



## Warner Connects NH Year End Newsletter 2023 - Warner Area Food Pantry and Family Closet

Dear Friends and Supporters,

For the past year Warner Connects NH has shown that with more help, we can help more. Even in the face of economic headwinds and continued inflation, our volunteers and our board found ways to help more people in our community than ever before, all while transitioning the Food Pantry to instore shopping and new management.

We have poured everything we've learned in the past year into the organization as a whole, building the operational process for the Food Pantry from the ground up and incorporating it into a model for success now and in the future.

I hope as you read through this annual newsletter you are left with a feeling of accomplishment and excitement, and I hope you are motivated to continue helping our team fight hunger wherever it lives in our community. Please visit our website for our complete Annual Report for 2023.

With Gratitude,

The Board of Directors

### OUR MISSION

The mission of Warner Connects NH is to improve the health and well-being of area residents in need by providing access to healthy foods, nutrition education, and clothing.

### OUR HISTORY

Warner Connects NH began December 15, 2020, with their first official board meeting in February 2021. In addition, in 2021 the Family Closet was added as part of the business model to be the income stream for the food pantry. Our organization has two very distinctive arms of operation: our food pantry (Warner Area Food Pantry) which services clients with food and the Family Closet which accepts donations to create revenue for the pantry.

We have been located in the Town of Warner's Community Center since we opened operations. Our current space in the Warner Community Center houses the food pantry on the 1<sup>st</sup> level (1200sf) and the Family Closet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level (860sf). The Selectboard approved the use of space for both areas of our business in 2021. The town provides us with a space currently at a reduced rent of \$400/month that started in November 1, 2023 and provides NO monetary support to this organization. Prior to November 2023 we did not pay rent as we have been providing the town with a valuable service to the community at no charge. We are an entirely volunteer run organization; any revenue generated by the organization is used to support the clients served by Warner Connects NH and equipment needed to do so.

The Warner Area Food Pantry is considered an area food pantry to Community Action Program (CAP) and the USDA. We combine USDA nonperishables with fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, eggs, dairy, bread, cooking essentials, toiletries and more. The food pantry receives food and monetary donations from local residents, businesses, churches, farms, civic organizations, and several area agencies. Clients receive personal attention and contact, which many need for social connection. Deliveries are made to those who are elderly, disabled, or unable to get to the pantry on their own or with help. Volunteers pack up, deliver, sort, load, stock shelves, clean, pick up, and do paperwork. They are encouraged to connect with clients, and for many of our clients these connections are an important part of their week.

The Family Closet thrift store is an income stream for the food pantry, as we are one organization. This income helps pay for food purchased to supplement USDA food (as listed above). It also supports operational costs, supplies, overhead, and gas cards for volunteers who do delivery/pickup. It serves customers and clients with affordable clothing, shoes and bedding, averaging 125 customers a month. The Family Closet also provides clothes and accessories to clients including families identified by the schools and families with recent loss or sudden displacement (i.e. due to natural disaster, domestic violence or psychiatric release), often referred by one of our many community partners, such as The Crisis Center, New London Hospital Psychiatric Unit, and the Foster Babies Program. Family Closet is a sustainable location for residents to donate usable clothing, and it brings people to town who are likely to support other local businesses.

### OUR CLIENTS – 2023 Year End Totals

Our clients are qualified through USDA guidelines as they already receive social services for income-based need and/or assistance programs (i.e.: fuel assistance, food stamps, WIC, etc.), either through the state or federal agencies. We are able to service clients once a week.

#### 2023 Year End Service Numbers Towns and Number Served

NH County-Town	a. # Households	b. # Individuals	c. # Meals	d. # Elderly- 60 and over	e. # Children - 18 and under
Andover	5	21	105	2	0
Bradford	46	116	614	56	25
Concord	3	5	25	2	2
Danbury	8	11	65	11	0
Henniker	15	16	80	10	0
Hillsboro	10	10	62	10	0
Hopkinton	48	73	437	33	19
New London	39	59	297	14	25
Newbury	149	230	1250	100	57
Salisbury	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton	40	100	512	15	21
Warner	1487	2459	13291	894	353
Webster	39	72	366	18	24
Wilmot	10	42	208	26	8
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1898</b>	<b>3212</b>	<b>17310</b>	<b>1189</b>	<b>533</b>

**Percents for the Year: Adults: 46% Seniors: 37% Children: 17%**

### OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our dedicated volunteers are always willing to help where we need it. We couldn't do what we do without them. They are also subject to background checks.

Food Pantry Volunteer Hours 2023

Pantry Coordinator: 2640hrs      General Volunteer: 1859hrs.      Total: 4499hrs

Family Closet Volunteer Hours 2023

Family Closet Coordinator: 2000hrs      General Volunteer: 1113hrs.      Total: 3113hrs

**OUR FUTURE**

We desire to stay in our space at the Warner Community Center for as long as the Town of Warner has ownership of this building. Based on the economic impact of Warner Connects NH to the area population, we appreciate the continued support from the voters in our community. We look forward to continuing our work in conjunction with the Town Welfare Office to assist people in need, all without monetary support from the Town. The welfare office is required by law (RSA 21.6A) to assist in crisis/emergency including food and shelter.

We are putting a petition warrant article in for Town Meeting. It states: "To see if the town will vote to allow Warner Connects NH (Warner Area Food Pantry and Family Closet) to conduct their non-profit (EIN 85-4243224) operation rent free. This action would commence at the end of their current lease and would continue, in their current space, as long as they are servicing the people of our community." If you would like to sign the petition, please stop by the pantry or family closet to sign for support. Don't forget to come to town meeting on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

**OUR FINANCIALS**

Here is a look at our 2023 financial year end totals.

<b>Food Pantry</b>		<b>Family Closet</b>	
<b>Money In</b>		<b>Money In</b>	
Non-Cash Donations (in-kind donations)	\$91,442	Non-Cash Donations (in-kind donations Sep-Dec)	\$10,957
Cash Donations (Individuals & Businesses)	\$23,042	Sales	\$27,955
Family Closet Revenue received	\$22,700	Additional Income (donations)	\$200
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$137,184</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$39,112</b>
<b>Money Out</b>		<b>Money Out</b>	
Operating Expenses	\$18,409	Pay to Food Pantry	\$22,700
Rent (Nov. & Dec.)	\$800	Operating Expenses	\$5,048
Supplemental Food Purchases	\$11,280	Non-Cash Donations (in-kind donations Sept-Dec)	\$10,957
Non-Cash donated pantry goods (in-kind donations)	\$91,422		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$121,931</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$38,705</b>

Year End Balance		Year End Balance	
Income minus expenses	\$15,253	Income minus expenses	\$406

## INFORMATION ON OUR ORGANIZATION

We are located at: 49 West Main Street, Warner, NH 03278, Mailing: P.O. Box 402, Warner, NH 03278

Our website is: [www.warnerconnectsnh.org](http://www.warnerconnectsnh.org)

Donations: we can accept monetary donations through our website, in person or by mail.

We are a certified 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, which assures all your donations are tax deductible.

Find us on FB at: Warner Area Food Pantry

### **Food Pantry:**

Client Service Hours are: Tuesday, 4-6pm and Thursday, 11-1pm.

Office Hours are: Tues-Thur. 10-3pm. (donation drop offs and signups)

We also have a storage cabinet outside the pantry and a bin at Market Basket for non-perishable donations.

Phone: (603)456-2053

Email us at: [warnerpantry@gmail.com](mailto:warnerpantry@gmail.com)

### **Family Closet:**

Store Hours: Wednesday and Saturday 10-4pm.

Closed the month of January annually.

Donations: accepted during open hours. (2 white kitchen trash bags max, or 2 boxes equal size)

Phone: (603)456-2183

Email us at: [familyclosetwcnh@gmail.com](mailto:familyclosetwcnh@gmail.com)