Save the Date
14th Annual Run for JUMP
Saturday, September 24, 2011
Burlington Waterfront
Last year 80 participants ran or walked, raising a record $12,000 for JUMP. As the date approaches, look for more information at www.jumpvt.org and in your mail. Questions or suggestions? Contact Event Coordinator Suzie Crews at slcrews1@msn.com.

Plan to Come!
to JUMP’s
“Best Congregational Supper Ever”
Saturday November 5, 2011
Stay tuned for details

Champlain Valley CROP Walk
Sunday, October 16, 2011
First Congregational Church,
Burlington
Proceeds benefit international relief, JUMP, and the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf

JOINT URBAN MINISTRY PROJECT
SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER
2010 ANNUAL REPORT
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR ALL VERMONTERS
55 HOUSEHOLDS A WEEK
INTERFAITH COMPASSION IN ACTION
Interfaith Compassion

A message from the Co-Directors

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive. The Dalai Lama

Webster’s Dictionary defines compassion as “selfless tenderness directed towards the suffering of others.” Whatever our faith tradition - Jewish, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Unitarian Universalist, you name it - compassion is our common path and practice. Responding with selfless tenderness to our shared human suffering is how we help each other.

Before any of us can succeed at work, tend to our family’s needs or even to our own needs, we need to be safe and warm, we need to be fed, and we need to know that someone cares. 20% of the children of Burlington live below poverty level and cannot count on being safe, warm and fed. JUMP is an interfaith response to this reality – it’s a place where friends, family and neighbors can go when these most basic human needs are at risk.

One of the 400 people JUMP served in January was a very young woman who confided that she deals with chronic and basic human needs are at risk. One of the 400 people JUMP served in January was a very young woman who confided that she deals with chronic and basic human needs are at risk.

Carol Snow & Jean Palmer

Volunteers 2010: Thank You!

JUMP volunteers come from our supporting congregations and serve on the Board of Directors, committees, or as a daily volunteer at our drop-in center. Please contact your JUMP representative or the drop-in center for more information.

All Saints Episcopal Church, South Burlington
Ascension Lutheran Church, South Burlington
Burlington Shambhala Center, Burlington
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington
Catholic Congregations, Burlington
Charlotte Congregational Church, Charlotte
Christ Church Presbyterian, Burlington
Dormition Greek Orthodox Church, Burlington
Essex Center United Methodist Church, Essex Center
Faith United Methodist Church, South Burlington
First Baptist Church, Burlington
First Congregational Church, Burlington
First Congregational Church, Essex Junction
First United Methodist Church, Burlington
Grace United Methodist Church, Essex Junction
Jericho United Methodist Church, Jericho
Malletts Bay Congregational Church, Colchester
Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, Burlington
Religious Society of Friends Meeting, Burlington
Shelburne United Methodist Church, Shelburne
St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Colchester
St. James Episcopal Church, Essex Junction
Trinity Episcopal Church, Shelburne
United Church of Underhill, Underhill
Unity Church of Vermont, Essex Junction
Williston Federated Church, Williston

Carol Snow & Jean Palmer
The Chittenden/Feinstein Challenge for JUMP arrives annually like an early sign of spring. Donations to the Campaign bring hope and the financial “jump start” needed for JUMP to be able to effectively assist the 4,100 clients - 55 households each week - that we expect this year. Your gift to JUMP really counts, as many days we assist the maximum our budget allows, eleven households a day. To fully fund the highly valued direct assistance available at JUMP much support is needed from individual donors.

The staff and volunteers at JUMP work together to respond to the needs of clients like Alina, a Burundian mother of four children whose husband died several years ago. She has been in Vermont for a while and is working at Fletcher Allen in the housekeeping department. This is considered one of the best jobs in town for people with limited education. The pay is decent and the benefits are excellent. Alina makes too much money to get food stamps, but not enough to stand on her own financially so she visits JUMP every 3 months for vouchers for food, thrift shopping, and gas for the car, along with toiletries, healthy foods for her kitchen cupboards, and cleaning supplies. Her youngest was with her and our volunteers had a lot of fun playing with him while Alina waited. He took a new story book home from JUMP.

Donations to the Chittenden/Feinstein Campaign are needed to fund JUMP’s 2011 budget, providing key emergency assistance in response to increasing client needs. Local donors, individuals and businesses from Chittenden County have pledged nearly $10,000 to JUMP to form a fund that will match donations (dollar for dollar) received between March 1st and April 30th. Additionally, the Feinstein Foundation offers $1,000,000 in matching funds to be shared among 2000 anti-hunger agencies nationwide, including JUMP. You can invest in our community, helping neighbors in need such as Alina, with a gift that will be matched. Please donate to JUMP by sending your gift in the enclosed envelope, or online at our website, www.jumpvt.org (go to the “Donate” page and use the PayPal button). If we haven’t heard from you, JUMP volunteers will be calling supporters of JUMP during our early April phonathon. Please consider a generous donation to JUMP!

Last fall a woman dropped by JUMP one day, saying, “You helped me when I really needed help... thank you. Someone else can use this now.” She handed us a one-hundred-dollar bill peeking out of both ends of a folded note saying, “I am doing fine now.” A simple note, a gracious gesture, a most appreciated donation.

Note: Figures do not include the value for 2010 of donated volunteer time (estimated at $50,000), office space and support (estimated at $30,000), or accounting services (estimated at $4,000).
Poverty Rates are Shocking
JUMP Takes it Personally: Meeting Real People Struggling in our Lopsided Economy

One in seven families is living below the poverty line, including 20% of our children. Statistics confirm the daily reality we see at JUMP: Vermont families struggling to take care of children, pay bills and stay housed.

Rob Meehan, Executive Director at the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf, states that “37% of our households could not afford enough food last month. Nearly 69,000 Vermonters live in food-insecure households.” COTS Executive Director Rita Markley reflects on changes over the decade: “We began 2000 with a prosperity almost unimaginable today; there were state and federal surpluses; unemployment was at a twenty-year low.”

Fewer job opportunities and more households applying for social services have created a new economic environment. Winter fuel assistance was reduced this year because as more qualified for grants, limited aid was distributed to more households. Vermont State Housing Authority reports that access to housing subsidies is down and waiting lists for affordable housing are now years long. Living with a tight budget takes ingenuity, perseverance and some luck. The car doesn’t break down, or that illness doesn’t occur. For many, the cost of everyday necessities such as food, laundry services, utilities, transportation; they give information, hospitality and referrals, while offering emotional and spiritual support. Many sources document just how well churches, synagogues, and mosques are working together to provide unprecedented levels of assistance.

Central in every world faith, compassion is the crossroads of these interfaith collaborations. At JUMP, compassion forms the bonds of our interfaith mission as our supporting faith communities work together to reach out to people in need, responding in ways at once meaningful and personal. JUMP Co-Director Carol Snow favors “asking each other and our clients, ‘How do YOU feel? What is this situation like for YOU? What could JUMP do for you that would help?’” She believes that “we need to admit that our individual notions about ‘poverty’ and ‘homelessness’ are limited by our particular vantage point. I think our special role at JUMP is what we label ‘spiritual care.’ How do we care for the spirits of our clients and of each other? Surely, it is grounded in dignified and authentic encounters.”

JUMP relies on a vibrant and generous faith community for volunteer support, material donations and financial contributions. Individual and community support is needed to keep JUMP strong and responding daily to the needs of Vermont households. We are grateful for the faith community for volunteer support, material donations and financial contributions. Individual and community support is needed to keep JUMP strong and responding daily to the needs of Vermont households. We are grateful for the faith community for volunteer support, material donations and financial contributions.

Non-profit stores that provided free or reduced-price vouchers to JUMP clients:
- Every Monday Thrift Shop (First United Methodist Church, Burlington)
- Goodwill Industries of Northern New England
- The Possibility Shop (First Congregational Church, Burlington)
- ReSource

Vendors that accepted JUMP vouchers:
- City Market
- Gaslight Laundry
- Greer’s Laundry
- Handy’s (S. Winooski Ave.)
- Himalayan Market
- Finelli’s Deli
- JR’s Grocery
- King St. Laundry
- Lakeside Pharmacy
- Laundromat 99
- Mawuhi African Market
- North Winooski Avenue Laundromat
- Pearl Street Laundromat
- Price Chopper
- Shopping Bag
- Thai Phat Market
- Bike Recycle Vermont

JUMP 2010 Annual Report

In 2010 JUMP assisted over 4100 people in nearly 1400 households; these households included over 1500 children. Our data show that 47% of JUMP households include children; 46% are single adults – many who identify themselves as isolated with no family or friends. To accomplish this mission, JUMP depends on its supporting congregations and their many members, on volunteers and vendors, on non-profit partners and funders. We offer thanks to the many people and organizations that make our work possible.

Special thanks to the following 2010 JUMP partners

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Organizations that awarded grants to JUMP:
- Shelburne Charlotte Hinesburg Interfaith Projects (SCHIP)
- Merchants Bank
- Golub Foundation (Price Chopper)
- Presbytery of Northern New England (through Christ Church Presbyterian)
- The Women’s Alliance of First Unitarian Universalist Society, Burlington
- Ben & Jerry’s Foundation
- Employees Community Action Council of General Dynamics
- Fanny Allen Corporation

Additional community partners:
- Cathedral Square Corporation, for donated accounting services
- Opportunities Credit Union, for accepting JUMP vouchers for new memberships
- Evelyn Sikorski, for accepting JUMP vouchers for tobacco cessation treatment

Co-Directors Jean and Carol say “Thanks!”
the class walked over to the JUMP Drop-In Center to deliver the soup. A tour, a thank you from JUMP staff and volunteers, and a very happy bunch of kids were ready for the hike back to school. The class is planning more chapters in their soup-mix story for JUMP. Well done! - Lucy Samara

Bluebird Tavern Sings a JUMP Song!
The Bluebird Tavern on Riverside Avenue in Burlington is known for using local ingredients to create wonderful organic meals. It is no surprise that their philanthropic interests are homegrown too. A February 2011 “Community Night” for JUMP at the Bluebird Tavern was a big success and a lot of fun. As a result of the event, the Bluebird Tavern donated $430 in support of our “Soup Mix Project.” Thank you Bluebird Tavern and all of our Community Night diners for helping the Soup Mix Project fly!

Welcome Burlington Shambhala Center!
The Center is fostering a strong and growing connection with JUMP. Several members are putting their meditation into action by training to become JUMP volunteers. The Center is keeping a steady supply of shampoo coming our way and also made a generous donation of books to our interfaith bookshelf. Thank you Shambhala!

JUMP Got Better in 2010
We’ve decorated our office with interfaith flags and they’ve been both a strong statement of JUMP’s intention to serve all equally and a source of much comment and conversation. They create a colorful and welcoming backdrop for meetings with clients.

Our partnership with Opportunities Credit Union is going strong. Credit Union staff come to JUMP 2 mornings per week and generally open 1-3 new savings accounts each day using a $10 voucher from JUMP. We’re delighted to be connecting our clients with a place which offers needed banking services and financial education.

Because spiritual care is such an important aspect of JUMP’s mission, we now offer clients free books for spiritual/emotional support. These include titles from all the major religions — as well as Bibles, daily devotional and 12-step-recovery-oriented books.

We’re giving clients vouchers for transportation to work and school through our partnership with Bike Recycle Vermont. A 25 dollar voucher buys a refurbished bike, lock, and helmet.

Every month we send an e-news update to our 27 supporting congregations, filled with JUMP news of the month and client stories. Some places post it on a bulletin board, others include it in their newsletter or order of service. It’s called JUMP Scene — look for it at your congregation!

JUMP starts 2011 piloting a new initiative to make utility assistance part of the daily options for direct assistance. This new approach is being applauded by many households that have yearned for utility support to prevent the threat of a shut-off. Elderly and/or disabled adults on fixed incomes share that utility bills are a predictable, monthly stressor and that assistance from JUMP is needed and much appreciated.