



The Joint Urban Ministry Project:
Celebrating 25 years of
Caring for Our Neighbors

JUMP: Alleviating Poverty Creating Caring Community

2013 FALL Newsletter

38 S. Winooski Ave., Burlington, VT 05401 (802)862.4501 www.jumpvt.org

“I AM NUMBER SEVEN...”

“I am number seven...” I take these four words seriously as they revealed to me that living in poverty can strengthen one’s resolve to face challenges. This statement, created a memorable and meaningful moment for me at JUMP in August.

Like any other day at JUMP, people arrived as early as 7:00am. Outside, everyone kept track of their number in line, as well as the order of surrounding community members. When our doors opened, as always at 8:30, with purpose, some took the stairs and others the elevator (due to strollers, wheel chairs or physical limitations) up to JUMP.

On this day, I supervised as individuals signed their names on the numbered check-in sheet. Number one signed, then numbers two and three, etc... and suddenly confusion, accompanied by more confusion and then I asked, “Who is next in line? Who’s number seven?” “I am number seven.” stated the elderly African gentleman with an amputated leg. While at the same time, another individual continued to write their name in the number seven slot. After which I immediately picked up the

clipboard and turned to my right, so the elderly gentlemen could write his name in the next slot...number eight. “I am number seven,” he said again, to which I replied, “Number seven has been taken, please sign right here, number eight.” “No, I am number seven...” he repeated. “Number seven is taken, please sign here at number eight.” “No, I AM NUMBER SEVEN.” “I am sure you are except number seven is taken, I have number eight saved for you.” “NO, I AM NUMBER SEVEN.”

I proceeded to explain that at JUMP, we do the best we can with limited resources to address any confusion and/or unnecessary stress the sign-in line can cause. Adding, “We are sorry for any inconvenience.” His response, “I am number seven.”

At this point, I identified myself as the Managing Director, asked him his name, and wrote it in the number eight slot for him. I then sat with him, hoping I could help this proud adamant man understand why he was not Number Seven. As we spoke, he relaxed, and the atmosphere shifted. His eyes, words and expression conveyed that he had regained his sense of



dignity and self-worth.

For me the conversation was refreshing and a reminder of the importance and value of being heard and taken seriously.

Having had the opportunity to listen first hand to his story, I began to realize that we are all “Number Seven” - we are all waiting on something. Even a simple shared experience like this one, reminds us that in our moments of despair and anxiety, communication, someone to listen can help restore our dignity and self-worth and can give us the strength to persevere and face the challenges of life.

Thank you for your continued and much needed support of JUMP!

- Wanda Hines
Mdirector.jump@gmail.com



Going forward JUMP...
seeks to expand opportunities to increase self esteem and regain dignity thru programs that educate and inform those who seek our help.

A Message from the JUMP Board President: Beth Dreibelbis

I first came to JUMP ten years ago. My adult daughter had battled mental health and drug problems for years and at last, had decided to go to rehab. She came to JUMP to get a laundry voucher so that she would have clean clothes for rehab.

My daughter never had a chance to use the voucher. That night she died. The next week when we cleaned out her apartment, I found the laundry voucher from JUMP. I mailed it back, asking JUMP to try to help someone else's child – mine couldn't use it now. I received a wonderful note back from

JUMP, which contained the kind of caring that JUMP gives daily.

Now in our 25th year, JUMP is thriving and meeting the varied and important needs of many in our community. We've grown to serve more than 3,000 unduplicated households a year, and continue to be the warm, friendly, calm place where people know they can come get practical help, an empathetic ear, a cup of coffee, and a book for their child.

You never know whose child you are helping, what the results will be, or just how much your care, concern and support will affect the

world. Never doubt the power of JUMP and its supporters. Miracles can happen when we work together at JUMP.



- Beth Dreibelbis

1st Annual Compact Engagement Dinner “Are JUMP families better off?”

In mid-August, JUMP partnered with the Vermont Interfaith Action to host the 1st Annual Compact Engagement Dinner at JUMP.

The event invited families and neighbors, for whom JUMP serves as a community resource, to provide feedback and to take part in a structured conversation about community problems which impact



their lives. Roughly, 65 adults and 15 children attended. Activities included: program priority feedback, small focus groups, advisory council outreach and raffle prize drawings. JUMP and VIA now have a forum to better guide our work to alleviate poverty.

JUMP's primary objective was to explore how households are better off because of JUMP's services - the feedback was positive. For example; “It is truly reassuring to know that there is a place I can go to fill the gaps when something unexpected happens and disturbs my delicate financial balance.”, “A less stressed Mom, is a better Mom...Thanks!”, “Cleaner laundry, better health.”, “It helps me adjust to this society.”, “My household is

homeless. We know that we can gain access to vouchers for clothes and laundry cycles.” and “My children have lots of books from JUMP.”

The [2013 Compact Engagement Report](#), summarizing the valuable data and information from our first Compact Engagement Dinner, will be available soon. The report will be the first step in creating the framework to measure baseline information from JUMP individuals, families and households to evaluate and improve JUMP's work. Furthermore, the report will serve as a credible working document to endorse JUMP's meaningful journey into the next 25 years.

Please stay tuned....

The 2013 Compact Engagement Dinner was made possible by the generous support of Co-Sponsors and Donors: Association of Africans Living in Vermont, Barnes and Noble, Bove's Restaurant, Burlington School District/ Burlington School Food Project, Burlington Parks & Recreation, Burlington Police Department, Champlain Leather, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, City Market, Domino's "Colchester Ave", ECHO Lake Champlain Aquarium and Science Center, First Congregational Church of Burlington, Grand Buffet, Hannaford's, Harper's Restaurant "Holiday Inn", JR's Corner Store, Olive Garden, Price Chopper, Queen City Police Foundation, Rhino Foods, Shaw's, United Way and Skinny Pancake. Childcare provided: Ripple and the Timothy Society "Youth Ministry" program.

Beansie's Bus and Neighbors "Create Caring Community"



"I grew up on welfare. We all need help in some ways." Lois Farnham doesn't mince words. We caught up with her during her Wednesday shift at *The Possibility Shop*. With a joy in serving equal to her honesty in talking, Lois is one half of a team that collects cans and bottles and contributes the funds to JUMP. Her partner in life, and in this endeavor, is Holly Puterbaugh.

Lois is quick to point out that this is a team effort that extends into the community of folk who live around Battery Park.

Over the years their competition for a high tally of bottles and cans has grown more intense. "The most we ever collected and gave to JUMP in a year was about \$700," says Lois. "For the last several years our donation has been about \$500."

Lois credits *Beansie's Bus* with helping keep their project as lucrative as it is. "He puts a container out near the bus and asks people to place their empties there." All the proceeds go to JUMP. "And we have neighbors who make sure to bring us their empty bottles and cans," explained Lois. "They know

we collect the money and give it to JUMP."

Jay LaShombe, Beansie's owner, believes it's a simple way to give back to the community and to recycle, "We all need a little help. It's an easy thing to do...a win-win." Gleaning empty cans and bottles for JUMP is a community effort, and Beansie's Bus, Lois, Holly and community neighbors are showing us how it's done!



VT National Women's Golf Association "JUMP for Joy"

On August 1st, the Vermont National Country Club Women's Golf Association raised \$13,800 for JUMP in conjunction with the Annual Women's Member/Guest Golf Tournament. Local businesses and individuals generously provided sponsorships and donated items for a silent auction and raffle, while 68 women golfers enthusiastically embraced the theme of the day, "JUMP for Joy" and came prepared to lend their support.



JUMP volunteer, Amy Harrison, and JUMP board member, Suzie Crews, who are also members of the club, spearheaded the fundraising effort and committed their time and effort throughout the spring and summer to ensure the event's success. Amy Harrison commented "We so appreciate all of our event sponsors and silent auction items donors! We're so glad to be able to do this work for JUMP and help bring in funds, ultimately for the people who benefit from JUMP's mission".

JUMP would like to thank Vermont National Country Club, and specifically the Women's Golf League members for providing a fun day for people to come out and support JUMP!

JUMP FACT: In 2012, the most requested assistance was \$30,000 gas vouchers for transportation and \$22,000 for food card vouchers.

JUMP EVENTS:

**The 16th Annual
RUN for JUMP...**
Saturday, September 28th
Goal: raise \$16,000

**Burlington CROP
Hunger Walk**
Sunday, October 13, starts at First
Congregational Church

"The Best JUMP Supper Ever!"
November 2nd at
First United Church Methodist
Church of Burlington.
Two seatings: 5:00 and 6:30.
Many JUMP supporting faith communities provide delicious food representative of their faith tradition." Contact your JUMP representative or Beth at 899-4557 to purchase Tickets. "

Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship - November 24th at First Congregational Church of Burlington, 7:00pm.



JUMP: Joint Urban Ministry Project
 38 South Winooski Avenue
 Burlington, VT 05401

Non Profit Org.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Burlington, VT
 Permit No. 198

The Joint Urban Ministry Project™
 Celebrating 25 Years of
 Creating for Our Neighbors

Creating Caring Community...

JUMP Board of Directors

- Beth Dreibelbis, President
- Ginger Hobbs, Past President
- Woody Fulton, Treasurer
- Suzie Crews, Secretary
- Brenda Black
- Lise Bornstein-Malter
- Rev. Mark Demers
- Cheryl Fatnassi
- Carolyn Rushford

JUMP Staff

- Wanda Hines; Managing Director
- Laura Hale; Development Coordinator
- Gary O’Gorman; Direct Service/Bookkeeping



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

“Are you an active or retired IBM employee?”

The annual IBM/ECCC campaign is about to begin. If you are planning to participate in this charitable giving campaign, we'd like to remind you that you can specifically designate JUMP (the Joint Urban Ministry Project) for all or part of your annual donation. Since JUMP is not a United Way organization, this specific designation is the only way that you can make a contribution to JUMP through the ECCC. *(Of course, contribution to JUMP directly or through your faith community is still an option that's open to you!)*

We are grateful to all the community businesses and organizations who provide support for JUMP. And a special "thank you" to the supporting faith communities who provide 24% of JUMP's annual support.



JUMP on the web to give:
www.jumpvt.org

JUMP's on TV! Go to www.CCTV.org:
 4/11/13 show: Overview of JUMP; 5/15/13 show: JUMP Vouchers - Providing Added Value
 6/18/13 show: Volunteers - The Backbone of JUMP; 9/16/13 show: What's Happening @ JUMP?