



Warner Connects, NH Newsletter Summer 2024

Warner Area Food Pantry & Family Closet Thrift Boutique

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Warner Connects, NH is a 501(c)(3) that consists of the Food Pantry and Family Closet Thrift Boutique. 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 increase cost of food, our volunteers and our board found ways to help more people in our community than ever before. We hope you are also motivated to helping our team fight hunger wherever it lives in our community. For a complete 2023 Annual Report please visit our website at: warnerconnects.nh.org

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 WORK

The Town of Warner Welfare Office is required by law to assist residents in crisis/emergency, including for food and shelter. The Town now again provides our space rent free, thanks to the warrant article put in place at Town Meeting, March 2023. Our operations are funded in part from the operation of our Family Closet Thrift Boutique and donations from businesses and individuals.

In 2023, the Food Pantry provided \$102,722 in food and commodities, of which 80% went to Warner residents. Through the second quarter of 2024, we had about a 12% increase in households (160 individuals) requesting assistance, and through July 2024, we have already provided almost \$92,300 in food and commodities. With new clients signing up for assistance almost every week, we are on track this year to exceed the 2023 amount by about 55%. Our community need is increasing, and we have added new partners to try and keep up with this. Our food and commodities are partially donated from US Department of Agriculture, Capital Region Food Program (Concord), Sweet Beet Market (Bradford), Kearsarge Food Hub (Bradford), NH Food Bank (Manchester), Merrimack County Conservation Commission, SPCA (Concord), Warner Public Market (Warner), and local community members. However, we also use donated funds to purchase approximately 10% of the food items and commodities that we distribute to needy individuals.

The income stream from Family Closet Thrift Boutique helps pay for food purchased to supplement donated food & commodities from our partners (as listed above). It also supports operational costs, supplies, overhead, and gas cards for volunteers who do delivery/pickup. Family Closet Thrift Boutique serves customers and clients with affordable clothing, shoes and bedding, averaging 125 customers a month. The Family Closet Thrift Boutique 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 Thrift Boutique is a sustainable option for residents to donate usable clothing, and it brings people to town who are likely to support other local businesses.

2023 Family Closet Statistics:

Individuals helped: 100 clients

Clothing/Accessories: \$4200 approx.

Re-Donated to Non-Profit Organizations: 10 organizations

Clothing/Accessories: \$4000 approx.

OUR CLIENTS – THUS FAR: JANUARY – JULY 2024

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. However, we do not turn away anyone in need.

Warner Residents: 1536 individuals

Surrounding Towns: 486 individuals

\$70,148 of food and commodities to Warner Residents only

Percents Through July: Adults: 46% Seniors: 39% Children: 15%

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

Jonathan Lord – Chair
Apyrl Blood – Vice Chair
Joanna Moore – Treasurer
Lianne Roux – Secretary

Directors:

Brinda Balassone
Amelia Gardner
Patty Anderson

Operation Coordinators:

Apyrl Blood, Food Pantry Coordinator
Patty Anderson, Family Closet Coordinator

INFORMATION ON OUR ORGANIZATION

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

website is: www.warnerconnectsnh.org

See our website for updated newsletters throughout the year.

Donations: 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.

We are 100% Volunteer Run.

Food Pantry:

Phone: (603) 456-2053

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

Office Hours are: Tues-Thur. 10-1pm. (donation drop offs and signups)

A storage cabinet outside the pantry, a box at Sugar River Bank and a bin at Market Basket are available for non-perishable donations.

Email us at: warnerpantry@gmail.com

Family Closet:

Phone: (603) 456-2183

Store Hours: Wednesday and Saturday 10-4pm.

Closed the month of January annually.

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

Email us at: familyclosetwcnh@gmail.com