams with rakes and garbage bags in hand. Even more impressive was the line up for the ice cream and treats we served at the end of the day!

Members also helped out a Central team member in Barre by unloading and sorting items from the Postal Food Drive at the Salvation Army Food Shelf.

Finally, several NE team members continue to help the Canaan branch of NEKCA to distribute commodities.

It continues to be an exciting Spring for the Northeast Team. If you would like to share your comments, ideas or thoughts about how we might improve, give us a call at (802) 751-3213. Thank you for your continuing support and interest in our program.

Sincerely,

Sandy Kingley



Team USDA

VAHC CENTRAL TEAM

Project Development List

May 7, 1996

I. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

1. Duxbury Town Garden - Washington County

Beginning a garden venture at the State-owned Old Duxbury Farm. Labor may be provided by the Department of Corrections and produce will be grown for local food resources.

Update: Land on the River Road in Duxbury has been agreed upon and Members are awaiting approval from the Project Director to have the lease signed. Greenhouse space has been donated by the 1782 Settlement Farm and over 1,000 seedlings have been planted. Plans to till the garden and coordinate the efforts of the Waterbury Foodshelf and the Waterbury Senior Center are underway. Applications for laborers from the Department of Corrections have been submitted and contacts are being made in the community to solicit interest in sustaining the garden next year.

2. FoodWorks Youth Waste Management Project (SCRAPPS/ The Wonderful World of Wiggles) - Orange, Washington Counties

Assisting in the post-survey of twelve classrooms participating in the FoodWorks indoor composting project in order to assess interest in and encourage the development of both indoor and outdoor classroom garden projects.

Update: The Member has currently had a response from the Windsor Elementary School, where two fourth grade classes planted seedlings to take home for Mother's Day. Central Team will also be building a container garden for two fourth grade classes at the Berlin Elementary School. Both the Waitsfield Elementary School and East-Montpelier Elementary are currently considering gardening options.

3. Highgate Resident's Association Social Service Task Force - Community Gardening Project Washington County

Assisting in the creation of agricultural opportunities for individuals in the complex and teaching nutrition education through art to children enrolled in the Washington County Youth Services Bureau Highgate Project.

Update: Members built 12 container gardens and 11 smaller planters for 22 residential units and the Washington County Youth Services Bureau unit. Over \$2,000 in materials and labor was donated. In the coming month, Members will assist the residents in starting their gardens. Three workshops in garden starting, maintaining, and harvesting will be offered to residents through the assistance of a Master Gardener and 4-H. Three nutrition education activities are currently planned with the participants and the WCYSB kids: A veggie pizza cooking class, a vegetable doll craft class, and an art activity focused on the garden.

4. Lamoille Community Farm Center LCFC - Lamoille County

Assisting in the creation of two pilot gardening projects for the LCFC, a center for community supported agriculture, community gardening, agricultural arts and therapeutic and educational farm activities.

Update: The Board of Directors is investigating alternative funding to secure the LCFC land in Hyde Park. Land and money for construction for a barn and meeting space have been donated in the Waterville area. No role has developed for VAHC Central Team and we will no longer be considering this as a project.

5. Laraway School Garden Project - Lamoille County

Following up with a successful garden project of last program year, Member's will assist the School staff in strengthening the connections to the local community and identifying appropriate individual families for receipt of the garden produce.

Update: The Team Leader has been actively seeking a community group or individual willing to take over tending the garden for the summer months. Currently the Johnson State College Service Learning Club (SERVE) is looking for interested students. The team leader is also discussing produce distribution with LENS, the Johnson Food Shelf and Sterling Psychological Associates.

6. Morrisville Community Garden - Lamoille County

Beginning a community garden in Morrisville in collaboration with Central VT Community Action.

Update: Because of lack of response from the community, no role for the VAHC Central Team has developed.

7. NOFA Farm Share Program - Orange, Lamoille, Washington

Expanding the '94-'95 Farm Share Program (which connects low-income families with local CSA farm produce shares) into the NW and SE regions, expanding the Central region fundraiser, and strengthening the nutrition education component required of the recipients.

Update: The Farm Share Team is currently interviewing the 17 applicants for the program. Follow up with the participating restaurants and an evaluation of the "Share Our Harvest" benefit is also being done. Members are coordinating with the CSA Farmers and are beginning the planning stages for the Nutrition Education workshops which will be offered to the participants in the program.

II. NUTRITION EDUCATION

1. Central VT Council on Aging Healthy Living Wellness Program - Orange, Lamoille, Washington

Training Seniors to teach nutrition and exercise to seniors in Orange, Washington and Lamoille counties.

Update: Currently, no role has developed for the VAHC Central Team Members.

2. Good Samaritan Haven Homeless Shelter Project - Washington County

Providing food safety information, improving food safety procedures and policy, and enhancing the meal program at this homeless shelter in Barre.

Update: This project has just begun. The Member may also be seeking to provide other services such as building a compost and planting small container gardens.

3. Highgate Resident's Association Social Service Task Force - Community Gardening Project Washington County

(See Above)

4. Newport Town School Community Oven - Orleans County

Collaborating with the NE Team to build an outdoor, clay community oven in conjunction with the FoodWorks Common Roots Program in Newport. Incorporating the building and use of the oven with nutrition education and local history.

Update: Materials for the oven are being gathered, a curriculum for nutrition education is being developed by the NE Team Members, and plans to begin construction are underway. A goal for completion of

6. VT Foodbank Agency Assistance - Orange, Lamoille, Washington Counties

Assisting agencies of the VT Foodbank in our three counties through provision of information and resources for food safety and nutrition education, addressing the physical needs, increasing the

organization's food supply and assisting in volunteer recruiting and training .

Update: A letter was sent to 52 Foodshelves throughout the State, offering VAHC assistance. Central Team has yet to receive a response.

IV. SCHOOL BREAKFAST

1. VT Campaign To End Childhood Hunger Barre School Breakfast Promotion - Washington County

Collaborated with the CECH to conduct a City wide breakfast promotion in Barre.

Update: Events included a four week publicity series with local newspapers and radio stations and staffing tables at two local WIC clinics , a community event at the Berlin Mall and the local Howard's Market. A breakfast promotion event was also held in the Barre High School. The Barre Town School has agreed to begin a pilot breakfast program.

V. SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

1. VT Campaign To End Childhood Hunger Summer Feeding Service Program Site Development - Washington, Lamoille County

Collaborating with the CECH to contact the current SFSP sponsors in the Central VT region to ensure that all are preparing to renew their sponsorship of the program.

Update: The Team Leader had no luck in finding a replacement sponsor for the Lamoille County SFSP sites and the deadline has passed. A new SFSP site has been established at the Barre Town School and will have a FoodWorks "Gardens to Learn" program. Central Team will also provide assistance to the Barre Highgate Complex to ensure continuation of their SFSP site.

VI. ONGOING ACTIVITIES

1. Marshfield Community Supper - Menu planning and food preparation for weekly community supper.
Second Wednesday of the Month.

2. Waterbury Senior Center - Food preparation and service for Congregate Meal Site and Meals on Wheels.
Thursday mornings.

3. TEFAP Commodities Distribution - Assisting the VT Foodbank in commodities distribution in three counties.

Second week of alternate months.

Current Projects 6/27/96
SE Team

1) Farm to Family Food Coupons: soliciting and reviewing applications, distribution.

Locations and # of coupons:

Brattleboro -- 80 books of coupons

July 9 -- Brattleboro Drop-In Center: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Brattleboro Senior Center: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Brooks Memorial Library: 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

July 10 -- Westgate Housing Development: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wilmington and Jacksonville -- 40 books of coupons

July 2 -- Wilmington Town Hall: 8:00a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

July 3 -- Jacksonville Town Hall: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Putney -- 20 books of coupons

Referrals and distribution through Putney Cares, Putney Day Care, and Putney Central School.

All sites and dates will be advertised in the Brattleboro Reformer and The Deerfield News.

2) Gardens: planning, organizing, and manual labor.

Canal House (low-income housing in Bellows Falls)
Bellows Falls Community Garden
Rockingham Central Elementary School (Bellows Falls)
Westminster Central School
Springfield Community Garden
Norwich Community Garden--We are working on increasing community participation through multiple means.

In addition, a new garden at the VA Medical Center and Regional Office has been started in cooperation with a local master gardener, patients in and staff of the hospital. Funding is being provided by the Department of Psychiatry. Recipients of produce will include needy Vermont veterans as well as the hospital kitchen and cafeteria.

Finally, we are a liason facilitating distribution between the Southeast State Correctional Facility garden and various recipient groups.

3) *Springfield Summer Program*

"Summer Daze" is underway, providing a day camp and noon lunch for 110 local children ages 6-12. Funding is from a grant, SEVCA, registration fees, and donations.

4) *The Hunger Exhibit*

We are currently constructing backdrops in order to make this display mobile, as well as researching locations and events at which to share this portrayal of hunger in Vermont. Our next confirmed date is July 29 at the Regional Commissioner's Meeting, at which we have also been asked to do a presentation on our work.

5) *Documentation of the following completed projects:*

Early Education Services
Farmshare
Westminster Greenhouse Proposal
Westminster School Cooking Classes
Westminster School Kickoff Gardening Day
Martin Luther King Day

BAR: GLADSTONE
VT- ANTI-HUNGER

CORPS
PGS. 1 of 2

FX 802-241-2593
PL 800-360-2577

6) *Farmshare Cooking Classes*

3 classes at the participating CSAs for recipients of shares.

from
VAH C - Dhyana
Ph-802 463-1522

7) *Meal preparation -- Bugbee Senior Center, Norwich.*

8) *Volunteer recruitment -- Meals on Wheels, Windsor.*

9) *Food Pyramid Game*

Martha Leinoff of the White River Junction SEVCA office has requested that we construct this educational game.

South Main Street,
Waterbury, VT 05671-1801
Phone: (800) 360-2577
(802) 241-2577
Fax: (802) 241-2593



A project of the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity



Team USDA

News From The Corps

May 1996

Message from Bari

This year, the good news is that the National Service has been re-funded in a re-authorization bill supported by a group of Republicans and Democrats. The big change is that federal agencies, such as the USDA, are no longer able to be AmeriCorps project sponsors. This presents a great new opportunity for the VAHC and other anti-hunger corps across the country.

Recently, I met with the anti-hunger programs from Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Milwaukee, and Mississippi, and together we created a new, national Anti-Hunger Corps Program Consortium. We have applied to the Corporation for a grant that would fund all of our work for the next program year. The possibilities are exciting, and the potential to learn from each other and share resources is great. The final word on our funding comes in June.

Since we're thinking positively... Recruitment '96 is underway! We are looking forward to having new and returning members who may assume more leadership and new-member mentoring and support activities. Next year we will still have a 40 member program, but 6 of the total membership will be selected as Member Coordinators. Our vision is that returning members, will set personal and experiential goals they can pursue as part of their continued membership, either as Member Coordinators or Returning members. The Member Coordinators will have assigned leadership and program responsibility, will receive a slightly higher stipend, and will be geographically located with each team. There will be a separate selection process for Member Coordinators. Returning Members will have an edge, but will have to go through the more intensive interview process which will be open to all eligible applicants. Application materials and a job description for the Member Leader will be available after May 15th.

Project Warm Winter

Winter may be finally over, but we all witnessed how devastating a rough winter can be for lower-income people. You don't have to look hard to find the connection between hunger and the demands of staying warm throughout the season. One of the newest AmeriCorps and VISTA programs in the state is designed to address this issue -- Project Warm Winter. We contacted Avram Patt, OEO Director to get the following details:

Project Warm Winter is a one-year national service project that will deploy VISTA and AmeriCorps members throughout the state to work on a variety of energy-related projects. The project is co-sponsored by OEO and Rutland Community Programs. AmeriCorps members will be supervised by OEO and will be involved in direct service throughout the state.

Project Warm Winter will increase community support for local fuel assistance efforts; find ways to get free and low-cost firewood to people who need it; help set up community networks to make sure isolated and housebound Vermonters are warm; and make energy efficiency and energy-related health and safety improvements and repairs for people unable to get this work done themselves.

The VISTA portion of the program is already underway with 5 of the 6 people in place throughout the state. They are currently going through their training and orientation phase, and over the next year will be developing community-based energy assistance and weatherization alternatives.

AmeriCorps members will work full time from July through December 1996, in part implementing some of the programs VISTA is now exploring. Interested people can call Diane (1-800-360-2577) for information/ an application (the deadline is June 1.)

News From the Team Offices

May's Featured Project:

Old North End Garden Project

The Details:

VAHC Team and Members: Northwest — Johanna Ballinger, Shawn May, Catherine Elwert, Ron Hynes, Erica Gibson

Project Partner: The Family Room, Burlington

Project Type: Community Garden, Nutrition Education

by Johanna Ballinger

Here in the Northwest we are hoping that spring will decide to stay because we are starting many gardening projects! **Shawn, Catherine, Ron, Erica** and I are really excited about our Old North End gardening project. The project is with the Family Room, a parent/child center that operates out of the H.O. Wheeler School in Burlington. We'll be working with kids ages 1-4 years, teaching them about nutrition and gardening while their mothers work in their community garden. Ron will also be coordinating activities with the fathers group and possibly some combination field trips. We will also be discussing nutrition at three potlucks that will be attended by both groups.

Some of the activities we have done so far are making mini greenhouses with the kids using the pasta salad containers from our AmeriCorps conference in Montpelier! Way to recycle Cat and Shawn!! Ron and I made row markers with the kids to go on their mothers' garden plots. Some of the things we are doing are discussion provoking art projects, incorporating nutrition into pretend play and story time, and letting them discover the color, shape, texture and taste of different fruits and vegetables.

The Mother's Group is breaking ground on their garden April 20th and we will be doing activities in the garden in addition to the ones in the Family Room. The children will be transplanting the seedlings from their greenhouses into their very own garden space. Catherine has some great ideas for hands-on gardening activities including teaching which bugs help in the garden, all about worms and composting, helping the kids see how their plants are growing and, of course, playing in the dirt! There will also be gardening workshops for the mothers like companion planting, canning, and composting.

Cat is gathering the gardening curriculum and I am doing the nutrition component which we will give to the Family Room at the end of the project so the activities and the project can be sustainable. Now we are just hoping for sunshine and diving in!!

A Report From Our Resident Master Gardener

Elizabeth Keough, from the Northwest Team has been enrolled in the UVM Extension Master Gardening Training Program and has sent in the following report and offer of assistance:

As a lifelong grower/gardener, and now an aspiring Master Gardener, I find myself looking at our wonderful world of earth, water and garden-growing things somewhat differently. For one thing, my rose colored glasses have been replaced by a hand-held lens (magnifying glass.) This enables me to experience the teeming activity of the soil and close-up views of pests and disease on leaves.

The Master Gardening program is an academic endeavor comprised of a three-hour presentation each Tuesday evening from February 13th through May 14th. Each week there is a pre-assigned chapter with studies related to a specific subject (eg. Plant Disease: Identification & Control) There is also an expert presenter at each session. This all comes to us via Vermont Interactive Television System. Additionally, there are alumni Master Gardeners volunteering their services at each classroom location.

I personally paid \$80 for this training and will receive a \$40 rebate upon completion of both the training and 40 hours of community volunteer services related to gardening and approved by Peg Andrews, the Extension Regional Specialist. To maintain my Master Gardener designation, I'll have to volunteer another 40 hours of service annually.

The materials I'm studying and learning complete my gardening cycle of knowledge and give me an extended body of extremely useful information. For answers to your gardening-related questions which are associate with your VAHC work world, either contact the UVM Extension Hot Line at 1-800-639-2230, or contact me at the Northwest Team Office

Upcoming Events

Mark you calendars for the annual **Vermont Low-Income Advocacy Council retreat on June 19-21** at the Bethany Birches Retreat. All of you have been great about responding to the initial about who might be interested in going, and I'm happy to report that we only have one member who won't be able to join us on at least one of the days! I'm sure everyone is looking forward to doing at least one kitchen stint as well as participating in the other fun activities. Let's hear it for Catherine who will be organizing a composting workshop, Ali, Joyce and Shawn who will be planning activities for teens, and Dhyana and Rick who are working on a theatre activity. See you there.

Help Wanted

At this time, some of our best project resources are fellow Corps members who might have already worked out some of challenges we may be facing. This section will feature questions and requests for suggestions. If you have ideas that can help, please call the member listed as soon as possible! If you would like to submit a question, send or call them in to Nina Mandel in the Southwest Team Office by June 15th..

Does anyone have ideas on games to play with children in community gardens? Call Erica Lesniak, 362-0051

Has anyone found creative ways to address summer meal site transportation issues? Call Johanna Ballinger, 655-2851

From Shawn May in the Northwest Team: *"This is a request going out to any of you who have attempted to document a project. Early in my VAHC work I had a heck of a time trying to organize, document and track my project developments. I have developed some simple forms which help me document and organize the information surrounding my projects. If any of you have developed similar forms and/or ideas to simplify the documentation process, could you please share them with me? I plan to compile a "How to Document a Project" booklet including a complete list of things to include in a project report, master copies of any forms and other documenting ideas. If you have anything that you think would make this booklet more helpful, please send them to me. Thanks."*



Ask Bari

Have you encountered a challenge, quandary, or situation in your work that you think might be universal? Well, use this space to Ask Bari for a response that can be shared with the rest of the Corps. Please submit your questions to Bari directly, by June 15th in order to appear in the next newsletter.

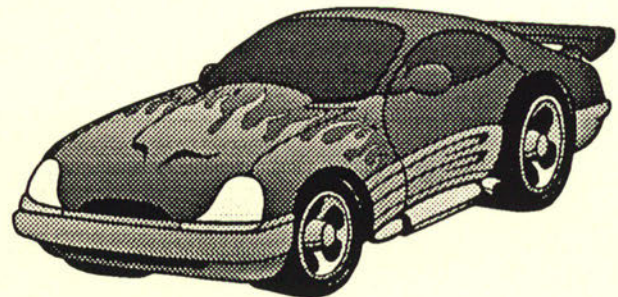
An actual reader asked... "Dear Bari, Could you clarify again what counts as an in-kind donation?"

In-kind is an obscure term, I think, that is really important for us to be able to document for our program's

continued success. We [VAHC members and staff] represent extra hands available to join the efforts of communities. The VAHC has no money to provide the "stuff" needed to carry out projects. So, if things such as food, nails, seeds, lumber, stamps, etc., and/or other people's time, services, etc., are needed for a project in which we [VAHC] are involved, then *that which is necessary and contributed to the successful operation of the project, except our time, should be documented as in-kind*. If we helped to fundraise for and/or with a program either for a project or for that program, then the money raised is counted as "in-kind" to us, not cash to us. [You might also review the yellow sheet in your manual titled, "The Official Guide to Inkind Form Documentation"] We are defining in-kind, for this program, as that which is given, donated, collected, arranged, raised, and/or contributed, to make the projects in which we participate, happen.

If it is an on-going community activity such as a holiday basket project, and our role is to help distribute and organize the food that is already donated or arranged, then that food is not documented as in-kind. If we had a role in helping to get the food donated, and then distributed it, then the donated food would be in-kind due to our involvement, and/or the fact that the food had to be generated specifically for the project and hadn't been prior to our involvement. So:

- 1) When in doubt, complete an In-Kind Form, please. If we don't think it applies, we won't count it.
- 2) If something has to be gotten because of, or as a result of our involvement in a project, then it would count as in-kind to the program.
- 3) If we are joining an existing effort, only those things which are related to our involvement (either because we generate them, or they have to be gotten in order for us to participate) would count as in-kind.



*****Ride Share Request*****

At the end of the program year, **Francheska Chalidze** is planning to drive to Anchorage, Alaska in order to settle there. She is looking for a person with a reliable car to drive with her. She notes that in the beginning of September, tourist season will probably be coming to an end. If you want to look for a job in Alaska, she will share with you advertisements from the Anchorage Daily News and other resources she has been gathering. If you are interested, please call Francheska at 658-6753.

ok

AmeriCorps *USA

USDA State Progress Report (CNS Grant No. 95ADFDC047)

1. Check this reporting period: O First X Second O Third O Fourth
(10/1-12/31) (1/1-3/31) (4/1-6/30) (7/1-9/30)

SECTION I - STATE INFORMATION

2. State: Vermont

3. Agency: Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps- Vermont State Office of Economic Opportunity

SECTION II - STATE CONTACT INFORMATION:

4. Contact Name: Bari Gladstone
 first middle last

5. Title: Program Director of the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps

6. Address: Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps
 c/ Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity
 103 South Main Street
 Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1801

7. Telephone number: 802-241-2577, [direct line]802-241-2575

8. Fax number: 802-241-2593

9. E-mail Address: not yet

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. list	re: SSNs [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (4 pages)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
AmeriCorps
General Files
OA/Box Number: 24240

FOLDER TITLE:

USDA/AmeriCorps - Clinton Library Copies - FY 96 4th Quarter Progress Reports -
VT-WA [Vermont - Washington] [2]

2013-0661-F
rc3040

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

10. MEMBER DATA

SITE ID: C50A
STATE: VT

SITE SUPERVISOR: BARI GLADSTONE
AGENCY/NAME: VERMONT ANTI-HUNGER CORPS
CITY: WATERBURY, VT 05671

PHONE: 802-241-2577
FAX: 802-241-2593

NO. OF MEMBERS ALLOCATED BY USDA: 40

MEMBER NAME	SSN	SER STAT	PGM STAT	TRT STAT	1ST RPT.	2ND RPT.	3RD RPT.	4TH RPT.	TOTAL TO DATE
Ames, Jennifer M.	(b)(6)	F	E	C	447	425			872
Ashton, Michael S.		F	A	A	327	548			875
Ballinger, Johanna M.		F	A	A	475	501			976
Bill, Deborah D.		F	A	A	390	496			886
Bodkins, Alexandra		F	A	A	460	550			1010
Brown, Samantha L.		F	E	C	0				0
Bush, Richard E.		F	A	A	474	532			1006
Cassan, Peter C.		F	E	C	146	0			0
Chalidze, Francheska N.		F	A	A	457	530			987

[002]

MEMBER DATA

SITE ID: C50A
STATE: VT

SITE SUPERVISOR: BARI GLADSTONE
AGENCY/NAME: VERMONT ANTI-HUNGER CORPS
CITY: WATERBURY, VT 05671

PHONE: 802-241-2577
FAX: 802-241-2593

NO. OF MEMBERS ALLOCATED BY USDA: 40

MEMBER NAME	SSN	SER STAT	PGM STAT	TRT STAT	1ST RPT.	2ND RPT.	3RD RPT.	4TH RPT.	TOTAL TO DATE
Elwert, Catherine	(b)(6)	F	A	A	472	525			997
Gibson, Erica		F	A	A	470	541			1011
Hall, Mary E.		F	A	A	480	508			988
Hemmings, Douglas C.		F	A	A	450	576			1026
Hicks, Allison K.		F	A	A	448	530			978
Howard, Lynne F.		F	E	C	131	0			0
Huard, Frank E.		F	A	A	452	530			982
Hynes, Rowan J.		F	A	A	466	546			1012
Iris, Suzanne D.		F	A	A	483	552			1035

4

MEMBER DATA

SITE ID: C50A
STATE: VT

SITE SUPERVISOR: BARI GLADSTONE
AGENCY/NAME: VERMONT ANTI-HUNGER CORPS
CITY: WATERBURY, VT 05671

PHONE: 802-241-2577
FAX: 802-241-2593

NO. OF MEMBERS ALLOCATED BY USDA: 40

MEMBER NAME	SSN	SER STAT	PGM STAT	TRT STAT	1ST RPT.	2ND RPT.	3RD RPT.	4TH RPT.	TOTAL TO DATE
Jessup, John P.	(b)(6)	F	A	A	469	523			992
Keough, Elizabeth J.		F	A	A	472	527			999
Lesniak, Erica L.		F	A	A	371	584			955
May, Shawn R.		F	A	A	470	522			992
McCarthy, Carol A.		F	E	C	439	0			439
Nelson, Robert I.		F	A	A	439	545			984
Palmer, Grace M.		F	E	C	0				0
Pearse, Margery S.		F	A	A	484	499			983
Petot, Julia G.		F	A	A	423	529			952

5

MEMBER DATA

SITE ID: C50A
STATE: VT

SITE SUPERVISOR: BARI GLADSTONE
AGENCY/NAME: VERMONT ANTI-HUNGER CORPS
CITY: WATERBURY, VT 05671

PHONE: 802-241-2577
FAX: 802-241-2593

NO. OF MEMBERS ALLOCATED BY USDA: 40

MEMBER NAME	SSN	SER STAT	PGM STAT	TRT STAT	1ST RPT.	2ND RPT.	3RD RPT.	4TH RPT.	TOTAL TO DATE
Rubdi, Victor W.	(b)(6)	F	A	A	146	470			616
Schechter, James A.		F	E	C	478	0			478
Smith, Brian R.		F	A	A	490	537			1027
Spencer, Gordon A.		F	E	C	241	497			738
St. Jean, Joyce A.		F	A	A	483	540			1023
Tanner, Jessica E.		F	A	A	483	513			996
Ward, Sue A.		F	A	A	246	550			796
Whitehall, Audrey A.		F	A	A	256	591			847
Willard, Erin E.		F	A	A	466	535			1001

6

MEMBER DATA

SITE ID: C50A

STATE: VT

SITE SUPERVISOR: BARI GLADSTONE

AGENCY/NAME: VERMONT ANTI-HUNGER CORPS

CITY: WATERBURY, VT 05671

PHONE: 802-241-2577

FAX: 802-241-2593

NO. OF MEMBERS ALLOCATED BY USDA: 40

Total Hours to Date: 29,736

No. of Members Allocated by USDA: 40

No. of Active Members Whose Enrollment Forms were received at USDA (not including terminations): 36

Enter the number of vacancies that you intend to fill in the next reporting period: 0

Enter the number of vacancies you intend to relinquish for the program year: 4

11.Total Number of Volunteers	1st Qtr. 491 vol.	2nd Qtr 464 vol.	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
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12.Total Number of Volunteer Hours	1st Qtr 2334 hrs	2nd Qtr 2394 hrs	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
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13. Progress Towards Accomplishing Original Community Service Objectives:

state	Op site	obj no.	PGM Code	Remain next year	Obj/Impact Statement	Year Qty target	Qty Unit of Measure	2nd Qtr Quantity	Year's Success Target	Success Unit of Measure	2nd Qtr Success
Vt	C50A	1	EN-E005	OK	Community Gardens Improved	10	gardens	0	500	number of people fed	0
Vt	C50A	1	EN-H035	OK *	Increased number of food shelves	15	shelves	1	300	number of people fed	just beginning
Vt	C50A	1	EN-H036	OK **	Improved food shelves	15	shelves	8	5000	number of people fed	900
Vt	C50A	2	EN-E005	OK	Develop school gardens	8	school gardens	0	400	number of children fed	0
Vt	C50A	2	EN-E006	OK	Increase participation in share holder community supported agriculture	50	families	263	200	number of people fed	605
Vt	C50A	2	EN-E005	OK	Involve correctional facilities in community food production	15000	pounds of food produced	0	100	number of people fed	0
Vt	C50A	3	EN-H015	OK	Nutrition Education***	500	people	1677	75% [375]	# of people with increased knowledge	75% [1257]
Vt	C50A	4	EN-H031	Delete	Develop new school breakfast sites	4	sites	0	100	number of children served	0

State	Op site	Obj no	PGM code	Remain next year	Obj Impact Statement	Year Qty target	Qty unit of measure	2nd Qtr Quantity	Year success target	Success unit of measure	2nd Qtr success
Vt	C50A	4	EN-H036	Delete	Improve home delivered meals program capacity	4	sites	5	550	number of people served	356
Vt	C50A	4	EN-H043	OK	Improve existing summer food sites	5	sites	0	100	number of children served	0
Vt	C50A	4	EN-H042	OK	Improve existing school breakfast sites	5	sites	4	750	additional children served	391
Vt	C50A	4	EN-H036	OK	Improve existing community meal sites	5	sites	6	2500	number of additional people served	788
Vt	C50A	4	EN-H040	OK	Develop new summer food sites	7****	sites	0	200	new children served	0
Vt	C50A		E007	new	Groups and/or individuals trained to create and maintain gardens	100	total people		75%	actually garden to harvest	
Vt	C50A		H004	new	Utilization of Farmer's markets increased	250	people receiving outreach		50%	increase in people buying at farmer's markets	
Vt	C50A		H016	new	Nutrition and food safety education and screening provided to senior citizens		seniors educated and screened		50%	seniors document increased knowledge	

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Vt	C50A			new	Nutrition , food preparation, and food safety education, life skills, provided to youth and adult offenders	50	at risk youth and adult offenders educated		50%	demonstrate increased knowledge and skills	
Vt	C50A		H025	new	Outreach on food purchasing groups and programs	100	people reached		75%	enroll in food purchasing groups or programs	
Vt	C50A		H032	new	Meals prepared and/or served at soup kitchens or homeless shelters	1000	meals		75%	programs express satisfaction with service	
Vt	C50A		H033	new	Food sorted at food bank and/or food shelves	3000	pounds of food sorted		1000	people fed	
Vt	C50A		H034	new	Food collected in food drives	2000	pounds of food collected		1000	people fed	
Vt	C50A		H038	new	Recruit volunteers for youth anti-hunger clubs	100	number of volunteers recruited		2200	hours of volunteer community service	
Vt	C50A		H009	new	Food rescue programs expanded	1000	additional pounds of food rescued		500	more people are fed with rescued food	

Changes for next year with current Objectives:

- * Objective EN-H035 reduce the target number from 15 new shelves to 5 new shelves
- ** Objective EN-H036 reduce the target number of food shelves improved from 15 to 10 shelves improved
- *** Objective EN-H015 Nutrition Education....we are adding several other more specific target groups
- **** Objective EN-H040 Develop new summer food sites, change the target quantity from 7 new sites to 4 new sites

14. Progress Towards Accomplishing Additional Community Service Objectives

State	Op Site	Obj no	PGM Code	Obj/ Impact statement	Year Qty Target	Qty unit of measure	2nd Qtr quantity	Year success target	Success Unit of measure	2nd Qtr Success	Notes
Vt	C50A		H023	Outreach provided on Commodity Supplemental Food Program	5	sites	6 sites	3000	people served	4961 people served	I didn't include this for next year because I'm not sure of the program future. Statewide there is a distribution problem that we were able to help solve.
Vt	C50A		H038	Recruit volunteers for youth anti-hunger clubs	20	youth volunteers recruited		100	hours of anti-hunger service by the youth		I didn't include this as a regular objective, because it is a really new initiative. We are doing presentations in all schools in the southwest two county region, and in half of the schools in the southeast two county region to determine interest, and opportunities with community service school programs.

15. Community Service Objectives Narrative:

Several project initiatives are being carried out, such as garden planning, and summer food program planning. There is a lot of activity, but less completed work to report in this format. We also found, surprisingly, that many of our regions food shelves, which we surveyed, didn't feel that they needed extra assistance at this time. We also are finding a reluctance to develop new food shelves, although we persevere.

Vermont does well with school meal participation, and so we have been doing a lot of collaborating with our Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, who has a specific grant to develop breakfast and summer food programs, but lacks the capacity our members offer.

Almost all of the projects we work on are developed by our members within the communities they serve. While that makes the process extremely community driven and responsive, it also makes for a slower start, and an inconsistent emphasis on the objectives depending on the interest expressed by the community.

16. Community Building Objectives Narrative:

We have discovered a wonderful phenomena in which individuals and groups who had some contact with our projects last year have "spread the word" and we are now finding interest in expansion for many of the activities we thought we minimally successful. An example is the community garden project developed with 3 residents of a low income housing complex. We tried to get more interest. We were told by the management company that the residents never did anything together, or joined any initiatives. This year, residents of this complex invited our new team to discuss a garden, and 25 families showed up to plan raised bed gardens. This project not only provided people with skills, knowledge and access to fresh produce and gardening self-sufficiency, but it also inspired a group of families who happened to live together, to act like a community.

17. AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives Narrative:

Last year we had several Members who obtained jobs in their areas of interest as a direct result of their service learning and experience. This year we are trying to be more deliberate in identifying member interests and providing opportunities as they fit in with our objectives, to build their professional and personal skills. For example, we currently have a member who was just accepted for medical school for this fall. She is working with the WIC program at the clinics learning about their health screening practices as well as providing nutrition information for both the children and parents while they wait.

18. Unique Successes or Great Stories:

Last year our southeast team joined the community of Springfield in creating a community garden. Springfield, Vermont is an economically poorer area due to loss of manufacturing businesses. The Vocational Center, the Family Center, scouts, residents from a low income housing complex nearby, the Chamber of Commerce, area businesses, us, etc. all joined together to create this new community opportunity and garden. One of the residents of the housing complex, became really excited by the garden opportunity and enthusiastically brought other residents. This year, as the town plans for this year's garden, with which we will have a small role, she has assumed a leadership role in its organization and is working with other residents in her housing complex to start a garden there as well. From this experience she has developed confidence, respect, knowledge and wonderful skills she had never realized before.

Section VI- Challenges

19. Difficulties Faced by the Program:

The vast majority of the members we have lost this year have reported to us that they were leaving because of money. They had some trouble managing on the living allowance, and had car problems and related expenses because, in part, of the great amount of travel they had in order to do their service. Even though the mileage reimbursement rate we pay for service-required travel is the commonly accepted rate, the wear and tear on the cars is significant. Last year we found the vans to be an expensive and inefficient way to provide service transportation. We are choosing to look at the travel expense both to the member and the program, as a way to address the costs to the member. Our plan includes developing more regional projects that consider the home base of the member. It is practical, but once again slows down the ability to plan ahead to a significant degree, as it requires us to know who the members are and where they live, well before the end of this year's program. A dilemma, but one we are working on by starting staggered recruitment activity now, as well as identifying potential projects and partners for next year now.

We have never been successful in recruiting a significant pool of applicants in the southwest region, and to a lesser extent, in the southeastern and northeastern regions, which are also the least populated regions of the state. We have begun planning and preliminary recruitment activities at the end of this quarter, and are developing specific recruitment plans for each of these regions, as opposed to the general recruitment plans of the last two years. We have one Team Leader with a small team, and she will take on the regionally specific planning and outreach.

20. National Identity Activities:

We are planning a "Tune Up for Green Up" event in conjunction with the Vermont Green Up program. We are planning three sites around the state to participate in numerous community clean-up efforts in collaboration with three interested communities. In one community, Canaan, a town on the Vermont Canada border, the school is closing for the day to collaborate, the Town government is involving the whole town, and there will be multi-age participation from clean-up work to refreshments and awards. The date is Friday April 19th.

Our members participated in a statewide conference with other AmeriCorps programs sponsored by our Governor's Commission.

21. Organizational Changes:

We have not made any this year so far, but we are looking at making significant changes for next year to cut administration and costs. We are also building our State Advisory group in membership and meeting consistency. They were helpful in reviewing our current program objectives. This year, with seed money from the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity, we have hired a person to lead the fundraising effort for our cash match, and to help us build a base of financial support.

[End of Report]

VAHC NORTHWEST TEAM
Project Development List
March 27, 1996

I. FOOD SAFETY NET (Food Resources and Food Assistance)

1. SARA HOLBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER HOLIDAY BASKETS

Planning, soliciting donations, matching recipients, and packing 200 food packages for Thanksgiving and an additional 400 food packages including gifts for the Channukah/Christmas/Kwanzaa holiday. The sustainable portion of this experience is that we are leaving an extensive "How To" manual for Sara Holbrook for next year's effort.

Status: Completed. Evaluation Completed. Final documentation being polished.
Point person: Erica Gibson
Planning group: Francheska Chalidze, Erica Gibson, Jack Jessup.
Workers/support: Johanna Ballinger, Catherine Elwert, Ron Hynes and Shawn May.

2. CHITTENDEN EMERGENCY FOODSHELF SUPPORT

**Substituting for student workers in the distribution room while they're gone for the holiday break. Wrapping Christmas/Channukah/Kwanzaa gifts for foodshelf recipients in need.*

** Constructing and supplying a children's playspace corner. We are also offering a six-month "maintenance contract" on the space while we train several volunteers to continue in this capacity in a more sustainable way.*

**Creating some training materials for future distribution room workers about certain special diets, and creating some brochures for non-English speaking foodshelf recipients who read Russian, Serbian and Vietnamese. These would list what items of information are necessary to make application to use the foodshelf.*

Status: All of these projects are completed, with the exception of the playspace "maintenance contract". Evaluations are being written currently.

Point persons: Elizabeth Keough for holiday project, Ron Hynes for childcare space, and Francheska for brochure translation and special diet information.

Workers: Entire team for holiday project, Elizabeth Keough for childcare space.

3. CVAA MEALS ON WHEELS RECIPIENT NUTRITIONAL INTAKE AND REFERRAL
(approved by Bari)

Working in the Champlain Valley to evaluate qualifications, nutritional behaviors and associated needs of elder recipients of Meals on Wheels. Ensuring sustainability of this project through partnering with UVM MSW internship program, as well as creating a file of all applicable intern possibilities for all greater Burlington colleges.

Status: Intakes are ongoing. Future intern replacements from the UVM BSW program are being interviewed and matched for Fall 1996. A timeline is being finalized for the creation of the intern file. This project of the portion will be completed before the end of the collegiate spring term.

Point person and member doing intakes: Elizabeth Keough
 Support for sustainable piece: Shawn May.

4. COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANCE

Helping CVOEO in all four counties with key distribution sites. We are working with all four counties to make the transition experienced by recipients due to the termination of this program as smooth as possible. We are doing more fact-finding at this stage, and expect to combine some survey techniques of recipients with some type of referral system.

Status: Ongoing through July 1996 (which is slated as the last distribution in the four county region).

Point person: Jack Jessup.

Members involved: Entire team.

5. WIC SUPPORT

This project involves helping WIC with their clinics: weighing infants, children and mothers under the age of 21, and taking hematocrits when appropriate. Other supporting projects include as prioritized:

**Setting up nutritionally sensitive waiting room activities for children and adults.*

** Procuring a rocking chair for breastfeeding mothers for the waiting room.*

**Assisting in a four county region with the Farm to Family program to do follow-up and compilation work on the 1995 pilots which included nutrition education components for the first time. This aspect may include us creating a Farmer's Market video or other curricular materials for use at the nutrition information sessions.*

** Providing language assistance for refugees.*

**Creating a post-partum weight-loss/nutrition class.*

Status: Erica and Catherine have completed their training and are doing unsupervised clinics. Planning meetings to accomplish the first two project priorities have been scheduled.

Point person: Erica Gibson.

Other member doing clinics: Catherine Elwert. Members interested in various aspects: Johanna Ballinger, Francheska Chalidze, Jack Jessup and Shawn May.

6. FOODSTAMP POSTERING in CHAMPLAIN VALLEY

This project would extend our work in this area last year for the Foodstamp Outreach workers of CVOEO. We would leave them with a better system for identifying which stores are good "hotspots" for outreach materials. We may develop an offshoot project from this involving re-visiting stores that don't carry foodstamps, but are interested, with technical assistance information and/or registration materials.

Status: Addison county's quota for the quarter has been met. We intend to complete the rest of the postering before the end of May.

Point person: Jack Jessup.

Other members: Ron Hynes, Erica Gibson, et al.

7. UTENSIL DRIVE

This project will involve collecting pots, pans and kitchen utensils from various

restaurants, housing cooperatives, and church and synagogue congregations and giving them to community partners Chittenden Emergency Foodshelf and Vermont Refugee Resettlement Center for further distribution to needy families and individuals.

Status: The groundwork for this project has been laid and we are awaiting approval from headquarters to go with it.

Point person: Shawn May.

Members involved: Jack Jessup, Catherine Elwert, Elizabeth Keough, and Francheska Chalidze.

Related Activities:

1. EXPANSION of S.H.A.R.E. PROGRAM in NORTHWEST VT.

Community organizing in Vergennes as a result of our Climate Survey work resulted in the creation of a new community organization, "SOAR", which accomplished as one of their first tasks the establishment of a new SHARE site. Joining with CVOEO/FGICA as a community partner, several members have done outreach in Franklin and Grand Isle counties to create interest around the potential establishment of another site in that region.

Status: This is an ongoing effort.

Involved members: Shawn May, Jack Jessup, Francheska Chalidze, et al.

2. ASSORTED TRAINING ACTIVITIES INCLUDING MEALS on WHEELS ASSISTANCE.

Status: Completed. Point person: Elizabeth Keough. Members: Entire Team.

3. FOOD DRIVES in ADDISON and WASHINGTON COUNTIES. Also: PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE in CHITTENDEN COUNTY.

Status: Completed. Members involved: Catherine Elwert, Johanna Ballinger et al.

4. REPAIRING CVAA FOODCART for SUMMER DISTRIBUTION to ELDERS.

Status: Investigating extent of repairs necessary. Members: Ron Hynes.

5. For MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY of DIRECT SERVICE: PAINT FOODSHELF FLOOR for ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION/CVOEO. ALSO CLEANED FOODSHELF.

Status: Completed. Members involved: Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, Jack Jessup, Erica Gibson, Shawn May and Johanna Ballinger.

II. SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (establishment and increased utilization)

1. SFSP IN FRANKLIN AND GRAND ISLE COUNTIES

A meeting of all interested parties is being convened by our members in partnership with CVOEO/FGICA on April 2nd. Our focus will be to ensure continued sustainability of the St. Albans SFSP, which we helped establish last summer. The site is sustainable in that the sponsor is interested in continuing sponsorship. However, we want to explore

the possibility of identifying/creating an indoor site for the kids to meet in in case of inclement weather. Also, the food supplier contract needs revision. We have also done some groundwork for the establishment of an SFSP in Swanton with key players, namely ASHA and the local elementary principal. We are also in contact with the Enosburg sponsor about possible assistance.

Status: Tacit approval, and fact-finding stage. Project worksheets being worked on. We have assisted in a mailing to convene interested parties.

Point person: Jack Jessup.

Members involved: Johanna Ballinger, Catherine Elwert and Francheska Chalidze.

Related Activities:

1. SFSP in CHITTENDEN and ADDISON COUNTIES

We have been involved in other SFSP efforts in various roles.

**In Addison County, we are considering an appropriate involvement for our team this year. We have resolved the "team member exclusion" issue with CVOEO/ACCA, and will be re-evaluating our position about assisting them with SFSP as the major county sponsor. We have networked with a home-schooling group in Orwell and provided them with technical assistance and referrals.*

**In Chittenden County, we have attended many of the organizational meetings with H.O. Wheeler school to ensure the sustainability of this program. Due to creative problem-solving and creative collaborating with the Burlington Parks and Rec. Dept. and the Boys and Girls Club under the auspices of the YMCA, we feel that our most appropriate involvement this year will be limited to outreach and nutrition education efforts. Beyond the greater Burlington area, we have explored the possible start-up of a program in Milton, and to date, do not have the critical mass of local interest mustered to sustain such an effort, although we have referred interested parties to VCECH for more info.*

Status: Still fact-finding and formulating project worksheets.

Involved members: Shawn May et al.

III. SCHOOL BREAKFAST (program creation or increased utilization)

1. COMMUNITY WIDE BREAKFAST PROMOTION with VCECH

This project is piggybacked with the Central team's version, and makes use of some of their groundwork (radio spot production, costume identification). It involves tabling at several public sites, including the YMCA, the foodshelf, grocery stores in the Old North End, etc., doing some PSA's on the importance of breakfast, surveying children to see where/what they eat (for) breakfast, and an in-school promotion during National Breakfast Week. The target schools include H.O. Wheeler, Lawrence Barnes and Burlington High School in Burlington's North End, as well as the Milton community.

Status: Completed. Undergoing evaluation.

Point person: Shawn May

Other team members involved: Johanna Ballinger, Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes and Jack Jessup.

IV. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

1. NORTHWEST STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY GARDEN

Partnering with CVOEO/FGICA, we will be working on several aspects of this program that we worked on last year, with a greater focus on long-term sustainability. We are soliciting seeds, seedlings and some supplies for the garden. We did create a new networking linkage with Mississquoi Valley Union Middle School's agriculture class to involve the students with the growing of many of the seedlings for the project. We also did some groundwork in helping establish an on-site well and irrigation system, as much produce was lost last summer to the drought.

**MARIGOLD FUNDRAISING PROJECT*

This is a sub-project of the NWSCF Garden. We are researching market strategies for the marigold seeds produced by the facility as a way to supply ongoing revenues to the project as a sustaining resource. The story behind this aspect of the project has great "human-interest" appeal.

Status: Tacit approval. Awaiting formal approval from headquarters. Further clarifying roles of VAHC and the Community Partner for the project.

Point person: Shawn May

Other interested/involved members: Francheska Chalidze, Cathering Elwert, Jack Jessup and Ron Hynes.

2. N.O.F.A. FARM SHARE PROGRAM (see Central Team's Project List)

Members have met with NOFA reps to be briefed on this project, and a tentative date has been set for the restaurant fundraising eve.

Status: Please eat at a participating restaurant tomorrow night!(Mar. 28)

Point person: Erica Gibson (Julie Petot for Central)

Members involved: Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, Ron Hynes and Jack Jessup.

3. NATIONAL GARDENING ASSOCIATION PRISON GARDEN CURRICULUM PILOT

Potentially using aspects of the Northwest State Correctional Facility Garden as a model, as well as California-based Catherine Sneed's work in this area. Piloting the project with different "classes" of offenders, from maximum security groups to parolees. Perhaps doing some of the groundwork/research needed to create initial curriculum as well. We had an exploratory meeting with the key partners and VAHC project director Bari Gladstone on Wed., Mar. 14 to further ascertain appropriate involvement in this project as a statewide organization. This meeting indicated additional direct partnership with the Dept. of Corrections Community School Superintendent to develop a food storage/preservation aspect to this project. The Northwest Team will potentially organize a Corps-wide effort in this project as directed by Bari.

Status: On hold until tasks/goals are further clarified by Community Partner and go-ahead is granted by Bari. No project worksheet to date.

Point person: Francheska Chalidze.

Members involved: Jack Jessup, Shawn May and possibly Ron Hynes.

4. OLD NORTH END GARDEN

Expanding on our involvement last year by creating curriculum for gardening activity workshops, nutritional education activities for children, and helping create a "father's group" as part of the participating family structure.

Status: Worksheet completed and to Bari for approval.

Point person: Shawn May.

Other involved members: Johanna Ballinger, Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, and Ron Hynes.

5. GLEANING PLANNING FOR CSA'S AND COMMUNITY GARDENS FOR FALL '96.

This is a follow-up of our completed fall '95 gleaning activity involving the Intervale CSA and several local Community Garden sites. The gleaning project will take this idea and plan it better, coordinating with CSA managers and Community Garden site managers and coordinators, so that the '96 effort will run smoothly.

Status: Fact-finding and project worksheet preparation.

Point persons: Johanna Ballinger and Catherine Elwert.

6. FARM-TO-FAMILY COUPON DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANCE (see #5 in part I.)

7. MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN SUPPORT

This project will explore ways of expanding the community garden portion of the ACCAG garden. Adult Basic Education seems interested in gardening, and we are targeting the Bosnian population that lives behind the garden site for more extensive participation to improve and strengthen community relations.

Status: Fact-finding and project worksheet preparation.

Interested members: Francheska Chalidze, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes.

8. FGI COMMUNITY GARDEN SUPPORT

This project is still in pre-formative exploratory phase. More info. later.

9. VALLEY VIEW REMINISCENCE PROJECT IN VERGENNES

This potential project involves gardening activities with the residents of Valley View, as well as doing a creative/documentation piece with the participants recording their food and agricultural memories.

Status: Investigation stage and working on project worksheet.

Point person: Elizabeth Keough.

Interested members: Francheska Chalidze and Ron Hynes.

10. WAKE ROBIN CONTAINER GARDENING

This project involves container gardening with the elderly residents of this congregate housing project.

Status: Investigation stage and working on project worksheet.

Point person: Elizabeth Keough.

Interested members: Erica Gibson and Jack Jessup.

Related Activities:

1. DIGGING IRRIGATION DITCH FOR THE INTERVALE FOUNDATION BERRY PROJECT

Status: Completed. Involvement: Entire Corps.

V. NUTRITION EDUCATION

1. LIFESKILLS for YO'S (approved by Bari)

Working with Ellen Sklar at Probation and Parole in the Dept. of Corrections in Burlington.

**Expanding and improving upon last year's team's nutrition education curriculum, and piloting with 2 (larger) groups of youthful offenders.*

**Creating a gardening component for YO's.*

Status: The first (nutrition pilot) is completed and being evaluated. The gardening component is being researched and a worksheet being developed.

Point person: Shawn May.

Members involved: Instructors: Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes and Shawn May. Curriculum Development: Johanna Ballinger and Elizabeth Keough.

Support: Jack Jessup.

2. OLD NORTH END FOOD PROJECT NUTRITION CURRICULUM REPLICATION AND PILOTING BEYOND BURLINGTON'S OLD NORTH END

This project involves doing nutrition education activities at various summer food service program sites, and finding a volunteer base to continue this work in the future. Possible sites are located in all four counties of the northwest region.

Status: Worksheet preparation stage. Several team members will be trained by Carolyn Sicama, nutritionist for NET affiliated with the Dept. of Health.

Point person: Johanna Ballinger.

VI. EMPOWERMENT

1. EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT OUTREACH AND PROMOTION

(directed by Bari)

After identifying where free tax assistance is available, we are now working to identify how much this has been advertised, who is not being served with the existing outreach, how to measure/quantify the numbers of people taking advantage of the EIC, and how we can fill in these gaps through poster, PSA production, door-to-door outreach, and interviewing various tax assistance groups. Information was also distributed at March commodities distribution.

Status: Completed poster, PSA's and other outreach. Making the last push before tax day, and then we will evaluate.

Point person: Jack Jessup.

Members involved: Entire team.

2. UVM FOODSHED COALITION to DEVELOP MODEL FOOD POLICY for VT. MUNICIPALITIES

Status: Team Leader Lisa Guccione has taken over the networking with this project. Members Francheska Chalidze and Elizabeth Keough attended the last meeting with her.

DIRECT SERVICE COMPLETED

1. NCCC ASSISTANCE in TRAILBUILDING for RIVERWALK TRAIL. (Catherine Elwert and Ron Hynes).
2. SERVICE DAYS with TEAMMEMBERS from OTHER TEAMS: ASSISTANCE for ELDERS at LENS in JOHNSON for the HOLIDAYS. (Entire Team)
3. For MLK DAY: CLEANED, SORTED AND ORGANIZED the STORAGE LOFT for THE VERMONT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CENTER. (Johanna Ballinger, Francheska Chalidze, Catherine Elwert, Erica Gibson, Ron Hynes, Jack Jessup and Elizabeth Keough).

VAHC CENTRAL TEAM
Project Development List
 March 12, 1996

I. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Lamoille Community Farm Center LCFC - Lamoille County

Assisting in the creation of two pilot gardening projects for the LCFC, a center for community supported agriculture, community gardening, agricultural arts and therapeutic and educational farm activities.

Update: The new Board of Directors has met and are currently discussing two garden initiatives. One is planned for Morrisville at the SRS building and will utilize the labor of teenage clients of SRS to fulfill their community service requirements. The produce from this garden would go to the local Puffer food shelf. The other garden is planned for the Hyde Park, LCFC property and would allow low income families referred from IFBS to use the garden in a therapeutic environment and to keep the produce. The Board is currently writing a grant to fund these gardens and will look to us for networking and gardening resources. They will not be notified of the grant until mid-April.

NOFA Farm Share Program - Orange, Lamoille, Washington

Expanding the '94-'95 Farm Share Program (which connects low-income families with local CSA farm produce shares) into the NW and SE regions, expanding the Central region fundraiser, and strengthening the nutrition education component required of the recipients.

Update: The entire team is currently contacting the 200 restaurants in the three counties, planning the publicity for the benefit and has developing the support materials needed to sustain this fundraiser into further years. The Share Our Harvest benefit is planned for Thursday, March 28. Members will then focus on revising the recipient process and planning the nutrition education component that will be required of each of the recipients.

Highgate Resident's Association Social Service Task Force - Community Gardening Project Washington County

Assisting in the creation of agricultural opportunities for individuals in the complex and teaching nutrition education through art to children enrolled in the Washington County Youth Services Bureau Highgate Project.

Update: The Highgate Property Management has approved construction of up to 12 units for container gardens, based on the FoodWorks model. Members are contacting individual residents and are planning the first resident participant meeting for March 14. Currently 22 units have expressed interest so investigations are underway to offer other, less labor intensive options for those who are not accepted for the large gardens. Members are collaborating with the Task Force to procure donations for the materials and have arranged technical assistance from FoodWorks, Master Gardener and 4-H. They are also beginning to plan the involvement of the Highgate kids, with the WCYSB. Both educational gardening activities and nutrition education inspired arts and crafts are being planned.

Duxbury Town Garden - Washington County

Beginning a garden venture at the State-owned Old Duxbury Farm. Labor may be provided by the Department of Corrections and produce will be grown for local food resources.

Update: The Duxbury Select Board has approved the use of space at the farm. Members are now coordinating the garden start up and will be contacting the Department of Corrections to explore work in the garden as an option for those who need to fulfill community service requirements. Members have met with two

1
local community garden organizers and are currently contacting the various community partners.

Morrisville Community Garden - Lamoille County

Beginning a community garden in Morrisville in collaboration with Central VT Community Action.

Update: CVCAC has published an interest survey in the local Morrisville newspaper and an interest survey was distributed at the March 4, Morrisville Commodities. Members are currently awaiting results of the interest survey, while working with Community Action to locate land.

FoodWorks Youth Waste Management Project (SCRAPPS/ The Wonderful World of Wiggles) - Orange, Washington Counties

Assisting in the post-survey of twelve classrooms participating in the FoodWorks indoor composting project in order to assess interest in and encourage the development of both indoor and outdoor classroom garden projects.

Update: The Member is currently in the second week of classroom visits and has developed a questionnaire addendum which will evaluate the various gardening interests of the classrooms. She is also working to develop various small scale gardening options which the classes can pursue with little technical assistance.

Laraway School Garden Project - Lamoille County

Following up with a successful garden project of last program year, Member's will assist the School Staff in strengthening the connections to the local community and identifying appropriate individual families for receipt of the garden produce.

Update: The Team Leader met with the Laraway Staff on March 12, to plan VAHC involvement. The School will be able to start up and maintain the garden through mid-June, when the semester ends. Central Team will be finding a community group who will be able to take over tending the garden for the summer months and will be finding an outlet for the produce.

II. NUTRITION EDUCATION

Central VT Council on Aging Healthy Living Wellness Program - Orange, Lamoille, Washington

Training Seniors to teach nutrition and exercise to seniors in Orange, Washington and Lamoille counties.

Update: The members have written an article to be published in the Silver Voice soliciting participants. The CoA is currently awaiting approval of funds from its Board of Directors to purchase the equipment for the exercise class.

Newport Town School Community Oven - Orleans County

Collaborating with the NE Team to build an outdoor, clay community oven in conjunction with the FoodWorks Common Roots Program in Newport. Incorporating the building and use of the oven with nutrition education and local history.

Update: Members have met with the Teachers and school board and have received approval. A core group of teachers have taken ownership of the project, including the art and social studies teacher. Members from the Central team have passed on information that has been researched for curriculum ideas to the teachers and will participate in the construction of the oven.

Highgate Resident's Association Social Service Task Force - Community Gardening Project Washington County
(See Above)

Northfield Senior Center Reminiscence Group - Washington County
(See Below)

VT Campaign To End Childhood Hunger Barre School Breakfast Promotion - Washington County
(See Below)

NOFA Farm Share Program - Orange, Lamoille, Washington
(See Above)

III. FOOD RESOURCES

Central VT Council on Aging Twin Valley Survey - Washington County

Outreach Project to inform seniors in the area about services available to them and to encourage the use of Meals on Wheels and the Plainfield Senior Center.

Update: Members are currently awaiting both the funding for mileage reimbursement and the survey questions from Council on Aging. They are evaluating the most effective outreach methods and beginning to make contact with the appropriate Senior Advocates in the Twinfield Area.

Northfield Senior Center Reminiscence Group - Washington County

Conducting weekly discussion groups with Northfield Seniors, following lunch. The discussion topics revolve around the agrarian history and traditions of Central Vermont. Efforts will be made to connect local youth to these discussion groups. This project will encourage broader participation at the congregate meal site.

Update: The discussion group is going smoothly although Members are not seeing the participation rates rise as they had hoped. A group of 30 students from the elementary school has visited and interest has been expressed at Norwich University. An article soliciting interest will be published in the Silver Voice and new connections being made with local Northfield Community groups will hopefully increase community interest in the project.

Roxbury Town Food Shelf - Washington County

Assisting the Roxbury Town Clerk and active community members in creating a town food shelf.

Update: The select board approved the Food shelf. Members researched "How To" information regarding food shelf start up and submitted it to the Town Clerk. They are currently awaiting a response.

VT Foodbank Agency Assistance - Orange, Lamoille, Washington Counties

Assisting agencies of the VT Foodbank in our three counties through provision of information and resources for food safety and nutrition education, addressing the physical needs, increasing the organization's food supply and assisting in volunteer recruiting and training.

Update: A letter has been written, offering VAHC assistance, which will be distributed through the

Foodbank to its agencies.

FOFA Farm Share Program - Orange, Lamoille, Washington
(See Above)

Duxbury Town Garden - Washington County
(See Above)

IV. SCHOOL BREAKFAST

VT Campaign To End Childhood Hunger Barre School Breakfast Promotion - Washington County
Collaborated with the CECH to conduct a City wide breakfast promotion in Barre.

Update: Events included a four week publicity series with local newspapers and radio stations and staffing tables at two local WIC clinics , a community event at the Berlin Mall and the local Howard's Market. A breakfast promotion event was also held in the Barre H.S.

V. SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

VT Campaign To End Childhood Hunger Summer Feeding Program Site Development - Washington, Lamoille
County

Collaborating with the CECH to contact the current SFP sponsors in the Central VT region to ensure that all are preparing to renew their sponsorship of the program. Team Members may also be working with the Barre City Schools, and the Barre Parks and Recreation Committee to begin an open SFP site at the Barre Municipal Recreation Area which adjoins the school. We may also be assisting in the identification of two SFP sites for the CECH/ FoodWorks grant gardens.

Update: Members have contacted the SFP sponsors at LENS in Lamoille County and they may decline to sponsor again this year. Planning meetings with the Barre School have been taking place. As Spring approaches we will be dedicating more time to this project.

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**Southwest Team Project Status
March 1996**

Underway:

**Southwest Council on Aging
Meals on Wheels Needs Assessments
Erica Lesniak & Jen Ames**

Members spend approximately 16 hours per week each conducting needs assessment in recipients' homes or (infrequently) over the phone. When they began, the SWCOA was behind approximately 300 assessments in Bennington and Rutland counties. To date, Erica and Jen have done 73. The information they collect is used to evaluate the appropriateness of services for each of the recipients and in some cases lead to referrals to advocates, changes in menus or referral to additional social service agencies.

**Area High Schools
High School Hunger Coalition Project
Erin Willard & Erica Lesniak**

Meetings have been held with eight area high schools and presentations have been scheduled with three, the rest are likely to follow shortly. Erin and Erica had their first presentation at Proctor High School to the Learn & Serve class, 20 students. They developed a curriculum for the presentations which includes a fact sheet about the project, hunger/poverty statistics, a budgeting and a community assessment exercise for the students, and a brainstorm session on what type of service opportunities are available. Two projects are likely at this time: one with Proctor and one with Burr & Burton High School.

**BROC
Purple Spaghetti Nutrition Education Workshops
Erica Lesniak & Erin Willard**

As part of Purple Spaghetti, and art and nutrition education program run by BROC, Erica and Erin are developing a workshop for kindergarten students. The theme is Native American foods and they are planning activities with blue corn products. There will also be follow-up activities that the kids can do at home. They will also be presenting the Food Groupies to Head Start classes.

**Head Start
Annual Conference
Erica Lesniak, Jen Ames, Erin Willard**

Working in partnership with one of the Head Start mothers, the members are developing a booth for the conference which deals with food budgeting.

Developing:

BROC and VNA Rutland Farmer's Market Gleaning Jen Ames

Jen has been doing preliminary research for the logistics of setting up the Gleaning Program which last year's team had been part of developing and which benefitted Rutland area senior housing residents. Our role is yet to be defined for this year; BROC and VNA seem to have things under control. We may possibly be active in volunteer recruitment.

UVM Extension, 4-H, VNA, BROC Forest Park Community Garden Jen Ames, Erica Lesniak, Erin Willard

Forest Park is a low-income housing development with a very active community center. This will be the first community garden they have had and UVM Extension and 4-H are taking the lead. Most likely our involvement will be in recruiting students from Rutland High School to work at the garden. There is the possibility of us helping BROC with the nutrition education piece and/or planning community events around the garden.

Manchester Interfaith Council, Burr & Burton Seminary High School Interfaith Garden Jen Ames, Erin Willard, Erica Lesniak

Working with the students we are exploring several possibilities for the garden including marketing it to people who utilize the food cupboard and cultivating a plot for the senior meal site, both of which are next door to the garden.

Southwest Council on Aging One-Day Service Project Jen Ames

In response to a need perceived during a needs assessment, Jen is exploring the possibility of a one-day project cleaning and fixing up the home of an older, disabled couple. The project could possibly include students from Rutland High School and may be replicated if successful.

VAHC NORTHEAST TEAM February Project Summary

Completed Projects

1. Kingdom Community Lunch--Caledonia County

The established coordinator continues to run the Wednesday meal; the site continues to feed an average of 40 people every Wednesday. Members have created a guide to be left at the site which includes the coordinator's job description, the role of the church and the role of the volunteers, along with guidelines for volunteer recruitment and management. Community Partners will be given Project Evaluations to complete as the final piece of this project. Meeting with Mike McCoy on March 1.

Status: Project Self-Sustaining

Coordinators: Mary Hall and Gordon Spencer

Members: Northeast Team as needed

Projects In Progress

1. Increasing School Meal Awareness/Participation--Barnet, Canaan and North Troy Schools.

Food Service Managers/Cooks in these schools networking with each other and VAHC members to increase participation in school breakfast and lunch program. Surveys have gone out to the parents, and two schools will return them to VAHC members by March 1. North Troy will return them during the first week of March. The surveys will be assessed and a plan will be devised to promote the meal with partners.

Status: Project approved, Project worksheet needs to be completed and signed off by community partners.

Coordinators: Jessica Tanner and Gordon Spencer

Members: Mary Hall, Northeast Team as needed

2. Earned Income Tax Credit and Tax Assistance--3 counties

Providing low income people with tax assistance and increasing awareness of the Earned Income Credit with a goal of teaching them how to do taxes for themselves next year. A list of Community Partners/Sites is attached. To date, members have assisted an average of 15 people per week with taxes. Three local radio stations agreed to air PSAs announcing this service, and posters and sign up sheets in various locations are posted.

Status: Project worksheet submitted and approved.

Coordinators: Sue Ward, Audrey Whitehill, Mary Hall

3. Sustainable Utensil Drive--Transitional Living Program, EFNEP--Caledonia County

Working with Youth Services and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program to identify sites willing to have a yearly utensil drive. Items collected will be used by youth in transition, families with young children and pregnant women. Members are currently revising letters to churches and the college, and are planning to use the Nutrition Fair in St. Johnsbury as the kick-off/drop-off site. A nutrition packet has been established that includes information on eating disorders to be distributed to youth involved in the Transitional Living Program. This packet is available to anyone interested and could be used at nutrition fairs or for other organizations.

Status: Project Worksheet to be submitted week of 3/4

Coordinator: Sue Ward

Members: Jessica Tanner, Mary Hall, Northeast Team as needed

4. Sterling College/Craftsbury Elementary Nutrition Education Program--Orleans County

Working with Cheryl Crytzer, a teacher at Craftsbury Elementary on nutrition education for 1st and 2nd grade students. Members have put together a Food Pyramid activity that they will be implementing on March 14th. Ms. Crytzer, with her banjo, will be joining in the fun to sing songs such as "The Moderation March" and "The Food Group Song". In the morning, several students will take a trip to the cafeteria at Sterling College to help prepare healthy snacks for their classmates. Members are planning to meet with Ms. Crytzer to go over the Project Worksheet and discuss what she would need to implement the nutrition education activity next year.

Status: Project worksheet draft submitted

Coordinators: Jessica Tanner and Gordon Spencer

Development Stage

1. Food Drive for the Canaan Food Shelf--Essex County

Identifying a group or organization that wants to help raise food for the Canaan food shelf. Wooden boxes to be used as permanent drop boxes in local markets were discovered at NEKCA. Members will be transporting them to Canaan. Member is also drafting letter for community partner to use asking for donations from Ethan Allen or Tempkin.

Status: Good Question

Coordinators: Gordon, Sue

2. Groton, Ryegate, Wells River Summer Feeding Program --Caledonia County

Facilitating and assisting the creation of a SFSP serving these areas. We are still looking for a community partner. Several community members have identified the need, but so far no one is interested in developing the project. Members are meeting on 2/29 to discuss options and set deadline. Will also discuss writing a newspaper article to drum up interest in Summer Food Service Programs and will include our phone number as an information source.

Status: Project Worksheet--on hold

Coordinator: Audrey Whitehill, Mary Hall

Members: Jessica

3. Newport Town School Community Oven--Orleans County

A meeting with the Principal, interested teachers, a board member and VAHC members is set for March 12. Members have brainstormed questions that may come up and are currently investigating possible clay sources through the Department of Natural Resources in Newport.

Status: Project Worksheet submitted?--To be signed off with community partner

Coordinator/Member: Gordon, Audrey

4. Food Resource List--3 Counties

A comprehensive list, broken down by county, of community meals, food shelves, and

congregate meal sites. The list includes days and hours open and other information needed to access the resource. An attached information sheet about SHARE, New England is also being developed. These resource lists will be used at the St. Johnsbury Nutrition Fair (community partner--UVM Extension). Plans for sharing this list with other organizations are underway.

Status: Project worksheet to be submitted week of 3/4.

Coordinator: Mary

5. ACAP Garden (AIDS Community Awareness Project)

VAHC will be working with an ACAP member to plant a garden on his personal property. He has been doing this regularly for several years, but this year he will be donating the vegetables to ACAP clients. Members will support him by finding donated rototiller use and putting together a list of vegetables that are high in vitamins important to people with AIDS. Additional support will be further explored at their next meeting.

Status: Project summary to be submitted, Worksheet to be developed at next meeting.

Coordinators: Jessica and Gordon

Investigation Stage

1. Community Garden--in Westfield/Lowell/Troy area. Signs have been posted to see if there is interest and so far we've gotten responses from 2 people. Member is investigating other ways to measure interest in that area. *No further progress.*

Status:

Coordinator: Gordon Spencer

2. Danville School Garden--Caledonia County

A Food Works/Jim Graves/AmeriCorps/student combined effort. VAHC members will be gardener mentors and activity planners (after being trained) for the school garden that will donate it's harvest to local food shelves and meals. This will be combined with a leadership program for the high school students. Food Works and Vocational Education teacher Jim Graves are looking into grant possibilities. Members will participate in about 200 hours of service through the Spring and Summer. An additional goal will be put together a garden activity training book.

Status: Project Worksheet to be prepared mid-March, once we meet with Food Works

3. Lyndonville Main Street Garden

Following up on this project from last year. At least three tenants are interested in continuing the garden this summer. An involved tenant from last year has set up a meeting for March 15. We will establish what support is needed, if any.

4. Community Garden to support Summer Food Program in Hardwick.

Meeting with interested partners from Hardwick Elementary, CECH, Food Works and NE team is set for March 11.

Completed Activities (February)

SHARE *Distribution Day

*List of potential warehouse sites compiled and investigated for Peter Kim

Team Nutrition Kick-Off Day at the Newport Town School

Danville and Canaan Food Shelf assistance, cleaning and moving. (2 days)

Current

1. Nutrition Fair at the Green Mountain Mall in St. Johnsbury

Working with UVM Extension on publicity, adult poster contest, and information booth.

Guidlines for the adult poster contest have been drawn up and placed at Rich's and Ames along with posters announcing the contest. Posters announcing the fair are ready to go. Several businesses with marquis in Danville, Lyndonville and St. Johnsbury are hanging up March Nutrition Month announcements. Several bookstores and video stores will be setting up nutrition/health displays. The Food Resources List will be used at the information booth. The Fair will possibly be the kick-off for the Utensil Drive as well.

Members: Jessica, Gordon, Mary, Audrey

2. Members will be attending a meeting at the United Church in Newport regarding the People Helping People Food Shelf. The volunteer manual created for the Wednesday Kingdom Community Lunch will be presented and they will be given a copy if food shelf volunteers find it useful.

3. SHARE Outreach

**SOUTHEAST TEAM
Project Development List
February 1996**

Projects In Progress

1. Agriculture

Westminster Center School Collaboration (Two projects/ one site)

We are continuing to work with the school on their gardening project and are focusing this year on expansion and sustainability. This is being done through working with teachers on applying for grants to build a greenhouse; presenting nutrition education and cooking workshops to the students, and inviting community members into the classroom to present area of expertise (as it relates to cooking, nutrition and community service.) The hope is to get the local high school involved in working with the elementary students on previously mentioned activities and to increase community involvement in the school.

Coordinators: Peggy, Victor, Brian (greenhouse)
Rick, Ali, Victor (classroom activities, community involvement)

N.O.F.A. Farm Share Program

This is a project that the Central Team originated last year. It connects low-income Vermonters with CSA* farm produce shares. This year it is expanding to the Southeast and Northwest regions. The Southeast team will be working on a fundraiser with the (hopeful) participation of restaurants and businesses in Windham and Windsor Counties.

Coordinators: Ali and Joyce
Team Support: Rick, Peggy, Dhyana, Brian, Victor

Springfield Community Garden

We will be involved in this project to lesser extent this year as the community partners are actively assuming leaderships positions. They have asked us to be on the garden committee and perhaps help to expand on what was done last year by establishing a community garden at the Westview Housing Development.

Coordinator: As yet undetermined.

Southeastern Vermont Correctional Facility Garden

The goal of the project this year will be to secure a driver from the community who will distribute vegetables during the harvest. We need a community partner from the Windsor area who will oversee the distribution component of this project well into its future in order to assure sustainability.

Coordinator: Victor and Brian

II. NUTRITION

Early Education Services Cooking and Nutrition Workshops

Early Ed. requested our return this year and we are providing cooking and nutrition workshops for women in recovery. The emphasis is on the preparation of healthy and affordable food and making mealtime enjoyable. Each workshop combines children and adult activities. Our goal, again, will be to figure out a way for Early Ed. to continue to offer these valuable workshops without our assistance.

Coordinators: Peggy, Joyce, Ali

Team Support: Rick with childcare when needed

Department of Corrections Lifeskills/Nutrition Workshops

This will be a new project wherein we'll be working with men who are in a court diversion program in Brattleboro. We will be developing a curriculum focusing on cooking and nutrition (similar to Early Ed. Project) education. Classes may also be conducted at the Windsor Facility.

Coordinators: Dhyana and Brian

Team Support: Peggy, Joyce, Rick- curriculum

III. FOOD RESOURCES/EMPOWERMENT

High School Hunger Coalitions

The purpose of this project is to link high school students with community programs in need of volunteers. It is also intended to empower students to develop their own projects to fight hunger on the local level. A workshop is being devised which will educate and help to motivate high school students.

Coordinators: Dhyana and Rick

Team Support: Brian and Ali

Springfield Family Center (SFC)

We are working with the SFC on improving upon old systems relating to data collection, food shelf records, and volunteer hours. If such improvements are not made the SFC director feels that it might be in danger of losing funds or not be able to handle an increase in demand for SFC services.

Coordinator: Brian

Upper Valley Meals on Wheels

We are working with the coordinators of three Meals on Wheels programs in the Upper Valley (Hartford, Windsor, and Hartland) on volunteer recruitment.

Coordinator: Victor

Our Place Drop-In Center

The food shelf director has been concerned about people in need but unaware of the services available through the drop-in center. We've helped increase awareness through distributing flyers at commodities and community meal sites. We're currently working on other ways of getting the word out regarding the Drop-In Center's services.

Coordinator: Joyce

Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC)

Team members are working on gathering information regarding where people can go for free tax assistance and will distribute the information throughout Southeastern Vermont. We'll also distribute flyers on EIC.

IV. SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Dothan Brook Elementary School

This school began their own (Unsubsidised) breakfast program recently. We are helping to find food sponsors and organizing a granola making day.

Coordinator: Victor

Team Support: Granola making day

Putney Central School Lunch Start-Up

The school asked us to assist in educating the residents of the town about the importance of school lunch as the voters will be asked to appropriate money from the town budget for school lunch. We are also identifying grants that may help fund the program if the town refuses.

Contact: Holly, Dhyana

V. SUMMER FOOD SERVICE

Summer Feeding Collaboration

We will be working with SEVCA outreach to assure that the same sites that had summer feeding programs last year will again this year. Also, we'll look at expansion into a few additional communities.

Coordinators: Peggy (Bratt), Brian (Springfield), Victor (Windsor, Hartford)

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The Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps

A project of the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity



Team USDA

Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps Newsletter March, 1996

Message from Bari

Greetings! I'm so excited about having this newsletter because now we have the opportunity to share important information and highlight successful projects, community efforts, and partnerships. This is a much needed resource for us to learn about the skills and knowledge within our own program membership and to stay in touch with our colleagues both within the VAHC and our community partner base.

Now that we are underway with projects around the state, it's time we start to really assess the impact we can have on the condition of hunger and community individual's ability to maximize resources.

Your mission is to go into your regional communities and join community efforts that we know help combat hunger such as food shelves, community meals, Meals-On-Wheels, school breakfast programs, summer food programs, SHARE, community supported agriculture shares, food buying clubs, WIC, food stamps, Earned Income Tax Credit refunds, commodities, community gardens, nutrition and food safety information and everything else. Your value as a member is in working alongside community partners, helping plan for the future, and involving those who are customers of services in efforts to improve or develop new resources. The goal is that the work you help to initiate and improve be able to continue after our service year is done.

We are all doing this, of course, because 1/5 of Vermont's population goes to food shelves around the state, and because the condition of hunger is unacceptable. Please continue to keep the values of excellence (do it well, thoughtfully, thoroughly) respect, collaboration, measurable change, building competence, and community in your service projects. Your Team. As one of the 20,000 AmeriCorps members around the country, you can, and are, making a difference. Isn't that great!

Welcome to the Premier Edition of the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps News

Ever wonder how a newsletter is born? Well for us, we wanted to address two issues: with the training period over, how can teams keep up on what is happening in other areas; and how can we communicate with all of our community partners, friends and loved ones to let them know what we were up to -- A Newsletter!

Even though this first newsletter was written primarily by Team Leaders and other VAHC staff, we strongly encourage everyone's input. One of our regular features will be an "Ask Bari" column in which you can ask, and get answers to, project-related questions. We would also like to feature project successes you might have, or creative solutions to project challenges that may help other members. If you would like to write an article, or have anything to share with the Corps, please submit it, typed, to Nina Mandel, SW Region. We would also like to create a Corps-wide task force to work on the newsletter. Interested? Any questions? Call Nina at 802-362-0051.

News From the Team Offices

CENTRAL REGION

Lisa Guccione writes: "The New Year is off to a good start for the seven-member Central Team. The first two months of 1996 have been sailing (or should we say skiing) rapidly by, and the activities and projects are unfolding as Spring approaches.

January and February have been full of special community events. Members participated in the annual Barre Farm Show. **Julie** helped out at the NOFA booth, **Allison** and **Deborah** promoted '5-A-Day' with the Health Department and **Bob** and **Doug** flipped over 1,000 pancakes topped with fresh Vermont produce for show-goers. In total, these four members peeled and passed out 40 lbs. of Vermont carrots!

February brought 'Hot and Steamy Valentine's Meals-On-Wheels delivery for L.E.N.S. in Johnson. Members also put in hours at the annual NOFA Winter Conference in Plainfield (and learned some great things at the same time!) and will help collect food for the VT Foodbank at the Knights of Columbus Winter Carnival in Barre. Also in conjunction with the Foodbank, members and their palates will have the opportunity of a lifetime when they assist at the Foodbank's annual fundraiser, the "Chef's Choice" banquet, at which Central Vermont restaurants prepare and donate their finest.

Members are also beginning to experience the successful first steps of projects. They have been busy coordinating the expansion of the NOFA Farm Share program into the NW and SE territories. A date has been set for March 28th for the second annual 'Share Our Harvest' benefit, which will raise money to buy CSA shares for low-income people. Write it in your calendars and dine out with us on Thursday, March 28th!

Also in the realm of sustainable agriculture comes an exciting project with 'Highgate' residents in Barre. Continuing a relationship forged by last year's team, Members will be facilitating the construction of 6 container gardens in the complex to produce fresh veggies for this low-income apartment complex.

March brings the Campaign to End Childhood Hunger breakfast promotion project in Barre to fruition, with school activities for national School Breakfast Week. The Northfield Senior Center Reminiscence Group will also continue in its efforts to promote lunch at the Senior Center. We will also be coordinating two TEFAP sites, building a community oven with the Newport elementary school and the NE Team and coordinating a Passover Food Drive in Montpelier.

So while Central Team has been busy, the hard work and patience of the Fall and Winter is beginning to be rewarded."

NORTHWEST REGION

"What's Up Down in the Valley?" asks **Laurie Larson**, the Northwest Team Leader. Well, this team has been pretty busy as she reports:

So far we have completed a major project involving assisting the Sara Holbrook Community Center with their holiday basket distribution. **Jack** has never seen so many turkeys in his car before or since and I am not referring to his teammates! The team is working

hard to finish up the sustainable piece which is a thorough documentation and "how-to" manual for the Center for next year's effort. The holidays and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day also brought a lot of direct service, including painting the foodshelf floor for CVOEO/Addison and cleaning and organizing the storage loft for the VT Refugee Resettlement Center. January drew to a close with the team coming together for a snowy evening potluck and network session with the greater Burlington area VISTA volunteers followed by a community theatre piece choreographed by David Dorfman and Dance Company at the Flynn.

With Groundhog's Day and Chinese New Year come and gone (Go Rats!), we find ourselves immersed in a few projects. We are following up on last year's nutrition education class for youth offenders with the Department of Correction's Probation and Parole. Two pairs of teachers (**Ron** and **Catherine**, and **Erica** and **Shawn**) will teach two classes of four to five sessions each. An awesome amount of material was researched in order to develop the curriculum for this Lifeskills class. We're also gearing up to work with several gardening projects, including partnering with the Northwest State Correctional Facility (procuring a well/irrigation system and start-up seedlings) and the National Gardening Association (researching and piloting their updated Prison Gardening Curriculum and potentially creating a food storage component.)

Many of the Members are involved in a Community-Wide Breakfast Promotion for the Old North End and Milton communities, modeled after the project the Central Team is doing in partnership with the VT Campaign to End Childhood Hunger. We are also following Central Team's lead in expanding the NOFA Farmshare project in Chittenden and Addison counties. **Elizabeth** is busy Master Gardening and doing nutritional intakes with elders for the Champlain Valley Area Agency on Aging, while others are doing WIC clinics while assessing the project needs of the Department of Health. **Johanna** will be dusting off the Food Groupies and taking a nutrition education show on the road to the eight or so summer feeding programs we'll be partnering with (in one capacity or another) this summer. We built and furnished a play space for visiting children of recipients of the Chittenden Emergency Foodshelf, and **Franceska** is overseeing the creation and translation of a brochure listing the items needed to register there for non-English speaking clients.

Well, that's about it. We know these projects will be fun and educational, and we're definitely Getting Things Done!!

SOUTHEAST REGION

olly Hammond, SE Team Leader asks:

How did it get to be March? Time is flying at an alarming rate and the Southeastern crew (**Ali, Rick, Joyce, Dhyana, Peggy, and Victor**) have been busy developing and implementing projects throughout our region. Some are a continuation of those we began last year and some are brand new. An example of a project we are continuing is the Early Education Services Cooking and Nutrition Workshops. Members are working with women and children enrolled in the Families in Recovery Program in Brattleboro on planning nutritious menus, budgeting food money, and preparing tasty meals. **Erica**, a member of the Southwest team, is assisting with the workshops.

An example of a new project is the development of High School Hunger Coalitions. Team members are gathering resources from all over the country and will be implementing a comprehensive workshop for high school students interested in working toward ending hunger in Southeastern Vermont. This project is similar in nature to one being implemented by the Southwest team, with whom we have been collaborating.

We've also been involved in several food drives. The most recent coming on the heels of a tragic fire in Bellows Falls which displaced twenty families. The fire occurred in the center of town -- the building right next to our office. The local food shelf was running low on food and asked for our assistance a week before the fire. Luckily the food drive was organized and the out-pouring of support from community residents was tremendous. With the food shelf well-stocked it was better equipped to assist the families displaced by the fire. We were not the only ones who helped. The whole town mobilized and immediately gathered clothing, toys, blankets, and furniture for the fire victims. This was an example of a community uniting to overcome adversity in a way that left many people moved, inspired and hopeful.

One of the highlights of 1996 (thus far) was the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday event. We collaborated with members of the African-American community of Brattleboro and conducted a reading marathon paying tribute to Dr. King's legacy. People read poetry, told stories, sang and danced for five hours at Everyone's Books in downtown Brattleboro. We simultaneously collected food for the Morningside Homeless Shelter.

As the winter turns to spring, we look forward to community gardening projects, warm weather, and eating lots of locally grown (organic) lettuce.

SOUTHWEST REGION

Don't call us small; we in the Southwest Team prefer to be called "streamlined." First having three, and now only two members may seem like a challenge to some, but to **Erin and Erica** it's the perfect opportunity to work on teamwork skills and show what an impact a few good ideas can have in any region.

We set the tone with two fundraising projects in collaboration with the Bennington County Meals Program this winter. The first one had us selling and making 4,000 holiday cookies, and in the second one, our organization of a Penny Drive helped raise money and awareness on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Our Meals-On-Wheels Needs Assessment project is underway and **Erica and Jen** made a big dent in the 300 assessments which need to be done. **Erin and Erica** have made their first presentation to 20 students at Proctor High School and have presentations lined up with other schools to help students get involved in hunger-related service in their communities. And, just so that the younger kids don't miss out on this duo's talents, they will also be developing and implementing a series of nutrition education workshops for Head Start and kindergarten classes. We are gearing up for community garden season and are making some great connections between gardens, high school students and senior meal programs. Finally, **Erin** will be coordinating a Passover Holiday Food Drive with three synagogues in our region.

Add to that all the meetings, workshops, research, and service projects and you'd have to say "Not too shabby for three members" but their Team Leader, **Nina Mandel**, is not surprised.

NORTHEAST REGION

As winter continues to affront us with cold, snowy weather up here in the Northeast Kingdom, the team members are busy working on a variety of projects. **Audrey, Mary and Sue** have embarked on their tax assistance tour of the NE, and will be spending time over the next two months helping people with their tax returns. Their goal is to have 45% of the people they assist feel confident enough to do their own next year. **Jessica and Gordon** have been plowing through nutrition education curriculum books and have come up with hands-on ideas for the 1st and 2nd graders at the Craftsbury Elementary School. Speaking of nutrition, March is National Nutrition Month. If anyone is in St. Johnsbury on March 23, come visit us at the Green Mountain Mall for the Nutrition Fair. Members are also looking to include local colleges, churches

and possibly senior meal sites in an ongoing Utensil Drive. Young people served by Youth Services in St. Johnsbury will use the measuring cups, mixing bowls, spatulas, etc. to learn life skills important to independent living.

For those of you who remember hearing about our Kingdom Community Lunch (we talked about it at our project worksheet training), we have good news to report. Members are wrapping that project up -- participation is up, weekly volunteer numbers are up, there is a coordinator in charge and a board to oversee the lunch! Some other interesting collaborations... With the Northeast Kingdom Initiative (another AmeriCorps program), the Area Agency on Aging, local schools and businesses, we commemorated the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday with a Penny and Bottle Drive. We raised over \$290.00 to go to AAA for fuel assistance, and more importantly, our drive inspired other community members to donate to the same fund. By the beginning of February, \$1,000 was raised!

Ask Bari

Have you encountered a challenge, quandary, or situation in your work that you think might be universal? Well, use this space to Ask Bari for a response that can be shared with the rest of the Corps. Please submit your questions to Bari directly, by April 15th in order to appear in the next newsletter.



What Are Your Plans For The National Day of Service?

You may have already heard news about Tune Up for Green Up Day which will be happening on April 23rd, the National Day of Service. VAHC will be teaming up with the Vermont Green Up folks and other community organizations, citizens, etc. to work on projects in three regions: Southeast, Central and Northeast Kingdom. We will also be inviting schools and organizations in all the regions to spearhead projects locally. The details are being hammered out, but it will definitely be a fun, probably grubby, day of service!

What's In A Name?

Our newsletter definitely needs a catchier name. If you have any ideas, why not enter our Name-It Contest? Entries will be judged by an international panel (sort-of) and the winner will get a terrific prize. Submit your entries to Nina Mandel by April 15th..

Congratulations to Erica Gibson, from the Northwest Team on getting into medical school!! How long do we have to wait before she can be our doctor?