COMMUNITY UPDATE

The official newsletter of WNOC-RRCC
'A Project of the THRIVE Collaborative'

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Introducing

Our Mission
- Address the needs of the most vulnerable.
- Reduce the medical surge and flatten the curve.
- Support and be an ally to state and local efforts.

WNOC-RRCC, short for, Washington and Northern Orange Counties Regional Response Command Center, is a unified community response of local social service organizations from THRIVE, Central Vermont’s Accountable Community for Health group.

First formed in 2017, THRIVE has been in a continuous pursuit of establishing partnerships, building relationships, and pooling resources to address community needs around social isolation, transportation, and homelessness. As a result, WNOC-RRCC was formed as an extension of THRIVE to utilize the power of the collaborative to maximize the response of state and local efforts.
OPERATIONAL STATUS

Days in Operation: 12
Number of staff: 27
Staff sponsor organizations:
- Capstone Community Action
- Downstreet Housing & Community Development
- Dept. of Health, Central VT Medical Center
- Central VT Community Harvest
- People’s Health & Wellness Clinic
- Central VT Regional Planning Commission
- Stone Environmental
- Billings Clinic
- rB Technologies

We are providing non-critical, but essential services to municipalities, organizations, and individuals in need, including but not limited to providing or securing food, shelter, information, medical supplies, transportation, volunteers, etc.

Our region of focus mirrors Central Vermont Medical Center’s service area which includes Washington County and the Northeast region of Orange County, including the communities of Brookfield, Orange, Washington, and Williamstown.

WNOC-RRCC News

OUR CALL CENTER IS UP & RUNNING!
CALL LINE #(802) 636-2025

Hours of operation: 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM, 7-days/week.
We have officially operationalized our Call Center. Free and confidential, this community resource is available to anyone seeking guidance and connection to support services & resources during this trying time. We have trained staff and volunteers awaiting to assist you.

A Text Line is being developed and will operate on the same number. More details on the text line to come.

NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS

We are now accepting Emergency Goods and Supplies that will be distributed to individuals and community efforts in need. The drop off location is located at Capstone, 20 Gable Place in Barre, and will be open weekdays between 7:30 AM and 5:00 PM. Please ring the bell at the marked garage door.

We are accepting donations of non-perishable food items, consumable household supplies (cleaning products, paper goods, diapers, etc.), and personal protective equipment related to reducing the spread of COVID-19 (masks, rubber gloves, disposable suits & gowns).

Please note, we are not accepting items such as clothing, footwear, electronics, building supplies, or other household hard goods.
COMMUNITY COLLABORATION OF FOOD AND SHELTER CONTINUES!

WNOC-RRCC team and volunteers continue to provide support and additional resources to the State Department for Children and Families and the Office of Economic Opportunity, and Good Samaritan Haven in the management of emergency shelters for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Central Vermont during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WNOC-RRCC assistance has come in the form of supporting procurement of new emergency sites, transitioning all services to new locations, helping to implement health procedures, and connecting residents to services and resources to ensure their wellbeing.

Washington County Mental Health Services is just one of the many local agencies involved, reaching out to residents in an effort to provide emotional and mental health support.

The provision of food to support our homeless neighbors is another area where substantial community collaboration is taking place. WNOC-RRCC has supported the activities of Capstone Community Action, partnering with the Salvation Army, Enough Ministries of Barre, Gusto’s Bar, Morse Block Deli, to provide three (3) meals a day to the homeless populations in the four emergency housing sites in the region. Volunteers have played the critical role of distributing these meals to the homeless guests now at area motels. Working together, a total of 12,568 meals have been prepped and provided so far. A big shout out to the Vermont Foodbank for their support!

Volunteer Needs

We are currently looking for volunteers to assist in the Call Center. Volunteers will receive a training and be provided materials and support to ensure a successful and meaningful experience. Call Center shifts are 3.5 hrs in length.

If interested, please contact Allison Levin, Volunteer Coordinator. allison.levin@wnocrrcc.org
Amplifying Community Efforts & Resources

- The Vermont Department of Health's Barre Office of Local Health mixed up some batches of hand sanitizer this week to support our community efforts. Big thanks to the Central Vermont Medical Reserve Corps for providing the ingredients and packaging!

- The Mad River Valley Emergency Team has started a Neighbors Shopping for Neighbors program.
  - Here's the general volunteer sign up sheet

- The Vermont Foodbank continues to be a champion of the people by ensuring all are fed during this challenging time. Check out their resources!

- Washington County Mental Health Services offers a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Mental Health Crisis Services call line. (802) 229-0591

- People’s Health & Wellness Clinic is conducting visits via telemedicine and accepting referrals. Call (802) 479-1229

- Green Mountain United Way started a Relief & Response Fund to support service organizations and people during COVID-19.

- Montpelier Food Pantry Tuesday is serving emergency meals to individuals and families in the greater Montpelier area. Open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10:00-12:00 PM.

- Barre Mutual Aid has a great website that matches community volunteers with those requesting assistance.

- Northfield Mutual Aid Task Force has a robust public spreadsheet to volunteer based on skills and interests

- VT CARES is offering a mobile delivery syringe service program, operating out of Barre

- Check out this VT COVID-19 Crowd-Sourced Resource Page
All travelers coming to Vermont from out-of-state now must home-quarantine for 14 days.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath): CALL your health care provider. Many people who are mildly ill can manage their symptoms at home with rest, drinking fluids and taking fever-reducing medicine, when needed.

Testing is currently limited and is prioritized to healthcare workers, hospitalized patients, and vulnerable populations. However, the Health Department is expanding testing of people with mild to moderate symptoms.

Not everybody needs to be tested. Do not call the Health Department. Do not go to the hospital, except in a life-threatening situation.

If you need to go food shopping, to the pharmacy or do other essential activities, keep a distance of 6 feet between yourself and others. Six feet is about the length of a 3-person couch or a bed.

It's OK to get fresh air, exercise outside and walk your dog – as long as you keep 6 feet away from other people.

New science is coming in about how COVID-19 is transmitted – including how likely it is to be spread before people experience any symptoms. While we don't yet have all the answers, we do know that staying home and keeping your distance during essential activities is more important than ever.

Visit healthvermont.gov/covid19 for the most up-to-date information and guidance.
Safety Tip of the Week!

**KNOW HOW COVID-19 SPREADS!**

- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Contact Us. We're Here to Help!

WNOC-RRCC is here to be a resource to you and support local and state efforts to serve our vulnerable neighbors and communities during this unprecedented time in history.

For **individual support and guidance**, please call the Call Center.
Dial (802) 636-2025. **Open from 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM.**

For **volunteer-related inquiries**, please contact Allison at allison.levin@wnocrrcc.org.

For all other inquiries, please contact the Community Relations team at communityrelations@wnocrrcc.org.