

RCHC

46 Evelyn Street, Suite 201
Rutland, VT 05701

Phone: 802-775-2386
Fax: 802-7757436



WWW.rchevt.org

Did You Know?

That RCHC is a nonprofit that helps people who are below median income by preventing evictions and/or re-housing people who are experiencing homelessness— by providing education, case management support, service coordination and short-term rental assistance.



Consider making a tax-deductible donation to support our efforts and become a member of RCHC!

This donation is in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____

Phone _____

Thank You!

Events:

Continuum of Care—We meet the third Thursday of every month at the Rutland City Police Department from 12:00 to 1:30 to discuss local housing and homeless issues in Rutland County. This meeting is open to the public. Hope to see you there!

Rental 101—Our tenancy education class meets every Monday from 10:00 to 12:00. The class is free and all materials are provided. See page two to learn more about Rental 101.



The Rutland County Women's Network & Shelter is hosting a Community Dance Party on March 8, 2014 at 21 Merchants Row from 6:30 to 11:30. Cash bar, snacks, door prizes and 50/50 raffle. Entertainment provided by 2kul Entertainment. Tickets available at the door or in advance for \$20 per person. Call

775-6788 with questions or visit their website at www.rcwn.org. See you there!

First Friday's a Community Gathering for Northwest families! Gym activities, arts & crafts and hot dog BBQ are planned at the Northwest School on March 7, April 4, and May 2 from 6:00 to 7:30pm. Events sponsored by Project VISION—volunteers needed contact Cindi Wight at cindiwight@comcast.net or you can contact Erron Hubble at pastor@acfrutland.com



....housing one person and one family at a time.

Rutland County Housing Coalition

46 Evelyn St., Suite 201, Rutland, VT 05701

Winter 2014

Message from the Director:

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RCHC along with local area providers and agencies conducted the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Survey on January 29, 2014. The data will be compiled and de-duplicated over the next few weeks. When the results are available they will be posted on our website and newsletter; however, the data won't tell you the very personal story behind the numbers. We collected and shared information but we also listened. Some of their stories had a com-



Homelessness
HOMELESSNESS CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE
It's not a condition... it's a situation.

mon theme of poverty or illness but the individuals are unique; therefore, so are their stories. Childhood dreams of becoming a fireman or a teacher choked by homelessness. No one aspires to be homeless. I want to especially thank the

AmeriCorps Vista volunteers who outreached 18 homeless individuals with assistance from the Turning Point Center and VT Psychiatric Survivors. I remember January 29th was a very cold day.

Deborah Hall

In a nutshell by Jessica Makela, Program Supervisor

Since the program began July 2013, 10 families have secured safe, affordable housing through the coordinated efforts of the Family Supportive Housing Program. In the past six months (from January 1, 2014), RCHC success-

fully provided prevention assistance to 21 households facing evictions. Also, through our partnership with the participants we serve, 45 households were successfully re-housed from motel

rooms, shelters, and other precarious housing situations. Since September 1, 2013, our Outreach Coordinator has successfully housed 10 individuals from shelters, streets, and hospital settings.

Mr. Twitter Fundraiser

Pennies from Heaven is more like it! The ladies and gentleman from Mr. Twitters have taken the stress out of all the organizing and planning that goes into raising funds for your organization. I couldn't believe it when Carol called to ask if Mr. Twitter's could help raise donations for the Housing Coalition! I was concerned about the short amount of time I had

to bring something together but Becky and Carol took care of everything! From the flier to the door prizes they took care of it! Thanks to everyone who attend-



ed, purchased gifts and took a chance on the 50/50 tickets. The winner of the 50/50 drawing donated his winnings back to RCHC! 100% of the funds raised will go toward stabilizing a family or individual experiencing homelessness.

Becky said our event was one of the best! Thanks for making it happen!

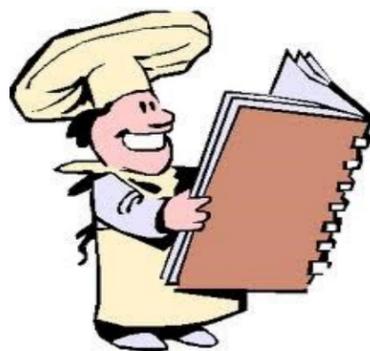
Tiger Sauce Salsa

Of all the food that was put out at the Twitter fundraiser the dish that had people jockeying for position was the Tiger Sauce Salsa that Jim's wife made. Here's the recipe:

1 1/2 oz. can black eyed peas, 11 oz. can shoepeg corn
Mix together:
1/2 Cup apple cider vinegar, 1/4 Cup vegetable oil, 3/4 Cup sugar, 1 Tbsp. Tiger Sauce

Chop: 1 green pepper, 1/2 orange pepper, 1/2 red pepper and one medium onion then combine

Put all together. Chill one hour. ENJOY!!



Landlord Forum 2-06-14

RCHC invited landlords, property managers and housing developers to a meeting at the Rutland City Police Dept. There was a brief presentation about RCHC services, successes and challenges. Then it was the Land-



lord's turn to share their viewpoints with us. During this hour long conversation, facilitated by Chris Dinnan, we worked through challenges,

ate food, accepted feedback, acknowledged disappointment, ate more food, shared resources, clarified confusion and discovered common ground! One gentleman said, "It sounds to me like communication is key!" Well said, sir! Well said!

Homeless Veteran's . . . A Conversation from the Heart

Everyday I wake up next to a man who was willing to lay down his life for every single one of us so that we can enjoy the freedoms that most take for granted everyday.

My thoughts tend to wander to those veterans who don't have the safety, warmth, and support of family, or a permanent place to live.

In a recent study by the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans the following results were shared: a) In the year following separation of service after a combat deployment between 529,000 and 820,000 veterans experience homelessness at least one time. b) On any given night in the US

more than 300,000 veterans are on the streets or in a shelter. c) One third of the male homeless population are veterans. d) Veterans are twice as likely to become homeless. And from the US Department of Veteran Affairs . . . There are more homeless Vietnam veterans today, than were killed during the conflict.

At our agency, I share with my coworkers, and the veteran participants that I work with, that the service these folks provided our country is very important and should not be forgotten.

There are many reasons why a veteran is homeless. Some of the reasons could be as

simple as a lack of education to transfer back to civilian life, or as complicated as an untreated case of PTSD. (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)

What ever the reason for their situation, It is important to work with them and understand that their selfless service should not go unnoticed.

The collaboration of many agencies is a giant leap forward to end the homelessness of our nations hero's and I am proud to be a part of that solution.

Heather Greene Hinckley,
Community Housing Specialist, RCHC
Proud Wife of a US Army Soldier



Candlelight Vigil

The Vigil is held in December to remind us of the conditions people endure when homeless. The lighted candle honors the memory of those who have perished and symbolizes hope for those experiencing the misery of homelessness. Regardless of the weather we stood as citizens, community leaders, advocates, friends and service providers to bring attention to this issue. We

must believe everyone has a right to safe affordable housing and we must continue to work for those who are just trying to survive on the street. We cannot distance ourselves from the issue of homelessness, it is not a problem for someone else to solve, it



is our issue. A big thank you to our local celebrity Rick Redington for attending the vigil and singing a few songs!

Did you Know.....

Children living in shelters, motels/campgrounds, cars, abandoned buildings, doubled up due to loss of housing or economic hardship are eligible for certain rights and protections under federal and state law. Children who are homeless have equal access to the same

free, appropriate, public education (including public preschool) provided to other Vermont children. In 2011 RCHC created a Homeless Education Assurance Policy making it our responsibility to assess the child's educational needs and do our best to place

families as close as possible to their school of origin and connected to appropriate services within the community. Our connection to the Homeless School Liaisons help ensure any disruption in a child's education is as brief as possible.