



Affordable housing for our neighbors, our friends, and our co-workers.



HOUSING TRUST OF RUTLAND COUNTY



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MEET OUR STAFF



HOUSING TRUST of Rutland County

The Right Move

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends.

The path to understanding affordable housing begins with informing the general public of just how important it is to the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

People living in affordable housing are individuals and families, senior citizens, the disabled, people you see



on your daily errands, at work, at play and around every corner. You may even be surprised to learn that those who live in affordable housing are people you interact with on a daily basis. They are your neighbors, your friends, your co-workers, and possibly even your employees.

Believing that everyone should be treated with the utmost respect and understanding—the staff and board of directors of HTRC have taken steps to ensure we focus on improving diversity, improving equity outcomes and ensuring inclusion in all that we do.

We have developed a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan. We recognize this work will be ongoing and are committed to continuing our focus, and setting an example through our actions within the communities we serve.

Recognizing there may be barriers to becoming and remaining successfully housed, we have created a Residents Services Program with a dedicated Resident Services Coordinator. This program will connect residents to the resources and services (social, health, educational) needed to break down barriers. This type of supportive housing is key to ensuring residents have access to the resources they need and minimizing barriers that hinder everyday living. This program is partially funded by a Bowse Health Trust grant and is available to all current and new residents at no cost.

A thriving non-profit housing sector is at the root of ensuring that our neighbors, friends and co-workers have access to a safe, affordable home, and we want to ensure it stays that way. Over the past year we have taken important steps to ensuring HTRC is ready to respond to the growing need for affordable housing. We have completed a collaborative process of creating a strategic plan, which we will use to inform our organizational planning and creation of new housing units in the next few years.

The staff and board of directors at HTRC are providing hope and opportunity to our residents, your neighbors, friends and co-workers.

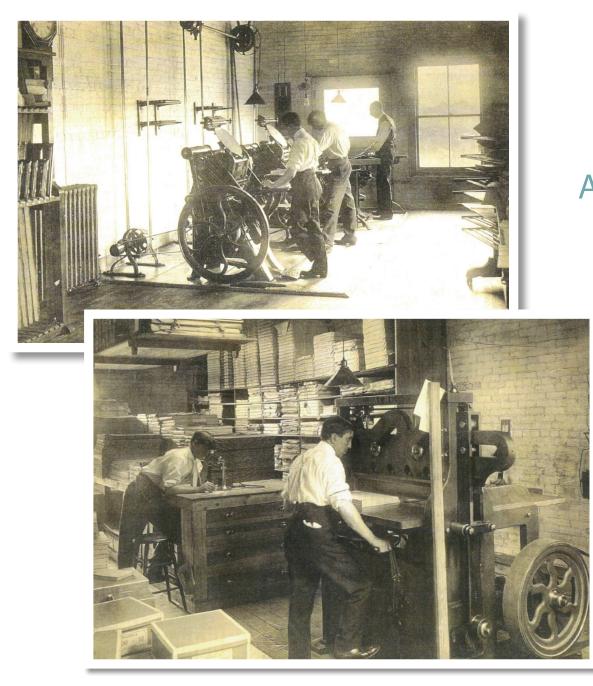
Sincerely,

Mary-S. Cohen

Executive Director

2022 Annual Report | 1

From housing printing presses and offices — to housing our most vulnerable.



TUTTLE BLOCK AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF DOWNTOWN RUTLAND

ousing Trust of Rutland County is well-known for rescuing and preserving a number of historic buildings and creatively transforming them into useful, attractive and affordable housing. Historic buildings that we have converted to housing include the Stanislaus School in West Rutland, the Watkins School, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Rutland. The historic Tuttle Block in downtown Rutland joined the ranks when it was transformed from a printing company to affordable housing in 2006.

The Tuttle Family established Tuttle Printing Company in 1832 and finished building the Tuttle Block in 1865. The original building burned in a devastating fire in 1906, and the family rebuilt in the same location, reopening in 1910. The basement, first and mezzanine levels were used by the Tuttle Printing Company as a retail store. The executive offices were located on the second floor, and printing functions were housed on the third and fourth floors. When the printing company relocated to a more modern facility in the late 1900's, the upper floors remained vacant for many years, sadly falling into disrepair as a derelict building.

The building remained in the Tuttle Family until it

was acquired by Rutland County Community Land Trust
(now Housing Trust of Rutland County (HTRC) in 2003.
Construction and restoration began in 2004. Over time, the
storefront and first floor interior spaces saw a number of
changes to help "modernize" the appearance of the building.
A significant number of architectural features dating from
the 19th and 20th century that remained, but were no
longer visible, were uncovered and restored. The project
created three new retail spaces and thirteen affordable
apartments.

HTRC began another renovation in 2022, adding energy efficiencies including heat pumps, foam insulation, lighting and new windows. All the improvements were designed to resemble a look befitting the time period of the lifespan of the building. As part of the renovation, three more new, affordable apartments were created in the space that was formerly occupied by HTRC Offices from 2006 through 2022.

The newest renovation is scheduled for completion in June 2023. Its new updated features will enable the Tuttle Block to continue providing a solid base for businesses and residents in Downtown Rutland well into the future.

- RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT -

RESPECT JOHN MARINO

"The people at the Housing Trust respect me. Everybody is so nice."



John proudly displays his medallion commemorating his milestone of 25 years of being totally clean and sober, earned Feb., 2023.

hen you meet John Marino for the first time, you immediately realize you've met a very special, gentle man with a reputation and a heart as big as the New York Yankees!

If you know John Marino, you know conversing about certain topics comes very easily to him, such as the Yankees, his daughter Gloria, or the status of the renovation of his home, the Tuttle Block on Center Street. All you have to do is get him started with one question.

When we sat down with John to ask if he'd allow us the honor of doing an article on him and his life at Tuttle Block, he was happy to indulge us. Thinking there was no time like the present, we simply asked, "So, what's new John?" As if on cue and without a moment's hesitation, he quickly presented a gorgeous, shiny blue and gold coin from his pocket, which he had securely tucked into a clear plastic protective sleeve. John said proudly "I've just received my 25 years clean & sober medallion! That's kind of new and I'm really proud of that." The folks within earshot in our office were deeply touched by John's spontaneous announcement, and were about as proud as if he was a member of their own family sharing such good news.

Using just one word, John then summarized why he enjoys his home at Tuttle Block, "Respect." When asked to elaborate, he continued, "The people here at the Housing Trust respect me. Everybody is so nice. The workers from VMS Construction that are doing the work on my building all respect me. I like that. It means a lot to me." He went on recounting stories about how helpful Construction Superintendent Dave Lewis was to him in countless situations when John needed a hand or a small favor. "Dave was always there for me. I sure do miss him. He was like family. He has definitely earned his place in heaven." And we couldn't agree more.

John recalled moving to Rutland 26 years ago from Albany, NY to have a chance at a new start. He knew he needed to get himself clean and he knew he needed a new place to do it. He credits his three-week stay at Serenity House for laying the foundation for helping him get on the right track and taking control of his life without dependencies on substances. For the past 10 years, he has made his home at two of our properties, 18 1/2 Cottage Street and now Tuttle Block.

John is very proud of his 19 year-old daughter Gloria, who just graduated high school with the Rutland Class of 2022. She is now working at The Pines in Rutland.

At 25 years being clean and sober, we can say, with respect and admiration, John has truly earned his medal of honor!

"I've just received my 25-years clean and sober medallion!" J OARIDAA N

John walking down Center Street, Rutland on a beautiful Spring day

TUNE



ne would be challenged to find a more enthusiastic cheerleader for her newly renovated home at Tuttle Block, and life in Downtown Rutland, than Hope! Hope relocated to Rutland from Kissimmee, Florida in 1990 when she discovered Rutland thanks to her good friend, Bonnie whom she says is more like family than a friend. Religion is another part of her family, she continued, "You've got to believe in something, and I know there are many religions, but my Jehovah's Witnesses are my family."

In 1990, Hope set herself up with a job at Foley Services and after 33 years, still reports for duty 5 days a week and cherishes it as much as the day she started. "I've almost earned seniority," she chuckles. "There is one person that has been there longer than me at 40 years. When something needs to get done, I just ask her to make it happen since she has seniority!" Hope speaks quite fondly of the Foley family, saying they have been wonderful to her for all her time there, and they help her attend shows at the Paramount as often as possible, which she adores.

In March when we met up with Hope, she had just moved into her newly created apartment. She is loving it, saying, "I love how Housing Trust takes care of everything so much better than the landlords I've had in the past. My apartment is beautiful and they always fix things right away. Pam, Danielle, and Nikitta are such wonderful people." Hope was guite proud to show her two visitors from Housing Trust how nicely she has settled in, decorated, and what a pleasant view she has overlooking Center Street."Come look at my view of the Farmer's Market," she beamed, parting the curtains

- RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT -LOYALTY HOPE RITCHEY

on her enormous new windows."All I have to do is look out here and I can see when they are all finished setting up and ready for me to do my shopping!" When asked to choose what she loves best about living in Rutland, she has no trouble reciting a long list of favorites including, the Farmer's Market, Paramount Theater, Phoenix Books, and Hand Carved by Ernie. She has also been keeping tabs on Giuseppe's, announcing, "It just opened!"

Hope is a walker. Not just a sometimes walker a real walker. She appreciates living in the center of Rutland City and enjoys being able to walk to work and tend to her errands downtown without a car." I have just about everything I need within walking distance along with easy access to the bus for any place further. I never learned to drive a car when I was growing up due to my epilepsy disability. In the seventies the medications were not nearly as good as they are today, so it was too risky that I might have a seizure while driving so I never learned to drive, but I was not about to let that keep me down!" Hope says this a high level of enthusiasm that is her trademark,"I just love life and I try to be cheerful." Cheerful, by the way, is the most obvious of all of Hope's heartwarming qualities.

Hope suffered significant hearing loss as early as the first grade. It turned out to be a genetic condition that ran through most of her family. "That made it hard for me to learn math in school, but I sure did learn to read, and I just LOVE reading books. Any books! Mysteries, histories, World War I & II books-I was ecstatic when Phoenix Books moved in right across the street! It's my second home. I pick up the daily paper there and get the scoop on the newest books coming out."

Walking, living and loving life at the Tuttle Block

"I fell on an icy sidewalk last year and broke both wrists. I stayed at Bonnie's for my 3 month recovery. It was hard enough to have two casts on my hands, but sitting around the house for so long was driving me crazy! I couldn't wait to get back to work." Judging by the energy and zest for life that Hope exudes, it is a wonder she stayed down for more than a day.



"I have just about everything I need within walking distance. I adore the Paramount!"

- RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT -

DIGNITY & PRIDE

SHERLYN ANDERSON

"We are so blessed to be living here."

Sherlyn is a grateful "40-something" year-old woman of Nicaraguan and Scottish descent. A single mom raising two boys, Dominic (15) and Dante (11), she treasures her home and the opportunity she has been given in Vermont.

Home means a lot more to Sherlyn than the average Vermonter. When asked about her Housing Trust of Rutland County apartment of 11 years on Seabury Avenue, she emphatically proclaims in her lovely Creole accent, "It is my castle. It is our HOME."

For the past 8 years, Sherlyn has worked full-time in healthcare as an aide with Bayada. She loves helping people and especially values the flexibility of scheduling. "The flexibility is important because I can have my boys involved in activities without worrying how they are going to get there from school. I love that they play soccer, they learned to ski, and my youngest has just earned his purple belt in karate! My boys are very busy and I think that is best for them. In Nicaragua they could never have had so much opportunity, so I want them to enjoy it."

It is no surprise Sherlyn enjoys working in healthcare. She met her now ex-husband when she rescued him as a stranger she met by chance on a bus while he was literally dying of Malaria."Malaria is nothing to be trifled with. It is very serious condition," she warns. Unable to walk away from this stranger in excruciating pain, she offered to help. She took him to her aunt's house, and after he healed up with the help of her aunt's holistic herbal remedies, a relationship developed. She soon found herself pregnant at the age 26. "In my culture," she continues, "You get married before having a baby. That's the way things work, so that's what we did." The family of two became three.

Her husband happened to be from Proctor,VT. Sherlyn always admired pictures and stories of life in Vermont. It was so clean. So green. So beautiful. So safe. She wanted to live there. Two years later, they moved to Proctor to live with his parents and tried to build a life with their son. Three years later, Dante was born. Then divorce happened, and the going got tougher.

What does a single mom who has never driven a car do when she finds herself suddenly raising two boys on her own? Add to that Vermont's harsh winters, that can make it nearly impossible to simply walk around, and even tougher to attend the boys' activities spread out among several counties and towns. She overcomes. She pulls herself up by her proverbial bootstraps, learns to drive, gets her license, gets a job (just two days after officially becoming a U.S. Citizen) and puts one foot in front of the other—all while teaching her boys to be respectful gentlemen. This mom does it... EVERY. SINGLE. DAY.

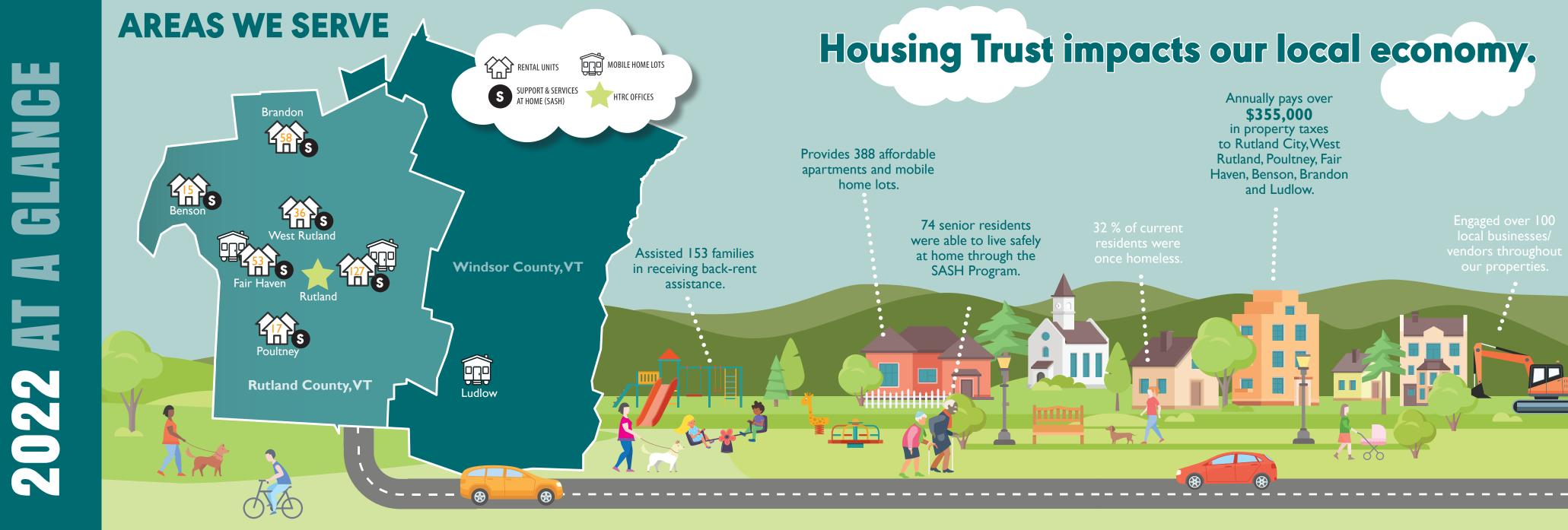
Sherlyn takes nothing for granted. She reflects on the luxuries she has in her home and her life—though her definition of luxuries might sound strange to many Vermonters. "Poland Springs bottled water. Faucets

that have clean, hot and cold running water, free of deadly parasites. Dependable electricity that almost never fails. Fresh fish. Meat. Healthcare where they have medicine always available. And even automatic doors that open for you at Price Chopper!" She exclaims wide-eyed in almost childlike wonder."We have so much here. I am often disturbed when I hear people complaining that Rutland is not a nice place to live, that there is nothing to do, that crime and drugs are so bad, and government stinks, and schools are terrible. I stop them and tell them plain and simple, you think you have it bad, go try living under Communist rule in Nicaragua and then you'll realize just how amazing Rutland really is! We do not have any such luxuries as we have available here. And the OPPORTUNITY to get an education and become whatever you want to make of yourself is incredible. We are so blessed to be living here! Everybody should KNOW it."

"You will always see my boys intently paying attention to the Pledge of Allegiance!" Sherlyn says, "They will always stand proudly as Americans, with their heads held high, and their hands on their hearts, because they appreciate living here. I'm so very proud of my boys. That's what is important to me." In closing, Sherlyn adds, "My boys lovingly call me "Judge Judy" because I enforce that which is right and just. They think I am tough, and I am! I have to be—for them. They appreciate it, and they love me for it. That's what makes me happy."

"It is my castle. It is our HOME."





In 2022, HTRC housed 606 individuals including 163 children & 147 senior citizens.

WHY SUPPORT THE HOUSING TRUST OF RUTLAND COUNTY?

Stable, affordable housing matters to our local economy and to individuals and families.

OUALITY OF LIFE

You are investing in our mission based approach to property management, ensuring that this core value remains a primary focus and improves the quality of life for our residents.

REHABILITATION

Your generous support provides the necessary capital to continue ongoing revitalization efforts of Rutland Region's most challenging properties and neighborhoods.

RENEWAL & REUSE OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Your support our ability to invest in the historic preservation of some of Rutland County's most iconic buildings and architectural landmarks.

INDEPENDENCE

Your gifts provide our most vulnerable citizens the opportunity to experience the highest quality of life in an independent living setting.



Your support turns the idea of "home" into reality for many individuals and families in our community.



Make your tax-deductible donation TODAY!

Online: HousingRutland.org/get-involved • Mail a Check: HTRC 27 Wales St., Suite 201, Rutland, VT 05701 For more information email Pinglee@housingrutland.org Thank you for your support!

By supporting the Housing Trust you enable us to expand the reach of our vital mission of creating and maintaining dignified, attractive, affordable housing for your neighbors, friends, co-workers and employees.



Bill Gross President

Scott Dikema Vice President

Dvlan Watts Treasurer

Donnaleen Fa Secretary

Norm Lash Immediate Past P

A compassionate team dedicated to a mission of housing neighbors, friends, coworkers and employees in Rutland County.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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an	Jessica Anderson
	William Burke
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arwell	Roger Louiselle
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DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION *a priority at HTRC*

The staff and board of directors of Housing Trust of Rutland County participated in a series of brainstorming sessions answering specific questions around diversity, equity and inclusion. The purpose of this exercise was to uncover some tangible blind spots and discover ways we can work on increasing our diversity, improving our equity outcomes and ensuring inclusion in all that we do. As a result of these sessions and consultations with outside experts, HTRC has developed a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Plan. This plan addresses ways we can consciously address ways HTRC can be aware of implicit biases and recognize inequities and disparities in our work and our community. HTRC recognizes our DEI work needs to be ongoing. Our Board and Staff are committed to continuing this work and being models through our actions and behaviors in the community.

THANKYOU DONORS

Thank you to all Housing Trust of Rutland County supporters for your generosity.

Your support and dedication to HTRC helps us provide safe, affordable housing to our residents, and strengthen our local communities and neighborhoods. For every dollar donated almost 95% goes to program services. Listed here are all those who contributed in 2022, your donation ensures our work continues. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we have incorrectly omitted you, please accept our apologies and call us, 802-775-3139.

Al & Anna Wilkinson Amazon Smile Ann Baylock Ann Story Chapter D A R Anonymous Donor Anonymous Donor Attorney Stephanie Lorentz Bart and Beth Eaton Berkshire Bank **Bill & Kim Lucci** Bill Ackerman & Kasia Karazim Bonnie & Randy Kelly Brian Collamore Cathy Reynolds & Doug Fontein Cheryl & George Hooker Christine E. Anderson Coughlin Inc. Dave Potter David & Roberta Dress Deborah Dunphy Donna Hunt Donnaleen Farwell Doug Racine Dr. Ted & Carolyn Shattuck

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In-Kind Donations

Alderman's Toyota Green Mountain Power Heritage Family Credit Union **MKF** Properties Ryan Smith & Carbine, Ltd.



County. We are grateful to everyone who attended and to all our sponsors.

We are happy to announce that the event will take place again on October 27, 2023 with Community Health as the presenting "Sky's the Limit" sponsor again this year.

ousing Trust of Rutland County brought back the annual Raise the Roof fundraiser. The now Halloween themed event "Community Health presents HTRC's Halloween Spooktacular" took place on October 28th at Rutland Country Club. The event brought together a great cross section of our community, all dressed up for Halloween and raising vital funds in support of affordable housing in Rutland

> For more information on how you can support this event in 2023 Contact Penny: 802-775-3139 ext. 218.

Raise the Roof Sponsors

Abatiello Design Center Bar Harbor Bank & Trust **Carris Corporate Foundation** Community Bank, N.A. Community Health Criterium-Lalancette & Dudka Engineers Disaster Recovery, Inc. Heritage Family Credit Union Intrinsic Property Services JoAnn O'Hagen Liz DiMarco Weinmann Consulting, L3C M & T Bank

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We're in your community VOLUNTEERING

in support of your Neighbors, Your Friends and Your Co-workers

MISSION

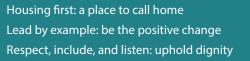
We transform buildings and land into quality housing and more, and develop relationships to cultivate communities that thrive.

VISION

Housing you can trust, afford, and call home – the foundation for vibrant communities.

VALUES

Housing first: a place to call home Lead by example: be the positive change







HTRC and our staff VALUE the community where we live, work and play.

The staff at Housing Trust of Rutland County believes in giving back to the community, they are honored to partner with other area non-profit organizations and community projects. You will often see staff members out in the community helping with events, mentoring children and participating in sports activities.

Currently our staff volunteers with:

American Red Cross

Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region

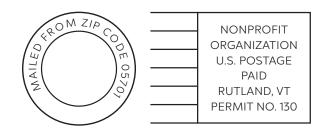
COSA-Circles of Support and Accountability for Restorative Justice

Foster parenting

Green Up Day-Proctor Pittsford Golf Course National Night Out Pittsford Volunteer Fire Department Proctor Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary **Rutland Recreation Softball**

Rutland South Rotary **Rutland Young Professionals** Stafford Technical Center Regional Advisory Board The Mentor Connector Wheels for Warmth Winterfest





24. CLEAN, PREP FOR PAINTING A 2 FINISH COATS ON COLUMNS

EXISTING EXPOSED STEEL COLUMNS AND BEAMS WIT

27 Wales Street, Suite 201 • Rutland, VT 05701 (802) 775-3139 O HousingRutland.org



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