



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**\$17,000**

Amount awarded in scholarships to the Class of 2020.



**\$63,000+**

Dollars raised during NH Gives 2020.



**\$3,520**

Amount distributed in the form of mini-grants in 2020.



**2119**

Household visits to the Friends Feeding Friends food pantries in 2020.



**92,409**

Pounds of food distributed to district residents.

**500+**

Households served via Friends Feeding Friends

## Mission Statement

**The Friends of Mascoma Foundation strives to foster educational advancements and nutritional well-being for students and their families within the Mascoma Valley Regional School District.**

Holly West, *President*

Beth Felix, *Community Outreach*

Kate Stewart, *Vice President*

Matt Dow, *Projects Facilitator*

Carol Cusick, *Treasurer*

Andrew Cushing, *Alumni Outreach*

Liz Murray, *Secretary*

Theresa Sabol, *Community Programs Coordinator*

Eula Lee Kozma, *Executive Director*

# A Letter from Our Board Chair and Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

True to all things 2020, we were delayed in getting the Friends of Mascoma 2020 Annual Report published, but at long last, here it is. What a year it has been! We are excited to share our 2020 experience with you and showcase some of the amazing work we pulled off during an extraordinary time.

As you know, we pride ourselves on being nimble and responding to the evolving needs of the Mascoma Valley community. This philosophy was put to the test in March of 2020. While Friends of Mascoma is a small organization, we were able to adjust quickly in a time of crisis. The pandemic required out of the box thinking and flexibility. Like many other organizations we were forced to rethink and pivot some of our operations during these unusual times. We made several adjustments to our operations and work patterns and reassessed on a regular basis. We are a largely volunteer run organization therefore the pandemic called for increased safety procedures and protocols. Open and transparent has always been important but became increasingly so during the pandemic.

Our operations have undergone several changes since the onset of the pandemic and will continue to evolve. We are proud to highlight that not only were we able to maintain our basic operations and programs during the pandemic, but we were able to increase our food access work during a time when it was needed most. We awarded 15 scholarships totaling \$17,000 and hand delivered giant checks in a physically distant manner to our recipients so there was still a sense of celebration despite the lack of in-person awards ceremony. We fulfilled mini-grant requests for socks and umbrellas so the elementary school children could spend more time outdoors. We adapted quickly and were able to implement these changes because of our wonderful community partnerships and the outpouring of support we received from this community and beyond.

As always, the continued patience and support of this community means the world to the FOM team and the people we serve. We thank you again for supporting us during a truly unusual year and we hope you enjoy reading more about our programs and accomplishments in our 2020 Annual Report. A more complete list of our partners and current programming can be found on our website. Donations may be made online at [www.friendsofmascoma.org/donate](http://www.friendsofmascoma.org/donate) or through the enclosed envelope. Thank you in advance for your continued support!

*Holly West and Eula Lee Kozma*



## Out of the Box Thinking: Creative Food Distribution During the Pandemic

FOM is a small organization, but we have been able to adjust quickly in a time of crisis. We pride ourselves on being nimble and responding to the evolving needs of the community. The pandemic required out of the box thinking and flexibility. Like many other organizations we were forced to rethink and pivot some of our operations during these unusual times. We made several adjustments to our operations and work patterns. We are a largely volunteer run organization therefore the pandemic called for an increase in safety procedures and protocols.

At the initial onset of the pandemic and Governor Sununu's stay at home order our public food pantries presented an interesting set of challenges. In March 2020 we realized that safely operating our in-person food pantries with volunteers would not be possible. We knew that access to food would be key during the pandemic. However, the health and safety of our staff, volunteers and shoppers is of utmost importance to us so every choice we make hinges on our ability to create a safe experience. Accordingly, we are not having shoppers enter our pantry building. We paired down our volunteer base for safety reasons and got creative with our community partnerships.

We worked with the Enfield and Grafton Police Departments and the Canaan Fire Department to distribute food to approximately 70 households and 155 Mascoma residents every week for 14 weeks. This plan required more behind the scenes planning and effort as well as in person support from officers and fire department staff. It presented a whole new set of logistics and challenges, but it was very successful. The commitment from our team in the past few months as well as the financial support we received from individuals is a testament to the spirit of the Mascoma Valley community.

As things began to reopen, we had to shift again and come up with a new approach without as much support from local emergency management. In July we began distributing food curbside twice a week in Canaan and Enfield. This system also required more behind the scenes effort, but it allowed us to invite back limited volunteers, maintain social distancing and provide food and other household items to those who need it most. We continued with this set up into the fall months.

As the winter weather arrived we prepared to shift again. This time the set up was permanent and more sustainable for our organization. We made changes to our building and distribution plan that will allow us to independently operate our Friends Feeding Friends food pantry in Canaan in an efficient and safe manner for all parties involved.



In December 2020 we launched a walk up/takeaway system to use in the cold weather months at our Canaan location. FOM enlisted MTD Building Contractors to construct two roof overhangs over existing windows. They also retrofitted the interior and exterior portions of those windows with counters to serve as check in/out takeaway stations for limited contact food pantry operations. Shoppers check in at one window and pick up their items at the other. This project was generously funded by the Hanover Consumer Cooperative Fund ([www.coopfoodstore.com](http://www.coopfoodstore.com)) and Upper Valley Strong ([www.uvstrong.org](http://www.uvstrong.org)).

# Scholarships 2020

FOM awarded 15 scholarships to 15 amazing seniors in 2020. We had a lot of fun notifying our 2020 scholarship recipients in the beginning of June. We wanted to try to make the distribution a little fun since so many events had been canceled or shifted during the pandemic. We surprised our recipients with balloons and a Covid-safe “big check”! The scholarships totaled \$17,000! In total, FOM has awarded \$69,000 in scholarships since our scholarship program launched in 2016. The class of 2020 scholarship recipients were:

- \$1,000 Friends of Mascoma Scholarship awarded to Mackenzie Labrie
- \$1,000 Friends of Mascoma Scholarship awarded to Hawk Shawn
- \$1,000 Friends of Mascoma Scholarship awarded to Hayden J Cook
- \$1,000 Friends of Mascoma Scholarship awarded to Tallis Diehn
- \$1,000 Friends of Mascoma Scholarship awarded to Nicole Williams
- \$1,000 Friends of Mascoma Scholarship awarded to Cassady B Putnam
- \$1,000 Friends of Mascoma Scholarship awarded to Peter Michelson
- \$1,000 Friends of Mascoma Scholarship awarded to Alek M Connolly
- \$1,000 Friends of Mascoma Scholarship awarded to Michaela Dowd
- \$1,000 Friends of Mascoma Scholarship awarded to Jaida Michetti
- \$1,500 Carolyn A. Cusick Trust Teacher Scholarship awarded to Cassidi A Timlake
- \$1,000 Malformity Labs STEM Scholarship Awarded to Liam T Hemmerling
- \$1,500 Roberta Hines and Jerry Liebrand Science Scholarship in Memory of Velma Hines Awarded to Olivia Bean
- \$1,500 Roberta Hines and Jerry Liebrand Healthcare Scholarship in Memory of Sadie Seamans awarded to Amelia Wilson
- \$1,500 Roberta Hines and Jerry Liebrand Science Scholarship in Memory of Verne Hines Awarded to Kayleigh Thurston

The success of our scholarship program is possible because of our NH Gives fundraising campaign, individuals, and businesses sponsoring scholarships. NH Gives is a 24 hour online statewide giving event. It is a way raise funds and to celebrate nonprofits in NH. It is the primary source of support for the FOM scholarship fund.

This year FOM awarded five smaller contributions to our prior recipients who returned for a second award as FOM Fundraising Champions during NH Gives 2020. Eligibility:

- Past recipients must be currently enrolled in a higher education program.
- Past recipients must sign up to be a fundraising champion for FOM during NH Gives.
- Past recipients who wish to renew their scholarship are required to email [scholarships@friendsofmascoma.org](mailto:scholarships@friendsofmascoma.org) before NH Gives to notify FOM of intent to renew and provide current contact information.

Not a past scholarship recipient but in need of a scholarship? Email [scholarships@friendsofmascoma.org](mailto:scholarships@friendsofmascoma.org) to determine potential eligibility.

Applications for are due April 1st each year. For complete information on our scholarship programs please visit: [friendsofmascoma.org/scholarship/](https://friendsofmascoma.org/scholarship/)

# Mini-Grants 2020



In total, FOM has awarded over \$30,000 in mini-grant funds. Mini-grant applications are now reviewed on a rolling basis. Do in large part to the pandemic and the ever-shifting needs and protocols at the schools we did not receive our typical amount of mini-grant applications. We are happy to report there has been an upswing in 2021. To learn more about our mini-grant program or to apply please visit:

**[friendsofmascoma.org/mini-grants](https://friendsofmascoma.org/mini-grants)**

FOM is pleased to offer a mini-grant program that supports, encourages, and facilitates projects and ideas that would not be possible within the existing school budget. During 2019 FOM awarded \$3,520 in mini-grants projects throughout the district. Mini-grant projects in 2020 included:

- Smart wool socks to the Kindergarten classes at Enfield Village School for all season outdoor play
- A scale & new backpacks for the food access/social work program at Indian River Middle School
- Headphones to support virtual learning for Enfield Village School
- Umbrellas for the Kindergarten classes at Enfield Village School to venture out on rainy days
- A special mini-grant to the Enfield Village School playground fundraiser.

## Enfield Village School Preschool Playground Fundraiser

Our friends from the preschool team at Enfield Village School are diligently working towards a new play space for the preschool students, our special needs population, and the general community. Their goal is to raise \$84,000 to cover the cost of the project and they are very close to their goal. The Friends of Mascoma Foundation granted them \$2,500 toward the project and our Executive Director provided guidance on how to fundraise for a project of this size. To learn more about the project and to support their efforts visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/25djxn6>



# Friends Feeding Friends 2020 Highlights

Friends Feeding Friends had another rewarding year with continued community support. During our fourth year of operation we had approximately 2119 visits to our two public pantries. Below are some highlights from our year.

To learn more about Friends Feeding Friends visit us online at: [friendsofmascoma.org/friends-feeding-friends](https://friendsofmascoma.org/friends-feeding-friends)



## Pantry Overview

FOM operates two public community food pantries serving the towns of Canaan, Dorchester, Enfield, Grafton and Orange. Both pantries are open once a week and staffed with two volunteers. The pantries provide a free three day supply of food that includes meat, dairy, produce, breads and nonperishables. We also have a variety of personal care items as well as pet food. To shop at either location, a household must show proof of residence, fill out a client informational form, and agree to a pantry policy.

## Volunteers

Perhaps the most important part of Friends Feeding Friends is our dedicated team of volunteers. We are so fortunate to have a caring group of community members regularly volunteering their time and we are proud to note that we have volunteers from all five towns. On most Tuesdays our team travels to the NH Food Bank in Manchester. Lana Evans, our head pantry volunteer, keeps everything in order. We don't know what we'd do without her. We also have an amazing prep crew, headed by Nancy Smith, Edie Bellion, Annette Hutchins, Alan Ricard and Dan Moore who show up, unpack every delivery, and sort perishables. This year our Chief Food Transporters were Dan and Sharon Kiley. Teams of volunteers also

donate their time weekly during our public pantry hours. We are always looking for more community members to join our team!

## School Collaboration

Each of the Mascoma Valley Regional School District schools has a food representative that acts as a liaison between FOM and the schools. We strive to provide snack type items for each school to have on hand and meal items as well as canned goods to send home in backpacks. The pantry in MVRHS and can be accessed by staff at both the high school and Indian River Middle School. Enfield Village School and Canaan Elementary School send food representatives to our Canaan distribution site most weeks. Through this program our community is keeping our students fed and focused during the school day.

## NH Feeding NH

In 2020, The NH Food Bank in partnership with the NH Food Alliance, NH Farm Bureau and NOFA-NH proudly launched "NH Feeding NH" a statewide initiative designed to support the purchase of NH grown food to feed our food insecure neighbors with nutritious locally grown produce, fruit, dairy protein and more throughout NH communities.



In spring 2020, FOM was awarded an initial grant of \$1,000 via this program to spend specifically at local farms and farm stands. In August 2020 FOM was awarded an additional \$500 because the NH Food Bank was pleased with how we embraced the program supporting a number of local farms and farm stands.

To date, Friends of Mascoma Foundation has supported the following farms and farm stands using funds from the NH Feeding NH Program:

- Open Woods of Grafton
- Spring Ledge Farm of New London
- Edgewater Farm of Plainfield
- Sunset Harvest Farm of Enfield
- Primitive Pickings of Lebanon
- Dirk Andrew/Westley Burton Agricultural Products of Canaan
- Pleasant Valley Produce at Campbell Farm of Enfield

We encourage all our friends and supporters to shop locally whenever possible! We thank the NH Food Bank for including FOM in this wonderful program. For more information on this initiative please visit the NH Food Bank's site here: [nhfoodbank.org/programs/nh-feeding-nh/](http://nhfoodbank.org/programs/nh-feeding-nh/)

## Holiday Box Distribution

Every year the Friends of Mascoma Foundation partners with several local organizations to distribute holiday food boxes to the Mascoma Valley Community.

This year we collaborated with the Mascoma Valley Regional High School's chapter of the National Honor Society to source Thanksgiving boxes. In addition to one turkey for every household, the boxes include holiday fare such as cranberry sauce, stuffing and vegetables, as well as pantry staples for the long weekend like pasta, tomato sauce, macaroni and cheese and oatmeal. The NHS also included personal care items such as tooth paste. The Baking School

at the King Arthur Baking Company kindly donated one pack of 12 fresh rolls to each box. This year the high schoolers assembled and distributed 60 boxes to the community.

We also worked with the Mascoma Valley Ecumenical Council for their annual Ingathering Thanksgiving food box distribution. In partnership with FOM, they were able to distribute food boxes to 108 households. Boxes included turkeys and everything you'd need for a complete holiday meal such as stuffing, potatoes and green beans, as well as some pantry staples like pasta, oatmeal and cereal for the long weekend. We are happy to count this group among our many community partners!

We also wanted to support some of our local businesses so FOM sponsored a Thanksgiving Pie Giveaway for some of our shoppers. We purchased and gave away pies from Kitchen 56, Red Wagon Bakery and 603 Bakery and Café.



A few weeks later we executed December holiday boxes. This was difficult to pull off, but we strive to create positive food experiences and we wanted folks to have something special for the holiday so we set out to find hams. Our Executive Director made some calls and we ordered 100 hams from Green Mountain Smoke House! One committed volunteer organized the box preparations (Lana Evans) and another (Dan Kiley) picked up the hams from Green Mountain Smoke House in Windsor, Vermont.

Russell Holland (a past FOM Scholarship recipient) and Braden Holland helped our lead volunteer Lana Evans pack the boxes.

Canaan, NH Fire Department & Emergency Management graciously handed out the majority of the boxes on a Sunday and a crew of FOM volunteers distributed the remainder in Enfield. And voila!— 90+ boxes were put out into the community. Many hands make light work. Thank you to all who helped FOM pull this off!





9 On The Common  
Canaan, NH 03741

*Check out all our  
progress in 2020!*



Thank you to all of our generous supporters and community partners. We couldn't do this work without your help! Please see our website for a complete list of our 2020 supporters and community partners. You can become a recurring donor or a one time donor on our website now!

Visit us here to learn more: [www.friendsofmascoma.org](http://www.friendsofmascoma.org)