

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

# **JUMP is Celebrating 25 Years of Creating Caring Community**

## **2013 Spring Newsletter**

38 S. Winooski Ave., Burlington, VT 05401 (802)862.4501 [www.jumpvt.org](http://www.jumpvt.org)

### **JUMP is a GIFT**

**Life is a gift.** Unfortunately, some of us journey all or part of our lives, never getting to experience the full comfort and warmth of that gift. At JUMP we welcome senior citizens, disabled adults, refugees, at-risk youth, people who are in danger of losing their housing or who are homeless; people who are unemployed and underemployed; and people with mental and physical health challenges.

At JUMP, all receive the gift of meaningful, needed assistance in a respectful, caring environment.

More than sixty volunteers bring their own life experiences to JUMP's mission... a mission of caring for families and individuals who are confronted by the realities of their own journey; poverty and the high cost of living.

**In truth, JUMP is a gift as well... a gift that has kept on giving for 25 years.** What started out as the simple dream of Vermont "canner" Nathan Johnson and five faith communities, has become, through community-wide

commitment, a source of valuable assistance for thousands of people with a variety of needs and a meaningful place of service for volunteers and staff, myself included.

Life, yours and mine, is a journey with ups and downs, give and take... we may be in need of help and asking for assistance or are sharing words of comfort and providing vital services. JUMP is a valued community resource which strengthens all involved along the journey of life.

As the new Managing Director, I bear witness every day to the positive impact JUMP has on many peoples' lives. In 2012, JUMP assisted children and adults from nearly 3,000 Vermont households. We are inviting all faith and broader communities, local businesses, non-profits and individuals to support JUMP, as we journey into the next 25 years. It is only by creating caring communities that we can effectively address the harsh reality of poverty.



After all, "big ideas do have small beginnings".... including the vision of Nathan Johnson a man with a dream and a gift.

JUMP is ready to do more! Please accept this invitation to get involved and support the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign for JUMP. I look forward to hearing from you. Tell me... what is your vision for a caring community in the next 25 years?  
- Wanda Hines  
[Mdirector.jump@gmail.com](mailto:Mdirector.jump@gmail.com)

### **"Big Ideas... CAN Have Small Beginnings"**

Nathan Johnson was a man of simple means, few needs and a sense of humor. Well-known about Burlington in the 1970's and 80's, he was an extrovert who visited with many on his daily rounds to college campuses and businesses to share a joke or a story in exchange for empty cans and bottles that he later redeemed for a nickel each.

When Johnson died in 1987, he left his money in a trust fund, stating in his will that his preference was to help a small group with an interest in starting an



organization to help Vermont families and adults living in poverty. At that time, homelessness among families was increasing and five Burlington faith communities; College Street, First Congregational, First Baptist, St. Paul's and the First United Methodist Church (Nathan's congregation), had been

discussing how to better meet the increasing needs of people seeking assistance. In 1988, the Nathan Johnson Trust provided \$10,000 and the congregations pooled resources to launch JUMP.

Nathan Johnson was a canner, a neighbor, a friend to many and a caring soul. As JUMP celebrates 25 years of addressing poverty, we salute the "can-do" vision of Nathan Johnson.

## The Heart of a Matriarch



Wanda Hines lives in Burlington with her son LC Hines. She joined the JUMP staff as Managing Director in February 2013.

**“Caring about people means creating systems that enable people to care for each other.”**

‘Matriarch’ means ‘strength’, says Wanda Hines, JUMP’s new Managing Director. The Viet Nam War took her father when she was nine. Wanda, the oldest daughter, supported her mother as she navigated the complexities of life raising six children. With the death of her mom, Mildred Hines, to cancer last September, Wanda became the *matriarch* of her extended family.

Coming from a family that “struggled in the trenches and celebrated on the mountain top,” Hines is a person who cares with passion, serves with commitment and advocates tirelessly.

Wanda was the MVP and Captain in 1976, the last time the Burlington High School’s Girls Basketball Team won a state championship. Wanda was recruited to play ball for Concordia University in Montreal. (Her play later earned her a spot in the Concordia Hall of Fame.) After two years in college, Wanda returned to Burlington to work.

Then tragedy struck. After the death of her sister, Wanda adopted her two toddler nieces. She remembers feeling “numb” as a ‘new mom’. “A friend saw me working on paperwork for food stamps,” Hines recalls. “One look at me, and she knew I needed help!” ‘Getting help’ taught Wanda how to *give* help. She organized the “People’s Food Co-op” through the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf to help people get food affordably. In 1995, she was hired as Director of the Food Shelf and served with innovation and energy for twelve years.

“At the Food Shelf,” Hines says, “I saw a demographic shift. There was an influx of minority populations and I worried about how people were treated and about the misperceptions people had of each other.”

In response, Wanda enrolled in the “Independent Degree Program” at

Burlington College. She graduated in 2008 having designed a program to help Burlington “effectively address the growing pains and challenges of becoming more ethnically and culturally diverse.” In 2007, the City of Burlington hired Wanda to implement the program that she was developing, the Social Equity Investment Project. Two years later the program received a national award. In 2011, Burlington College honored Wanda with their most Distinguished Alumni Award.

**“Wanda Hines is a person who cares with passion, serves with commitment and advocates tirelessly.”**

“Caring about people means creating systems that empower people to care for each other” says Wanda as she explains how excited she is to be at JUMP. Hines believes that she is at her best when she can care directly for people *and* address the systems that can hold them back. “JUMP has a secret,” she says with a twinkle in her eye. “It’s about creating a caring community. We, JUMP volunteers and staff, have meaningful on-going conversations with people. There is warmth here; people of different cultures are coming together for a common goal.”

She then draws us back to where we started – her mother. “I was involved in 26 different initiatives when I lost my mom last September. Now at JUMP, I’m back to caring and being with people who enjoy caring for others. Our mission at JUMP is clear and we are making a difference.”

JUMP has hired a “Matriarch” with a big heart. Her name is Wanda Hines.

- Rev. Mark Demers

**JUMP assisted more than 55 Vermont households each week in 2012. JUMP is widely known as a reliable source of practical assistance, thoughtful care, informed referrals, and advocacy.**

## JUMP President, Ginger Hobbs: Inviting Support to Meet Community Needs

What an exciting time to be part of JUMP as we look back over 25 years of helping our neighbors and look ahead to what the next 25 may bring.

There has been a constant through all the years: dedicated volunteers and staff who care about every person who comes to JUMP for help. And there is the commitment of our faith communities to celebrate. They provide much of the necessary support needed to keep JUMP open every day. It is a privilege to be part of this kind of compassion and community spirit.

We know that much assistance is needed as our neighbors face the daily challenges of poverty. Unfortunately, gone are the days when our vision was that JUMP's services would no longer be needed. Every day we challenge ourselves to make a difference. JUMP's assistance with utility payments, laundry vouchers, bus passes, gasoline

or food or providing toiletries and cleaning supplies help families re-serve needed financial resources for housing expenses. These needs are basic and important in helping to stabilize household budgets. We know that the most meaningful support can be personal, helping people make successful connections to jobs, housing, and social services.

As we look at the next 25 years, our vision is expanding to serve more people and enhancing the assistance we offer. The JUMP Board of Directors is making plans to expand our circle of support in the larger community. To help us achieve our vision, we have taken a leap of faith into our future by hiring our first Managing Director, Wanda Hines. Wanda brings a wealth of experience in the community, skills and a vision of the possible.

- Ginger Hobbs

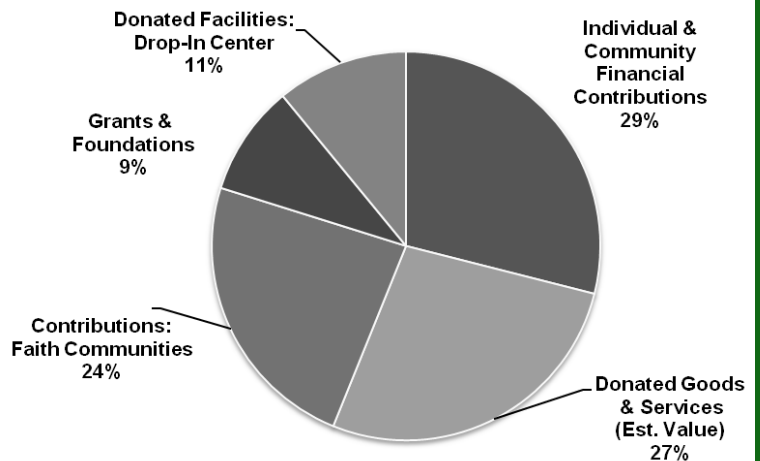


*“As we look at the next 25 years, our vision is expanding to serve more people and enhancing the assistance JUMP offers.”*

## JUMP In Numbers: 2012

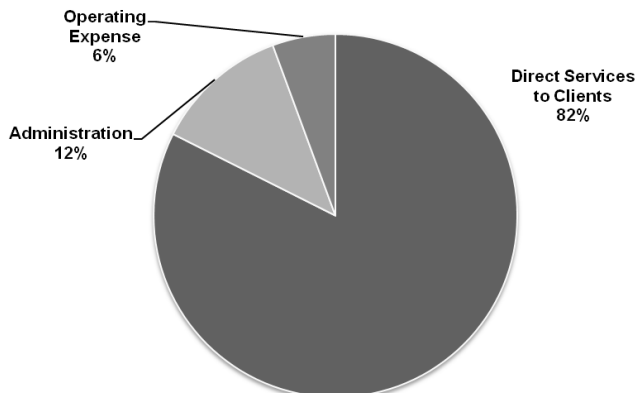
### 2012 Sources of Support

Total FY 2012 Income was \$273,425; this includes donated office space and services from First Congregational Church/Burlington valued at \$30,000; and donated goods/services valued at \$74,340. JUMP benefited from 6,766 volunteer hours provided by more than 60 volunteers from our supporting faith communities.

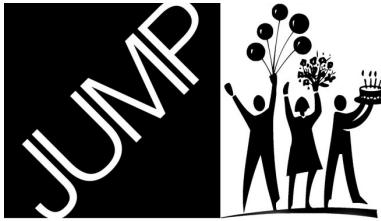


### 2012 Uses of Support

Total FY 2012 Expenses were \$268,116, which included \$94,535 in client vouchers and \$74,340 in distributed goods & services, donated by the faith and broader communities.







**Joint Urban Ministry Project**  
**38 South Winooski Avenue**  
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**The Joint Urban Ministry Project:**  
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## Creating Caring Community...

### JUMP Board of Directors

Ginger Hobbs, President  
 Beth Dreibelbis, V. President  
 Mark Gadue, Treasurer  
 Suzie Crews, Secretary

Brenda Black	Woody Fulton
Lise Bornstein-Malter	Ron Pynn
Mark Demers	Carolyn Rushford
Lynn Douglas	Lucy Samara
Cheryl Fatnassi	Barbara Stearns
	Valerie Visconti

### JUMP Staff

Wanda Hines, Managing Director  
 Gary O'Gorman      Jean Palmer

### JUMP 25 Years Later - 1988 to today:

- From 53 Vermont households assisted a month in '88 to 55 a week now!
- From 10 volunteers to more than 60!
- From a few financial donors to 500+!
- 5 supporting faith communities then - 25 & growing in 2013!

★ JUMP has support from the business and wider community: Thank you Gadue's Dry Cleaners, Northfield Savings Bank, People's United Bank, Gravel and Shea, Ben & Jerry's, SCHIP's Treasure, Fanny Allen Corporation, and others!



## Please STEP IN and SUPPORT JUMP TODAY!

The 25th Anniversary Campaign for JUMP is funding needed direct services for families and individuals. Please give online or use our envelope!

### Upcoming JUMP Events:

- JUMP Game Day with the Lake Monsters, Sunday, July 7
- Run (or Walk!) for JUMP Saturday, September 28
- Burlington CROP Hunger Walk, Sunday, October 13
- Best JUMP Super Ever, Nov. 2
- JUMP 25th Anniversary Celebration in the Fall: TBA



JUMP on the web to give:  
[www.jumpvt.org](http://www.jumpvt.org)

**Thank you!**