



JOHN GRAHAM HOUSING & SERVICES

Food, Shelter, Hope

Summer 2018

69 Main Street, Vergennes, VT 05491

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www.johngrahamshelter.org

Making Summer Memories

Crystal's Story

It takes a balancing act to figure out the summer schedule for three children. I want my kids to have the memories and experiences like the ones I had going to Crystal Beach at Lake Bomoseen. These memories helped make me who I am today. My parents hosted fresh air children and now I'm offering fun summer experiences for my own children.

My son is nine, my daughter is 12 and my oldest is 16. This summer the boys have been fishing at the Vergennes Falls and they were in the local fishing derby. My daughter is hanging out at the pool with the



help of the Shelter pool pass. They both go to the Boys and Girls Club in the morning and the pool in the afternoon. And we have a State Park Pass through CSAC. We are all hoping to go camping. All three are athletic and like to sing and dance. These experiences make you feel better.

Keo is going to Thundercare and Fusion Camp through the Vergennes Elementary School and he loves it! Each day the bus picks him up right in front of the house.

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To Bring Something Good to the Table

Pam Wimett is a caterer at the Old Lantern in Charlotte, so she knows the importance of fresh food. And of planting a garden.

“It’s my therapy,” Pam says. “I’ve always had a garden. Makes it more homey. I’m really looking forward to the pumpkin patch,” she said.

Like a lot of Vermonters Ray Beaver likes sitting around the kitchen table during the long winter talking about food, nutrition, and the possibility of a garden.



“Even people who have moved on to permanent housing come back to work on the garden.”

High Mowing Seeds of Vermont sent three bundles of organic seeds and Green Haven Gardens came through with some plants. The garden team decided to grow radishes, peas, broccoli, beans, turnips, onions, and greens.

Ray works with youth and young families at John Graham, and like Pam, he finds a therapeutic side to gardening. “In my personal life I love being in the garden and I love to see things grow. People can weed or hang out. Even those who don’t work on it comment on how it looks. It brings something good to the table,” he said.

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Crystal's Story, cont.

Naia is going to Dream Camp and they plan things every day for the children. They have a sleep away camp as part of it. The people are fantastic and she loves it. Plus we just got our bikes fixed and we are working in the garden, at least I am.

It's been a great summer so far.

“I want my kids to have the memories and experiences like the ones I had...”



To Bring Something Good, cont.

Most gardens have a woodchuck, and this one is no exception. So there was a good discussion about what to do. Should we kill him? Or get a have-a-heart trap? People liked the catch and release idea, and the discussion was valuable.

Best of all the garden creates community. Even people who have moved on to permanent housing come back to work on the garden.

Crystal Hall sums it all up, “With the garden, it feels like being home again.”

“Most gardens have a woodchuck, and this one is no exception.”





In memory of William Clayton
Veteran ★ Cook ★ Dear Friend

Thank you for your service to our country



Jerry puts in long hours with a road crew but he still spends time with his three little ones.

