

TOWN REPORT DEDICATION - 2007



This Town report is dedicated to Valarie "Val" Martel, who operates the Shelburne Food Shelf. In this role, Val serves a vital need in the Shelburne community, providing food and in some cases assisting with utility, fuel and other living expenses to needy families experiencing financial difficulties. In her 20 or so years in this role, she has provided assistance to dozens of families. In all cases, Val shows compassion, empathy and caring in working with families, always on a confidential basis. She receives referrals from area churches, social service agencies and community members, and often meets with families in their homes to determine their needs. At the same time, she ensures that the families served are in need and works with them to resolve their difficulties. In the words of one of the Food Shelf volunteers: "Nobody ever pulls her leg".

Val is also very skilled in soliciting donations for the food shelf. Her credibility in articulating the Food Shelf needs is evidenced by the tremendous response to her requests for food and financial assistance, when published in the Shelburne News and other local media.

Val puts in many hours coordinating food collections, sorting the donations and preparing monthly food distributions from the Food Shelf quarters in the Shelburne Town Center.

In any conversation with Val, her pride, dedication and commitment to the Food Shelf mission and love of the Shelburne community is very apparent. She demonstrates the true spirit of volunteerism and works tirelessly to assist those in need. We thank you Val, for your commitment to public service and dedication to the Town of Shelburne!