

Town of Shaftsbury, Vermont



ANNUAL TOWN REPORT APPENDIX A
Community Appropriations Reports
For the Year Ending June 30, 2017

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SECTION 1 – Community Appropriations

Every year Vermont’s towns appropriate hundreds of thousands of dollars to support social service agencies that provide services to their communities. In FY17, Shaftsbury voters approved \$70,410 in spending to various social services providers:

COMMUNITY APPROPRIATIONS	
Benn. Free Library	16,000
John G. McCullough Library	10,000
Arlington Rescue Squad	7,000
VNA & Hospice of S.V.H.C.	5,225
Benn. Project Independence	4,560
Paran Recreations, Inc.	2,500
Shaftsbury Hist. Society	2,500
Turning Point Center of Bennington	2,500
Benn. Rescue Squad	2,000
WBTV	2,000
Grandview Cemetery Association	2,000
Habitat for Humanity	1,850
BROC	1,700
SWVT Council on Aging	1,100
Benn. Coalition Homeless	1,000
Benn. Free Clinic	1,000
Park McCullough House	1,000
Sunrise Family Resource Center	1,000
VT Ctr. for Independent Living	1,000
RSVP	950
Tutorial Center, Inc,	900
Bennington Little League	600
Center for Restorative Justice	600
Benn. County Conservation District	475
PAVE	450
VT Assoc. Blind/Vis. Imp.	300
Green Up Vermont	200
TOTAL COMMUNITY APPROPRIATIONS	70,410

Organizations that receive funds from Shaftsbury are asked to submit a report detailing how the funds were used, specifically citing how the funds benefited the citizens of Shaftsbury. Those reports make up this Town Report Supplement.

The Selectboard decides who may appear on the ballot requesting funds. But the actual appropriation of funds is decided by the voters.

Organizations that have previously received funds are asked to submit an application when they submit their previous year reports. First time applicants are generally required to submit a petition signed by 5% of voters (about 150), due in late January. An organization whose request is denied or modified by the Selectboard may also submit a 5% petition and appeal directly to the voters.

SECTION 2 – Informational Reports

BENNINGTON FREE LIBRARY

\$16,000

Basic computing skills and the ability to navigate the Internet are necessary for citizens to succeed in our 21st Century society. As more and more government agencies, businesses and employers require online access and minimal computing skills, the library continues to bridge the “Information Divide” by providing access to timely and relevant information and technology resources. One-on-one assistance in the use of computing and internet resources and personal devices to access library resources are also services we provide to fulfill this need.

Use of library collections and facilities remains high. In the past year, 48 Shaftsbury residents signed up for library cards, including 30 children. On average each week 1,481 people, many from Shaftsbury, visited the library to borrow reading, video and audio materials; to receive research assistance; to use high speed computers; to participate in story hours and workshops; to attend meetings; or to take advantage of free 24/7 wi-fi service and online database access.

The library offered 195 adult and children’s programs, attended by over 13,081 children and adults. Programs included Job Club, Yoga for adults, Vermont Health Connect Navigators Services, Summer Reading Program, story hours, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) training for school aged children and much more. 252 deliveries to day care centers placed books and literacy materials in possession of day care providers, children and their families.

Circulation remains high with over 78,000 print, audio, video and downloadable titles circulated in the past year. Training was provided to 3,379 individuals on the use of library computers and 20,692 hours of free computer/internet access logged. Our computing facilities are used for a wide variety of personal and professional reasons, including employment research and to apply

for employment, military or other benefits via the Internet, to search for critical health information, homework support, or for recreation and personal enrichment.

Expanded broadband and upgrades to our network has greatly increased our service capability. Membership in the Catamount Library Network provides Shaftsbury residents with direct access to library collections throughout the state, and the statewide courier service allows patrons to enjoy expedited delivery of materials borrowed from other libraries. The recently launched CLOVER (Collaborative Libraries Of VERmont) system allows library staff to efficiently search, request, track and return items borrowed for Shaftsbury patrons throughout the state and across the nation.

The library's Capital Improvement Plan is on track: Phase I replacement of the Main Street roof was completed in the fall of 2016. Fundraising to complete Phase II: replacing the 1936 Silver Street and 1865 connector roofs as well as upgrades to flooring and heating systems, has made significant progress.

The Bennington Free Library is a unique institution, supporting the life-long interests of a diverse community. Our success is due, in part, to the financial support received from the Town of Shaftsbury. Shaftsbury residents have been enthusiastic patrons of the library for many years, and with your support we will continue to provide the relevant and quality resources they deserve. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Respectfully submitted

Lynne Fonteneau McCann, Library Director

JOHN G. MCCULLOUGH FREE LIBRARY

\$10,000

As it has for nearly a century, the John G. McCullough Free Library continues to provide a variety of vital and enriching materials, resources, services and programs to the residents of Shaftsbury, North Bennington, Bennington and surrounding towns. The library schedule remains unchanged: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1:00- 8:00PM; Thursdays and Fridays 1:00- 6:00 PM and Saturdays from 10:00AM- 2:00PM. Our website, mcculloughlibrary.org, provides contact information, descriptions of upcoming events, access to our catalog and our research databases. Our monthly e-newsletter and Facebook page are great ways to keep up-to-date on library news and events as well.

Building on the community's positive response to increased programming for children over the past year, more programs for adults have been offered. More than 3,000 people of all ages attended programs at the library in 2016, and we are likely to exceed this rate by the end of 2017. More than 900 people participated in our Solar Eclipse Viewing Party in August. More than 60 children read more than 400 books as part of our Summer Reading Program. Our traveling

storytime programs with Hiland Hall School and Bennington County Head Start have continued. Our Librarians read stories for children and provided a craft at Shaftsbury Elementary School's Big Truck Night again this year.

With funding from the Friends of the Library group, the Library has joined Catamount Library Network, a consortium of sixteen Vermont libraries this year. This change has empowered patrons to more easily discover and request items held throughout the network. As a result, both circulation and interlibrary loan rates have increased dramatically. Our participation in a different statewide lending network has led to both increased access and increased demand for loans from other libraries.

The Friends of the Library have continued to generously volunteer their time to raise funds for materials, programs and services beyond what the library's operating budget can accommodate. Despite a basement flood in early July of this year, the Friends' Book & Bake Sale brought in just over \$8,000. Raffles and our ongoing book sale racks have raised additional funds. The Friends also helped maintain and beautify the Library building this year at a Spring Cleaning event. Volunteers from the Bennington Area United Way scraped and repainted the wooden railing on the access ramp this Fall.

A generous gift from the NorShaft Lions allowed us to refresh and improve the Large Print book collection to better serve those in our community with visual impairments.

The library's computer terminals and high-speed fiber optic internet access remain in high demand. Our public access terminals are often at capacity when we are open and we frequently observe community members accessing the network from outside the Library on their laptops and mobile devices when we are closed. In response to this demand, keeping our public access computers in good repair and replaced on a rotating basis remain priorities.

Digital services and information literacy instruction are an increasingly central component of library service. Patrons have free access to tens of thousands of e-books and e-audiobooks, free online courses, and high quality reference databases with their library account, but some are unsure of how to take advantage of these services. In response to this need, we now offer one-on-one help and small group instruction by appointment and during drop-in hours from 2:00-4:00 on Thursdays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennie Rozycki, Library Director

ARLINGTON RESCUE SQUAD

\$7,000

The Arlington Rescue Squad would like to once again thank the residents of Shaftsbury for their continued financial support through the generous Town appropriations. Town appropriations help the rescue squad remain financially solvent and provide us the means to respond to emergency calls 24 hours a day with a team of highly dedicated and trained emergency medical professionals.

Arlington Rescue responded to a total of 471 calls in 2016-17 ARSI fiscal year, 30 of those responding to a variety of medical emergencies in the Shaftsbury area. Not only does Arlington Rescue respond to medical emergencies and auto accidents in the North Shaftsbury area, but we are there to assist the Shaftsbury Fire Department with stand-by assistance for structure and/or brush fires.

With the generous support of our local communities, we have been able to do some long overdue building repairs and paving of our parking lot. We also needed to replace an aging ambulance that has been 3 years overdue to be replaced at a cost of over \$190,000 which will now need to be paid off over the next several years. The cost of new required EMS equipment and supplies keeps increasing and there is no way we would be able to continue providing our services without community financial support.

Moving toward the future, the Arlington Rescue Squad is not only looking to provide emergency medical services to the communities that we serve, but are looking to becoming more pro-active in our community with some new and exciting programs including a new Explorers Post program which will be the first EMS Explorers post in the state. Designed to teach important life and career skills to young people from all backgrounds through immersive career experiences and mentorship provided by ARSI, community and business leaders. This program will help equip young people with character, leadership and life skills that can be used both today and in their future careers. This program is a co-ed program open to all area youth ages 14-20. We are also looking at providing more training opportunities for the general public including CPR/AED and Basic First Aid.

Arlington Rescue has a dedicated mix of paid and volunteer staff that provide emergency medical coverage 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. We have a staff of 3 full time employees working Monday thru Friday from 6am – 6pm, and our volunteers provide coverage overnights and on weekends. All staff continually train and update their skills to provide the highest quality care available and they are dedicated to maintaining a high level of proficiency in the field of emergency medicine. Unfortunately, it is getting harder and harder to build and even maintain our volunteer ranks. The decline in volunteers is tied to changing work patterns, and perhaps a lower level of civic engagement — but it's also a reflection of the fact that EMS training is a lot more difficult now than it was years ago. We encourage anyone interested in volunteering in any capacity to contact us. There is nothing more rewarding than helping your neighbour in a time of need.

Finally, please remember that in order for emergency agencies to find you and your residence, house numbers must be clearly posted. If you have a long driveway, please have your numbers by the road. Number signs are still available at the rescue squad building.

The Arlington Rescue Squad non-emergency telephone number is 802-375-6589 between the hours of 6am – 6pm Monday thru Friday. In the event of an emergency dial 911.

Respectfully submitted

Marty Irion,

Executive Director

BENNINGTON AREA VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION AND HOSPICE

\$5,225

In 2016, the Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice (BAVNAH) provided Bennington County residents with exceptional home care, hospice and community health services. From infants with hi-tech needs to our most senior population facing end-of-life care, we continued to bring medically necessary healthcare wherever it is needed, location of residence, or complexity of health issues.

In the face of shrinking government and state reimbursements and rising healthcare costs, BAVNAH has continued to identify community needs and provide essential cost-effective health care services to some of Bennington County's most vulnerable individuals.

In 2016, VNA's dedicated staff made more than 142,884 visits to 3,459 patients. In the town of Shaftsbury, we provided 1,932 visits to 63 individuals.

In closing, we wish to thank you for your past support. With your vote of confidence, we will continue to meet our mission to enhance the quality of life of all we serve through comprehensive home and community health services.

Ronald J. Cioffi, Executive Director

Carrie Allen, President of the Board of Directors

BENNINGTON PROJECT INDEPENDENCE

\$4560

Bennington Project Independence (BPI) is honored to provide comprehensive, person-centered and cost-effective Adult Day Services for seniors, younger adults with disabilities and their family caregivers from Shaftsbury.

“Some days BPI is lifesaving. I don’t know if I would be able to continue being a caregiver 100% of the time without the break (him attending BPI). BPI is the one saving grace, so I can get other things done. The socialization is good for him. If I am not around he is a lot more outgoing, otherwise I am doing it all for him and myself. I can’t stress enough how loving and caring your staff are, they are beyond description.” A Shaftsbury Family Member

Each day, we are honored to have the opportunity to help families from Shaftsbury provide the best possible care for their loved ones. From the working spouse who needs to know that their loved one is safe and enjoying the opportunity to be active and engaged during the day to the adult child who wants to help their aging parent get the most out of their lives, Bennington Project Independence has helped families throughout Shaftsbury to “share the care”.

As an innovative alternative to traditional long term care, Bennington Project Independence provides a safe, sensitive and supportive day program for adults age 18 and older. Individuals join us during the day and return to their families and the comfort of their homes each evening.

Individuals facing delicate or chronic medical conditions who would benefit from health monitoring or personal care, persons dealing with loneliness, depression or anxiety, younger persons with acquired brain injury, persons facing end of life challenges well as persons with all stages of Alzheimer’s Disease or other cognitive impairment who benefit from compassionate, specialized assistance are all welcome at BPI.

Our Nursing and personal care staff, Social Worker, Art and Music Therapists work closely with our Participants, Families and their Physicians to enhance our Participants overall health and sense of wellbeing. Our dedicated Activity Professionals offer over 20 activities a day for people to choose from including educational presentations, mentally stimulating activities, opportunities for socialization, intergenerational experiences, pet visits, fitness groups, our nustep personal fitness training program, delicious and healthy meals, as well as community trips and tours.

In 2017, with our generous allocation from the voters of Shaftsbury we were able to provide four local families with support and comprehensive Adult Day Services that has been integral to helping their loved one remain in the community.

Bennington Project Independence is both honored to provide these exceptional Adult Day Services for the residents of Shaftsbury and extremely grateful for the generous and continued support from the voters of Shaftsbury.

Respectfully,

Linda Wichlac,

Executive Director

PARAN RECREATIONS

\$2500

Paran Recreations is an important resource for our community. We provide unique summer recreation and activities for children, teens and adults including nature programs, camps, boating, fishing, yoga, Zumba and entertainment. Starting 10/15 the board of Paran Rec, with the financial support of our generous community (especially the Norshaft Lions), built our new Lake House. Now fully operational, this wonderful new building increases the number of people we can serve and expands the type of activities we can offer. In addition, we are making increased effort to preserve the quality of the lake and its shoreline through work with the VT DEP, Lakes and Ponds program. As part of this effort we will increase our programming and environmental education especially for children and teens.

Describe how your organization serves the residents of the Town of Shaftsbury: Lake Paran connects the towns of North Bennington, Bennington and Shaftsbury. In addition to our regular patrons from Shaftsbury (about 1/3 of all guests) many of our paid summer staff (lifeguards and snack bar) are from Shaftsbury. We have also begun a youth internship program where younger teens can gain experience at the lake and prepare for regular jobs as they get older. Many of our special events also draw from Shaftsbury residents; patrons at our Independence Day, Penguin Plunge and Stone Skipping; customers for our concerts as well as bands and vendors. In addition, as protectors of the lake and shoreline, we enable those who hike, fish and boat with a beautiful, accessible and well maintained natural area right in our backyard.

If your organization receives an appropriation, how will the money be used: All of the funds we raise from Shaftsbury are used to support our core program: running the Lake House, hiring lifeguards and other essential staff, supporting camps for children and maintaining the property.

State the number of Shaftsbury residents served during the past year: 1378

SHAFTSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

\$2500

2017 was another year of change for the Shaftsbury Historical Society. We would like to thank all members (past and present), volunteers, and the town for being the true drivers of what happens at the society!

It is unfortunate that Barb Marino has stepped down from the Board to concentrate on other thing. Our secretary, Kathy Cardiff, also stepped down to focus on family and other obligations. Thank you both for your contributions to the society. We are in need of a new office assistant.

Our season started in April with an open house. In May, Tim Finney was recognized as Shaftsbury's forth 'Ordinary Hero'. This was a huge success with many ordinary heroes, as well as state representatives from the area, in attendance. Please nominate someone you feel is

deserving of this unique recognition and drop us a note and tell us why they should be Shaftsbury's next 'Ordinary Hero'. The Heritage Service at the Baptist Meeting House occurred on the Sunday before July 4th thanks to Ken Coonradt. In September, we had the largest Eagle Square tool collector in the world, Ted Hopkins working with Scott Link to present at 'Eagle Square Day'. This was a great tribute to the role Shaftsbury had in the building of America.

In a continuance with the strategic plan to get more community involvement in the Historical Society, Barb Marino, Ron Brunk and Ron Palmieri continued to make displays for the Shaftsbury Elementary School students to remind them of Shaftsbury's past. The Society feels these programs help build awareness of local history to the younger generation.

We are still looking at the 'plant' to determine what we can accomplish with our budget. We are going to apply for a 50% matching grant with the Vermont Preservation Trust to get estimates on the cost of fixing the homestead foundation. We have started to clean out the barn to store the Eagle Square contents. This is no small task with our operating budget but TAM has offered to assist in moving the material from Bernstein's to the Galusha Homestead. We will continue looking for grants to assist the society in maintaining the Galusha Homestead. We get about 20 percent of our operating budget from the town appropriation. Thank you!

There has been talk of adding regular monthly events at the Galusha Homestead. These could include a 'Tavern Night', community dinners, and other fun gatherings. There will be more to come with these ideas.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the passing of Shaftsbury Historical Societies founding member and long term Secretary, Ruth Levin. She was a true driver of the organization and will be missed.

As we finalize the events for 2018 our goal is to make the Shaftsbury Historical Society and the Governor Galusha Homestead something the town will be proud of. We enjoy being the stewards of Shaftsbury's history and are always looking for new ideas and volunteers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitchell R. Race,

President for the board

TURNING POINT CENTER OF BENNINGTON

\$2,500

No report submitted.

BENNINGTON RESCUE SQUAD

\$2,000

Bennington Rescue Squad funding has been moved from Community appropriations to a budget line time. See the Selectboard Report in the Town Report.

WBTN

\$2,000

No report submitted.

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

\$2,000

No report submitted.

BENNINGTON COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

\$1,850

Habitat for Humanity International, an organization aimed at eliminating sub-standard housing worldwide, works in nearly 1,400 communities across the U.S. and in approximately 70 countries and has helped 9.8 million people achieve strength, stability and independence through safe, decent and affordable shelter. Bennington County Habitat for Humanity (BCHfH), an affiliate of Habitat International, works in partnership with Bennington County residents who otherwise would not be able to become homeowners or afford needed home repairs.

An applicant's need for better housing, income, and willingness to partner with BCHfH are considered when choosing our homebuyer partners. Each adult partner family member must complete 200 hours of sweat equity. Homebuyers pay an interest free mortgage by monthly payments that include escrow for property taxes, insurance, and Homeowner Association fees, where applicable. Homebuyers' monthly payments never exceed more than 30% of their income. The monthly mortgage payments help build more homes.

BCHfH is locally run and locally funded. With the exception of some contract services, Habitat homes are built by local volunteers (all are welcome- no experience necessary). Area businesses, service providers, and individuals help build, donate materials, and provide financial support. Town appropriations purchase building supplies and materials for our local projects.

Fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017) was a very productive year for BCHfH. In April 2017 we completed our 22nd and 23rd homes, one in Manchester and one in Bennington. 204

volunteers worked a total of 5,165 hours on these homes. We began a partnership with the Building and Trades Division of the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center. Students in this program are building a house in our North Branch Street neighborhood in Bennington, which will be purchased by a Habitat homebuyer. In June we started the infrastructure work for our North Branch Street neighborhood. A dedicated crew of Habitat volunteers removed graffiti from the outside walls and worked on the parking lot of the Greater Bennington Interfaith Council Services' new building on Depot Street in Bennington. We chose our next Habitat homebuyer family, whose home was started in August 2017. We made plans to build a home in Manchester in 2018 and to revive our Home Repair Program, thereby serving more families.

Our Resale Store in Manchester sells, at reasonable prices, new and gently used furniture, building supplies, appliances, housewares, tools, and home improvement products that have been donated to us. The proceeds from the store provide meaningful support for our building program.

Two of our 23 homes are located in Shaftsbury, providing safe, affordable housing for two Shaftsbury families.

BROC COMMUNITY ACTION

\$1,700

To the Citizens of the Town of Shaftsbury,

On behalf of BROC Community Action and the thousands of people with low income or living in poverty that we serve in Rutland and Bennington counties, I want to personally thank you for supporting us through the balloting process last year. BROC Community Action continues to experience many people seeking our programs and services each day.

Over the past year, BROC Community Action has demonstrated strong community impact in the Town of Shaftsbury.

- 76 individuals were assisted and had their needs met including food at our Community Food Shelf, senior USDA Commodities, housing counseling, heating and utility assistance, forms assistance for benefits such as 3SqVT, budget counseling, case management, resource and referral and income tax preparation through our Community Services department,
- 7 homes/units were weatherized or had energy efficiency measures performed reducing energy costs through our Weatherization assistance program,
- 2 daycare home providers were partially reimbursed through our Child & Adult Care Food Program for serving USDA recommended meals and snacks to approximately 20 children in their care, and
- 4 individuals worked on starting a small business with our business counselor through our Micro Business Development Program

Despite the significant outcomes BROCC Community Action has achieved for the residents of the Town of Shaftsbury over the past year, there is still more work to do. People come to us cold, hungry, homeless, jobless or facing major health conditions every day. Your appropriation helps ease the struggle for more than 10,000 people who seek assistance from us each year as we meet the basic needs of their families and provide a path forward.

Respectfully, our appropriation request for the upcoming year is \$1,700.00.

We value our partnership with Shaftsbury to assist those most in need.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Donahue, CEO

SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

\$1,100

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to older adults who reside in Shaftsbury. The service period reported is from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017:

Senior Meals

SVCOA provided 676 home delivered meals in your community, through the Meals on Wheels program. In addition, 31 Shaftsbury older adults came together at a luncheon site located in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others. Through this site, 903 meals were served to older adults in your community.

Case Management Assistance

SVCOA case management staff helped 24 older adults in your community. A case manager works with an older adult, privately in the individual's home or at another agreed upon location. The case managers assess each person's specific situation in order to tailor a plan unique to that individual. Case managers will work with the older adult to identify their needs and discuss possible services available to address these areas. If the individual desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help older adults connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail older adults facing the possibility of long-term care placement who still wish to remain at home. . Options Counseling, which helps older adults create a long term care plan, was used by 3 individuals in your community.

Other Services and Support

SVCOA also provided a host of other services to support older adults in your community. These services included:

- 1) “Senior HelpLine” assistance at 1-800-642-5119. Our Senior HelpLine staff provide telephone support to older adults and others, who need information about available programs and community resources;
- 2) Medicare and health benefit counseling information and assistance through our State Health Insurance Program (SHIP);
- 3) Legal service assistance through the Vermont Senior Citizens Law Project;
- 4) Information about elder issues via the “60Plus” column appearing in the Rutland Herald;
- 5) Nutrition education and counseling services provided by SVCOA’s Registered Dietician;
- 6) Senior Companion support for frail, homebound older adults;
- 7) Outreach services to older adults dealing with mental health issues through our Elder Care Clinician. SVCOA cooperates with Rutland County Mental Health to provide this service;
- 8) Transportation assistance; and,
- 9) Caregiver support, information and respite to family members and others who are providing much needed help to older adults in need of assistance.

BENNINGTON COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

\$1,000

No report submitted.

BENNINGTON FREE CLINIC

\$1,000

(A Program of Greater Bennington Interfaith Community Services, Inc.)

The Bennington Free Clinic provides primary medical care to persons over the age of 18 who do not have health insurance or who cannot afford their health insurance premiums and co-pays. In addition to providing access to primary care practitioners, the Free Clinic provides laboratory and X-ray tests, pharmacy prescriptions, and referrals to medically necessary specialty care at no charge to patients. All patients are screened for eligibility for health insurance programs and assisted to apply as appropriate. Referrals are also made to local social service agencies as needed. Medical care at the Bennington Free Clinic is provided by volunteer physicians, nurse practitioners, and nurses, and lay-persons who live in the area. Off-site laboratory and X-ray services are provided on a contractual basis with Southwest Vermont Medical Center.

During the period from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, the Bennington Free Clinic provided services to 26 Shaftsbury residents. Of these, 13 were new visitors to the clinic, and 13 were

returning patients. Lab tests were ordered in 5 different instances. In 15 instances, patients were given stock medications or vouchers for free medications at local pharmacies. One patient was referred for specialty behavioral health care; one resident participated in smoking cessation services; and one was enrolled in the Ladies First program.

Also during that period, twenty-nine Shaftsbury residents met with an insurance Navigator to learn about health insurance through Vermont Health Connect. Of these, 22 signed up for health insurance, resulting in insurance coverage for 48 family members.

Residents seeking free medical care and those seeking assistance with health insurance applications are encouraged to call the clinic between 9 AM and 1 PM, Monday through Friday at 802 447 3700. We are now located at 121 Depot Street in Bennington.

Please feel welcome to call with any questions.

Sue Andrews, MPH, MPP

Executive Director

HISTORIC PARK MCCULLOUGH HOUSE ASSOCIATION

\$1,000

Park-McCullough House is a historic estate. We pride ourselves in our authenticity and community activities. In 2017, we had 500 locals tour the mansion free of charge on opening day, over other 1,000 visitors throughout the season, 9 croquet teams, 6 concerts and 5 happy couples celebrate their nuptials at the house. With all the antiques, original and having belonged to the Park and McCullough families we are a magical place for all.

Describe how your organization serves the residents of the Town of Shaftsbury:

Our organization serves the residents of Shaftsbury many ways. We host community events such as opening day with free tours and prizes for everyone and both theatre and concert performances. Our mansion is open weekly for historical tours so Vermonters of all ages can learn about the historical roots of their community. Our grounds are always open for picnicking, playing and walking for everyone.

If your organization receives an appropriation, how will the money be used:

We are raising money this year for two projects. 1) To renovate and build a new foundation for the play house on the property. We hope to be able to re-open the doors for kids to play in the house during open hours and at events. 2) To paint and refurbish the ceiling in the main hallway of the mansion. This is a focal part of the house and will benefit all visitors.

State the number of Shaftsbury residents served during the past year:

Our membership list includes 45 individuals, families, organizations and business with Shaftsbury addresses. In addition, we do not track visitor's addresses or zip code so we do not have an accurate record of the number of Shaftsbury folks who visit the museum. Also, we are the gateway to the one-mile walk and have again, no way of gaging the number of people who use the OMW for relaxation, solitude, exercise, animal walks or communes with nature.

SUNRISE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

\$1,000

No report submitted.

THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

\$1,000

The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL), a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, respectfully requests funding from the Town of Shaftsbury for our fiscal year 2018.

Annual support from over 140 cities and towns across the State helps VCIL assist Vermonters with disabilities achieve dignified and self-determined lives. VCIL works to serve individuals who can benefit from our direct services as well as to educate and inform members of the community about disability related issues and independent living. Direct services are available to residents of Shaftsbury in a number of ways. Peer counselors work with residents in their homes; small grants for adaptive equipment; Meals on Wheels for people under the age of 60; Home Access modifications; individual and systems advocacy and programs for youth.

Since 1979, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

Final numbers for our FY'17 (10/2016-9/2017) show VCIL responded to over 3,000 requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to 358 individuals to help increase their independent living skills and 13 peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted 165 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 84 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided 98

individuals with information on assistive technology; 45 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 534 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also now home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) which served 49 people and provided 22 peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our Peer Advocate Counselors and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont. Our Windham County office also houses the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (VIRS) (previously under the VT Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) and provides statewide interpreter referral services for sign language, spoken English and CART services for assignments in medical, legal, mental health, employment, educational, civil and recreational settings.

During FY '17, 7 residents of Shaftsbury received services from the following programs:

- Home Access Program (HAP) (2 homes scheduled for modifications in December-our FY'18)
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)
- Peer Advocacy Counseling Program (PAC)
- Information Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at:

1-800-639-1522, or, visit our web site at www.vcil.org.

Sincerely,

Sarah Launderville

Executive Director

GREEN MOUNTAIN RSVP

\$950

Green Mountain RSVP connects volunteers 55 and older to volunteer opportunities at nonprofit organizations with a positive impact to the towns within Bennington, Windsor, and Windham Counties. We are sponsored by the Southwestern VT Council on Aging (SVCOA).

As part of our Healthy Living focus, we partner with some of the following volunteer stations: Meals on Wheels providers, transportation programs, Food Pantries, The American Red Cross, AARP/VITA Tax Programs, Bone Builder Exercise classes, and mentor programs in local schools. We also partner with many other nonprofits, like senior meal sites, hospitals, museums, libraries, and knitting projects. We shared donations from our “Stuff the Bus” food drive in January with the Carpenter’s Shop food pantry. We also have an active Bone Builder class which meets twice a week at The Shaftsbury Methodist Church.

We provide annual recognition and social events for volunteers. We issue a bi-monthly newsletter in each county. We help support nonprofits with background checks and liability insurance for RSVP volunteers

The total number of people served last year in the towns we cover was 2754. Broken down by our impact jobs it is: Food Delivery – 125, Bone Builders- 646, Transportation- 529, Mentoring - 26, AARP TaxAide- 895, and Food Pantry Support – 533. We also support additional nonprofit organizations, but do not collect data on those people served. Going forward we will focus on the same impact jobs, with a focus on seniors and letting them age in place. We utilize an independent living survey to collect data for performance measures which we report annually to CNCS.

Your Town’s funds are essential for us to continue to support and develop programs for seniors who wish to volunteer. Our staff and administrative costs are covered by federal funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) – Senior Corps. Your partnership within the Shaftsbury community can truly make a difference for Bennington County with local volunteers helping their neighbors.

Respectfully,

Cathy Aliberti

Green Mountain RSVP Director

THE TUTORIAL CENTER

\$900

2017 will mark The Tutorial Center’s 47th year of helping the region’s children and adults achieve educational, career, and life success! Please accept our thank you for your many years of

support for our work. Your support enables us to help EVERY child or adult who comes to us for help.

The Tutorial Center has long-established learning centers in both Bennington and Manchester, enabling Shaftsbury residents to have easy access to our assistance.

Our educational support services include tutoring for all ages, adult literacy, dropout prevention, alternative high school education, English language classes for non-English speakers, the High School Completion program, GED preparation and testing, job readiness training, enrichment classes, the Northshire Digital Arts Center, and our innovative and nationally-recognized YAP experience for at-risk young adults.

The Tutorial Center's work is recognized both nationally and internationally. Our Executive Director has recently been a U.S. Delegate to the Social Enterprise World Forum in Hong Kong, where he shared The Tutorial Center's history and role in the community as a model for communities around the globe.

This past year, we provided tutoring for **191 school-age students**, in subjects ranging from beginning reading to algebra, calculus, technology, and foreign languages.

Another 147 adults were enrolled in our free adult education services, including **13 Shaftsbury adults** who received over 300 hours of free instruction. 2 Shaftsbury adults succeeded in earning their high school diploma during this year!

We continued in 2017 to operate at no charge to the community the YAP Food Network, our area food hub that links local farmers and food producers to local customers. The YAP Food Network provides special work experiences for young adults and is one way The Tutorial Center "gives back" to our region: to date, local farmers have sold over \$100,000 of their food products through the Network.

For more information on the YAP project and all of The Tutorial Center's educational services, you can visit www.tutoringvermont.org.

High-quality educational activities that respond to community needs – and produce lasting community impacts – this is what your town funding supports. We thank you, and we look forward to your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Glade, Executive Director

BENNINGTON LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

\$600

With the 2017 season behind us, I am happy to report another successful season of play. With a roster of over 250 children in ages ranging from 5 through 12, we are one of the largest sport organizations in southern Vermont. We are proud to say that we are currently operating with 21 teams with hopes to expand next season, especially in our t ball program. As is true every year, we have made improvements in both facilities and quality of service. This would not be possible without access to our remote fields in North Bennington and Shaftsbury. Howard Park is a valuable asset to our league not only for game time but also affording us more opportunity to practice and teach our young players.

As some of you know, and I have learned through my many years of operating this league, baseball diamonds are one of the highest maintenance facilities in sports. It is because of this that I write the citizens of the Town of Shaftsbury for your continued support. Since we would like to continue in the tradition of utilizing the Howard Park field, as well as offering the children of Shaftsbury a great baseball experience, we ask for your consideration in financial assistance.

Fortunately, thanks in part to your donations, we were able to install a brand new infield with new sod, and clay during the 2016 season. This year was our first using it in a full complement of games and practices. The players and parents alike love playing at this location with its beautiful back drop, and now a great infield without dangerous “lips” creating unusual bounces, as well as clay that doesn’t turn to concrete in the summer sun.

We would like to thank the people of Shaftsbury for their consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoffrey M. Metcalfe, President
Bennington Little League

CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (CRJ)

\$600

This past year, the Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ) experienced a year of growth and success. A total of 1,162 individuals served through CRJ programs made positive impacts on their lives, the lives of others and their community. Over \$6,500 was donated back to community organizations and charities and over \$9,000 in restitution was collected and given back to victims of crime.

CRJ programs are integral in helping to strengthen communities, reducing the burden on a strapped court system, providing victims a voice in the process, and providing individuals with resources and skills to help from reoffending.

CRJ programs are guided by the principles of restorative justice, which holds offenders accountable and places emphasis on repairing the harm done to the victim and community. Our range of programs begins in the schools working with students to address attendance and behavioral issues. From our work in schools, we then focus our programming on youth and adults who may have found themselves involved in the court system for the first time. Involvement could include civil violations, first time charges in Criminal Court or juveniles adjudicated in Family Court. Our program continuum then focuses on helping youth and adults who have more significant involvement with the criminal justice system including working with people on probation as well as with those reentering the community from incarceration. We invite and encourage people to visit our web site at www.bcrj.org to learn more about our many programs and services.

CRJ is proud to have 46 community volunteers serving on one of 8 monthly restorative justice panels. Community volunteers represent the heart of the restorative process. CRJ attempts to have volunteers representing all parts of Bennington County on our restorative panels. We are always welcoming new volunteers and encourage anyone interested in getting involved to visit our web site for more information.

CRJ would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Shaftsbury for your partnership in providing a wide variety of alternative justice programming to residents throughout Bennington County. Your support has helped individuals to get their lives on the right track, helped empower victims to get their needs met and be a voice in the justice process, and helped restore and strengthen communities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leitha Cipriano,

Executive Director

BENNINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (BCCD)

\$475

The mission of the BCCD is to promote rural livelihoods and protect natural resources in southwestern Vermont. Our work in fiscal year 2017 included:

Helping loggers comply with the state's Accepted Management Practices by renting skidder bridges to them at a low monthly cost.

Planning for and holding three workshops for forest landowners sponsored by the Bennington County Sustainable Forest Consortium.

Implementing a project to restore a gully discharging to Mill Brook in Rupert, with help from the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps.

With help from the Bennington and N. Bennington public works and roads crews, constructing a boardwalk for floater access in the Greenberg Headwaters Park in Bennington.

Securing funding to assess forest roads in the Mettowee watershed in Rupert and Dorset as to threats they might pose to water quality.

Securing funding to purchase a bedding chopper for the Bennington road crew.

With the help of a grant-funded coordinator, implementing the work plan for the Batten Kill Watershed Comprehensive Invasive Species Management Association (CISMA), which included treating almost 30 acres of barberry and more than 4 acres of Japanese knotweed on sites in the Batten Kill watershed.

Assisting the CISMA steering committee secure an EcoAmericorps intern for September 2017-August 2018.

Working closely with USFS Green Mountain National Forest, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, our regional planning commission, many municipalities, and several local and regional non-profit organizations to further our congruent missions.

Respectfully submitted by

Shelly Stiles,

District Manager

PROJECT AGAINST VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS

\$450

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) is committed to providing compassionate support, practical services and the pathway to healing and safety for countless victims of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout Bennington County. Our organization has grown from a crisis hotline to the multiple and comprehensive support services we now provide. These services include 24 hour hotline, court and social service advocacy, case management, emergency financial assistance, access to legal services, access to emergency housing, supervised visitation, parenting classes, community awareness, school –based prevention education and more.

The hotline is still where it often begins and our volunteers remain the backbone of the support we offer. In the past year, we provided thirty-one Shaftsbury residents with comprehensive services, twenty initially contacting us through the emergency hotline. These residents received advocacy services including emotional support, safety planning, housing services, civil and legal advocacy. In addition, 17 families received supervised visitation services through our Family Time Center.

Domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families. Our emergency shelter program provides families with short-term housing and case management services with the goal of obtaining safe permanent housing. Over the past year, we provided 57 adults and 41 children with 3,135 nights of shelter services.

To stop the generational cycle of abuse, we must start early and invest in prevention strategies that provide healthy parent-child relationships, friendships and dating relationships. Through our education and empowerment programs -pre-kindergarten to college; Nurturing Parenting classes; Women's Support Groups; Healthy Mind, Body and Family workshops and Financial Literacy Program , we helped over 4,500 children, teachers and other adults learn new skills and techniques.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and families served, I thank the residents of Shaftsbury for your ongoing support to PAVE. Your support creates greater opportunities for the people impacted by domestic and/or sexual violence who need our services each year.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Campbell, Executive Director

VERMONT ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (VABVI)
\$300

Report of Services for Town of Shaftsbury

In our 2017 Fiscal Year we served more clients than ever before. VABVI will play a critical role in the lives of many Vermonters well into the future.

PALS (Peer Assisted Learning and Support) Groups

PALS Groups are held in 14 counties throughout the state, where members meet each month to discuss the practical, social and emotional challenges of vision loss. They also share coping strategies with each other on how maintain their independence. This past year, PALS Groups held events such as Dining in the Dark and Bowling in the Dark where they raised over \$1,000 and awareness for VABVI's services.

HAPI (Helping Adolescents Prepare for Independence)

The HAPI program enables Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs) and Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapists (CVRTs) to work one-on-one with students to practice daily living skills. The transition aged student will be able to improve their abilities to complete many day to day activities such as, preparing and cooking meals, shopping independently at the grocery store, organizing, matching and washing clothes, cleaning in the home, managing finances, exploring careers and so much more.

IRLE Summer Camp (Intensive Residential Life Experience)

This summer, VABVI brought the students sailing on Lake Champlain and they learned how to steer a sail boat for the first time. Students also went bowling, and for many it was their very first experience! While staying at University of Vermont, students explored career options by interviewing various UVM staff and inquiring about their roles. IRLE participants also had the opportunity to practice their independent living skills away from home, and establish new friendships with others through group challenges and activities.

During Fiscal Year 2017, VABVI served 1,731 clients from all 14 counties in Vermont, including 3 adults and 1 student in Shaftsbury and 44 adults and 13 students in Bennington County.

Founded in 1926 with the assistance of Helen Keller, VABVI's mission is to enable blind and visually impaired Vermonters to achieve and maintain independence. We serve people with vision loss from birth to end of life. We provide services free-of-charge to our clients of all ages in each of Vermont's 14 counties. We are the only private non-profit organization in the state to provide comprehensive support and services to the growing population of visually impaired Vermonters. VABVI empowers our adult clients to make the living and care choices that work best for them individually including the option to continue living independently. For every dollar we spend 91 cents goes directly to our client services.

The number of clients we serve has increased by 65% in the last 12 years. In fiscal year 2017, we served over 1,250 adults (a minimum of 12.3% are on Medicaid). There are an estimated 13,000 Vermonters who are currently blind or visually impaired. As the "Baby Boomer" generation ages this number is expected to increase to at least 25,000 by 2030. We estimate that by 2020 we will be serving a minimum of 1,550 adult clients. People are living longer and longer so we anticipate that the increase in demand for our services will continue well into the future. As a result, our neighbors, family and friends are among those who may be coping with vision loss.

During Fiscal Year 2017, VABVI served 1,731 clients from all 14 counties in Vermont, including 3 adults and 1 student in Shaftsbury and 44 adults and 13 students in Bennington County.

Adult Services – The most common causes of age-related vision loss are macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts and diabetic retinopathy. Early diagnosis and adaptive training can make all the difference in allowing those affected to continue to live active and independent lives. VABVI

staff work with clients in their homes providing rehabilitation and support services. These services include medication management, personal finances, daily living including cooking and cleaning, personal hygiene and mobility and orientation training.

Approximately 20% or more of our clients express initial concerns that they might have to leave their current living situation. However, upon completion of our services 98% of these concerned individuals are confident in their ability to live independently and continue to lead fulfilling lives regardless of their vision loss.

For more information about VABVI's services, or to volunteer, please contact Katie Shappy at (800) 639-5861 ext. 219, or at kshappy@vabvi.org or visit us our website at www.vabvi.org.

MARTHA CANFIELD LIBRARY (denied)

\$2,500

The Martha Canfield library is a free library – we do not charge for membership, overdue book fines, or any of the services/programs that we offer. We are a vital hub of the community where inquiring minds can find and use resources for the pursuit of enjoyment, knowledge and enrichment through reading, technology, and the varied workshops and programs that we offer.

Quite a few North Shaftsbury residents are patrons/cardholders, as they are closer to us than the Bennington/No. Bennington libraries. They can partake in any of the numerous “added value services” listed on our website. One of your young residents entered our “Why I Love the Library” essay contest and won a MCML book bag for her entry!

Monies will be used to expand our children's programming. Our new Librarian Assistant has done a superb job of setting up some appealing and innovative programs for our future adults. We are presently doing a Lego Robotics program- at a cost of 350.00/Kit.

TACONIC COMMUNITY GRANGE (seeking tax exemption)

Our Grange has been in the community for 87 years. We extend our thanks for your support in exempting us from property tax in the past. Without this help we probably would have had to sell our hall. We purchased the hall in 1945 and there were many dances, receptions and Grange suppers over the years. As our membership has grown older, we are unable to do some of the projects we did in the past. For many years we ran the Farmers Market at our school. We have honored more than 35 local people with the Community Citizen Award. For many years we have given dictionaries to our Shaftsbury and North Bennington Schools. This program is

called “Words for Thirds” and has been warmly received. One of our Grangers worked on mapping the Grandview Cemetery.

You may have noticed very nice signs have been placed in our five cemeteries. All are in place except the village cemetery and this should be taken care of in the spring. These cost \$300.00 each. We are planning to rejuvenate the benches near the memorials at the Town Hall. The wood on the benches needs replacing with composite material. We are unable to physically do the things we used to but we want to make improvements wherever we can in the community.

About 10 years ago we were financially in a bind with little income and bills to be paid and we planned on closing the hall in the winter months as we couldn’t afford to heat the building. Fortunately, Jackie Myers approached us regarding renting our downstairs for the Lil Peeps School. To meet the requirements of the Vermont Fire Marshall we were forced to borrow \$32,000 to put new siding on the building due to a lead paint condition. We also replaced all the door and windows in the building and made other necessary improvements. All the downstairs windows were donated by Grange members. Now all the building is up to code.

We rent for a nominal fee and of course our insurance is expensive as this is a large building. As it has a slate roof the upkeep of this is also expensive but it is in very good repair.

We hope you will vote for this property tax exemption so we may be able to give to our community, keep our hall in good repair and be of service to all our taxpayers.

Merton J. Snow
President