

# Annual Reports

of the  
Town of Norwich, Vermont

Fiscal Year 2005  
July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

## Part III: Other Agencies & Organizations

**ACORN  
(AIDS COMMUNITY RESOURCE NETWORK)**

ACORN has been providing direct comprehensive services to people living with HIV/AIDS, their partners and other family members since 1991. In the summer of 2004 ACORN's board of directors voted to expand our services to include individuals and families infected and affected by Hepatitis C (HCV). ACORN currently provides:

- Case management services to our clients infected with HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis C (HCV). The case management services provide a crucial link to assistance programs that allow our clients access to funds in support of their medical needs as well as aid in day to day expenses such as food, heat, medications, transportation, electricity and housing;
- Support groups;
- HIV/AIDS and HCV education prevention programs;
- A prison outreach program to include education, prevention, counseling and testing for HIV/AIDS or HCV;
- Free counseling and testing for HIV and HCV to any individual in the community with past risk factors.

Our services remain confidential. Each individual consumes approximately \$3,000 per year in financial assistance. If ACORN were not in existence, the financial needs of these individuals would fall on the social service provider of the town and could easily overwhelm the office's ability to respond. In addition, ACORN is the only agency in the entire Upper Valley area that helps the community remain aware that we must all pay attention to the real health concerns of both HIV and HCV.

ACORN would like to sincerely thank the Town of Norwich for their continued support. ACORN welcomes any question(s) or requests for information.

Thomas Mock, Executive Director (603-448-8887)

**ADVANCE TRANSIT**

Advance Transit welcomed 8,720 passenger boardings in Norwich this year. That makes two years in a row ridership has increased by 20 percent. Advance Transit's total annual fixed route ridership exceeded 300,000 for the first time. Now passengers can enjoy a nice bus shelter at the bus stop next to Dan & Whit's. Thank them for allowing the shelter to be erected on their property. Working late in Hanover? We have added a 6:13 p.m. departure from Vail/DMS. Previously, the last bus for Norwich left at 5:23 p.m.

Thanks in part to the increased contributions we received from towns last year, we are not requesting an increase in funding from Norwich this year. This is despite a sharp rise in diesel fuel cost.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated and makes it possible for us to continue providing this valuable service. We now are asking riders and other supporters who can afford it to make tax-deductible contributions. We are hoping to attract \$20,000 from riders by June 30. Since July 1, 2005, we have met about 25 percent of our goal.

Discover the convenience of taking the bus and reduce your commuting costs. Check out bus schedules online at <[www.advancetransit.com](http://www.advancetransit.com)>. Looking for carpool partners? Register with Advance Transit's Upper Valley Rideshare (UVRs) and receive benefits such as the Guaranteed Ride Home program. UVRs is now serving 172 towns in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Van Chesnut, Executive Director (295-1824)

### **AMERICAN LEGION LYMAN F. PELL POST #8**

The American Legion is a national veterans' organization that serves to promote an individual sense of responsibility to community, state and nation.

Post #8 continues to sponsor Norwich Cub Scout Pack 253. We assist with the Norwich Haunted House at Halloween. From Memorial Day through Veteran's Day the Post cares for and places the flags along Main Street for holidays and special events. We monitor flags on public buildings and place more than 300 U.S. flags at graves of all war veterans at all Norwich cemeteries. With financial assistance from the town we organize the Memorial Day Parade and hot dog roast. This year for the first time we had so many hungry participants we ran out of hot dogs and had to get more.

Post #8 offers to sponsor any Norwich resident of high school age to boys' state or girls' state American Legion Oratorical Contest, Junior Police Academy or Junior Fire Academy. Unfortunately, our youth are not being informed of these opportunities.

We have loaned out three walkers and four wheelchairs to Norwich seniors this past year. Our Thursday night cribbage games continue to be popular.

We currently have 18 members on active duty. Some are on a second tour of duty in the Near East. The post offers a blue-star banner to any Norwich home with a member in active military service.

Peter Batson, Commander (649-5496), Earl Thompson, Adjutant (649-1322)

### **THE FAMILY PLACE**

The Family Place supports the positive growth and development of all parents by offering services that encourage families to build upon their strengths. The Family Place Parent Child Center serves 22 towns in Vermont as well as numerous New Hampshire towns in the Upper Valley. We are committed to promoting the healthy growth and development of families with children aged birth to 5, although some of our programs serve clients through the age of 17. We serve all families, because parenting is the most important role in the community. At the same time, we strive to ensure that our services are available to those families who face significant challenges.

We provide parent education, playgroups, parenting skills, and family support services through home-based and center-based programs. We know that the earlier we reach children and their families, the better the chances are for them to lead successful, healthy lives and make meaningful contributions to their communities. Some highlights in FY'05:

- Our child care subsidy program helped finance child care for 665 children, between the ages of 6 and 11, from area towns.
- Our home-visiting programs served 926 individuals over the course of the year.
- We offered four playgroups in area towns for a total of 697 individuals.
- Our Family Fun Events attracted 967 parents and children. Our annual Gingerbread Festival, held at Tracy Hall, attracted more than 840 people and helped us raise money to sustain our programs.
- Our parent education program served 281 individuals with parenting information and informational workshops.
- Our on-site Child Advocacy Center has served a total of 79 children in the Upper Valley. We have an on-site therapist to work with this program.

The Family Place served more than 251 residents in various programs and events.

Elaine Guenet, Executive Director (649-3268)

### **GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Norwich is a charter member of the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, which was created in 1990 for the express purpose of managing waste generated within its member municipalities. The district provided direct service to Norwich in FY'05 while also planning for the member towns' long-term waste management needs, including continued planning and development of the North Hartland landfill.

In the previous year's report, we noted the GUV proposed landfill had received all necessary permits to begin construction. However, the district has a policy that as long as Lebanon City landfill continues to provide adequate service to the district at reasonable prices, it is not necessary to construct our landfill. Several times this past year the Lebanon City Council took up the issues of landfill usage and pricing and members stated that they are likely to implement changes but have yet to make any decisions that will adversely affect GUV residents. Recent per-ton tip fee increases have been \$1-\$2/year but a consultant for the city has recommended a \$5-\$7 increase as a reasonable market price for their services. We will be monitoring the situation closely and district staff will work with Lebanon officials to plan for future landfill needs of the region.

Direct services to Norwich included: working closely with the town to bring improvements and cost savings to the transfer station/recycling center; recycling and disposal of hard-to-manage materials collected at the transfer station; and participation by 108 residents in district-sponsored events such as computer recycling, household hazardous waste collections, compost bin sales, and bulky trash, tire and scrap-metal collections.

We welcome your suggestions on ways to improve our services. District events for the upcoming collection season are available by calling 296-3688 or going to <[www.guvswd.org](http://www.guvswd.org)>.

Fred Moody, Executive Director, (296-3688)

### **HEADREST**

As always, we truly appreciate your continued support in the fight against substance abuse, the top health issue in the Upper Valley, especially among adolescents. Often Vermont and New Hampshire rank among the highest in U.S. surveys for the number of people having a substance addiction.

The funds that the citizens of Norwich contribute to Headrest are used to fund several programs that serve the residents of Norwich along with many other residents of the State of Vermont. Our crisis hotline, Crisis Teenline, and the National Hopeline — 1-800-Suicide — are manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Headrest is one of 70 national call-in sites for 1-800-Suicide and we are accredited by the American Association of Suicideology, based in Washington, D.C.

Last year we received more than 11,500 calls on our crisis hotlines, a service funded solely by local towns and cities, the United Way of the Upper Valley, the United Way of Sullivan County and private donations. Our crisis hotline has been in operation for 34 years.

Our FY'05 records identify 110 calls received from individuals who identified themselves as Norwich residents, and based on the current trends, we would expect the calls received from Norwich residents will exceed 160 in the coming year.

Again, we thank you for your ongoing support and your generous contribution.

Michael Cryans, Executive Director (603-448-4872)

### **HEALTH CARE & REHABILITATION SERVICES OF SOUTHEASTERN VERMONT**

In the year ending June 30, 2005, our agency provided a comprehensive range of community-based services to 4,666 residents of Windsor and Windham counties. The services available include:

- Outpatient Mental Health Services: Highly trained therapists, social workers and psychiatrists to help individuals and families cope with stress and anxiety; also walk-in clinics for any resident with an urgent need to see a mental health counselor;
- Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services: Assessment, inpatient referral, outreach, outpatient treatment and aftercare to aid the recovery from chemical dependency and its effects;
- Community Rehabilitation and Treatment Program: Services for adults suffering from a mental illness so serious that it interferes with their capacity to function in the community; help and information to family members and clients to regain stability and learn how to manage their mental illness, either in a hospital setting or as outpatients;
- Community Services Division: Services to people with developmental disabilities and their families;
- The Alternatives Program: A short-term alternative to hospitalization, it provides crisis stabilization, respite and support to clients with psychiatric disabilities or to any adult experiencing an acute mental health crisis; transitional residence for those stepping down from an inpatient setting;
- Emergency Services: Specially trained mental health professionals are available 24 hours a day for emergencies. Anyone may use this service when a crisis arises, including individuals of any age, family and friends of an individual in crisis, hospitals and nursing homes, police, schools, clergy, businesses and other community agencies.

Will Shakespear, Director (295-3031)

### **MONTSHIRE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE**

The Montshire Museum of Science is a nonprofit, community owned and operated institution serving Norwich and surrounding communities since 1976. This year the Museum made several improvements to the Montshire entrance road and parking lot to provide safer access for families and schoolchildren. The Montshire has continued to offer several benefits exclusively to Norwich residents, including free admission to the Museum for Marion Cross School classes. In collaboration with Marion Cross, the Montshire again provided summer program scholarships to Norwich residents. The Museum donated complimentary passes to the Family Place, to the Fresh Air Fund for use by Norwich host families and to numerous other nonprofit agencies serving residents. The Museum also subsidized access to the Montshire for the Norwich Child Care Center. Many local nonprofit organizations serving Norwich benefited from free use of the Montshire's community room, including the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, the Ford K. Sayre Memorial Ski Council and the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission. More than 350 Norwich individuals or families are members of the museum and many other residents take advantage of the Montshire's proximity by regularly visiting. As one of the most popular attractions in northern New England, the Montshire brings important tourist revenues to Norwich businesses.

David Goudy, Director (649-2200)

### NORWICH HAPPENINGS

*Norwich Happenings* is a town newsletter that appears three times a year. In addition, we publish a page in the *Norwich Times* four times a year for town committees and officers to report on their activities.

In each issue of the newsletter, members of the *Happenings* committee write about issues affecting Norwich — from development to taxes to pressures on the small-town nature of our community. We also publish a calendar of community events, information about volunteer needs and activities around town, and profiles of people and institutions that affect life here. The town funds that support *Happenings* go entirely to printing and postage costs.

*Norwich Happenings* is edited by Rob Gurwitt. Committee members are: Ken Cadow, Theresa D'Orsi, Vicky Fish, Steve Gorman, Tom Gray, Lee Michaelides and Warren Thayer.

Rob Gurwitt, Editor (649-2766)

### NORWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Norwich Historical Society collects and preserves material relating to the history of Norwich from the 1761 founding of the town to the present. During this fiscal year there have been many wonderful additions to our collections, including Hutchinson and Burton family genealogies, Patterson Chair Co. artifacts, 19th- and 20th-century farm tools, and photographs and postcards illuminating the cultural history of our town.

The Historical Society also mounts exhibits and sponsors programs to celebrate and foster interest in our rich history. Not only were there regularly changing exhibits at the Lewis House, but we also mounted exhibits this past summer at the Vermont Historical Society's History Expo, Norwich Public Library and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. An annual holiday tea, potluck neighborhood suppers and a series of programs highlighting Norwich's own Olympians, the Rufus Porter School of wall painting and the experiences of former resident Jonathan Finer, who is now a *Washington Post* reporter, were just some of the outstanding programs offered by the Historical Society this year. The third and fourth grades from the Marion Cross School came to the society for specific programs tailored to their study of Vermont history. We are planning more programs with the Marion Cross School this year.

The number of local nonprofit groups who use the house for regular meetings continues to grow. The First Annual Antiques Show and Antiques Appraisal Day were a terrific success. With the generous support and guidance from the community, the Norwich Historical Society looks forward to playing an ever more vital role in Norwich.

William Aldrich, President (649-0124)

### NORWICH LIONS CLUB

The Norwich Lions Club, now in its 51st year of continuous community service, provides aid and assistance to numerous charitable organizations and families, primarily in the Upper Valley. The club is a member of Lions International, which is a worldwide organization operating in more than 180 countries around the world. With a motto of "We Serve," Lions are dedicated to helping others in need.

Our primary fundraiser during the past 15 years has been the Norwich Fair, held in July. Last summer the fair was moved from its prior location on Route 5 to the Marion Cross School Green. While this venue was somewhat scaled down from that of prior fairs, it was nevertheless very successful and the upcoming fair in July 2006 will again be held on the Green. As a result of the fair's success, we have been able to continue with our traditional support of numerous local charitable organizations, including the Haven, the Red Logan Dental Clinic, Upper Valley Special Olympics, Holiday Basket Helpers, Windsor County Partners and local Boy Scout and Brownie organizations, among others. In addition, given the number of natural disasters around the globe this year, we provided needed funds through Lions International to victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia, as well as victims of Hurricane Katrina. We are also providing support to the victims of the earthquake in Pakistan and, closer to home, to needy families affected by the recent floods in the Alstead, New Hampshire, area.

Norwich Lions meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Norwich Library community room and we invite all men and women of Norwich and surrounding towns to join us. If you are interested in learning more about the Lions, please contact Jay Van Arman at 649-1723.

Mike Woods, King Lion (649-1263)

### NORWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Norwich Public Library is a private, nonprofit corporation operating under 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. It receives funds for operations primarily from the annual town appropriation and annual contributions. The library serves the residents of Norwich and neighboring communities. We offer quality adult and children's books, audiobooks, videos/DVDs, periodicals and an array of online databases accessible from your home! The library has wireless access in addition to four Internet computers. Patron usage and circulation grew 10 percent this year, from 55,369 to 61,099. Through purchase and donation, more than 2,500 new items were added to our shelves. Usage of the community room continues to increase: We hosted nine art exhibits, and 29 local organizations hold regular meetings there. The library offered 171 programs for adults and children, 16 of which were held in cooperation with other organizations. Fifty outreach visits were made to those who could not come into the library.

The library was a grateful recipient of a Norwich Women's Club community grant that paid for shelving for our rapidly expanding young-adult and DVD areas. The Friends of the Library provided funding for our summer reading program, new shelving and a subscription to *The Wall Street Journal*. It was a busy and successful year!

None of this would be possible without the generous support from Norwich residents, our dedicated volunteers and Friends organization and our patrons. On behalf of the library board of trustees and library staff, we thank you.

Lucinda H. Walker, Director (649-1184)

### **NORWICH SPECIAL PLACES**

Norwich Special Places (NSP) is an all-volunteer conservation group designed to conserve special places of high natural or social value to the Town of Norwich; to respond quickly to conservation opportunities; and to be proactive, so that conservation opportunities can be anticipated rather than lost.

NSP is run by an 11-member board of directors and supported by an advisory council of about 100 members. The Upper Valley Land Trust enables NSP to focus on conservation projects by providing guidance, maintaining financial records and nonprofit tax status.

The natural resources that NSP seeks to conserve include but are not limited to: water resources, prime agricultural land, forest land, scenic features and recreation, flood plains and unique or fragile biological sites. Social resources include properties of special historic, archeological or educational interest and those with scenic or recreational values.

NSP and the Norwich Conservation Commission recently organized a town celebration for Ed and Joyce Childs' donation of a conservation easement — and eventually lands — next to the Gile Mountain Tract. The two organizations also contributed to the stewardship expenses of the donated easement.

NSP and the Conservation Commission recently finalized an informal open space plan for the Town of Norwich that will help identify and guide priority protection and conservation efforts. A copy of this plan may be viewed at the town website, <[www.norwich.vt.us](http://www.norwich.vt.us)> (follow links to Conservation Commission), or by calling one of the contacts below.

Sarah Reeves (649-3827) and Jonathan Frishtick (649-2514), Co-chairs

### **NORWICH WOMEN'S CLUB**

Established in 1907, the Norwich Women's Club (NWC) promotes the cultural, educational, civic and charitable aspects of life in Norwich. Membership is open to all residents of Norwich and other interested persons, and stands at this time at just under 200.

Each fall and spring the NWC sponsors the Nearly New Sale, where gently used clothing is sold. Profits from this sale, about \$40,000 annually, are given as scholarships to Norwich graduating seniors and to non-traditional residents for tuition for higher education. This year fully one-third of all scholarships awarded to Hanover High School seniors came from the Norwich Women's Club.

In March the NWC stages Floribunda, a sale of plants and flowers. Proceeds from this event, about \$14,000, are awarded in the form of grants to Norwich individuals and organizations for community projects that enhance the lives of all Norwich residents. A sampling of some of this year's grants include projects for the Norwich Historical Society, Norwich Public Library and Starlake Village Homeowners Association as well as town concerts and plantings.

Other activities of the NWC last year included a lecture and lunch and two day-trips for its members and guests. The club also hosts three meetings each year, at which business and socializing mix. The NWC is governed by a 25-person board and provides opportunity for all of its members to participate in events that enhance relationships and community here in Norwich.

Sue Pitiger, President (649-1684)

### **SOUTHEASTERN VERMONT COMMUNITY ACTION**

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) is an anti-poverty, community-based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965.

Our mission is to enable people to cope with, and reduce the hardships of poverty; create sustainable self-sufficiency; and reduce the causes and move toward the elimination of poverty. SEVCA has a variety of programs and services to meet this end, including Head Start, weatherization, emergency services (such as fuel and utility assistance, food, shelter), crisis intervention, parent education, micro-business development, individual development accounts and four thrift stores.

In the community of Norwich we provided the following services during FY'05:

Weatherization — 24 homes at \$14,473

Family services (outreach) — 9 families; 42 services

Fuel/utility assistance — 9 assists at \$1,078

Community support through town funding helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of federal, state, private and town funds allows us not only to maintain, but to increase and improve service.

We thank the residents of Norwich for their ongoing support.

Stephen Geller, Executive Director (722-4575)

### **TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION**

During 2005 TRORC provided technical expertise and resources for municipal officials as well as advocated for members' needs with the state legislature and with state and federal agencies. Major accomplishments for the past year included:

Regional and local transportation planning — We wrote many transportation enhancement grants and assisted our towns in procuring design engineers, processing requisitions for payment and organizing public meetings for local input. TRORC also assisted communities as they worked their way through the environmental permitting process on transportation projects and conducted many traffic counts, speed limit studies and intersection analyses.

Local technical assistance — Over the past year, we provided advice and support to town officials on a wide range of activities. This included grant writing and administration, assistance on town plan revisions, ordinance development, GIS mapping, transportation planning and Act 250 development review.

Emergency planning activities — The regional commission's emergency management planning program continued to be funded by FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security. Projects focused on all-hazards planning associated with natural and man-made disasters. Our staff helped write and coordinate many of the first-responder grants for safety equipment received by our towns. A number of emergency response exercises were conducted in 2005.

Economic development planning — In 2005 TRORC continued working on a \$200,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant to assess the level of contamination on many sites throughout our region. Once the level of contamination is known, TRORC helps towns locate funding sources for clean-up. An additional \$200,000 was received this year, further strengthening this initiative. In addition, TRORC spent considerable time maintaining the eligibility of our region for federal economic development administration money.

Peter G. Gregory, Executive Director (457-3188)

### **UPPER VALLEY COMMUNITY GRANGE #581**

Upper Valley Community Grange continues to be active in the community. We continue our monthly breakfasts, which have become a gathering place for members of the community who come and enjoy the breakfast and stay to visit with their neighbors.

In the last year we have repainted the Grange Hall and totally redone the upstairs meeting room. We are at present working to repair the shed on the back of the hall as the sills have rotted out and need replacing. Our goal continues to be to make the hall handicap accessible.

This year, after an absence of several years, we took part in the Norwich Olde Home Days activities and plan to have a float in the 2006 event.

We donate to the Norwich Historical Society, the Norwich Library, David's House, Listen, the Haven and numerous groups throughout the Upper Valley. We have donated dictionaries to third-graders in Norwich, Hartford, Thetford, Potter's House School, Mid-Vermont Christian School and home-schoolers by request.

Our hall is used by the Cub Scouts, United Apostolic Church, Van Winkle Gymnastics, the annual Norwich Christmas Pageant, the area Halloween party and the Norwich Library. Our hall is available for meetings and conferences, reunions, etc., by request at (802) 295-1289.

Clyde Berry, Secretary (295-2091)

### **UPPER VALLEY LAND TRUST**

The Upper Valley Land Trust is a regional land conservancy that helps the people of the Upper Valley permanently protect the land they care about most — including working farms and forestland, water resources, wildlife habitat and recreational lands. During the past 20 years UVLT has conserved 300 parcels, 31 of them in Norwich. UVLT is guided by local conservation priorities and works with individuals, neighbors, civic groups and towns to protect land under legally binding conservation easements. UVLT maintains an active stewardship program to monitor and defend these easements. UVLT is a nonprofit organization supported primarily by local contributions from individuals. Its staff of 13 is assisted by more than 200 volunteers.

In Norwich during the past year the Upper Valley Land Trust:

- Conserved the Childs property on Turnpike Road, adjoining the town-owned lands on Gile Mountain;
- Provided assistance to 15-20 different landowners considering conservation options;
- Performed on-the-ground monitoring of all UVLT-conserved parcels in Norwich;
- Helped with improvements to the network of public cross-country ski trails on the conserved Cossingham Road Farm property, and hosted a skiing party there;
- Provided support to Norwich Special Places as it presented land conservation options in an open-space plan;
- Sponsored a gathering of Upper Valley conservation commissioners in which Norwich conservation commissioners and Norwich Special Places representatives participated.

For more information, contact me or visit UVLT's website at <[www.uvlt.org](http://www.uvlt.org)>.

Kate Villars, Community Relations Director (603-643-6626)

**UPPER VALLEY RIVER SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER JOINT COMMISSIONS**

The Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) are a nexus for communication involving the Connecticut River and its valley and watershed, linking the states of New Hampshire and Vermont, the federal government, local government and citizens. The states established the commissions to guide growth and development in the Connecticut River Valley. Both commissions are advisory and have no regulatory powers. Each state appoints 15 commissioners to the CRJC, integrating a wide and representative diversity.

The CRJC has established five local subcommittees to ensure local participation and leadership. Norwich participates on the Upper Valley River Subcommittee with Bradford, Fairlee, Thetford and Hartford and the New Hampshire towns of Piermont, Orford, Lyme, Hanover and Lebanon. Norwich residents interested in representing the town should contact the Selectboard.

This year the subcommittees completed an update of the recreation chapter of the Connecticut River Management Plan, and are now updating their water resource sections. They also consider ways to guide riverfront development projects to minimize negative effects upon the river, riverbank stability, shoreline habitat and water quality.

CRJC's Partnership Program provides grants of \$500 to \$5,000 for locally initiated projects with funding from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. The Norwich Conservation Commission received a 2005 Partnership Grant of \$1,500 for continued monitoring of E. coli levels in the Blood Brook watershed utilizing a state grant for laboratory services.

Jeffrey D. Mathias, Norwich Representative (649-3927)

**UPPER VALLEY TRAILS ALLIANCE**

The Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) is a coalition of trail supporters and users that seeks to protect, enhance and promote the wise use of trails throughout the Upper Valley. Accomplishments during FY'05 include:

- In partnership with Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and White River Family Practice, initiating prescription walking programs to educate people about the health benefits associated with incorporating moderate physical activity into their daily lives.
- Publishing *Go Walking!* a guide to trails in Norwich and three other communities.
- Organizing Upper Valley Trails Day in June, during which about 200 people enjoyed and helped maintain trails throughout the region. Two Trails Day events were held in Norwich.

We are pleased that our Upper Valley Trails for Life project this year received the National Community of Excellence Award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Active Living by Design program for our efforts to promote healthy lifestyles in Norwich and surrounding communities.

Future plans include preparing a multi-community trail map that will include Norwich, developing a plan to knit existing trails together into an integrated trail network linking Norwich and adjacent communities, and creating a "Passport to Winter Fun," aimed at engaging children and their families in healthful and enjoyable outdoor winter activities. For more information, contact me at <trails@valley.net> or visit <www.uvtrails.org>.

Wally Elton, Executive Director (649-9075)

### **VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

The Vermont Department of Health works to protect, improve and promote the health of Vermonters. The following services are available to residents.

**Emergency Preparedness:** The department is working with local, state and federal agencies to assure a rapid and effective response to public health threats or emergencies.

**Food & Lodging Inspections:** Of the five establishments in Norwich, five inspections were completed by a sanitarian during 2004. For the most recent inspection scores and results in your area, go to <[www.healthyvermonters.info](http://www.healthyvermonters.info)>.

**Reportable Disease Case Investigations:** The department investigates all cases of disease to determine their source, to recommend control measures (including current treatment standards) and to prevent further spread of the disease. In 2004 the department investigated 115 cases of disease in Windsor County.

**Special Supplemental Food & Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC):** During 2004 16 women, infants and children living in Norwich received foods as well as health screening and individualized nutrition education through this program.

**Town Health Officer Program:** THOs work on a variety of environmental and health issues, and respond to calls on public health concerns as varied as animal bites, West Nile virus, rental code complaints and septic systems. For FY'05 the department assisted the Norwich Health Officer and residents with five inquiries.

**Vaccine-preventable Diseases:** In 2004 there were Vermont reports of one case of mumps, 180 cases of pertussis, and no reports of measles, rubella, polio or tetanus. The department distributed \$245,700 worth of childhood vaccines to health care providers.

Margaret Caudill-Slosberg, M.D., M.P.H., District Director (295-8820)

### **VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

Founded in 1967, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that serves Vermont's municipal officials. The league provides information and other resources to municipal officials so that they can deliver excellent service to their citizens, and to the public so that it can better understand local government; support for legislation that strengthens local government; and comprehensive insurance coverage for municipalities.

VLCT's Municipal Assistance Center provides municipal officials and employees with legal, consulting and education services. The center fields toll-free telephone inquiries, maintains a clearinghouse of model ordinances and bylaws, and sponsors workshops on current issues affecting local government. In FY'05 VLCT responded to 2,928 telephone and electronic inquiries for assistance from municipal officials and conducted 14 workshops attracting more than 1,150 municipal attendees and 15 "on-site" trainings. MAC offers handbooks and other publications written specifically for local officials who need a "plain English" guide to complex state and federal laws. Over 400 handbooks were distributed to municipal officials. MAC also maintains an information and resources library and conducts annual surveys and data collections.

Speaking with one voice on behalf of many Vermont municipalities, VLCT educates state and federal officials about the impact of their actions on local governments and informs them of municipal needs and concerns.

For more information, call, visit <[www.vlct.org](http://www.vlct.org)> or e-mail <[info@vlct.org](mailto:info@vlct.org)>.

Stephen Jeffrey, Executive Director (800-649-7915)

### **VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION & HOSPICE OF VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The VNA & Hospice is like the local police and fire department — a strategic part of the community's safety net — with services that must be continuously available to anyone in need. The town's support continues to be crucial. Surrounded by memories, familiar furnishings and family photographs, people almost always wish to confront the issues of illness, accident or aging, and dying in the comfort of their homes.

Town funding ensures that the following services are available to all citizens, regardless of ability to pay: skilled care and support during times of injury, short-term or chronic illness or recovery from surgery; pain and symptom management during terminal illness, as well as volunteer and bereavement support; and community wellness clinics and assistance to young families at risk.

During FY'05 we provided in Norwich: family support services to two families and five individuals, with seven home visits and a total of 37 service hours; hospice care to 11 patient families, with nine volunteer visits and 11 support-group hours; home care to 42 patients through 744 home visits; and maternal health care to four children through six home visits.

Susan H. Larman, President and CEO (295-2604)

### **WHITE RIVER COUNCIL ON AGING**

The Bugbee Senior Center has now been a community focal point and a vital social institution in White River Junction for 25 years! We are an essential link in the aging network, offering a broad range of services and activities, as well as access to many other community resources. We bring older adults together for services and activities that reflect diverse experience and skills, to enhance their dignity, improve mental and physical health, and support their independence.

Services provided during FY'05 were: center and home-delivered meals, transportation, advocacy, paralegal services, primary case management, housing assistance, information and referral, nutrition screening and education, health clinics, volunteer opportunities, informative monthly newsletter, support groups and recreational opportunities.

We had the privilege of providing services to 128 Norwich individuals over the age of 60; 27 residents joined us for lunch 402 times and the Bugbee Senior Center provided 1,229 home-delivered meals to homebound or convalescing residents. Advocacy and paralegal services were provided by appointment at the center or individuals' homes by Melanie Cash and Eleanor Zue. We sent 1,656 copies of our newsletter (the *Bugbee Bulletin*) to 126 individuals in Norwich. Additionally, we provided 512 one-way trips to Norwich residents on our van or with volunteers.

The Bugbee Senior Center welcomes all Norwich residents to learn more about our services. For information, you may contact Kathy Avery at 295-9068. We welcome your visits weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Kathleen W. Avery, Executive Director (295-9068)

### **WINDSOR COUNTY COURT DIVERSION**

Windsor County Court Diversion (WCCD) is a citizen-run, locally controlled organization offering alternatives to conventional court-based prosecution for offenders charged with civil offenses, misdemeanors or certain felony crimes. In Vermont both juveniles and adults are eligible.

The three main goals of the diversion program are: (1) obtaining restitution for victims of crime; (2) holding offenders accountable for their conduct and helping them avoid future criminal conduct; and (3) making amends to the wider community harmed by the offense. Offenders who successfully complete diversion and avoid legal trouble for two years can have their criminal records sealed, which preserves chances for future employment or financial aid for higher education.

For more information, Norwich residents are encouraged to call 295-5078.

### **WINDSOR COUNTY PARTNERS**

Last year Windsor County Partners supported mentoring partnerships — through Mentors for Youth — for 37 children throughout the 24 towns in Windsor County, including four Norwich residents. Fourteen of these friendships were new. Our corps of senior partner volunteer mentors spent more than 4,300 hours with area children, providing them with guidance, modeling healthy behaviors, enjoying fun activities and opportunities outside of home and school. Thanks to implementation of our new evaluation program, we can provide data to support the assertion that new junior partners felt and exhibited increased confidence, connection and competence within six months of being matched with their senior partners.

With WCP's support, partnerships engage in healthy behaviors together. Our all-partner activities continued at a successful monthly frequency with high attendance and group enthusiasm. Junior partners especially enjoyed the opportunity to socialize and have wholesome fun with peers outside of home and school. We supported 13 all-partner activities attended by a total of 126 partners, including holiday singing at the Cedarcrest Children's Home in Keene, a pool and pizza party, a picnic and trips to Dartmouth College sporting events.

Our adult volunteers initially commit to meet about three hours each week for a year with a child of the same gender. Many mentoring relationships last three or more years. All our services are free of charge to volunteers, children and families. We continue to grow and work to better serve more of the community's youth.

For information or to volunteer, please contact me at 674-5101 or (800) 491-5101 or <[windsorcountypartners@adelphia.net](mailto:windsorcountypartners@adelphia.net)>.

Mary Beth Heiskell, Executive Director (674-5101)

### **WISE (WOMEN'S INFORMATION SERVICE)**

For 34 years WISE has been serving the needs of the Upper Valley. Our domestic and sexual violence programs provide a continuum of services and supports for victims and their children with the goal of making the Upper Valley a safer place to live. Our community education and youth outreach program raises community understanding by working with local area service providers and educating middle and high school-aged youth about healthy relationships.

WISE provides a full range of services to residents through the domestic violence and sexual violence programs' services, including a 24-hour crisis line, medical advocacy, legal advocacy, emergency shelter, supportive services, information and referrals, support groups, children's group, transitional housing and our community education and youth outreach program.

In FY'05 WISE provided services to 625 new clients and 184 of ongoing clients (nine clients were from Norwich); presented 165 workshops in Upper Valley schools to approximately 3,500 students. WISE served 23 percent more clients than in FY 2004.

WISE plans to maintain its current programs and services. WISE has been developing skills to work with clients who may have substance abuse or mental health needs and plans to continue in FY'06. We are continually working with our children's and support groups for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and our Pattern Changing Group began early in the fall.

WISE always welcomes inquiries about our programs and services. For more information, contact me at (603) 448-5922 or <peggy.oneil@wiseoftheuppervalley.org>. Our office is at 79 Hanover St., Lebanon, NH 03766.

Peggy O'Neil, Executive Director (603-448-5922)

### **YOUTH-IN-ACTION**

Youth-In-Action Inc. (YIA) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to involve high school-age students in meaningful community service. Our program had an enrollment of more than 250 students this past school year; one-third of those students were Norwich residents.

YIA contributed almost 3,000 hours of service through our own projects and volunteering for local charities, agencies, private citizens and organizations. We work with the Lions' Clubs, LISTEN, recycling efforts, charity walks and senior citizen housing, etc. Through our service to local agencies we serve the needs of residents by improving the quality of life in the Upper Valley. We have helped seniors with yard work and chores in their homes. Our student volunteers have helped at the Norwich Library, Old Home Day and Norwich Fair. We also provide an opportunity for adults to interact with high school students in areas of community service.

YIA provides healthy outlets for the high school-age youth and works with them in the areas of character and citizenship. YIA students are recommended for community service awards and scholarships and many are given recommendations and references for college and future employment opportunities.

As our number of participants remains high, the expenses we incur in running the program also remain high. Your support is very valuable to our program.

Kathy Geraghty, Director (603-643-4313)