



THE NORWICH COMMUNITY NURSE

FOR NORWICH, VERMONT

Norwich Community Nurse, Inc, Project Annual Report for FY 2022

1. Status of the Community Nurse

The NCN, Inc project hired its third nurse, Brenda Moore, RN, in January 2022. During her employment she developed in-person contacts while sitting at the Congregational Church, the Norwich Senior Housing Center and going to resident's homes for visits. She had open hours from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on the first, third and fifth Tuesdays in the Congregational Church. On the second and fourth Tuesdays she met clients at the Norwich Senior Housing. While an experienced hospital nurse, Brenda experienced many technical challenges with the phone, computer and data recording system (REDCap). She resigned at the end of October.

Fortunately for the NCN project, Kathy Watson, BSN, RN expressed an interest in the position. Kathy is an experienced community nurse who had been working part-time for Lyme for a year. The NCN board hired her shortly after Brenda left. Kathy is contracted to work for Norwich 10 hours per week and is spending more time with clients than her 10 hours allow. As of the end of December she has 31 active clients and has already become a valuable resource.

2. Budget

A letter of thanks and the Annual Report 2021 was sent to all of our donors in May. The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation sent an unsolicited \$6,000.00 to the NCN, Inc project. Fraser's General Store, aka Dan and Whit's, designated the Norwich Community Nurse project as its charitable recipient in June. An annual appeal letter was sent to all Norwich residents mid-November. As of December 31, 2022 \$3,710.00 has come in from the appeal letter. A total of \$17,354.66 has been collected from foundations, individual donors, Pay Pal and fundraising activities this year. \$5,000.00 came from the Vermont Community Foundation to pay for the services of Jill Marshall, a professional strategic planner. The NCN paid Jill Marshall \$3,500.00 for her services to date.

With help from Linda Cook, Brenda Haynes collected the required number of signatures needed to petition the town for \$5,000.00 at the town meeting in March 2023. The projected cost to run the NCN, Inc. project for 2023 is \$28,755.52. With a current bank balance of \$25,667.53 and \$5,000.00 from the town NCN, Inc should be able to cover all operating costs for the year. However, the \$5,000.00 from the town is not guaranteed at this time and it's clear additional funds need to be secured.

3. Strategic Plan

In August three board members (Ellen Gnaedinger, Brenda Haynes and Ann Waterfall), the Community Nurses, Brenda Moore and later Kathy Watson, plus four community members (Linda Cook, Elizabeth McKinstry, Martha Nelson and Janine Scheiner) initiated a strategic planning process. The group met several times throughout the fall. The year ended with a draft of plan which will be presented to the board for approval in February 2023. The strategic plan will be posted on the NCN website.

4. Goals for the future

A survey was offered to Norwich residents as part of the strategic plan. Findings from the survey indicated

A high level of need in Norwich related to health care support. Almost forty percent of people who responded to our survey can identify someone in town who needs support with a chronic mental, physical and/or substance abuse issue. Twenty-two percent shared that they are not able to adequately care for themselves or their loved ones and need additional resources. Thirty-seven percent need help navigating the medical system. Thirty-four percent need more information about advanced care planning, and forty-five percent are interested in learning more about end-of-life planning.

Clearly, there is a need for health care services that a community nurse can offer. The challenge before the NCN board will be finding on-going, committed sources of funding.