JUMP is always full of surprises! Families in poverty or homeless are resourceful and, amazingly, find ways to cope, often with the help of JUMP. JUMP’s budget tells the story of what families require as we assist families to find resources, and faith, in our communities. JUMP offers vouchers, food bags, and personal hygiene supplies. But more importantly, JUMP remains a dependable and reliable resource—a place of comfort, understanding, and caring.

As a result, the year proved to be a blessing as faith communities donated $58,531 to help support JUMP’s mission. These donations alone represented 36% of JUMP’s overall final income; $160,802.

Coupled with 68 Volunteers representing 18 faith based communities contributed 3102 hours to support JUMP’s mission. Dedicated, the resourceful volunteers served 5667 community neighbors in need; 2016 families.

Significant, faith community’s helped donate 22,019 in-kind items valued at $38,751.

Top in-kind donations which JUMP and families were very appreciative included; 748 Food Bags value $14,640, 3715 Toothbrushes/paste value $3715, 2056 rolls of Toilet paper value $2805, 1223 Deodorant value $2400, 861 Dish detergent value $1868, 410 Cereal value $1,219 and 1103 Pinesol/Spic&Span value $1103.

Providing some food, essential toiletries and household items are significant. Can you imagine going without these items; especially the personal hygiene. After all, good hygiene helps neighbors in need to stay healthy while preserving human dignity.

Equally significant JUMP Core Value Advocacy appeared to best demonstrate faith community commitment to promote and address systematic change. I refer specifically to: Advocacy quote, “We understand the importance of our services to each individual while recognizing that these services are not a solution to poverty in our community. We tell JUMP’s story in our congregations and in the wider community to encourage advocacy for systemic changes.”

For that reason, in 2016, JUMP will focus on addressing the pressing problem of lack of affordable accessible transportation which ultimately impact families and individuals who unable to get to jobs, school, doctors…unable to maintain a healthy balanced lively hood and emotional well-being.

Reinforced by last year statistics, JUMP clients requested 5357 vouchers valued at $90,004; 36% or $31,889 were for transportation.

Methods of transportation included; gas for vehicles, CCTA bus passes and bikes. The most requested transportation vouchers were gas for vehicles 1278; 29% valued at $26,308.

As JUMP ventures forward into 2016, please know we are deeply encouraged and thankful for the unending generous support of Faith Community volunteers, in-kind donations and monetary donations. Since inception, you’ve been JUMP’s back bone, a never waverer gift which continues to provide hope and comfort for neighbor impacted by poverty. Thank you all!!!

- Wanda Hines
director@jumpvt.org
Silent Auction--Celebrating 10 years, this wonderful event raised over $10,000 to help JUMP and Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA). The event was presented by the Cathedral Church of St. Paul’s and Christ Church Presbyterian in May.

Charlotte Congregational Church (CCC) to give “XTRA Energy” to JUMP: Early 2015, CCC received a grant to build a solar energy installation to heat three buildings. CCC realized that the Solar Project will generate enough energy that they will be able to tithe ten percent of their savings to JUMP. Over the span of 25 years, they would save roughly $10,550 which will allow them to donate $422 each year to JUMP.

Mallett’s Bay Congregational Church, Winooski United Methodist Church, St. Paul’s and First Congregational Church of Burlington: invited JUMP Director as Guest speaker/Presenter to tell JUMP’s story and discussion.

Volunteer Betsy Emerson received award--Betsy was honored with a 2015 United Way of Chittenden County Building Block Volunteer Award. For seven years, Betsy, a retired Clinical Social Worker has been an outstanding volunteer with JUMP. She has proven to be considerate, generous and accommodating to all who seek services.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE OF HEALING & GRATITUDE: an annual event, presented by Burlington Area Ministerial Association & Joint Urban Ministry Project at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue. “Gratitude recognizes the many gifts that we receive while acknowledging them as a source of Healing and Inspiration transforming our Hearts, Lives and Community!” JUMP Director and Board President presented.

Winooski United Methodist Church: early 2015 the WUMC became JUMP’s first sponsoring faith community from Winooski. Pastor Bonnie Hoovermann has been the spiritual leader since 2008. The WUMC has the only Food Shelf called “the Little Green Pantry” in the Winooski area. WELCOME Aboard WMUC

On day two, Saturday, they extended an open invitation to “our most vulnerable neighbors for free.”

Gifts That Give: JUMP participated in the 2nd Annual hosted by a partnership of downtown local faith community. The event is a Pop-up market place for Holiday shoppers to support 16 local non-profits. Thank you for the invite!

“Is there anything you’d like to tell us?”
A female JUMP client wrote the following response...”I am grateful for all of you at JUMP that help serve me and others. It’s so wonderful we have this organization for financial need; volunteers who are friendly and non-judgmental.”

St. Paul Wreath Project: The Wreaths served as thoughtful holiday gifts in which the proceeds benefited VIA and JUMP. Thank you St. Paul’s

Thank you Charlotte Congregational Church Volunteer Frances Foster for the wonderful informative story in your Church - June 2015 Newsletter about JUMP’s work.

Shambhala Center Volunteer Testimony, Randy Ferguson; “I was very happy to be able to deliver today a trunk full of bags of food that were donated by members of the Burlington Shambhala Center following our annual drive for JUMP. The homeless, and others without means to prepare meals, are among the most vulnerable in our society, particularly with cold weather coming, so to have this year’s drive focus on their specific needs is especially meaningful. JUMP is a wonderful resource to so many in our community and we at the Shambhala Center are thankful to be able to support JUMP’s efforts. I never leave a morning of volunteering at JUMP without a fresh reminder of the challenges so many of our neighbors face on a daily basis with issues that many of us can take for granted. The strength and resiliency we see in many of these folks who visit JUMP is often humbling and astounding and I am glad for the opportunity.”

Thank you all for bringing need and resources together to help make a difference!!!

JUMP Board of Directors
Ron Pynn, President, Beth Dreibelbis, Past President, Woody Fulton, Treasurer, Carolyn Rushford, Lise Bonstein-Malter, Dave Clark, Andy Farrington and Keith Pillsbury

JUMP Staff
Wanda Hines, Director
Mary Stannard Carter, Direct Service

...a proven, consistent resource for Vermont households facing the challenges of poverty.