



SPRINGFIELD FAMILY CENTER

February 2026 Newsletter

Springfield Family Center Receives: Springfield Regional Area Chamber of Commerce Organization of the Year Award

All of us at the Springfield Family Center are deeply honored to have received the **2025 Organization of the Year Award at the 110th Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting** on January 30, 2026. This recognition belongs not only to our organization, but to the entire community that has walked alongside us and made this work possible.

For nearly six decades, the Springfield Family Center has been a place of support, connection, and resilience, meeting individuals and families where they are, listening first,

and offering care rooted in compassion, dignity, and hope. This award reflects the shared commitment of our partners, supporters, and neighbors who believe, as we do, that no one should have to worry about where their next meal comes from. That belief is at the heart of everything we do, and we are deeply grateful for the trust our community places in us each day.

We would also like to take a moment to honor the founder and original heartbeat of the Springfield Family Center, Myrtle Birsky. It is with heavy hearts that we share that Myrtle passed away on January 14. We dedicate this recognition to her—her spirit and unwavering belief in the power of community continue to guide our work.

That legacy is carried forward daily by SFC's devoted staff: Steffanie Baker, James Harris, Keegan Mack-Chase, and Executive Director Trisha Paradis, whose compassion, perseverance, and tireless dedication embody Myrtle's vision. We also extend our sincere thanks to the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce for recognizing our efforts and honoring our role as a vital part of this community.

This recognition belongs to Myrtle, to our staff, our Board of Directors, our supporters and volunteers, and to the individuals, families, and community we are honored to serve.

Thank you. Together, we are making a meaningful difference.



Springfield Family Center Helps Feed Youngest Community Members

Did you know we currently operate and stock two in-school pantries at local schools? These pantries ensure children have access to nutritious food during nights, weekends, holidays, and school breaks. Due to growing need, we've recently been asked to launch a third in-school pantry, helping even more children get the food they need to thrive. Our pantries are restocked once a month to ensure students always have access to fresh and nutritious food.

You can help!

Please consider dropping off in-date food items, earmarked for our in-school pantry

programs. You can also purchase items directly through our Amazon School Pantry Wish List, or make a monetary donation earmarked for school pantries.

Amazon School Pantry Wish List

Ways To Give

Springfield Family Center Wish List

Hygiene Products

Conditioner

Shampoo

Body Wash

Deodorant

Hand Sanitizer

Soap

Feminine Hygiene
Products

Hair brush/comb

Razors

Shaving Cream

Toothpaste

Toothbrushes

Cold Winter Gear:

Winter Hats

Mittens/Gloves

Hand/Feet Warmers

Heavy Socks

Other useful Items:

Can Opener

Plastic Forks

1 or 2 Gallon Zip Lock
Bags

Food Shelf

Canned Meats

Canned tomato
products

Tomato Sauce

Spaghetti Sauce

Assorted Pastas

Canned Pasta

Rice

Cereal

Oatmeal

Pancake mix

Canned Soups

Canned Beans

Canned Fruits

Canned Veggies

Shelf Stable Milk

Condiments

Seasonings

Mac & Cheese

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Halal, Kosher and
Gluten Free Foods

School Pantries

Cereal

Mac & Cheese
(microwavable is great)

Canned Pastas

Spaghetti Sauce

Canned Soups

Canned Fruit

Applesauce

Assorted Pasta

Canned Tuna fish

Canned Chicken

Canned Veggies

Oatmeal

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Want to help but don't
have time to shop or
drop off items? Scan
the QR code to make
your donation today!

Donation to Springfield Family Center, Inc.



Community Partner Spotlight: Springfield Supported Housing Program

Spotlight on Community Leadership: Tara Chase

The Springfield Family Center would like to shine a light on Tara Chase, Operations Director of Springfield Supported Housing Program.

During recent frigid temperatures, Tara quickly coordinated with Project ACTION and local businesses to set up an emergency warming shelter. The shelter included cots, food,

hygiene supplies, and much more from various partners, providing a safe, warm place for individuals in need of shelter.

This effort truly shows the power of community coming together. Visit SSHP's social media for a complete list of participating organizations and see just how much can be accomplished when we work together! Visit SSHP here to learn more about their important work in the community.



Help keep the warming shelter open when it's needed most. Volunteers NEEDED!

Interested? Contact 802-357-3101

January Buy A Day Honorees

Buy a Day, Make a Difference” Honorees – January 31: August & Andrea of Plainsbrook Farm

All of us at SFC are so grateful for these incredible supporters, who have been champions of our work for years. They generously donate hundreds of dozens of eggs, pounds of beef, and fresh farm-raised foods to help feed our neighbors.

Their impact goes far beyond food; August & Andrea also give their time, care, and energy to make sure our neighbors have not just enough to eat, but healthy, high-quality foods they can enjoy with dignity.

Because of their generosity, people in our community don't just eat for a day, they are nourished all year long. Thank you, August & Andrea, for your kindness, your heart, and your unwavering commitment to our neighbors.

Springfield Family Center, Inc.

Buy a Day, Make a Difference!

Purchase a calendar day in honor of yourself or someone special and gift enough ingredients to make meals for up to 30 food insecure neighbors.

The honoree will be publicly recognized on their chosen day as a partner in the Springfield Family Center's efforts to help reduce hunger in their community!

What a unique way to help someone celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion by giving this gift of hope.

Lead the way by buying a day! Spread the word about your special day to friends and family and any donation made on your day will be matched up to \$100.

To secure your day, make a one-time gift to the Springfield Family Center in the amount of \$100 or become a sustaining donor throughout the calendar year \$10/month.

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



Buy A Day, Make A Difference!

Business Partner Spotlight: Plainsbrook Farm

None of the services Springfield Family Center provides to the community would be possible without the incredible partnerships, collaborations, and generosity of others. This month, we are proud to honor Plainsbrook Farm in Weathersfield, VT, as both our “Buy a Day” Honoree for January 31st and our Business Partner Spotlight.

August and Andrea of Plainsbrook Farm are dedicated to ensuring their neighbors have access to high-quality, nutritious food. For several years, they have generously supported Springfield Family Center by donating beef, chickens, eggs, and more. In January alone, Plainsbrook Farm donated 100 dozen farm-fresh eggs, helping feed countless families in our community.

Thank you August and Andrea! All of us at Springfield Family Center are deeply grateful to Plainsbrook Farm for your generosity and the lasting, positive impact you continue to make on our community.

[Click here](http://www.plainsbrookfarm.com) to learn more about this incredible farm.



Save the Date: Second Annual Garden-Themed Fundraiser!

We are excited to announce that the Springfield Supported Housing Program and the Springfield Family Center will be hosting our Second Annual Fundraiser on **Thursday, May 9th, from 5:00–9:00 PM at the Springfield Elks Club.**

Join us for an evening filled with:
Live music from local bands

Silent auction with exciting items
Delicious refreshments and Cash Bar

All proceeds will support individuals and families facing housing instability and food insecurity in our community.

Business Sponsorships Available – Your support will help plant seeds of change and make a meaningful impact.

Let's *TURNIP* the fun, get down to the *BEETS*, and have a *GRAPE* time, all for a great cause!

Mark your calendars – you won't want to miss this!




Other Upcoming Community Events

Free Slow Aqua Fitness Class for Beginners

The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center has partnered with the Vermont Department of Health and Senior Solutions to offer a FREE Slow Aqua fitness class for beginners.

This class is open to all community members and is a great slowly get back into fitness, stay active, improve flexibility, and enjoy the water in a supportive environment. REGISTRATION is required, see flyer.



FREE

SLOW AQUA




A beginners' aqua-based fitness class focused on improving balance, strength, and mobility.

Mondays from 2:00-2:45PM

Edgar May Health and Recreation Center
140 Clinton Street, Springfield, VT

This weekly class is **FREE & OPEN TO ALL**. Space is limited. Register online at www.edgarmay.org or call 802-885-2568.

This program is supported in part by the Vermont Department of Health State Arthritis Program Cooperative Agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Senior Solutions.



140 Clinton Street, Springfield VT | 802-885-2568
www.edgarmay.org | info@edgarmay.org

Join Springfield on the Move for “First Friday” in Downtown Springfield!

Support the businesses who support so many!

Mark your calendars for February 6, 5–8 PM and explore the vibrant local scene on Main Street. Meet new business owners, shop, socialize, and enjoy unique activities at participating spots like:

The Copper Fox – live music

Gallery At The Vault – cocktails & art

Purrmont Cat Café – family game night

VRmont Studios – VR escape rooms & drone soccer

The Bully's Den

Ghost Roast Coffee Shop – Glow Night

Kavidia Healing Center – beginner sound bath & intention setting

PUR Identity – food sampling & hair/skin consultations

Third Space

First Fridays celebrate Springfield's local businesses, with fun, surprises, and special experiences for everyone. Don't miss this chance to explore downtown and support our community!

THRIVE Thrift & Community Resource Center – Special Event!

THRIVE Thrift & Community Resource Center is hosting a special event with amazing deals to raise money for their voucher program.

This program helps organizations like the Springfield Family Center provide vouchers worth up to \$30 to individuals and families facing adversity, giving them access to free items from THRIVE's store.

February 12-14th Mark your calendars and come support this great cause!
Ascutney, VT – near the intersection

Check out the flyer for more details!

Shop, save, and help your neighbors thrive!



Thrift Store & Community Resource Center

VALENTINE TREASURE BOX FILL-UP

Love in Every Bite, Support in Every Box!

**February 12th-14th
10am-5pm**

**5087 Route 5
Ascutney, VT 05030**

Project Action to hosting Free Movie Night: Shrek!

Project Action Crime and Safety is hosting a free viewing of Shrek at Springfield Cinema 3 on Friday, February 27th.

Free admission for all students and families enrolled in the Springfield School District or the River Valley Technical Center.

Complimentary popcorn and beverages included!

Registration is required – [Click here to register](#).

Don't miss this fun, family-friendly event!

SPRINGFIELD PROJECT ACTION
PRESENTS

Rescheduled

Family Movie *Morning*



2.27.2026

10 a.m. arrival
10:30 a.m. screening

Springfield Cinemas 3

26 Main Street, Springfield

Springfield youth and their families are invited to join us for a free screening of the classic, Shrek. The event will include popcorn, a beverage and a raffle for free gas cards.

**Advance registration is appreciated to
ensure we do not exceed capacity.**





Gratitude's: A Heartfelt Thank You

All of us at the Springfield Family Center want to take a moment to thank our amazing supporters. Whether you donated food, contributed financially, volunteered your time, or shared words of encouragement, your generosity continues to make a real difference in the lives of the families we serve.

Because of your support, we are able to provide essential services, nourishment, and hope to community members when they need it most.

Your kindness warms hearts, thank you for helping our community thrive!

January Annual Campaign Donors:

Paul and Eileen Kendall

Kurt and Patricia Staudter

Barbara Rodgers

Food Donors:

Daryl

Judy Sterns

Willing Hands

Holy Family Baptist Church

North Springfield Baptist Church

Ginny Thulen

Tara Anderson

Elizabeth Willis

Rodney Holton

Luanna

Willow farm Pet Services

First Congregational Church

Plains Brook farm

Carol Hitchcock

Pat

VFW Post 771 Auxiliary

Bill Snide

Boris

Tenny Brook Gas Station

Sharon

Robin Knight

HCRS

Springfield Library

Lincoln Street, Inc.

Sileissner, LLC

Donna Builder

Marie Reed

Crown Point Board of Realtors

Springfield Housing Authority

St. Marys Church

UU Church

Other monetary Donors:

Virgina and Harold Balou

Elizabeth and Fred Willis

Carol Hansen-Sustaining Donor

Lindsey Nguyen

Alwin Schuller-Sustaining Donor

Kathryn waters-Sustaining Donor

Tessa Daniels-Sustaining Donor

Jenna Martin-Sustaining Donor

Paul Cioffi-Sustaining Donor

Caroline Comely-Sustaining Donor

Pat Hill and Angeal Trauth-Sustaining Donor

Ian Speers-Sustaining Donor

Rachel Fontana-Sustainig Donor

Carol Knightt-Sustaining Donor

Chris Pujdak-Sustaining Donor

Joanna Alix Watercolors-Sustaining Donor

Thank you **Springfield Lions Club** for donating \$10 from every Christmas Tree Sold to the Springfield Family Center! \$850 was raised to help us continue feeding our neighbors and caring for our community

All of us at Springfield Family Center would like to thank **Dianne of Divella Designs** for donating 15% of her December sales to support our SFC's food programs.

Springfield Food Coop for choosing SFC as your change round-up program And a big thank you to all the shoppers who rounded up, your generosity makes this program possible.

HCRS-Thank you for the donation to help feed our neighbors led by your staff!

Another A special thank you to our **sustaining donors**—your ongoing support month after month ensures that our work continues and our community members have the help they need when they need it most.

Together, we are making a meaningful difference in our community!

See you in March!

Your Friends at the Springfield Family Center

802 885 3646

Click Here To Donate Today To SFC!



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