



## **SPRINGFIELD FAMILY CENTER**

### **April 2026 Newsletter**

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### **Spring Is Here—Let's Grow Together!**

Spring has arrived, and the Springfield Family Center is full of energy! We're seeing new faces every day, and it's wonderful to watch our community getting outside and enjoying the sunshine again.

With the growing season underway, we're excited to expand our "Grow a Row, Feed a Neighbor" initiative by helping more families start their own gardens.

#### **Plant a Garden - Grow a Neighbor**

For just a \$5 donation, you can sponsor a Home Garden Kit for a neighbor who may not otherwise have the means to grow their own food. Each kit includes:

Vegetable and herb seeds  
Peat moss and soil  
A seed starter tray  
Plant supports

These small gardens make a big impact, providing fresh, healthy food while empowering families with new skills. Participants are encouraged to grow a little extra to share, creating a ripple effect of generosity throughout our community.

We'll also offer individual seed packets, as available, to reach even more households.

Already have a garden? Consider planting an extra row to support local food shelves and community food programs.

### **Donate Today**

Online via PayPal or Venmo  
By check: 130 Springfield Plaza Road

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our friends, **Annie and Rob Aft**, for supporting this mission through their generous donation of seeds. Your kindness helps plant the foundation for fresh food, shared resources, and a stronger community.

We are still accepting seed donations and welcome your support in helping this initiative continue to grow.

Together, we can grow fresh food, stronger connections, and a healthier community; one garden at a time.



## Springfield Family Center is Seeking an AmeriCorps VISTA!

Are you passionate about fighting food insecurity and making a real difference in your community? Springfield Family Center is looking for a

dedicated AmeriCorps VISTA for the upcoming service year!

This is your chance to learn the ins and outs of our programs, gain valuable experience, and help strengthen the support systems that families in Springfield rely on every day.

Apply today and become part of something meaningful

Scan QR Code or click on the link:

Make an impact. Build your skills. Serve your community.

**AmeriCorps VISTA!**



Are you interested in completing a Service Year with AmeriCorps VISTA?

## Come Serve with us at Springfield Family Center!



### SFC's VISTA Gets To:

- Help Fight Food Insecurity in the Springfield Area

Learn About:

- Hosting Fundraisers, Community Events, and Educational Workshops
- Volunteer Recruitment and Management
- The Grant Writing Process
- Creating Educational and Marketing Content, and Managing Social Media For a Nonprofit
- And More!

### Benefits Include:

- A Bi-Weekly Living Stipend
- Living Stipends Arent Included Towards public benefits such as ReachUp/3Squares
- Student Loan Forbearance/Forgiveness
- Federal Noncompetitive Eligibility (NCE) After Completion of Service
- Workshops and Professional Trainings
- Work Experience in the Nonprofit Sector
- An Educational Award of \$7,395 or An End of Service Stipend of \$1800
- Professional Development Funds For Attending Workshops Of Your Choice



“During my Service Year at Springfield Family Center, I was able to develop new professional skills, learn about everything that goes into running a nonprofit, and feel like I was making a positive difference in fighting food insecurity as part of a great community. The experience I gained during my AmeriCorps VISTA year is irreplaceable, and I’m so glad I took the opportunity to serve at Springfield Family Center.”

### To Apply:

Go to [my.americorps.gov](http://my.americorps.gov) and click Join at the top of the page. Search for Springfield Family Center and submit your application.

SCAN ME



**AmeriCorps**

**Get Ready to TURNIP the Fun!**

Springfield Family Center and Springfield Supported Housing Program

Garden-Themed Fundraiser is BLOOMING with excitement, and you do NOT want to miss this event!

The silent auction is shaping up nicely with amazing items: handmade jewelry, unique experiences in and out of state, signed merchandise, local services, and so much more.

Bidding happens at the event only, so get ready to snag your favorites on May 9th!

A huge THANK YOU to all the generous businesses and individuals who have donated so far:

Red Sox Foundation, Divella Designs, Village Square Booksellers, Blue Sky Trading Company, Faith's Toyota & Ford, Farnum Insulators, Fred's Rock Shop, Halladay's Harvest Barn, Lisai's Market - Bellows Falls, Montshire Museum of Science, Pop's Chocolate Shop, Vandal and Sons, VRmont Studios, York's Wild Kingdom Maine's Favorite Zoo & Amusement Park, TwinLine Towing, Recovery & Auto Repair, Boston Bruins Foundation, Tegan Coley Photography

Your generosity helps us GROW something truly meaningful for our community!

May 9th

5:00-9:00 PM

Springfield Elks Lodge, 49 Park Street, Springfield, VT

Scan the QR code or click the link below to Reserve your Tickets Today!

Let's PLANT seeds of change, GROW hope, and have a GRAPE time together! KALE YEAH!!!

[\*\*Reserve Tickets\*\*](#)

**Garden Party**  
**FUNDRAISER**

BENEFITING  
SPRINGFIELD SUPPORTED HOUSING PROGRAM  
& SPRINGFIELD FAMILY CENTER

**SATURDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**5 PM ~ 9 PM**  
**THE ELKS CLUB**  
49 Park Street • Springfield, VT

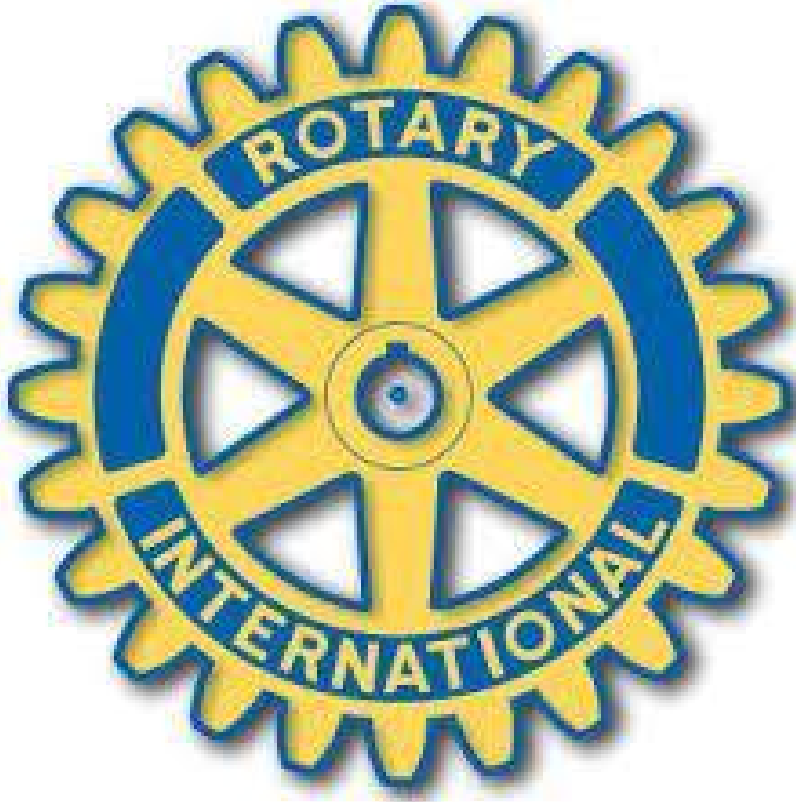
**TICKETS: \$40 PER PERSON**

**ENJOY**

- Silent Auction
- Live Music
- Refreshments
- Cash Bar Available

*Live Music Acts:*  
**RUST AND RUIN**  
**STEAM JENNY**  
**MILKHOUSE HEATERS**  
**BILL BRINK**

**SCAN HERE**  
TO RESERVE  
YOUR TICKETS!



## **Help us stock our shelves!**

Our friends at the Springfield Rotary Club will be hosting their annual Springfield Food Drive benefiting the Springfield Family Center

When: May 16th, 2026

Where: Shaw's Plaza-Springfield, VT

Time: 8:30-1pm

Here is our Wishlist of items that are regularly used and needed:

We accept donations during regular business hours. Food bins on our behalf are also located at the Springfield Food Co-op, Shaw's Supermarket, and the Springfield Town Library.

Can't make it, but want to donate, Scan the QR code or click the button below to donate today!

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## Springfield Family Center Wish List

### Hygiene Products

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Bar Soap
- Hand Sanitizer
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Hair Brush or Comb
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste

### 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
- Can Openers

### School Pantries

- Cereal
- Mac & Cheese (microwavable is great)
- Canned Pastas
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Soups
- Canned Fruit
- Applesauce
- Assorted Pasta
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Veggies
- Oatmeal
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Can Openers

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.



**Food Drive Donation**

## Upcoming Community Events

### Memory Café

Senior Solutions will be hosting a Memory Café this April. These free, welcoming events are designed to support caregivers and the individuals they care for, offering a chance to connect, socialize, and access helpful resources in a relaxed environment.

Be sure to explore the wide range of supports available for caregivers through Senior Solutions:

<https://www.seniorsolutionsvt.org/services/caregiver-support/>

See Flier for event details, including date, time, and location.

# April Memory Cafes

11:00–1:00

Chester  
April 2  
1st Thursday  
313 Main Street

Ludlow  
April 9  
2nd Thursday  
48 Pleasant St.

Wilmington  
April 16  
3rd Thursday  
Old Firehouse

Brattleboro  
April 27  
4th Monday  
American Legion

Ludlow  
April 27  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday  
10:00–1:00  
48 Pleasant St.

White River Junction  
April 20  
3rd Monday  
10:00–12:00  
Bugbee Senior Center



Caregivers and their loved ones gather together to share resources, companionship, and connection.

All are welcome. Free

## Stay Connected. Stay Involved. Help Prevent Crisis Before It Happens

Want to be more active in your community? Come see how the Springfield community is working together to prevent crises before they happen.

You're invited to join the Springfield Police Department and Project ACTION to learn how you can get involved and make a difference.

Date: April 15

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Location: 51 Jack and Jill Lane, North Springfield, VT

See the flyer for additional details.



SEE HOW SPRINGFIELD IS PREVENTING CRISIS  
BEFORE IT HAPPENS



YOU'RE INVITED

Project  
ACTION

# SPRINGFIELD SITUATION TABLE OVERVIEW

Serving Springfield and Surrounding Towns



What if we could help people BEFORE things get worse?

Springfield's **Situation Table** is doing exactly that—bringing together local partners to respond quickly when individuals and families are at **SERIOUS**



**Real people. Real situations. Real solutions.**



## WHY THIS MATTERS

- Prevent crises before they escalate
- Get people connected to help **within 24-48 HOURS**
- Reduce strain on police, EMS, and schools
- Build a stronger, safer community



## WHO THIS IS FOR

If you work with or care about people in our community, this is for YOU:

## BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

This is more than a meeting—  
it's a **community** coming together  
to **make a difference.**



## WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- ✓ How the Situation Table (simple + effective)
- ✓ How YOU can bring a situation forward
- ✓ How agencies work together instead of in silos
- ✓ The real impact happening right here in Springfield



## EVENT DETAILS

- 📅 **Date: April 15th, 2026**
- 🕒 **Time: Noon – 1:30 PM**
- 📍 **Location: 51 Jack and Jill Ln,  
North Springfield, VT**

**Come see how we can work together to support our community.**

## Youth Video Challenge - Share Your Vision!

Springfield Project ACTION, in partnership with BRACC and SAPA TV, is hosting a SUPER fun challenge for youth ages 12-26!

Create a short video sharing your vision of the best possible version of

your community—what makes it great! See Flyer for complete details

All winners will receive a \$50 gift card to a business of their choice!

Deadline: May 1st

See the flyer for full details, and learn more or submit your video here:

## Youth Video Challenge



# Youth **VIDEO** Challenge

## CREATE A SHORT VIDEO INSPIRED BY THIS PROMPT:

Fast forward five years. Your community has grown into its best possible version. What does it look like? What's changed—and what still makes it feel like home? Show us your vision.

 Open to VT youth (12–26) in the Springfield-Chester area



LEARN MORE/ENTER

### GUIDELINES:

- Work alone or in a team of up to 3 people
- Keep your final video between 1–3 minutes
- No copyrighted material
- No violence, profanity, nudity, or hateful content
- You keep full ownership of your video



**WINNERS RECEIVE A \$50 GIFT CARD TO A LOCAL BUSINESS OF THEIR CHOICE!**

## 33rd Annual Week of the Young Child Family Festival & TOUCH-A-TRUCK

Join the Springfield Area Parent Child Center and Edgar May Health and Recreation Center for a fun, free event for children and families!

Date & Time: Saturday, April 11 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Inside: Entertainment & activities led by local educators  
Free photos for families

Outside: Touch-A-Truck event (9:00–10:00 AM is sensory-friendly!)  
Theme: CONSTRUCTION – building strong foundations for young children and families.

Come explore, play, and celebrate the joy of learning and community together!

For more Info contact: Springfield Area Parent Child Center: (802) 886-5242 | [sapcc@sapcc-vt.org](mailto:sapcc@sapcc-vt.org)



## Edgar May Climb & Swim Camp – April Vacation 2026

When: April 20–24, Monday–Friday | 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Where: Edgar May Health and Recreation Center-Springfield, VT

You can look forward to a week of adventure, teamwork, and fun! Kids will enjoy:

Low-challenge team-building games

40-foot climbing tower

Swimming, pool games, and Kids' BOGA class

Special outing: April 22 at Green Mountain Indoor Rock-Climbing Center (Rutland)

Sign up for the full week or individual days.

Rates:

Edgar May Members: \$269/week | \$79/day

Community Members: \$289/week | \$94/day

Second Child Discount or Access for All Financial Aid available

**April Camp**

## **River Valley Job Fair - Connect with Local Opportunities**

Looking for a new job or exploring career options? Don't miss the upcoming River Valley Job Fair, hosted by the River Valley Workforce Investment Board. This event is a great opportunity to connect with local employers, learn about available positions, and explore career pathways in the region.

Whether you're entering the workforce, considering a career change, or seeking new opportunities, employers from a variety of industries will be on-site and ready to meet you.

April 23, 2026

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Riverside Middle School

[See Flyer for Complete Details](#)

Come prepared with your resume and take advantage of this chance to network and discover what opportunities are available in the River Valley area.




# RIVER VALLEY JOB FAIR

## Ready to unlock your future?

Join us at the River Valley Employment Fair to find new opportunities, connect with top employers in the area, network with industry leaders, and discover the career path you've been waiting for.



<b>EVENT INFO:</b>	<b>04.23.2026</b>
<b>3:00PM - 6:00PM</b>	 <b>Riverside Middle School, Springfield VT</b>



## FEATURED JOB FIELDS:



Business & Administration



Healthcare & Social Services



Trucking, Transportation, & Postal Workers



Manufacturing & Engineering

**ALSO FEATURED: A LOCAL FOOD TRUCK AND OVER \$500 IN RAFFLE PRIZES!**

**GRAB DINNER, FIND A JOB, AND ENTER TO WIN GIFT CARDS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES!**



## Heartfelt Thanks to Our March Donors

To everyone who donated food, contributed financially, or gave their time to support Springfield Family Center's food programs in March — we are deeply grateful.

Because of your generosity:

Families in our community have nourishing meals.

Seniors can access healthy food.

Neighbors facing challenges feel seen, supported, and cared for.

You are the heart of this work. Your kindness strengthens our community, making it healthier, more compassionate, and full of hope.

From all of us at Springfield Family Center, thank you for standing with us and with your neighbors.

**March Food Donors**

Daryl

VFW Post 771

Willing Hands

Jennifer Snow

Plains Brook Farm

Barb Keller

Mari

HCRS

St Mary's

Springfield Housing Authority

Springfield American Legion Post 18

Donna Builder

Danny Sanborn

Ken Lawrence

Springfield Town Library

United Methodist Church

UU Church

Elizabeth Willis

First Congregational Church

Nadine Fletcher

Judy Sterns

Shaw's Supermarket

Dollar General

**March Monetary Donors**

Pat Hill and Angela Trauth  
Springfield Assembly of God  
The Vermont Country Store  
Carol Hansen  
Alwin Schuller  
Kathryn Waters  
Tessa Daniels  
Jenna Martin  
Paul Cioffi  
Caroline Comley  
Carol Knight  
Chris Pujdak  
Joanne Alix Watercolors  
Rachel Fontana  
Ian Speers  
Ireen Daigle  
Jeannine Hughes  
Fred and Elizabeth Willis  
Chroma Technology  
Robert Flint  
Pat LeClair  
Sara and Kenneth Spoor  
Christadelphian Ecclesia  
Springfield Regional Development

Olen and Geetu Melwani

**Thank you for the Special Grant Support:**

We are profoundly grateful to the, the Hoehl Family Foundation, the Vermont Community Foundation for their generous grants.

Your support goes far beyond funding — it empowers Springfield Family Center to:

- Provide consistent access to nutritious meals for families and seniors.
- Expand programs to reach neighbors facing unexpected challenges.
- Ensure that every individual in our community is treated with dignity, compassion, and hope.

Because of your commitment, our community grows stronger every day. Your partnership makes this work possible. Together, we are making a measurable and meaningful difference.



See you in May!

Your Friends at the Springfield Family Center

802 885 3646

[Click Here To Donate Today To SFC!](#)



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