

## Community Dinners Annual Report for June 2016

June 2016 marks the 4 year anniversary of UU Nashua's once-monthly Free Community Dinner. The past year has seen exciting growth in this event. While last year's average dinner attendance hovered around 65 guests/month, we have experienced an attendance increase over the past several months, and we now average around 75 guests/month. Time & again we hear grateful comments from guests; thanks for the food, appreciation of the welcoming space, thanks for the music, appreciation for the time & effort made to serve the dinner.

During the summer and fall of 2015, John Burkitt's "Let's Put People on Bikes" generously donated time, supplies, and talent to perform bike maintenance at several of the monthly dinners. These bike maintenance clinics were very popular and John had a few volunteer helpers work with him in order to service as many bikes as possible during our short dinner time. One month, John started the bike maintenance clinic 2 hours before we served dinner, in order to take care of more guests with bike care issues. This coming summer we are grateful to have John volunteering to do bike clinics again.

Each month, soothing background music is provided by John Burkitt (bass) with Dr. Don Bernard (piano) or by Jed Holland (piano).

Community Dinners have been entirely funded by the congregation of UUCN. The last Outreach Collection to benefit Community Dinners (in January 2015) has helped pay for the ingredients required for each month's dinner. Sometimes, the shopper volunteer will choose to donate the groceries purchased rather than be reimbursed for the cost. Each month, volunteer bakers donate desserts to be served. Occasionally we send an email to ask for "special donations" (i.e.- watermelon for our cookout meal or strawberries as a dessert treat) and you respond enthusiastically. This does not go unnoticed. We are grateful.

Volunteers are the heart of Community Dinners. It would be impossible to serve Dinner guests without the hours of help provided each month by cooks, bakers, set up & servers, gatekeepers & clean up crew. We attempted to keep a list of all who volunteered at Community Dinners during the past year. We are hoping that we have not missed anyone, but please understand that we may have inadvertently left a volunteer participant off this list. This doesn't mean your work was less valued. We are in awe of and appreciate every person who makes the time to help at Community Dinner. These Dinners would not be possible without you! THANK YOU!

Victoria Agnew, Allison Annand, Ann Barker, Ellen Barr, Nancy Bell, Silene & Winter Blais, Marie & Peter & Amanda & Michelle Bozzi, Lesly Bustamante, Ruth & Laura Cannava, Tim Cleaveland, Joan Connacher, Moe Daniels, Geri Davidson, Stu Davidson, Evelyn Decker, Mandy Eberle, Michele & Steve Edington, Mary Ferguson, Ellen Fisher, Kathy Fletcher, Robert & Ellen Gaimari, Kathy Grossman, Eileen Herring, Jamie & Gillian & Jack & Darcy Hinkle, Jed Holland, Dan Holland, Jodie & Hal & Xander & Zoe Holway, Tristan Husby, Pamela Jordan, Joan Leonard, Russ & Karen Leonard, Elizabeth Lewis, Paula Manzano, Tina Marshman, Jon & Miranda McCannon, Jim McCormick, Michelle Morrison, Jenn & Grace & Ben Morton, Arthur & LeRae Niell, Livia O'Neil, Kate O'Shea, Allison Palm, Lance Pratt, Steve & Barbara Pugh, Andrea Rebeck, Kathy Roux, John & Marie Sias, Amy & Charles & Simonne & Charlotte Savoie, Stan St. Onge, Monica Staples, Mia Taylor, Sally & Hannah Thomas, Karen & Asher Thomas, Linda White

***"We live by each other and for each other. Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." ~ Helen Keller***

Respectfully submitted by Jenn Morton on behalf of the UUCN's Community Dinners