



Warner Connects NH Annual Report 2024

Warner Area Food Pantry and Family Closet



Donate Online
www.warnerconnectsnh.org



OR

Send Checks to:
Warner Area Food Pantry
P.O. Box 402
Warner, NH 03278
603-456-2053

Tax ID#
85-4243224

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LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we journey through another year, we are filled with gratitude and a profound sense of optimism. We often reflect on the sentiment that food is more than sustenance. It is connection, uniting us at a communal table and serving as a reminder of our common humanity. We are honored to share this heartfelt message with you, as we reflect on the triumphs and unwavering commitment of our community.

This past year, we – alongside our neighbors – endured the impact of rising inflation, increased fuel and shipping costs. These hardships intensified the demand for our services, placing even greater pressure on our organization to “do more” for those in need. It is during times like these that our commitment to alleviating hunger shines brighter than ever.

We have fully transitioned the Food Pantry to instore shopping. Clients are able to choose what serves them best and we are able to reduce waste and create more value to our clients.

We have poured everything we’ve learned in the past year into the organization as a whole, building the operational process into a model of success now and into the future. This has allowed us to become a vital resource for those facing food insecurity.

In the following pages we share highlights and insight into what you have helped us do. We hope as you read through this annual report you are left with a feeling of accomplishment and excitement, and we hope you are motivated to continue helping our team fight hunger wherever it lives in our community.

With Gratitude,

The Board of Directors

OUR VISION

We envision a community in which everyone has access to sufficient, locally sourced and nutritious food. To help achieve this we provide volunteer opportunities for neighbors to help neighbors.

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 VALUES

We believe that access to nutritious food is a basic human right. We are committed to responding to the needs of our community through food acquisition, processing, and storage to expand our distribution network and provide necessary supportive services.

Therefore:

We value respect, compassion and honesty in all interactions and activities.

We value active listening and learning, appreciating the worth and diversity of each person.

We value the wise use of resources, creating new ways to improve our services and develop effective partnerships among the community-based organizations, agencies and churches that help sustain our work.

We value our volunteers and their diverse talents, background, passions and commitment to helping families and individuals.

We value the right of everyone, of all ages, to choose a diet that is nutritious, varied, and culturally appropriate from sources that are consistent, reliable, and preferably local.

We understand that food insecurity often exceeds the receipt of emergency food and we are committed to connect participants with area service providers who can help, as well as community and state resources that are available.

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 provide 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 1st level (1200sf) and the Family Closet on the 2nd level (860sf). The Selectboard approved the use of space for both areas of our organization in 2021. At Town Meeting 2024 it was voted and passed to allow us to occupy our spaces rent free as of July 2024 as long as we continue to

provide service to the community. 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.

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. In March 2024 we started a new partnership with NH Food Bank, which has added a variety of commodities for our clients to choose from. Our clients have varying needs for support, and they all 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. Our volunteers who pack up, deliver, sort, load, stock shelves, clean, pick up, and do paperwork are encouraged to connect with clients, and for many of our clients on service days, 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. The Family Closet serves customers and clients with affordable clothing, shoes and bedding, averaging 164 customers a month. The Family Closet also provides clothes and accessories to clients through store gift certificates. This includes 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 – 2024 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. **These statistics reflect the entire year; many households visit once a week.**

2,219

Households
Served

Households can visit once a week. We are a regional pantry and service our neighboring communities.

4,213

Individuals
Served

48% Adults
34% Seniors
18% Children

29,491

Meals Provided

We provide items to create 7 meals per person, per week. This can be attained by breakfast, lunch or dinner.

\$159,051

Food Donated

Donated food comes from the multiple partners and community members.

\$15,226

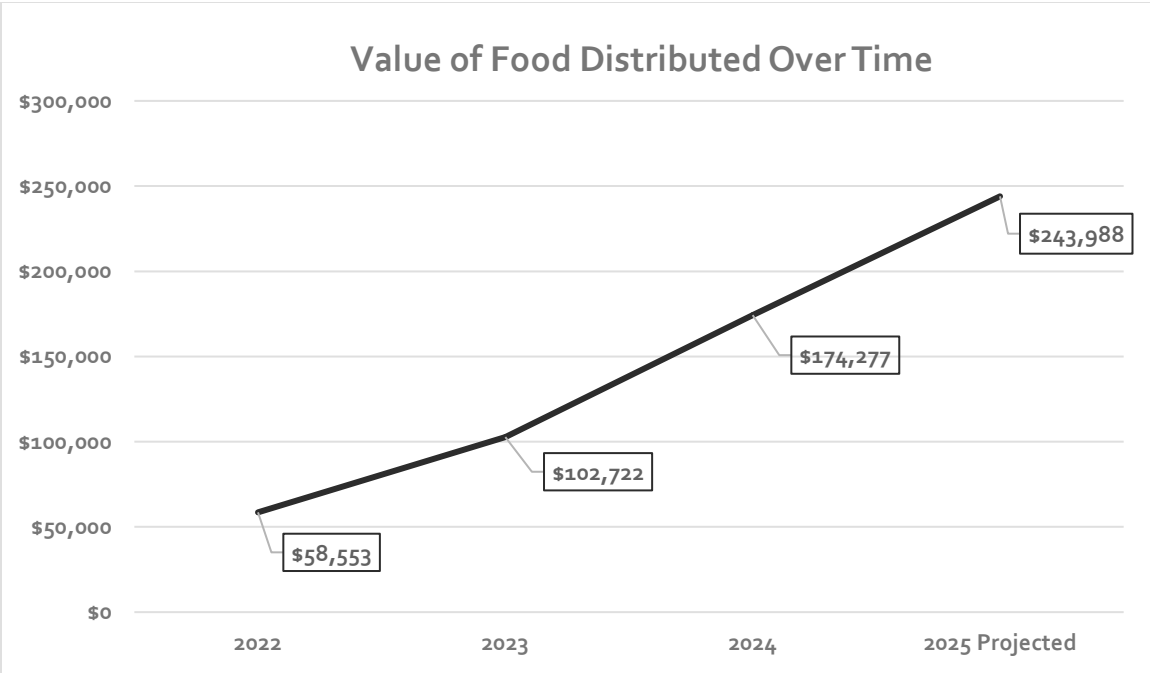
Food Purchased

We purchase food from Market Basket weekly, and other local vendors as needed to fill needed commodities.

\$7,000

Grants Received

Grants vary from year to year. We currently have 1 grant, in a 2-year cycle. First distribution 2024.



These totals are both donated and purchased food costs. The need for assistance has risen along with the cost of food. We have projected a 40% increase for 2025.

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 subject to background checks and they receive the needed training.

If you are interested in volunteering at either the Food Pantry or Family Closet, please call or email us. We are always looking for volunteers to help with our mission. Our treasured Family Closet Coordinator, Patty Anderson is retiring, and we are seeking an individual with the same passion and drive to take over and become a member of the team. We couldn't have done this without her devoted leadership since the beginning. If you are interested, please contact us. A full job description will be posted early Spring on our website.

4,148

Food Pantry Volunteer Hours

Volunteers work doing many tasks, from stocking, packing, picking up orders, delivering, cleaning, etc.

2,889

Family Closet Volunteer Hours

Volunteers work doing many tasks, from stocking, sorting, inventory, sales register, cleaning, etc.

OUR FUTURE

We are grateful 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.

We will continue to strive for excellence in organizational effectiveness to ensure continuous improvement and long-term sustainability.

We welcome feedback from clients, volunteers and town residents on how we can best serve our community.

OUR BOARD

Jonathan Lord, Chair

Apryl Blood, Vice Chair

Joanna Moore, Treasurer

Lianne Roux, Secretary

Brinda Balassone, Director

Amelia Gardner, Director

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

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. 10-1pm. (donation drop offs and signups)

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

Phone: (603) 456-2053

Email us at: 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

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Annual Partners are committed to supporting us at the highest level through annual financial contributions, food donations, food/fund drive collections, and items donated. We also gratefully acknowledge the numerous individual donations we received over the year; we keep these anonymous, but no less important and greatly appreciated.

Sweet Beet Market and Café	Kearsarge Food Hub	Warner Public Market
Aubuchon	United Church of Warner	NH Food Bank
The Local Restaurant	USDA	Café One East
Warner Pest Services	Sugar River Bank	GRVL Cycling
Yankee Farmer’s Market	NH Chartible Foundation	Girls on The Run
Merrimack County Gleaning	Knoxland Equipment	MadgeTech
Capital Region Food Program	Pepperidge Farm Breads	Bimbo Bakery
Market Basket	Pillsbury Free Library Warner	Mountain Wood Fund
The Liberty Toy Shop	Tru Earth Detergent Inc.	Make Grow
Mt Sunapee Ski Resort	Ridgeline Accounting	HR Clough, Inc
Tyler Lawn Care	Daniel Webster Council	Daniel O'Halloran
Edmunds Dept Store	Colby Insurance Group	Bennett Builders LLC
Cicely Beston Interior Designs	Old Hampshire Designs	Eric Eichner
New England Coastal Realty	Northscape Design LLC	SPCA
Rick Sorger's Heating & AC	db Landscaping LLC	
Kearsarge Regional High School	First Free Will Church of Sutton	
Spring Ledge Farm	Rosse Family Charitable Foundation	
Sunapee Board of Realtors Inc	Hager Investment Mang.	