



Annual Report

FY2024



**OTTAUQUECHEE
HEALTH
FOUNDATION**

802.457.4188 • info@ohfvt.org • www.ohfvt.org

2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Hali Robinson

Executive Director

(through Sept. 2024)

Mary Young-Breuleux

Interim Executive Director

(Sept. 2024-Feb. 2025)

Beth Robinson

Grants Coordinator

(through Aug. 2024)

Elizabeth Coelho

Grants Coordinator

(Interim, Aug. 2024-Jan.2025)

A Message from the Board President



Wow, what a year this has been!! To start, let me introduce myself as the first thing that happened after the 2024 Annual Meeting is that I became your new Board President. I live in Bridgewater with my husband, Don Jones, three Portuguese Water Dogs and with my daughter's family of six residing nearby on our property. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary and Special Education and a Master's in Social Work. After a number of years in community mental health and social services, in 1992 my husband and I started an environmental consulting firm which among other things, cleans up underground contamination. For the past seven years I have been involved with a non-profit club; the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America on their Finance Committee and then as their Treasurer.

Additionally, I was the Chair of the Seabrook Island Utility Commission for five years responsible for providing water and sewer services to the Town of Seabrook Island, SC. Currently I am also the Treasurer for the Portuguese Water Dog Rescue Board. Enough about me.

Coming into this role with no prior knowledge, I jumped right in learning all about the organization by spending time with Hali, your Executive Director (ED), with Beth, your Grants Coordinator, with your Board and the Community beyond. Then in August, immediately after a short trip to Germany, I learned that both of the staff had tendered their resignations, all for good reasons. Quickly we decided as an Executive Board on a six-month interim plan bringing on Mary Young-Breuleux, a past OHF Board member, as ED and Elizabeth Coelho, a Masters level Social Worker, as the Grants Coordinator. They very rapidly and most effectively have filled these roles running the operations of OHF.

During this interim period, the Board has taken time to really look at OHF. We started this process by inviting seven experienced OHF members (Meg and Bruce Seely, Marian Koetsier, Tom Roberts, Tayo Kirchof, Mary Hawkins, and Hali Robertson) to discuss their views of how the organization and structure was in the past and Hali came to share how we are currently, so the Board could contemplate how we should be in the future. From this, the Board examined our Mission Statement, how the Mission is carried out, what are the responsibilities of the staff, what experience is needed to be effective, etc. The Board concluded that the OHF Mission Statement needed some fine tuning to clarify our focus as to who OHF is. We felt that over time the Mission had become broader in scope in its granting and community programs. We look for your support as we vote on our Mission Statement at our Annual Meeting on March 27th at 5pm at the Norman Williams Public Library.

Moving forward through this process, the Board felt that two flexible part time employees would be able to meet the needs of our clients and community. Starting January 1st, Elizabeth Coelho became the permanent Grants Coordinator and as I write this, we just hired David Sleeper as the new ED. I plan to introduce these two at our Annual Meeting in March.

All the while as the Board "looked" at OHF, Mary and Lizzie kept everything running smoothly. Grant requests continued as we see the need for dental grants, in-home care, life line grants, and needed prescriptions and medical equipment not paid through insurance. We funded several new Community Programs including one that helps provide vaccines at the Good Neighbor Health Clinic, foot care for seniors through the Thompson Senior Center, and pre and postpartum doula services for expectant mothers through Kimble Wellness. We saw two tenants leave our building with their spots now rented, our Annual Appeal went out in the Fall, and grant proposals were submitted. We welcomed Carla Kamel as the returning Community Care Coordinator, which is a joint venture between The Thompson Senior Center, Mt. Ascutney Hospital, OHF, the Mountain View Supervisory Union, and the Hub, a partner of Woodstock Community Trust. Carla resides part time in our building helping to serve many of our common clients by providing case management support including home visits.

As I conclude this, I believe that we are coming through this challenge as a stronger and more focused OHF. We are ready to meet the future by providing a financial resource to our nine-town population to help improve their health and wellness. I find this a very exciting time for OHF. Please join us in whatever ways you can to make a difference and if we can help you in some way, please feel free to reach out to us. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our annual meeting.

Gratefully,

Annie Smith-Jones
Board President

A Warm Welcome to... Executive Director

David Sleeper



"I'm in awe of how much OHF has accomplished through nearly three decades to improve the health of people in need in our nine communities," said David Sleeper, who was appointed OHF Executive Director in February 2025. "I feel privileged to join a long line of leaders—including trustees, OHF members and community partners, and staff members—working to improve the lives of our citizens."

David brings to the job a wealth of experience in communications and nonprofit administration. He was managing editor of Blair & Ketchum's Country Journal magazine and then founder, editor, and publisher of Vermont Magazine. In 2001, he moved to Pomfret (the first of three OHF communities in which he has lived, along with Hartland and Woodstock) to work in marketing and development for the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, where he had been a trustee. Following that, he was the Executive Director of the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation, with offices at the Simmons House in Woodstock, before leaving to start his own conservation consulting business.

David is a member of the Vermont board of the Conservation Law Foundation and an officer on two local boards, Taftsville Community Trails and the Taftsville Cemetery Association. David's wife, Cronin, is owner of the Plum Tree School preschool and proudly reports that her earliest students now attend college.

David and Cronin have three grown children and eight grandchildren, seven of whom are boys. David enjoys gardening, fishing at a family camp on Lake Memphremagog, and walking his Icelandic Sheepdog, Pala.



Contact Us:

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David Sleeper, Executive Director
director@ohfvt.org
Lizzie Coelho, Grants Coordinator
grants@ohfvt.org



Grants Coordinator

Elizabeth "Lizzie" Coelho



"I love meeting people and helping them determine how OHF can address their needs" states Lizzie Coelho, the newly hired Grants Coordinator. Lizzie started in January 2025, after serving in an interim capacity for four months. With more than 250 Good Neighbor Grants to process and distribute each year, no two workdays are ever the same, which is fine by Lizzie. "I love how dynamic it is at the office," said Lizzie.

Her background is well suited to the job of Grants Coordinator. Lizzie had the opportunity to spend time in Central America prior to graduate school. She volunteered with children in remote areas as a teacher, learning culture, customs and Spanish. During this year, she began to realize that pursuing more education in community service would give her the opportunity to better understand socioeconomic issues, and their over-arching effect on a person's life. She attained a master's degree in social work, specializing in management of non-profit organizations and community relations.

Lizzie and her husband Bernardo, multi-unit General Manager of Nutrition, Environmental Services, and HHR at Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center, moved to Bridgewater in 2021 to raise their four children, now ranging in age from four to eleven. Lizzie is a Member of the joint Woodstock Elementary School and Prosper Valley School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

Additionally, she is a talented athlete, having competed in water polo and swimming while growing up; she currently plays pickleball competitively in Woodstock and throughout New England. When she's not working in the office, she can be found at the schools, volunteering, watching her children play various sports, or on the pickleball courts.

The Ottauquechee Health Foundation strives to improve the health and well-being of people in need who live in the towns we serve.

We do this through financial assistance, community partnerships, education opportunities, and support of wellness initiatives.

Our Service Towns: Barnard, Bridgewater, Hartland, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Quechee, Reading, and Woodstock.

Letter to the Trustees and Membership from the

Interim Executive Director

Mary Young-Breuleux



Returning to the Foundation's office as the Interim Executive Director for the past six months has been a good experience. Learning and relearning, making mistakes and recovering, seeking help from friends, including the previous grants coordinator, executive directors, and past and present trustees, has helped me get the work done. With happiness and respect, I welcome the new Executive Director, David Sleeper, and Grants Coordinator, Lizzie Coelho, to the Foundation.

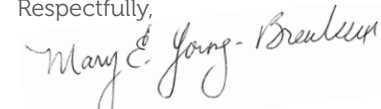
My time as Interim Executive Director has been both challenging and rewarding. We are fortunate to have very generous donors and grantors, and receipts have exceeded \$315,000 this past year! As we undergo changes in administration and coordination, I am confident that OHF will remain steadfast in its mission. However, your support is critical to assure this.

The Board's strength is maintained by participation of the Trustees, in committee work, volunteering, upholding fiduciary responsibility, supporting staff, and seeking answers to tough questions. Trustee turnover consistently presents challenges, but I credit the current Trustees in doing the work noted.

Grants coordination falls under the able leadership of Lizzie Coelho, whose dedication, flexibility, willingness to learn and compassion are essential for those we serve. Lizzie brings all of that with her, and she has been my ally in asking and answering the questions, and getting the work done. We have been keeping the office doors open, doing our best to be professional, communicative and friendly, always.

OHF has always been an organization defined by its members, now numbering more than 600. The Annual Meeting is a signature event for OHF, anticipated each year by the Executive Director, Grants Coordinator, Trustees and Members. This meeting is our opportunity to share and learn, as we continue to join heads and hands in moving forward into the next decade. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Please visit OHF's new employees at Simmons House, by stopping by or making an appointment. Your help and ideas are needed, and talking with you is the best way to know each other. Thank you for your loyalty to the Ottauquechee Health Foundation and steadfast support over the years!

Respectfully,


Mary Young-Breuleux
 Interim Executive Director

Stewardship

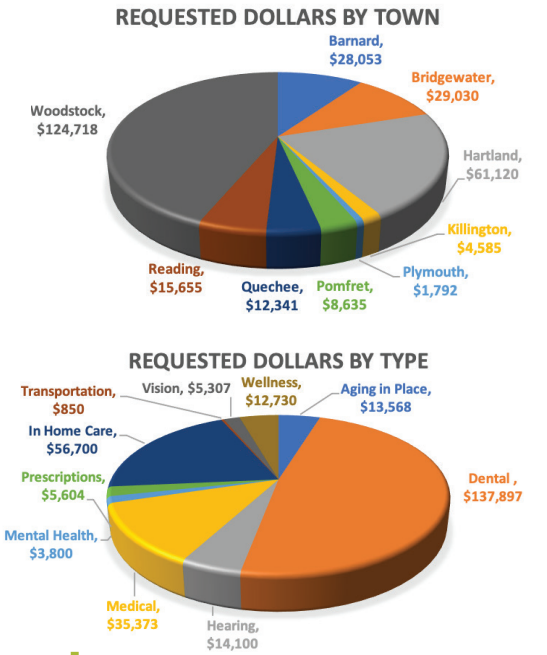
Good Neighbor Grants (GNGs), Homecare Grants & Community Grants

	2022	2023	2024
Approved	\$225,000	\$269,082	\$226,530
# of Grants	261	254	243
# People/Orgs Served	136	147	144
Average Grant \$	\$862	\$865	\$928

Breakdown of 2024 Granting by Program

	# of Grants	Amount
GNGs	214	\$161,437
Homecare Grants	17	\$45,963
Community Grants	12	\$19,130
Totals	243	\$226,530

Preliminary Numbers for 2024. The 2023 990 is available for review on Guidestar.



Financial Statement - Investments

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Investments As of 12/31/2024	\$3,695,075	\$ 4,063,851	\$ 4,347,425

OHF is proud to provide invaluable resources to those in need of financial assistance and support.

2024 Good Neighbor and Homecare Grants By the Numbers



The BIG Value in Small Grants

OHF determines financial eligibility for support based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines. In 2024, the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a household of two was \$20,440 per year. OHF serves families earning up to 300% of the FPL, meaning a household of two may qualify with an annual income of up to \$61,320.

In 2024, the average grant amount was \$928. Though not large, it is a substantial contribution to those struggling financially. Without these grants, important health services might not otherwise be available to those needing them the most. In 2024, 85% of OHF clients were living under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Partnership Highlight - The HUB



OHF is a proud and active partner of The HUB. The HUB and its partners are a collaborative community safety net for our neighbors in need. The HUB provides quick, confidential financial assistance to residents of Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock and coordinates the resources of multiple funding and service organizations, including OHF, to provide the best response to those who experience a serious disruption or challenge in their daily life. The HUB reduces the barriers and stigma of seeking and receiving help. It strengthens community and individual health, resilience and caring.

To learn more about The HUB please visit www.woodstockcommunitytrust.org/current-projects/the-hub

The HUB is a Project of Woodstock Community Trust, a non profit 501(c)(3) organization.

“ I've been very happy to have the support of OHF. I have been discouraged, and trying to cope with multiple housing, financial and health issues. I needed support, and my doctor suggested that I contact OHF to help with some of my health needs. Although my lifelong philosophy has been if I couldn't afford it, I'd go without, I realized that I was in a crisis. My grant request was approved by OHF, and I'm feeling much more comfortable and less discouraged. Thank you.
 - 2024 Grant Recipient

Our Supporters

THANK YOU! We extend our deepest gratitude to all the donors and supporters who make our work possible. We apologize for any names or organizations that may have been inadvertently omitted and appreciate notice of corrections or errors. Supporters from January 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025.

A special thanks to our partners and providers for their discounted services and ongoing support.

Albert Alessi
Adam Ameele and Kristen Hurd
Sheila Armen and Shelley Yusko
Owen Astbury and Brenda Metzler
Jennifer Baxter
Les and Susan Berge
James and McKey Berkman
Tracy Blanchard and Mary Sanborn
Mary Blanton
Dan Bollag and Wendy Miller
David Bollinger
Don Bourdon
Mark and Susan Boutwell
Pete and Mary (Young) Breuleux
Peter and Ruth Brooke
Richard and Myrna Brooks
Rhonda and Daniel Bruce
Sue Bryan
Barbara Butler
Phil and Mary Lee Camp
Casey Carmichael
John and Laurie Chester
Bill Chorske and Elaine Gustafson
Elizabeth Coelho
Kathy Connor
William and Luran Corson
Bob and Mary Costella
Mark and Terrie Curran
Kathleen Curzie Gajdos
Charles D'Ambrosio
Elizabeth Deignan and Dan Bellmore
Margaret Dembinski and Justin Lancaster
Jeff Dillon
Gail Dougherty
Cathy and William Emmons III
Janet and Chris English
Alan Fine and Susan Leventoff
Rick and Kathy Fiske
Nancy Frankenberry
Bruce and Darlyne Franzen
Margaret Fraser
Norm and Dail Frates
Norm and Yvonne Frates
Alisa and Jason Fritzhand
Candice and Kenneth Gammill
Barbara Gibbs
William Goldberg
Oliver Goodenough and Alison Clarkson

Janice Graham
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Grantham
Margaret Gray
Robert and Honoré Hager
Allen and Sally Hall
Christa Hammarstrom
Alan and Bonnie Hammerschlag
Cliff and Elizabeth Harper
Patty Hasson
Mary Hawkins and Tom Weschler
Jim and Ann Heimarck
George and Jill Helmer
Takis Hinaris
Kermit and Barbara Hummel
Margaret and Jedediah Janisse
Ron and Pam Jaynes
Tommie Jefferson
Mr. and Mrs. Airell Jenks
Carla Kamel and John Vorder Bruegge
Sandy and Roger Kasch
Cynthia Keenan Kosinski
Barbara Kelley
Laura and Sherman Kent
Michael Kilcullen and Donna Hay
Mark Knott and Rachel Hochman
Randolph and John Kniffin
Ron and Sara Kobylenski
Marian Koetsier
Ralph and Jill Kurash
Linda Labriola
Dawn LeBaron
Kurt and Anne Lessard
Todd and Jill Lloyd
Jill Lord
Peter and Elspeth Lothes
Linda Machalaba
Chester and Deborah Marcus
Neil and Anne Marinello
Brian and Priscilla Marsicovetere
Janet Mayberry
Fiona McElwain
Jordan Mcentyre
David and Bettyanne McGuire
Jim and Kathy McHugh
Cordelia Merritt
Robert Meyers and Phyllis Arata-Meyers
David and Donna Miles
Carol Mosher

Jane and Daniel Moss
Naomi and Steve Moyer
Zach Niles
Sara and Kenneth Norcross
Moira and Daniel Notargiacomo
Frank and Barbara O'Connell
Logan Paluch
Lynne Parshall
David and Maggie Peterson
Lynn Peterson
Eleanor M. Pizzani
George and Linda Racicot
Matty Reardon
Lana and Marc Reuss
Betsy and Ron Rhodes
Gordon and Patricia Richardson
Tom Roberts and Lorie Loeb
Don and Cecelia Ryker
Colin and Lloyd Sanborn
Bruce and Meg Seely
Mallory Semple
Charlie & Anne Sincerbeaux
Vassie Sinopoulos
Jane S. M. Smith
Annie and Don Smith-Jones
Sheena Solitaire
Jon and Wendy Spector
Todd and Carol Stall
Vali and Steve Stuntz
Brian and Heather Summers
Jill and Jeff Thomas
Steven Thomas and Deborah Bassett
Polly and John Timken
David M. Simmons & Barbara Trippel
Simmons
Claudia Tujanjanin
Luke Underwood
William Vanherwarde
Teresa Voorhees
Eric Wade
Gabriel Wilamowski
Bob and Joan Williamson
Catherine Wood
Cynthia Woodin Cross
Suzanne Wooten
Norman Youknot
Isabel Zaino
Susan Zuccotti
Anonymous (4)

Town Support

Barnard
Bridgewater
Hartland
Killington
Plymouth
Pomfret
Reading
Woodstock

Organizations and Businesses

Covered Bridges Half Marathon
Eyes on Elm
Glad Rags
Ledyard National Bank
Nexus Therapeutic Massage
Williamson Group Sotheby's
Windsor County Board of Realtors
Woodstock Rotary Club
Yankee Bookshop

Foundations

John P. and Nancy J. Bassett Fund
Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation
Donley Foundation
McCollom Foundation
Morel Family Fund
Laurance and Mary Rockefeller Fund
Rowland Family Charitable Trust
Vermont Community Foundation

Tributes

In honor of Richard Brooks
In honor of Rebecca Nash
In honor of Paul Regan
In memory of Christa Blanchard
In memory of Marylou Ewasko
In memory of Christopher Lloyd

Acknowledgments

Spaulding Press (Printing Services)
Communications Committee (editing)
Tayo Kirchhof (Design)

A Key Partnership with Carla Kamel, Community Care Coordinator



In 2024, Carla Kamel was welcomed back as the Community Care Coordinator, serving residents in Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading and Woodstock. As a skilled listener, Carla brings compassion, understanding, experience and knowledge to the position.

This re-established position represents a collaborative effort with the Ottauquechee Health Foundation, Mt. Ascutney Hospital, Thompson Senior Center, the HUB (a partner of Woodstock Community Trust), and Mountain Views Supervisory Union. This position was previously based at the Ottauquechee Health Center/Mt. Ascutney Hospital, where Carla served in the Care Coordinator position for nine years.

Carla states that her work as Community Care Coordinator begins with a referral from a concerned family member, teacher, medical provider, friend, or neighbor. An initial home visit is scheduled, where "attentive listening, observation and conversation begin." The assessment may focus on health-related concerns, but often extends far beyond that.

The client's involvement is essential in shaping a care plan, states Carla. "The client is the driving force in establishing the way forward. He or she is the expert. The conversation happens organically. You never know what needs are unmet and that's why listening is so important." Together Carla and the client identify which people and services should be contacted, creating a community of care.

Partnership and collaboration with local agencies and resources, including health care providers, state agencies, food shelves, pharmacists, faith leaders, and local organizations like Glad Rags, provide solutions that address a large spectrum of needs.

Carla has professionally re-established an essential role in supporting the well-being of our community, and the Ottauquechee Health Foundation is proud to be a partner.

If you or someone that you know could benefit from these resources, please contact Carla at 802-779-6000, or carla@thompsonseniorcenter.org.



Your donations change lives by supplying access to health and wellness funding and resources.



We are very appreciative of the grant money we have received towards our dental work. Without it we would not be able to afford routine cleanings to keep our teeth healthy as we age. Thank you so much. - 2024 Grant Recipient

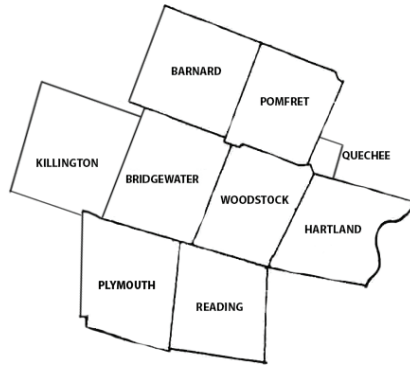


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Find us on Facebook and Instagram



Serving Barnard
Bridgewater
Hartland
Killington
Plymouth
Pomfret
Quechee
Reading
and Woodstock



When an unexpected and serious disease occurred, my spouse had to stop working and I became her full time caregiver. We did not know about OHF at that time, but a chance meeting in a parking lot changed that. OHF has been of irreplaceable help with ongoing expenses, and always with kindness and respect. We are beyond grateful! - 2024 Grant Recipient

What We Do



Financial Assistance

The Good Neighbor Grants provide financial support to improve the health and wellness aspects of people's lives. The grants range from medical, dental and mental health care to medical equipment, eyeglasses, hearing aids, and preventive care.

The Homecare Grants provide financial caregiver support for people needing assistance who live at home. Collaboration with community resources assures that we continue to reach residents in their homes, who may benefit from our assistance.

Community Grants contribute financial assistance to nonprofit organizations that support the health and wellness of people in our communities. These grants may be for education, promotion of health, prevention of illness, and support of mental health. Additionally, scholarships are awarded to graduating high school students entering the health care fields.



Education & Initiatives

OHF continues to offer community education opportunities and initiatives, in collaboration with other organizations.

We continue to support the Windsor Central Wellness Initiative (WCWI), in the local school district. This program provides mental health support to students, teachers, and administration.

The partnerships that we are grateful to include the HUB, Thompson Senior Center, Good Neighbor Health Clinic, Ottauquechee Health Center/Mt. Ascutney Hospital, Food Shelves, Teachers and Administrators at Mountain Views Schools, the Community Care Coordinators, Nurses, Medical Providers, Case Workers and Agencies.

Working together assures that we can achieve our very best in helping our neighbors.



Community Resources

OHF remains an active participant on many area committees, work groups, and task forces focused on improving the health of our communities through hands-on, proactive approaches. We work in partnership with health care providers and organizations to coordinate care and prioritize needs.

The discount that local health providers generously grant allows our neighbors to access health and wellness services at a more affordable rate. In 2024, \$226,530 in approved grant requests enabled access to almost \$285,928 in health and wellness services.

The Grants Coordinator acknowledges that approximately 40% of work time is contacting and coordinating resources to assure that people gain access to the what they need to be healthy.