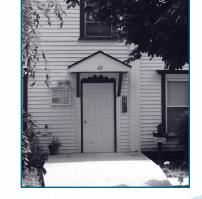


u·nite - (yö -nît) v. to bring
people together in interest,
attitude, or action



More than just a helping hand to those in need...

A resource to unite the entire community

TEEG's mission is to strengthen the local community by:

Empowering individuals to live independently
Strengthening families to live respectfully
Engaging the community to work collaboratively
Connecting resources to promote a better future for all

15 Years of Service to the Local Community



1988 — 2003

Needs-Based Programs

for Qualified Families and Seniors

Emergent Food Distribution

Monthly Commodity Distribution

Holiday Giving

Back to School Campaign

Operation Fuel

Salvation Army

Camperships

TEEG

Thompson Ecumeni

Open Programs

Community

Thompson Together
Healthcare Leadership Team

Youth

Thompson Youth Center

Thompson Youth Leadership Team

Summer Fun Club

All Stars

Better Babysitter Club

Thompson Schools'
Half Day Program

Girl's Reflections

Girl Talk

Self Discovery

Parents

Parent Aide

Parent Support Groups

Anger Aside

Families

Parent/Child Play Groups

Parent as Teachers

Food Preservation Classes

Community Garden

Seniors

Weekly Distribution of Surplus Food Items

Senior Health Education Luncheon Programs

Senior Assistance Services

Senior Recreaction

team-work – (têm wûrk) n. cooperative effort by the members of a group or team to achieve a common goal



TEEG Staff

Donna Grant
Executive Director

Jenni Fountain Office Manager & Grants Coordinator

Karen Daley
Community Services Coordinator

Tanya Rzeznikiewicz
Parents as Teachers Provider

Stephanie Lunt
Family Services Coordinator / Parent Aide

Phanindra Chakraborty
Fiscal / Accounting

Alicia Tucker Receptionist / Food Security Program

Office Support Staff

Beverly Daniels Barbara Lamothe Dorothy Jarvis

Contracted Service Provider

Doreen Bentley

Community Development Project Manager



Message from the Director

My mother used to tell me, "Many hands make light work." It is an old adage that defines the essence of **teamwork.**

Teamwork is what TEEG is all about. It is how we started as an organization and it is how we continue to make a difference in the lives of individuals, families, seniors and the community as a whole.

The past year has been a very rewarding one for those of us who work at TEEG. We have realized great gains in our efforts to build community capacity for the betterment of all residents in our little corner of the world. At the same time, we've continued to provide the programs that have been at the heart of TEEG's services – in-home parenting education, food security for community residents, fuel assistance, case management and youth programs among many others.

One of our proudest accomplishments this year is the role we've played in building Thompson Together, a community-wide program to unite individuals to discuss town needs and residents' dreams. These discussions have turned into action plans, and the plans have led to results.

At TEEG, we are keenly aware that our potential as an agent of change can only be realized when we successfully engage the resources that already exist within our community. Through relationship building and hard work, TEEG, the Town of Thompson, the Thompson Public School system, and the residents of the northeast community have created a winning team. A team that indeed has many hands, and whose capacity knows no bounds.

Joxes M. Gant.
Donna M. Grant

Donna M. Grant Executive Director

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Dear Thompson Residents,

After many years of service to TEEG and the Thompson community, and numerous hours of reflection, I have decided to relinquish the position of President of the TEEG Board of Directors. My years of service with the organization have been a wonderful and exciting adventure.

To see a tiny, non-profit service agency grow over a period of years to have a profound impact on the community it serves is indeed rewarding and a celebration of success. The cooperation between the recreation department, the local school, the library, religious organizations and various other groups in the community highlight the town-wide effort to put the pieces together and make Thompson a better place to live. I would like to say THANK YOU – it has been a pleasure to serve the community as TEEG President.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the young woman who will be taking my place as President of the TEEG Board. Her name is Dushy Mahendran. She and her family, Dr. Alexander Mahendran, two children and two stepchildren, have been members of the Thompson community since July of 1995. The Mahendran children attend Thompson Middle and Mary R. Fisher Elementary School. Members of the Thompson Congregational Church, Dushy and Alex have been active members of the TEEG board since July of 1998.

A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dushy has worked in research and development at Prime Computer and Data General as well as serving as the Director of Engineering at EMC. Dushy currently owns her own consulting company. She has the strength, experience, and leadership skills to do an excellent job for TEEG. We are very pleased to welcome her and have her join us as President of the Board.

Sincerely,

Margaret Babbitt

1998-2003 President, TEEG Board of Directors

Margaret L Bashitt

Board of Directors 2002-2003

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Dushy Mahendran
2003-2004 President, TEEG Board of Directors

Em·power – (êm pou er) v. to promote self-actualization; to enable or endow with an ability



Thanksgiving Food – 294 people in 104 families received food baskets

Christmas food – 224 people in 66 families received food baskets

Christmas gifts – 339 people in 114 families received gifts

Food Distributions
649 people in
325 households were served

Dental Kits 713 Kits were distributed to Thompson individuals, seniors and youth



A Helping Hand to Those in Need...

TEEG was founded as a human services organization to give aid and support primarily to Thompson's mill villages where the town's lowest income residents lived.

Over the years, our focus has changed from a handout to hands-up agency fostering the population's ability to help each other.

As part of our mission to **empower** individuals to live independently, we continue to administer several needs-based programs that require a proof of income for eligibility.

The **TEEG Holiday Giving Program** is truly an amazing gift to those in need. As a sponsor of the program for eight years, TEEG is able to assist qualified families with holiday food and gifts. Donations come from everywhere churches, businesses, service organizations, and private citizens. Recipients who need help with the holidays are asked to give back to others by volunteering 10 hours of their time to assist someone in the community or at the TEEG offices.

Through the **TEEG Food Security program,** eligible individuals and families receive a monthly distribution of healthy and nutritious food to supplement their home pantries. Knowing they will receive food once a month enables people to stretch tight budgets. Without TEEG's support, many recipients including seniors and disabled individuals would have to choose between buying food or paying for medications, rent or utilities.

This year Tourtellotte Memorial High School played a huge part in helping to feed the community. A can drive at Thanksgiving brought 3,392 food items to local families. Also through a "February Fast," students donated their snack or lunch money for one day to a fund drive. This effort raised \$600, which in turn purchased \$8,316 of food at the Connecticut Food Bank to benefit Thompson families.

Local dentists also have come to the support of the Food Security Program at TEEG. Understanding the connection between dental health and the food we eat, TEEG includes a new toothbrush and oral hygiene products with each monthly distribution of food. Thank you, Dr. Schick, Dr. Lupien, Drs. McGinn and Dr. Mooney!



Each year, **TEEG's Back to School program** helps qualified families prepare children to return to school with the materials they need to be ready to learn. With the help of the Salvation Army, area doctors and private donations, we're able to provide book bags stuffed with school supplies.

Every child should be able to partake in the fun and learning of summer camp. The **TEEG's Campership program** allows children from qualified families to attend camp for at least one week during the summer. Funding for Camperships are made possible by private donations and support of the Thompson Recreation Commission.

TEEG is the area administrator for **Operation Fuel**, a program funded by the public utility companies "Add a Buck" campaign, the Access state program, the Salvation Army, and private donations from area businesses, individuals and organizations.

TEEG serves as the unit secretary for the **Salvation Army** in the Thompson community. With a goal to help those most in need, we provide emergency financial assistance for basic needs such as rent and car repairs.

It's hard to look among us and find someone who has never needed a helping hand. At TEEG, that's exactly what we have to offer. Whether it's emergent assistance, crisis intervention, a little bit of direction, or ongoing support, we are here...and we are glad to help.

Below are the income guidelines used to determine eligibility for many of TEEG's needs based programs (provided by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development, March 1, 2003).

	30% of Median	Very Low Income	Low Income
Family of 1	\$14,300	\$23,800	\$38,100
Family of 2	\$16,300	\$27,200	\$43,500
Family of 3	\$18,350	\$30,600	\$48,950
Family of 4	\$20,400	\$34,000	\$54,400
Family of 5	\$22,050	\$36,700	\$58,750
Family of 6	\$23,650	\$39,450	\$63,100
Family of 7	\$25,300	\$42,150	\$67,450
Family of 8	\$26,950	\$44,900	\$71,800

97 children in 23 Thompson households received book bags

20 children from 10 families attended summer camp

484 people from 187 households received fuel services

17 people from 3 families receive financial assistance



ec·u·men·i·cal – (e kyë-men-ikel) adj. open; of worldwide scope or applicability; universal



TEEG was created in 1988 with a singular mission: To empower individuals and families to achieve their highest level of independent living. Our primary purpose was to provide low-income families with outreach, enrichment and educational programs.





Today, our mission is far more encompassing. Empowering individuals is just one of four primary goals. The majority of our programs today are open to the community regardless of financial need.

Our name – Thompson **Ecumenical** Empowerment Group – embodies our commitment to provide programs that benefit all aspects of our community.

Community Development Programs

One of TEEG's proudest accomplishments in 2002 was the instrumental role we played in the development of two community-wide initiatives.

Thompson Together is a unification program to connect the resources, talents and passions of all of Thompson's residents, business and institutions. It is an asset engagement process aimed at making our community a healthier, happier place to live and raise our children. The community response to Thompson Together has been overwhelming. People from all areas of town are actively participating in economic, education, environmental and community development initiatives. The ultimate goal is to impact local policy to build a better future for all.

Two Community Conversations on "Democracy and Diversity" have given voice to stimulate civic involvement.

The Environmental Work Group designated May as Thompson Beautification Month. Several community events were organized including an 8th grade class assembly, a community pride day, and a town-wide roadside clean-up.

The Communications Work Group created the Town of Thompson web site.

The Early Education Work Group has initiated the development of a Community Resource Directory of local and statewide services.

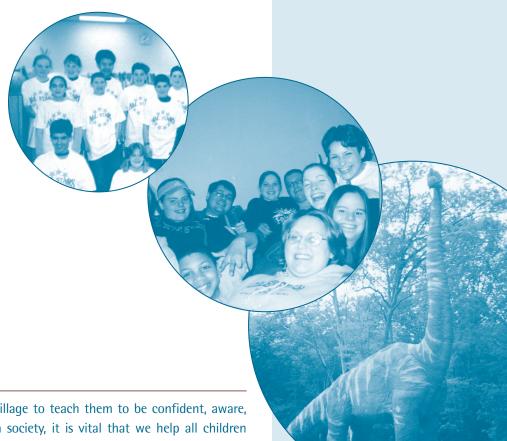
The Youth Leadership Initiative has begun to plan and implement the creation of a new Skate Board Park.

The **Community Healthcare Leadership Team** is working to develop the Thompson/Putnam Wellness Center. The team is a partnership between Day Kimball Hospital, the Northeast District Department of Health, and the towns of Putnam and Thompson. The facility will offer primary care, preventive healthcare and community wellness programs. Many uninsured or underinsured residents will benefit from this new community resource.

300 people participated in two conversations

300 people collected more than 8 tons of trash from over 135 miles of roadsides

www.thompsonct.org



Youth Programs

Children are our future. It truly does take a village to teach them to be confident, aware, responsible, and contributing individuals. As a society, it is vital that we help all children develop and grow. In providing Youth Programs, TEEG focuses on the individual. We get to know every child and understand his or her needs. Our goal is to teach them the meaning of values, the concept of consequences and significance of making the right choices in life.

A collaboration between TEEG and the Thompson Recreation Department, the **Thompson Youth Center** has provided a great opportunity to enrich Thompson youth with many social and educational programs such as tutoring, healthy relationships education, community services, dances, and dinners.

All Stars is a weekly after school program for Thompson 6th and 7th graders. Facilitated by TEEG, the Youth Center, and staff from the Thompson Middle School, All Stars helps pre-teens make connections between the future they want to create and the behaviors that will get them there.

Summer Fun Club is an experiential program that takes Thompson youth on various excursions for fun and learning. This year's Summer Fun Club worked with the Thompson Children's Librarian to promote early literacy and encourage summer reading. A book list was developed relating to the many adventures the children enjoyed such as trips to Old Sturbridge Village, the Ecotarium and Southwick Zoo.

120 youth participated in the Thompson Youth Center

18 students graduated and received sterling silver
All Star rings

51 K-4th graders participated in 9 different trips

Parent Programs

At TEEG, we believe making a difference in the life of a parent is the first step to strengthening family systems, which in turn positively affects the social structure of the entire community. Through our Parent Programs, we provide families in Thompson and surrounding communities with support, guidance, resources, and recreational opportunities.

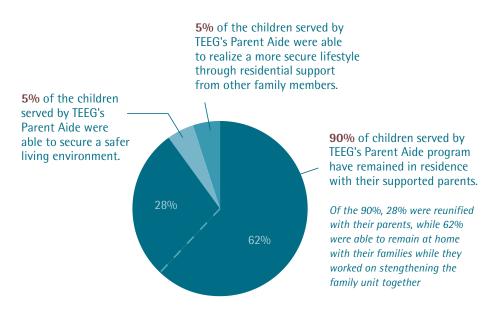
54 individuals from 35 families were helped by TEEG's Parent Support Group.

Parent Support Group, or "Parent's Night Out", is a weekly support group for families and children. Facilitated by TEEG's Parent Education Coordinator, parents come together to discuss a variety of topics concerning family life. Discussions range from "Sex Education: What do your children know?" to "New Techniques for Managing Stress" to "Power Struggles: Navigating Your Way to a Healthier Parent/Child Relationship."

5 families with children ages birth to three years old participated in parents as teachers

Parents as Teachers encourages healthy families by educating parents about the resources and tools to set family goals and empower better decision-making. The objective of the program is to help parents learn new ways to foster their children's language skills, intellectual growth, social skills, and gross and fine motor skills. Through a series of home visits, TEEG's certified Parents As Teachers Educator shares information on child development, age-appropriate activities, and tips on how to assess a child's social, emotional, and physical development.

Parent Aide is a home-based education service, which aims to improve all aspects of family life and keep families together. The program is staffed by a parent educator who meets with the family for a minimum of one hour per week. The family and the parent aide join together to assess problem areas and set appropriate goals. In addition, the TEEG Parent Aide is often considered a link between the family and external systems such as school, community and social service agencies.





Families

Strengthening families is a central part of our mission at TEEG. Our family programs encourage parents and children to develop healthy, respectful relationships with each other while meeting new families and making new friends.

During **Parent/Child Playgroup**, children learn and develop emotional, physical, social, and intellectual skills appropriate to their age and needs.

TEEG's **Young Parents Playgroup** was introduced in 2002 for parents up to twenty-five years old and their children. Specific activities included programs and speakers such as: Claytime with pottery pieces; baby massage classes; seminars on nutrition, immunization, first aid and CPR; and community presentations from representatives of Headstart, Thompson Public Library, and Planned Parenthood.

Seniors

Seniors are an invaluable part of the Thompson community. They connect us with our past and generously share their life experiences, talents and wisdom. TEEG is committed to helping seniors lead active, involved, healthy, and independent lives. Throughout the year, our programs provide Seniors with vital services as well as entertainment and social activities.

Case Management Services are offered to assist seniors in daily activities such as filling out confusing forms, financial management, meal planning and shopping.

Recreational Programs allow seniors to stay connected with friends, family and the community. Activities organized by TEEG include intergenerational outings, Thanksgiving and Easter dinners at senior housing locations, trips to all Bradley Playhouse productions, holiday caroling, and Summer Fun Club trips.

TEEG is an outlet for seniors to participate in **Volunteer Opportunities.** We could not accomplish all that we do without the generous help of the many seniors who donate their time and talents to projects such as food distributions, mentoring and tutoring Thompson children, driving other seniors, and administrative support tasks.

Through a partnership with Day Kimball Hospital, TEEG was able to bring a series of three **Health Education** seminars to seniors at each of the three housing complexes in the town of Thompson. Topics were selectively chosen by geriatric specialists to cover issues most important to seniors' health: anxiety and depression, osteoporosis, and exercise.

19 parents and 37 children participated for fun and learning

16 parents and 20 children participated

More than 250 seniors received assistance

209 seniors participated in recreational activities and programs

20 seniors provided 1,320 hours of volunteer service to TEEG

69 seniors attended six Health Education seminars

part·ner·ship – (pärt ner-shîp) adj. mutual cooperation and responsibility in the achievement of a specified goal

Federal

- Senior Resources Agency on Aging Senior Outreach
- CDBG Parent Education Community Services

State

- Department of Social Services Social Services Block Grant
- EastConn Supervised Visitation
- Department of Children and Families Parent Aide Parent Education & Support Center

Municipal

- Town of Thompson Local Match for Thompson Programs
- Thompson Public Schools Safe School Grant

Private Foundations

- William Casper Graustein Memorial Foundation Early Education Initiative
- Parent Trust Fund Parent Engagement & Civic Training

Faith-Based Support

- Episcopal Bishop's Fund Summer Fun Club
- Campaign for Human Development Food Security Program

Public/Private Partnerships

• Operation Fuel Fuel Bank

Community Support

Corporate Donors Business Partners Individual Contributions "Be an Angel" Campaign Have A Heart



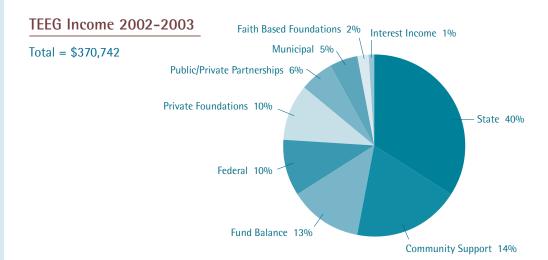
About the Budget

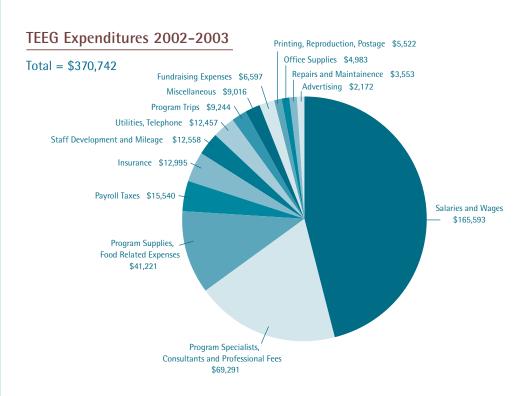
Stability requires two things – planning and **partnerships.** At TEEG, we have been fortunate to enjoy the benefits of both.

Sound financial planning over the past five years has allowed us to plan for rainy days – and this year brought more than a few showers. The State budget crisis trickled its way down with the news of a \$50,000 contract that would

go unfunded. While similar news devastated some agencies around Connecticut, TEEG is was able to makeup the shortfall. We were able to continue to provide our full level of programming and still close the books in the black.

The strength of our fiscal planning could not have been possible without the supportive partnerships that we have established with residents, the town of Thompson, local businesses, private foundations, State agencies and Federal programs. Even in these economically difficult times, TEEG succeeds by bringing together the many hands of our partners and our community.







If community spirit is the heart of TEEG, than volunteerism is our soul.

grate-ful – (grät`ful) adj. appreciative of benefits received; thankful

Every program we provide is made possible through the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Our agency's leadership is provided through a volunteer Board of Directors; our Food Security reaches hundreds of residents every year because volunteers make it happen; our lawn gets cut, our gardens weeded and our children supported all because there are people willing to donate their time, their resources and their abilities to make things happen in our community.

For all of you who are interwoven into the fabric of our success, we at TEEG and those we serve are forever **grateful**.

Special thanks go to MAD Communications and Pelton Graphics for donating their time and creative talents to develop our 2002–2003 Annual Report.

Martha Adams
Sherri Allen
Bob Baker
Amanda Barthlette
Rita Barthlette
Jan Bates
Nikki Beaulieau
Tony Beaulieau
Brenda Benette
Diane Benette
Dot Bergeron
Melissa Bixby
Paul Bixby
Dolores Blain
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Gabe Grant
Shelby Grant
Dan Greene
David Greene
Doug Gremo
Ashley Henry
Diamond Henry
Douglas Henry
Norman Henry
Billy Higgins
Chris Hunt
Nicole Hunt
Phyliss Hunt
12 10 11 11 11

Kelly Ignasiak

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Becky Myers

Over 1,500 hours of Volunteer Service for TEEG provided by:

20 volunteers in senior outreach

32 volunteers in food security
15 volunteers for office/grounds
13 volunteers for youth programs
21 volunteers serving as Directors



gen·er·ous – (jen er-ous) adj. liberal in giving or sharing

Be an Angel

A simple phrase, but not a simple request. To be an angel, one must put others ahead of themselves... to being willing to support the common good... to openly promote acts of kindness and compassion.

In today's insular, fast-paced world it can be hard to find the angels among us. But not at TEEG.

The mailing of this Annual Report begins TEEG's seventh annual "Be an Angel" campaign.

Thank you from the bottom of hearts for your continued support.

Sponsors

Apex Technology Group Archambault Insurance Associates BARR, INC. BCS Company Church's Custom Heating, Inc. Citizens National Bank **D&P Water Systems** Day Kimball Hospital Gilman & Valade Funeral Hometown Properties Johnson Corrugated Products JUST PAINTING K & R Automotive, Inc. Kerrin Graphics 7 Printing, Inc. Laframboise Well Drilling, Inc. Landry's Flooring Lord Thompson Manor Putnam Savings Bank Quinn & Company, LLC Rondeau's Garage Wizard Candles, Inc.

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Shawn,Tracy, Lily, & Olivia Allen
Gary & Anne Alves
Carl Anderson
Jane Anderson
Katherine Anderson



Support for TEEG programming comes from far and wide. We want to thank all of the local businesses, organizations, and individuals who have **generously** cared enough to reach beyond themselves in support of the greater community. This year we would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. John Bayer, former members of the TEEG board of directors, for serving as honorary chairpersons for the 2003–2004 Angel Campaign.

Dora Hrabos

Louise & Steven Hurchala

Megan Anderson Charles & Alice Archambault Tim & Lisa Arsenault Raymond & Jane Austin Norm Babbitt Peg & Dave Babbitt Virginia Babbitt William Bainbridge Charles Balch Clarence & Georgia Ballard Denis Ballargeon, MD, FCCP Ruth Barks Jeffrey & Wendy Barske Bernard & Eunice Bastek John and Barbara Bayer Marcel & Gloria Beauregard Bernice & William Bednaz Lawrence & Arlene Bellerose Robert & Doreen Bentley Margaret Bibek Mike Bogdanski John Boland Harold Bolduc **Heather Bonitz** Arthur & Elizabeth Bourbeau Henry & Estell Bourgeois Alison Boutaugh Edward & Diane Bradley Shawn & Tara Brissette Yvette Brissette Gregory & Tonya Brock Robert & Stella Brodeur **Dave Brooks** George Cameron Joseph Capasso Brian Charbonneau Carl & Carmen Charbonneau Edward & Linda Charlton Arabinda & Nita Chatteriee Ronald & Anne Chrzanowski Richard & Rochelle Cimochowski Robert & Marquerite Cloutier Floyd & Jean Cole Lloyd Colwell Peter & Sharon Contois Donna & David Copeland **Shirley Corey** Susan Corey Marshall Curtiss Karen Dalev George Dargati Bob & Cheryl Darling John Day, Jr.

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Marjorie Wheeler
D.E. & Donna Williams
Felicia & Vernon Wilson
Richard & Charlotte Wisneski
Frederick & Aileen Witkowski

William Witkowski Robert Wood David Yeager, MD

Businesses & Organizations

A-1 Septic Service Acts II Ministries, Inc. American Rent-All, LLC American Storage Balfour Farm Barrette's LLC

Balfour Farm
Barrette's LLC
Big Y Food Industry Crusade
Bill's Bread and Breakfast
Blackmer Farms
Book Lovers Gourmet
Bousquet's Appliance
Brighter Skies Balloon Co.
Bruce Thomas Licensed
Massage Therapist
Cableworks Inc
Celebrations
Charter Communications

Charter Communications
Chase Road Growers
Christ Church of Pomfret
Cobbscroft Studio

Colonial Club

Congregational Church of Putnam

Congregational Church

of Thompson

Connecticut Farm and Pet

Country Kitchens
Crabtree & Evelyn
Cranston Foundation
CRF Interior Systems
Ct Audebon Society
Danielson Surplus Sales
Daughters of Isabella
David's Styling
Day Kimball Hospital
Deary's Gymnastics
Diamond A Ranch

DKH & Byrnes Agency
DMB Design The Flowers Bed

Drive to Victory

East Woodstock Congregational

Church Electric Boat

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Fosket's Equipment
Friendship Valley
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Gene's Furniture Loft
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Hilltop Ceramics
Home Town Heating
Hull Forestry
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