

# Celebrating 25 Years



## The COVER Page & Annual Report

*Fostering Hope & Building Community Since 1998*

Spring 2023  
Volume 22, No. 2



## The Gift of Companionship

*There is a “magic” that happens when strangers work side-by-side and share a meal together, leaving at the end of the day with a renewed sense of hope and dignity.*

**Sometimes the smallest jobs can yield great joys.** Take, for example, Mike, a homeowner who lives in Windsor. Mike heard about COVER from a family member and reached out to us because he needed help addressing some home safety issues – a hole in his floor, a door that didn’t close properly, and a small set of stairs that were, in his words, “stupid, dangerous, and flimsy.”

Because these projects were relatively small, two of our staff, Jay and Xander, handled the job by themselves without the support of volunteers. But they weren’t alone. When recounting the day, Jay shared with a glow that, “Mike had Casablanca playing on a loop, he shared wild stories, we had such a good time!”

**COVER encourages homeowners to be involved with work projects in whatever way they are able so that relationships begin to form.** Some homeowners can join the work crew, some make and share lunch with the crew, and some, like Mike, just spend time connecting which makes the work take on a deeper meaning.

The goodwill went both ways. Mike called the next day to say how much he appreciated Jay and Xander and the work they did. “They built me a set of stairs – they’re the most stable thing in the building, like a Sherman tank. If a hurricane ever passes through, I’ll hang on to these steps you built and I won’t blow away!”

The stairs will last, long after completion, **as will the memories of a meaningful day.**

## **COVER's mission is to foster hope and build community in the Upper Valley.**

We do this by bringing together volunteers and homeowners to complete urgently needed home repair projects, and by facilitating the reuse of household goods and building materials at The COVER Store.

### A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## **COVER Gets New Shoes**

In 1998, COVER was born with a shoestring budget, a vehicle that was on its last wheels, and an abundance of good intentions. Over the next 25 years, COVER grew from a staff of one, completing a handful of repairs, to a staff of 12 repairing and weatherizing more than 100 homes annually and working in our store and making the organization run smoothly. **We've repaired more than 1,640 homes to date!** And our store revenue has grown to help fund our home repair program.

**Your support as a shopper, donor, or volunteer (sometimes all three!) has made it possible for us to grow our services to meet the community's need for safe and affordable housing** for our neighbors who are aging or living with disabilities.

Despite the fact that COVER focuses on home repair, it was apparent, when I took on this position, that our own building wasn't meeting our needs. The store was running out of space, the home repair team needed a dedicated space for their tools, and the office was not fully accessible for people with limited mobility.

**This summer, the cobbler's children will finally get new shoes.** The street-side of our building will have a used-book store and an office that is ADA-accessible. These new spaces will be inviting to the public and will increase the visibility of COVER's mission and work.

It has been wonderful and humbling to see the overwhelming support from our community. Local businesses donated materials, foundations awarded generous capital grants, and volunteers are donating their time to renovate the building. Additionally, through collaborations with Dartmouth College, we have a student-designed exterior façade plan and a community mural will be painted on the south-side of our building. Not only will we get new "shoes," but they will be colorful ones!

We can't wait to share our new spaces with you when the renovation is done in September, as part of our 25th year anniversary celebration – date to-be-scheduled.

**Thank you for believing in COVER and the work we do. We can't do it without you!**

Sincerely,



**Helen Hong**  
*Executive Director*

Please keep in touch: [helen@coverhomerepair.org](mailto:helen@coverhomerepair.org)

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# Ted Emerson: A Man of all Trades

I first met Ted Emerson playing pond hockey in Brownsville. Ted was a fun-loving person with a twinkle in his eye. What all the folks at COVER soon learned was that Ted's twinkle is a doorway to a very generous and capable person.

Since the early 2000s, Ted has led volunteer crews for COVER, served on the COVER board and helped on many plumbing challenges for homeowners and at the COVER building. As part of the current renovation project at COVER's headquarters, Ted re-routed heat pipes so that the new shop space would have heat. Ted's compensation for his effort is deep appreciation, a slap on the back, and some scraps of copper pipe.

**THANK YOU,** Ted, for sharing your time and expertise with us! Your heart is huge and your generosity is such a gift to COVER and our work.



*Ted working on the COVER property around 2018. An old building like ours has no shortage of needs.*

**“** Working with COVER's crews and clients is priceless and reaffirming.”

*- Ted Emerson*

**If YOU are an electrician or plumber** and are willing to donate your time or charge a reduced rate, we would love to talk to you!

**Contact Jeff at:**  
jeff@coverhomerepair.org  
or 802-296-7241 ext 3.



**Jay Mead**  
*Home Repair Co-Director*

## This Messy Work Matters

Half of the homes that COVER repairs are mobile homes. A mobile home is an affordable housing option for many buyers of limited financial means.

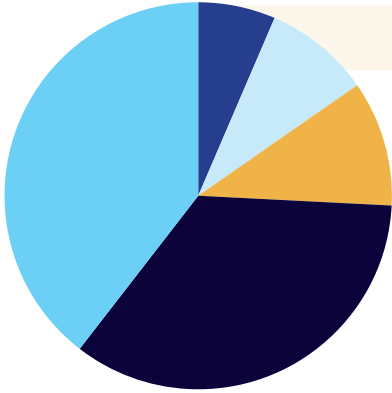
Although they have a lower purchase price, mobile homes (especially older ones) can be costlier to heat and maintain.

**The dirty hands and knees are worth it to help homeowners live more safely and affordably.**



*Conor and Xander from COVER replacing the subfloor in a mobile home severely damaged by a hot water heater leak.*

# 2022 IMPACT



## URGENT HOME REPAIR & WEATHERIZATION IN 2022

■ Ramps	8
■ Roofs	11
■ Insulated Skirting for Mobile Homes	13
■ Stairs, Subfloor, Fall Prevention	43
■ Weatherization*	49

\*Weatherization projects include: weatherproofing doors, outlets, and other leaky areas; building and installing interior storm windows; replacing light bulbs with LEDs; and replacing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

## Financials July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

REVENUES	\$800,980	EXPENSES	\$785,510
Store Revenue	\$329,114	Salaries & Benefits	\$516,277
Foundational Grants	\$205,252	Outside Contract Expenses	\$57,194
Individual Donations	\$177,906	Home Repair & Weatherization Materials	\$107,876
Miscellaneous	\$88,708	Vehicles (3) & Supplies	\$43,181
		Special Insurance, Credit Card Fees, Misc.	\$43,483
		Building Occupancy	\$17,498

## The Joy of Community at The COVER Store

Managing the COVER Store is a fun adventure every day. The inventory of donations is always a surprise and we never know who will walk through the door to shop. 75% of our customers are regulars and are part of our community as they look for new treasures - from a new tool to a one-of-a-kind piece of furniture. You never know what you might find! And your purchase helps a good cause!

Coming this spring we will have a community coffee corner inside our store. Stop by, grab a cup of coffee, and see what we have in store - selections change every day! Follow us on Facebook or Instagram for postings every one to two days of new arrivals.

Once you've shopped to your heart's content, visit our friendly neighbors for drinks or a bite to eat - we love being a part of a vibrant downtown White River scene and supporting our neighbors in town.



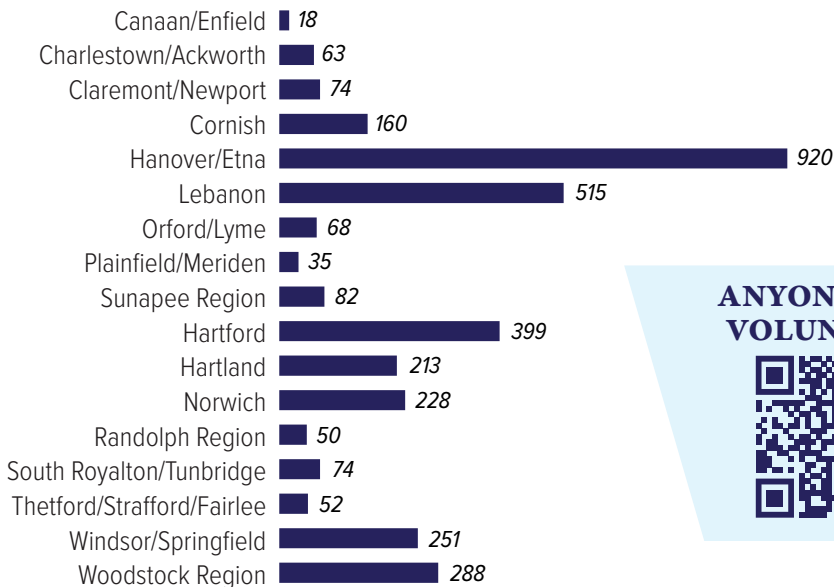
**Jamie Loura**  
*COVER Store Manager*

# VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

## COVER could not do the work that we do without the help of volunteers!

In 2022, 215 community members completed 1865 volunteer hours in the store and 2294 hours on home repair and weatherization projects. We calculate the value of this time at **\$74,862!**

### Volunteer Hours in 2022 from Our Communities



**ANYONE CAN VOLUNTEER**



## COVER builds over 275 windows!

As we wrap up building our interior storm windows, I wanted to reflect on how it went over the past few months as we have been building these windows. In the end, **we built over 275 storm windows using help from 27 volunteers who spent over 120 hours collectively on these windows.** That is pretty amazing!

On average, each window saves about 10 gallons of heating oil/kerosene, so we saved our homeowners **over 2,750 gallons of heating oil.** That is more than \$12,000 in savings at today's oil prices. That is really quite a remarkable achievement. On behalf of all the homeowners you have helped during this weatherization season, **thank you!**



**Jeffrey Dumont**

*Community Engagement Director*

# Thank You 2022 Donors!

This list represents donors 1/1/22-12/31/22.

We make every effort to create an accurate list; please let us know about any errors or omissions.

**In 2022, together with your support, we preserved 66 affordable homes for 133 of our most vulnerable neighbors. Most of the homeowners we serve live on a limited, fixed income and cannot afford the cost of home repair or modification.**

The Aliber Family Gift Fund ♦ Mary & David Allen Fund ♦ Susan Almy ♦ Marie Alvin ♦ Jennie Anderson ♦ K. Sandra Anderson & Reeve Williams ♦ Patricia M. Anderson ♦ Eleanor T. Andrews ♦ Mary-Margaret Andrews & Worth Parker ♦ Peter Hoyle Armstrong ♦ Patrick & Marsha Autilio ♦ Charles W. Bacon ♦ Chris & Christine Bailey-Kellogg ♦ Judy Reeve & Ken Baker ♦ Lisa Baldez & John Carey ♦ Ken & Joyce Baldwin ♦ Bronwen & Bob Ballou ♦ Roger & Marta Barnes ♦ Robert A. & Patricia J. Barr ♦ Christine & Donald Bartlett ♦ Yolanda Baumgartner ♦ Johanna Beliveau ♦ Laura & Mark Beliveau ♦ Canny & Steve Bensen ♦ Iris Berezin ♦ James & McKey Berkman ♦ James & Judith Bernat ♦ Joanne & James Berry ♦ Marc Bertrand & Sharon Ikeda ♦ Peter & Chrysanthi Bien ♦ **Thomas Bird in memory of Margaret D. Bird** ♦ Peter Blodgett ♦ Roger & Susan Bloomfield ♦ Liz Blum & Nelson Kasfir ♦ Mary Bourdon ♦ Margaret Bragg ♦ Daniel Brand ♦ Erik & Shay Brine ♦ Britton Lumber ♦ Sarah Brock ♦ David Brooks & Merideth Jackson ♦ Sarah Bruce ♦ Elizabeth Bullard Morse & Richard Morse ♦ Amy Burns ♦ Ed Burt ♦ Leonard & Mary Ann Cadwallader ♦ Kevin & Connie Carey ♦ John P. & Marjorie Carr ♦ Nelson Carter & Barbara Slaiby ♦ Peter & Debbie Carter ♦ Clifford Cary ♦ Anne Cerasoli ♦ Carla Chandler & Chuck Landry ♦ Michael Choukas ♦ Church of Christ at Dartmouth College ♦ David & Ann Cioffi ♦ Circle Fund ♦ Brian Clancy ♦ William C. Clarke ♦ Shirley Clifford ♦ Thomas & Andrea Colgan ♦ Commonwealth Financial Network ♦ Community Lutheran Church ♦ Nancy & Tom Corindia ♦ Tom Cormen ♦ Warren Coughlin ♦ Florence A. Courtemanche ♦ Carolyn & Joseph Cravero ♦ Cressman-Riggs Fund ♦ **Tom Cronkite in memory of Priscilla Gallagher** ♦ Gregory Crowley ♦ Anne A. Cushman ♦ Jeffrey Dahlman ♦ Robert & Jane Darrach ♦ Sylvia Davatz ♦ Lindsay Dearborn for the Hanover Friends Meeting, Young Friends' Alternative Gift Mart (HFM,YFAGM) ♦ Jane & Jack DeGange ♦ Whit & Closey Dickey Legacy Fund ♦ Domus, LLC ♦ Robert & Mary Donin ♦ Harrison & Betsy Drinkwater ♦ Scott Drysdale ♦ Rodney & Carol Dubois ♦ Bernie DuBreuil ♦ Jeffrey & Kimberly Dumont ♦ Julie Dunfey ♦ Jewish Communal Fund ♦ David Durst Family Fund ♦ Beckie & Jim Eakin ♦ David & Kristen Eastman ♦ Kerry Ellis ♦ Ruth Ellis ♦ Goodale Endrulat Giving Fund ♦ Cliff & Felixa Eskey ♦ Thomas G. Essex ♦ **Anonymous in honor of Angela Evancie and Morgan Peach** ♦ David & Leslie Fall ♦ Rudy Fedrizzi ♦ Commonwealth Financial Network ♦ Fidelity Charitable ♦ First Congregational Church of Hartland, UCC ♦ Rob Fish ♦ Clare Forseth ♦ Charles Franks ♦ Andy & Katie Friedland ♦ Harold Frost ♦ Milton & Carolyn Frye ♦ Alex Fuld & Shoshana Hort ♦ Lisa Furmanski & Peter Solberg ♦ Fuss & O'Neill, Inc ♦ Bruce Genereaux ♦ Barbara C. Gibbs ♦ Jim Godfrey ♦ James Gold ♦ Melanie & Peter Golder ♦ Lynne & Brian Goodwin ♦ Alison & Sean Gorman ♦ David Goudy & Susan Gallagher ♦ Jean Graf ♦ Luise Graf ♦ Greater Hartford United Church of Christ ♦ Lewis

Grossman ♦ Deborah Guthrie ♦ Jeannette Hage ♦ Hake Family Fund ♦ Tom & Barbara Hall ♦ Bill & Cristina Hammond ♦ Anna Harding & Peter Mason ♦ **Anne Harms in honor of Fran & Dave** ♦ Kate & Phil Harrison ♦ Anne Hartmann ♦ Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church ♦ Rian Hasson & Hudson Charles ♦ Jenn & Thornton Hayslett ♦ **Norma Hazelton & Melissa Hazelton in Honor of Averill Tinker** ♦ Head Light Fund ♦ Michael & LeeAnne Heeremans ♦ James Heffernan ♦ Anthony & Fukiko Helm ♦ Help is Passed on Fund ♦ Sandra Hering ♦ Thomas & Kathleen Hickey ♦ Jason Hill & Katie Mann ♦ Elizabeth Hindmarsh ♦ Romer & Deming Holleran ♦ Scott & Patti Holmes ♦ Geo Honigford ♦ Virginia Hood-Peters ♦ David & Kathy Hooke ♦ Carolyn Jane Hooper ♦ Avery Hoppa ♦ Jory Innes ♦ Thale & Julie Jacobs ♦ Corlan Johnson ♦ Glenn & Patricia Johnson ♦ Jennifer Johnson ♦ Linda Johnson ♦ Meredith Johnson ♦ Barbara Jones ♦ Gisela Jones ♦ David Joyce ♦ Dick & Ellen Joyce ♦ Irene Kacandes ♦ Karen Fryer ♦ Tom & Linda Kahl ♦ Kapadia Family ♦ Christopher & Margaret Katucki ♦ Dennis & Sue Kaufman ♦ Bill Keegan & Merit Scotford ♦ Ron & Carol Keenhold ♦ Kevin & Punam Keller ♦ Larry & Rainie Kelly ♦ Bonnie Kenyon ♦ **Constance Kincaid-Brown in honor of Stan Brown** ♦ Michele Z King ♦ James A. King ♦ Katharine & Davis Kitchel ♦ Robert & Barbara Kline-Schoder ♦ Matt Knight ♦ Sara & Ron Kobylenski ♦ Michael Kolakowski ♦ Rita Kotiah-Scala ♦ Austin & Betty Ann Kovacs ♦ Jennifer & Justin Krawitt ♦ Sunil Kumar ♦ Linda J Labriola ♦ Ray & Linda Lagasse ♦ Richard Lammert ♦ Dianne Allard Langley ♦ Lee E. & Katherine P. Larson ♦ Mary D. Layton ♦ Carola Lea ♦ Noel & Nancy LeBrun ♦ Michelle R Lee ♦ David M. Lemal ♦ Lee G. Lemal ♦ Christopher Levey & Barbara DeFelice ♦ Bruce L. Levine Ph.D. ♦ Gary & Dianne Levine ♦ Jennifer Levy ♦ Norman Levy ♦ Oren Levy ♦ Nicole Liebon ♦ Suzanna K. Liepmann ♦ Lilla Family Fund ♦ Karen Lindig ♦ Todd & Jill Lloyd ♦ LockNLube ♦ Norwood & Joanna Long ♦ Eva Loomis ♦ Jeffrey Lubell ♦ Lubrano Family ♦ Ellen & Dan Lynch ♦ Lee & Betsy Lynd ♦ Hugh MacArthur & Rhea McKay (HFM,YFAGM) ♦ Katie & Reese Madden ♦ R. DeWitt Mallary Jr. ♦ Paul & Wendy Manganiello ♦ Stephen Marcus ♦ Terry Martin ♦ Mascoma Bank ♦ Dave Mascoveta ♦ Frank & Mary Ann Mastro ♦ Barbara & Bob Mathewson ♦ **Robert Maurer in memory of Nina Seaman** ♦ Mary Maxfield ♦ Gretchen & Roger Maynard ♦ Jane McCarthy ♦ Robert & Judith McCarthy ♦ Tim & Phebe McCosker ♦ Martha McDaniel & Stephen Plume ♦ Margaret McDerment ♦ Kristine & Pat McDevitt ♦ Scott & Catherine McGee ♦ John McKenna & Carol Campbell ♦ Sarah McPeck ♦ Johanna Mead ♦ Carrie Michelson ♦ Phyllis H. Miller ♦ Ron Miller ♦ Lianne Moccia ♦ The Moose Fund ♦ Chris Morin ♦ Kyle Murphy ♦ Dave & Heidi Nelson ♦ Bill Neukomm ♦ New Hampshire Charitable Foundation; Bee Jar Fund, Bio X Cell Fund, DnD Charitable Fund, KJS Fund, and the Upper Valley Region

Greenstein ♦ Griffiths-Wennrich Family Fund ♦ Gordon Greenfield & Lizi Boyd ♦ Richard Grigsby ♦ David Grobe ♦ Daniel F. & Dana Cook

40%

Community Fund ♦ Miles and Patrice Mushlin Fund ♦ David W. Nierenberg M.D. ♦ Joan R. Nierenberg ♦ Walter Noll ♦ North Pomfret Congregational Church ♦ Norwich Congregational Church ♦ Norwich Lions Club ♦ Sheldon Novick & Carolyn Clinton ♦ Kevin & Lynne O'Hara ♦ Jean O'Neil ♦ Colleen O'Neill ♦ Laurelae L. Oehler ♦ Ardis Olson ♦ Daniel Olson ♦ **Jamie Orr in honor of Ruth Orr** ♦ Laura & Matthew Osborn ♦ Maureen Oscadal ♦ Our Savior Lutheran Church ♦ Kathy & Jeff Parsonnet ♦ Barbara J. Payson ♦ Andrew Pearce ♦ Patty Armstrong & Fred Perkins ♦ Richard & Winnifred Perkins ♦ Peter & Jane Kitchel McLaughlin Family Fund ♦ John & Jane Phipps ♦ Joan L. Piccolo ♦ Jay & Susan Pierson ♦ Ed & Pamela Piper ♦ Plymouth Hill Foundation ♦ Judith Pond ♦ Irwin & Melissa Post ♦ Railroad Row LLC ♦ Claudia Reeder & Thomas Bossert ♦ Brian Reid & Sally Hair ♦ Barbara & David Roby ♦ Jennifer Roby ♦ Kathie Romano ♦ Ruml Leithner Family Fund ♦ Fred & Mary Ann Salvatoriello ♦ Ellen Sauer ♦ Kim Saunders ♦ **Heather & Kitt Sawitsky in honor of Mimi & Michael Simpson** ♦ Eddie & Michelle Schapira ♦ Michael & Elizabeth Schedler ♦ John & Jill Schiffman ♦ Mark & Jennifer Schiffman ♦ Jim Schley & Rebecca Bailey ♦ Richard A Schramm ♦ Robert C. Schultz ♦ Schwab Charitable ♦ Joseph & Nannette Schwartzman ♦ **In Memory of Jacqueline Scuitto** ♦ Anne S. Segal ♦ Dean & Ann Seibert ♦ J. B. Sellers ♦ Marc Seltzer ♦ Roger Shepard ♦ David Sherman ♦ Barbara G. Smith ♦ Stone House

*of our homeowners in 2022 were over the age of 66 or living with disabilities. The average income was \$1,695/month.*

Farm Fund ♦ Sandra F. Smith Tr ♦ Linda Smith-Blais & Lawrence Blais ♦ Lisa Solbert-Sheldon ♦ Chuck & Linda Somers ♦ Sons of Dominion ♦ St. Barnabas Church ♦ St. Thomas Episcopal Church ♦ Jon & Cindy Stableford ♦ John & Nomi Stadler Fund ♦ Stahler Family ♦ Doug & Beth Staiger ♦ Janelle Stender ♦ Amy Stephens & Charles Barlowe ♦ Andrew Stewart ♦ Brian & Rebecca Stowell ♦ Martha Stuart ♦ Skip & Marilyn Sturman ♦ Karen H. Summer ♦ Mary Sutton-Smith & Warren Tucker ♦ Jon Malcolm Swenson ♦ Clint & Bonnie Swift ♦ Theresa Symancyk ♦ Jan-Roberta Tarjan & Ray Brewster ♦ Andrea Tarnowski ♦ Signe Taylor & Joel Stettenheim ♦ David & Susan Taylor ♦ William & Jennifer Thomas ♦ Thomas N. Thomson ♦ **Laurie Tranchin in honor of Mimi & Michael Simpson** ♦ Timothy Traver ♦ Heinz Trebitz ♦ United Brethren Lodge #21 F&AM ♦ On behalf of Clients of William Thomas at Upper Valley Wealth Management ♦ Amy VanderKooi & Pete Thoenen ♦ Vanguard Charitable ♦ Peter & Katie Vedova ♦ Philip & Beverly Vermeer ♦ Vermont Community Foundation ♦ Thom & Kate Villars ♦ Ross Virginia & Sandra Virginia-Chase ♦ Vogel-Wendon Fund ♦ Miriam Voran & Andrew Faunce ♦ Sally Waldron ♦ Franklin Walker Jr. & Debra Walker ♦ Ginger Wallis ♦ Elizabeth Ward ♦ Bruce & Marion Waters ♦ Anne & Zachariah Watson ♦ Mary & Bernie Waugh ♦ Daniel Weinreb ♦ Ruth Weinreb ♦ Jonathan & Julia Weiss ♦ H. Gilbert Welch & Linda Doss ♦ Ken Wells ♦ West Lebanon Congregational Church ♦ John & Judith Whitcomb ♦ Judith Williams ♦ Robert Wolfreys ♦ Chuck Wooster & Susan Kirincich ♦ James & Susan Wright ♦ Bill & Ro Wyman ♦ Arthur & Jeanne Young ♦ Byron & Norma Young ♦ Tom & Sallie Yurkosky ♦ Lynn Zeltman ♦ Angela Zhang ♦ David & Camille Zimmerman ♦ Anonymous (35).

## STAY IN TOUCH!

### ♥ Volunteer

Volunteer on a home repair project or in the COVER store!

**Call:** 802-296-7421 ext. 3  
**or visit:** [coverhomerepair.org](http://coverhomerepair.org)

### 🛍 Shop

New arrivals daily! Come in and browse – you never know what you'll find!

**Store hours:**  
Monday - Saturday, 10-5

### 🎁 Donate *(tax deductible)*

Financial gifts and store proceeds fund home repair and weatherization for neighbors in need.

**Visit:** [coverhomerepair.org/donate](http://coverhomerepair.org/donate)

### 👁 Follow Us

Find us on Facebook and Instagram!  
**@coverhomerepair**

### 📅 Save the Date!

**MAY 5 | 4-7pm**  
First Friday at The COVER Store  
**TBD, MAY**  
Mural Painting - Families Welcome!

Non Profit  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
WRI, VT  
Permit No. 38



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White River Junction  
Vermont, 05001  
(802) 296-7241  
[www.coverhomerepair.org](http://www.coverhomerepair.org)

*The Cover Page* is published semi-annually and mailed to friends and supporters of COVER in the Upper Valley including individual contributors, businesses, foundations, civic groups and religious organizations.



#### PURCHASES WITH IMPACT

COVER Store sales saved **78 tons of goods** from being added to the landfill!

*That's approximately the weight of a 737 Boeing Airplane! ... or 78 adult moose... or a single story home... or 80 VW Beetles... or 5500 Bars of Gold.*



#### FUNDING URGENT REPAIRS

COVER completed 75 home repair projects and 49 weatherizations this year.

*In 2022, the average home repair project cost \$4000 — including labor, materials, and overhead.*