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SPRINGFIELD FAMILY CENTER DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



Hello, Friends!

'Tis the season!

Here's a look at some goings on this month at the Springfield Family Center!

Annual Basket Raffle:

Springfield Family Center's Annual Basket Raffle Fundraiser is in full swing, and we've got some GREAT BASKETS!

Ticket Pricing:

\$2 per ticket

3 tickets for \$5

All proceeds will directly benefit our programs, helping us make a positive impact in the lives of our neighbors.



Have a peek at the baskets online using the button below as there is something for everyone in the family!

Want to see the baskets in person?

Come check out the amazing baskets at SFC! We'll be open for in-person viewing and ticket purchasing on the following days:

December 10th, 12th, and 16th

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Don't miss your chance to see these awesome baskets up close and get your tickets!

Your support helps ensure no one goes hungry this holiday season. Thank you for making a difference, and happy shopping!



[View Baskets & Get Tickets Here](#)



Support Springfield Family Center with ~ “Buy a Day; Make a Difference!”

With Springfield Family Center’s recent move to a more accessible location, we’re experiencing a surge in demand for our charitable food resources. Unfortunately, this increased need coincides with decreased funding opportunities. As an organization dedicated to providing free food, we rely solely on town appropriation, grants, and fundraising events to sustain our charitable food programs.

To help meet the rising demands, we’re excited to introduce a new way for individuals to support our mission: “Buy a Day; Make a Difference!”

Here's how it works:

- Purchase a Calendar Day: Honor yourself or someone special by purchasing a day on our calendar, which will provide up to 30 meals for food-insecure neighbors.
- Public Recognition: The honoree will be publicly recognized on their chosen day as a vital partner in our efforts to combat hunger in the community.

This is a unique way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion by gifting hope and sustenance to those in need.

Lead the Way! Spread the word about your special day! Any donations made on that day will be matched up to \$100.00

Secure Your Day:

- Make a one-time gift of \$100 to the Springfield Family Center.
- Alternatively, become a sustaining donor for just \$10/month.

For more information or to purchase your day, please email us at:
SFCbuyaday@gmail.com

Together, we can make a difference!

November Buy a Day Honorees:

November 1st, 2024: Jane Mallon-Czajka-On this day Jane was honored by her Springfield Supported Housing Program Family, who came together to recognize the incredible person she is and all she does for others!



Christmas Tree Sale:

The Springfield Lions Club's will be hosting their Annual Christmas Tree Sale, happening December 6th and 7th at Johnathan's Summer Place in Springfield Plaza.

Tree Details:

All trees are Balsam Fir

Price: \$50 per tree

\$15 per tree will be donated to the Springfield Family Center, helping to combat food insecurity in our community.

Sale Hours:

Friday, December 6th: 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 7th: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM (or until sold out)

They will also be holding a FREE raffle for a wireless indoor/outdoor thermometer! Simply enter with your email and phone number, and stay informed about future tree sales.

Spread holiday cheer while supporting a great cause!

Warming Drive:

Our friends at the Springfield Supported Housing Program are hosting a Warming Drive on Saturday, December 7th, at Shaw's Plaza.

They are seeking gently used or new items to help individuals stay warm during the cold winter months.

If you have any of the following items to donate, your contribution would make a huge difference:

- Winter coats
- Hats, scarves, and gloves
- Blankets
- Warm socks
- Thermal wear (like long underwear)
- Boots and other cold-weather gear

This is a great opportunity to give back to the community and help those in need stay warm this winter.

Please consider donating to this worthy cause and supporting your neighbors in Springfield.

Thank you for your generosity!

Springfield Supported Housing Program

GIVINGTUESDAY

**WARMING
DRIVE**



We are excited to invite you to our upcoming Warming Drive, where we aim to make a significant difference in the lives of those who need it the most.

**Drop Off Locations:
until December 9th**

Springfield:

SSHP
Springfield Town Library
Great Northern Liquidation
Springfield Police Department
Senior Solutions
ESD
Springfield State Office

Bellows Falls:

Parks Place Resource Center

Windsor

Windsor Resource Center
Windsor Recreation Center

Donate gently used or new winter clothing items. This season, let's make a difference by participating in our Winter Warming Drive event. Donate your gently used clothes and help someone stay warm during the cold winter months

Contact: Courtney Campbell
1-802-885-3034 ex 112-
Vista@sshpvt.org

56 Main ST. Suite 209b/po box 178 Springfield, VT 05156 www.sshpvt.com



11 AM - 4 PM

7

DECEMBER

**SPRINGFIELD
PLAZA**

2 CHESTER ROAD
SPRINGFIELD, VT 05156

Holiday Meal Boxes:



The Springfield Family Center is gearing up for our Holiday Meal Box distribution and we need your help! Please consider donating items like:

- Stuffing
- Gravy
- Potatoes
- Canned vegetables
- Turkey
- Cranberry sauce
- Pie
- Fixings

And any other holiday meal staples that will make a family's celebration merry and bright!

Donations can be dropped off during business hours at our location.

If you want to support this cause but don't have time to go shopping, consider making a monetary donation to help us fill in the gaps for the meal boxes. Simply click the button below to donate through our website.

Your generosity will ensure that every family has a delicious meal to share with loved ones this holiday season. Thank you for helping us spread joy and warmth to our community!

Holiday Meal Box Donations

Holiday Food Drive:



Join us in spreading joy and making a difference in our community this holiday season! The HCRS Food Drive is active now and runs through December 12th. Thank you for your support!



SFC Staff Member Spotlight:

Getting to know SFC Staff, Steffanie Baker:

We are thrilled to highlight our incredible Kitchen/Operations Manager, Steffanie Baker. A true product of a military upbringing, Steffanie spent her childhood living in various parts of the country, but she found her true home in Southern Vermont 14 years ago. She has fully embraced all that Vermont has to offer, making it the perfect place to settle and grow both personally and professionally.

Steffanie's career path has been diverse, but the past decade has been particularly impactful as she ran her own business, which included providing in-home care to local residents. Through these experiences, she cultivated her deep passion for helping others, a thread that would become central to her life's work.

In 2020, Steffanie's desire to serve her community led her to volunteer with a local non-profit focused on hunger relief, and she later joined their Board of Directors. This hands-on community involvement sparked her dedication to organizations that uplift and support local families.

This passion for community service and helping others found its perfect fit with us at SFC, and we are beyond grateful to have Steffanie as part of our family. In the kitchen, she works wonders, pouring love and care into every dish she creates. Steffanie's commitment to ensuring our food-insecure neighbors receive the sustenance they need is truly inspiring.

Steffanie, THANK YOU for all the magic you make happen in the kitchen and for everything you do to support our mission! We are so lucky to have you on the team!

Peanut Butter and Jelly Showdown Results!



Peanut Butter & Jelly Showdown: The race to be #1 came to an exciting conclusion in the Probation & Parole vs. Department of Children and Family Services "Peanut Butter & Jelly Showdown"! The winner is insert dramatic drum roll... PROBATION & PAROLE!!

Team Peanut Butter pulled ahead with a total of 2440 ounces collected, while Team Jelly gathered 1750 ounces. What an incredible effort from both teams! Though Team Jelly didn't take home the bragging rights this time, everyone is a winner in the battle against food insecurity.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this challenge. Your contributions will make a tremendous difference in our continued work to help those in need. Together, we're making an impact!



Springfield Rotary Club Food Drive Results:

On behalf of everyone at Springfield Family Center, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our incredible Springfield Rotarians!

Springfield Vermont Rotary Club's unwavering support and dedication made this year's food drive a resounding success, bringing in an amazing 1,098 lbs of food, along with \$593.00 in monetary donations.

These generous contributions will go directly to ensuring that none of our neighbors go hungry.

With the rising need for food assistance, the support from the Rotary Club is more important than ever, and this donation will allow us to continue providing for those in need.

Thank you for always coming through and helping us make a difference in our community!

Together, we truly make a difference!

Recipe of the Month:



SFC's Veggie Guide: Mashed Butternut Squash

**This is a colorful and flavorful alternative to the mashed potato.
Mashed Butternut Squash is sweet and full of nutrients! Enjoy!**



Ingredients:

1 small butternut squash
fresh or frozen (about 1.5
lbs or 3 cups cubed)
1-2 tablespoons butter or
olive oil
Salt and Pepper to taste
Optional: Cinnamon,
brown sugar, red pepper
flakes, paprika, garlic
powder, other seasonings
to taste

Items You'll Need:

Knife
Spoon
Saucepan
Bowl (microwaveable)
Colander
Masher/Hand Mixer
Microwave (optional)
Serving Bowl
Serving Spoon

Directions:

1. Peel, de-seed, and chop butternut squash into cubes (as explained in previous squash guide). Add to a medium-sided saucepan, and cover with water. Bring to a boil, and cook for 5 minutes, or until squash is tender. Drain the water, and return the squash to the saucepan for 2 minutes, stirring frequently to remove excess moisture from the squash.

Or if using frozen squash, warm up pieces in a microwave safe bowl in the microwave for 10-12 minutes in 2 minute increments, removing the squash to break up defrosted pieces and check until it's cooked through and warm.

2. Transfer the squash to a large bowl. Add butter/oil and salt/pepper, or try different seasonings like paprika, red pepper flakes, garlic powder, brown sugar, or cinnamon for different flavor combinations. Mix with a hand mixer or masher to your preferred consistency.

3. Transfer to a serving bowl, and top with a pat of butter or a drizzle of oil.

Enjoy!

Recipe Adapted From: <https://www.eatthis.com/microwave-recipes/>



Colder Weather:

The colder weather has set in...

Often, this is a time of pleasure for many as they enjoy all the excitements of the holiday season!

However, far too many others are worried as they are burdened with trying to figure out how to navigate the challenges the change of seasons brings. The changing of temperatures equals increased costs for individuals and families already struggling to make ends meet.

In Springfield, over 30% of the households are cost -burdened - - which means that the occupants pay more than 30% of their income to housing. In such a case, there is often not enough money to pay for other basic needs, including healthy and nutritious food. With this in mind, Springfield Family Center is asking for your help as we prepare to meet the increased needs of our community.

[Donate Here](#)

Here are ways you can help us help others!

- Host
a
food
drive
- Donate
Shelf
stable-
in
date
food
- Donate
fresh
fruits
and
vegetables
- Donate
frozen
Hams
and
turkeys
- Start
a
workplace
challenge
food
drive
- If
you
are
able

make
a
Monetary
donation
▪ Become
a
sustaining
donor-
as
little
as
\$10/month
can
“buy”
a
pre-
made
meal
for
one
person
or
enough
ingredients
from
the
food
shelf
to
provide
a
meal
for
2-
3
people.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Supporters!

Annual Campaign gratitude: On behalf of everyone at Springfield Family Center, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the generous and caring individuals who have contributed to our annual campaign. Your extraordinary gift plays a transformative role in ending hunger in our community, providing substantial resources that allow us to make a lasting impact.

We could not do the work we do without your incredible generosity. Your kindness is a vital part of our mission, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.

Thank you again for being a crucial part of our community!:

Feast for All (\$3,000+)

Leslie Kimball and David Kappos
Carol Riley

Harvest Hero (\$1,000+)
Crusideckplans, LLC
Winifred McDowell
Diane Kemble
Walter Dodd

Nourisher: (\$500+)
Tony Petrillo
Adam Forguites
Tammy and Sean Millard
Susan and Walter Richter
Karen Longo
Springfield Housing Authority
ImageTek Mfg.

Pantry Patron (\$100+)
Ted and Ruth Cody
Edward Foster
James Cahill
Paul Gurney
All Seasons Construction
Marty Hammond
HB Energy Solutions
Peter MacGillivray
John and Patricia Graves
Mary Ward
Robert and Christine Dufresne
John and Hallee Humler
Christopher and Judith Ryder
Sandra Mollica
Patricia Magrosky
Richard and Jennifer Waylisko
J. ArmandSaucy amd Barbara Rodgers
Jim Tucker
Hugh and Nancy McLernon
Beatrice Robitaille and carol Brown
Edward Becker
Roger Cawvey
Joy Benson
Patrick and Carol Brown
Kathryn Harty

Breadbasket (\$25+)

Jane Mallon-Czajka

Bruce Cox

William and Carol Eramo

Norma Cioffi

Warren Cross

Joan Cioffi

Kenneth and Sara Spoor

Kevin Anderson

Margaret Knoras

Nancy and Paul Bladyka

Sharon Stoddard

Charles Malinowski

John and Jane Waysville

David and Barbara Martell

Daniel Woodbury

Karl and Barbara Riotte

Jacqueline Sargent

Carla Kelley

Jan Rogers

Lucy Mary and G. Steven Kempe

Pat Townsend

Roger and Delores Pelloquin

Rick and Geri Marasa

Linda Spinney

Seedling (\$10+)

Virgina Thulen

November Food Donors:

Keith and Judy Sterns

Black River Produce

Mike and Donna Builders

Claremont Savings Bank

Willing Hands

Margaret Kelly

The Moose Lodge

The Baker Family

The Colburn Family

Rick Lachapelle

Springfield Area Parent Child Center

The Vermont Telephone Company

Robert Slaton

Dollar General

Shaw's Supermarket

Local Churches: All of us at SFC would like to extend our most sincere gratitude to the following churches who do so much throughout the year to help us feed our community. They truly embody the spirit of giving, and we could not do what we do without them:

North Springfield Baptist Church
Sprignfield Assembly of God
St. Mary's and Holy Parish
Unitarian Universalist Church
First Congregational Church
United Methodist Church
Church of Christ
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
Calvary Baptist Church

Your dedication, generosity, and unwavering support are a vital part of our mission. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for being such an incredible partner in our efforts to fight food insecurity and build a stronger, more compassionate community.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Windham Foundation for their generous grant to the Springfield Family Center in support of our charitable food programs. Their support truly makes a difference in the lives of so many in our community!

We are deeply grateful for all that you do!

Buy A Meal For A Neighbor:

SPRINGFIELD FAMILY CENTER

FOOD INSECURITY IN SPRINGFIELD

2 out of 5

Vermonters do not know where their next meal is coming from. Springfield, in particular, suffers from a poverty rate that is 47% higher than Vermont's average. Out of 9,000 residents, roughly 2,430 are living at or below the poverty line,



With SFC's recent move to a more accessible location, we have seen a steady increase in the number of meals we serve each day as well as an increased use of our food shelf.



YOU can help by buying a meal for a neighbor. With as little as \$10.00, you can "buy" an entire prepared meal for one person or enough ingredients from our food shelf to provide a meal for a household of 2-3 people.

Scan the QR code and make a donation today!



www.springfieldfamilycenter.com

Buy A Meal For A Neighbor

See you in 2025!

Your Friends at the Springfield Family Center

802 885 3646



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