



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

CLOTHES FOR A CAUSE

Note from our President:

In 2024 we have experienced much-needed stability in our Board of Directors, particularly in the position of Treasurer. Having a treasurer so dedicated to our organization allowed us to hire two part-time retail staff, oversee payroll, and double our retail footprint. Now that we have a consistent and cohesive retail team, we have reduced training time and increased efficiencies, allowing the Retail Manager to take on more responsibilities. In addition to all this, we have a consistent, stable, and growing team of volunteers at the Donation Center. All of this stability has enabled me to focus more on the mission of the non-profit.

Inside this report:

- Why We Are Needed
- Mission and Vision
- Fiscal Health
- New Hires
- Community Impact
- Holiday Fun
- Expansion
- Gratitude, Recognition, and Awards
- Looking Ahead



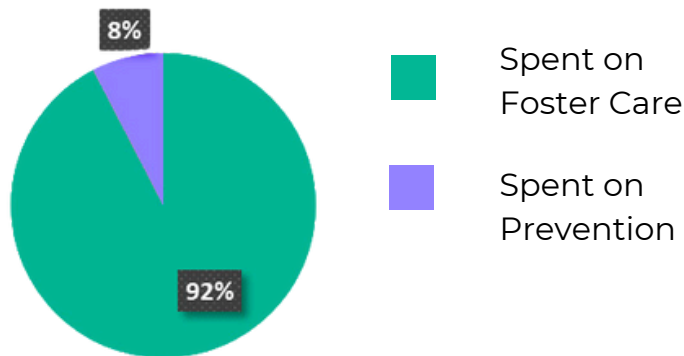
PREPARED BY :
Amy Anderson

Why We Are Needed

- **Multiple placements** in foster care are associated with increased mental and behavioral health problems.
(Rubin et al., 2004; Rubin, O'Reilly, Luan, & Localio, 2007)
- **Vermont Ranked nearly the WORST** in the nation for two or fewer placements in the first 12 months, as well as in the first 12 -24 months, of foster care. (2022)

<https://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite/sixOneLessThan12/index>

2019 VERMONT FUNDING FOR CHILD WELFARE*



*Casey.org/state-data/

“Adverse childhood experiences are the single greatest unaddressed public health threat facing our nation today.”

– Dr. Robert Block, former president of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Fostering children with trauma histories is HARD work

- **30-50%** of Foster Parents **quit** within the First Year
- Licensed Foster Homes in Vermont have decreased by **42%** from 2020-2023

**SUPPORT THE FAMILIES
STABILIZE THE CHILDREN
SAVE OUR COMMUNITIES!!!**



VISION AND MISSION

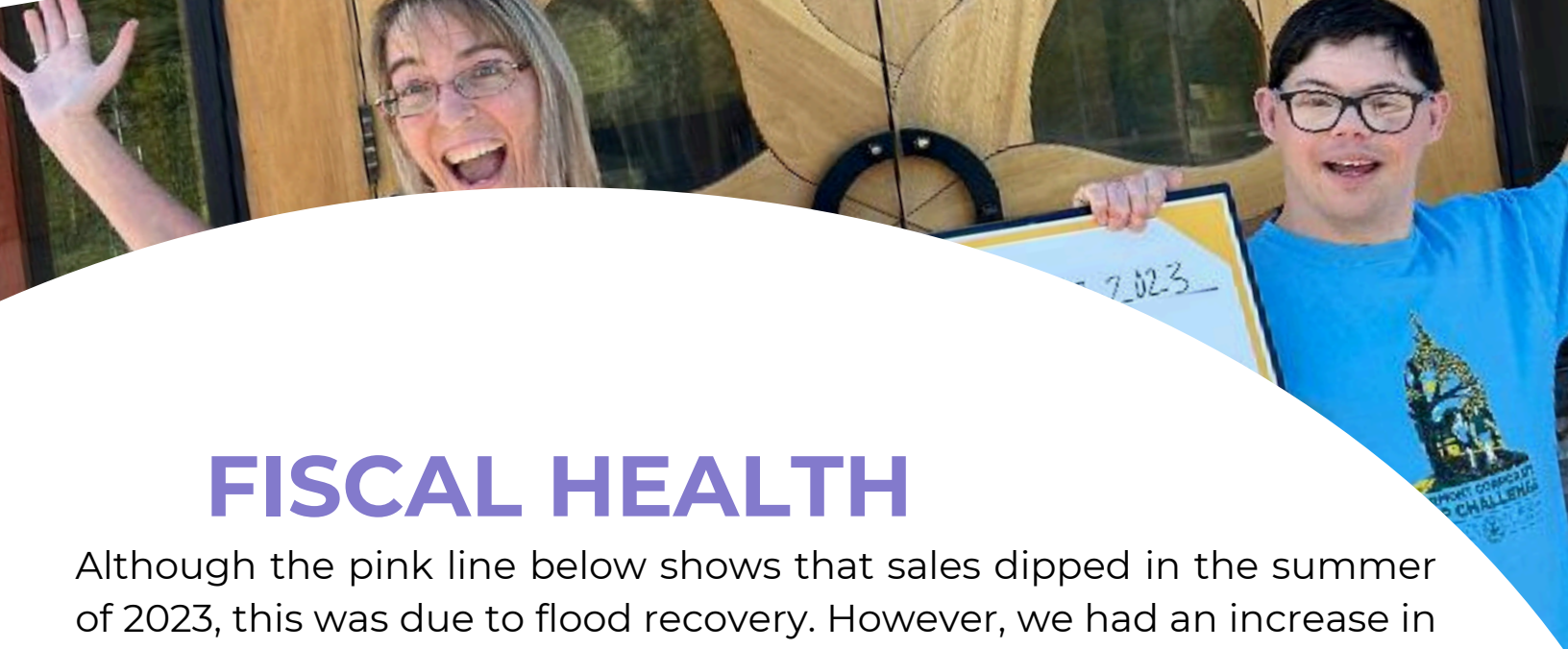
VISION

We believe all children should have the environment, resources, and lasting relationships they need to thrive.

At Amy's, we are creating a community committed to supporting its most vulnerable and their caregivers.

MISSION

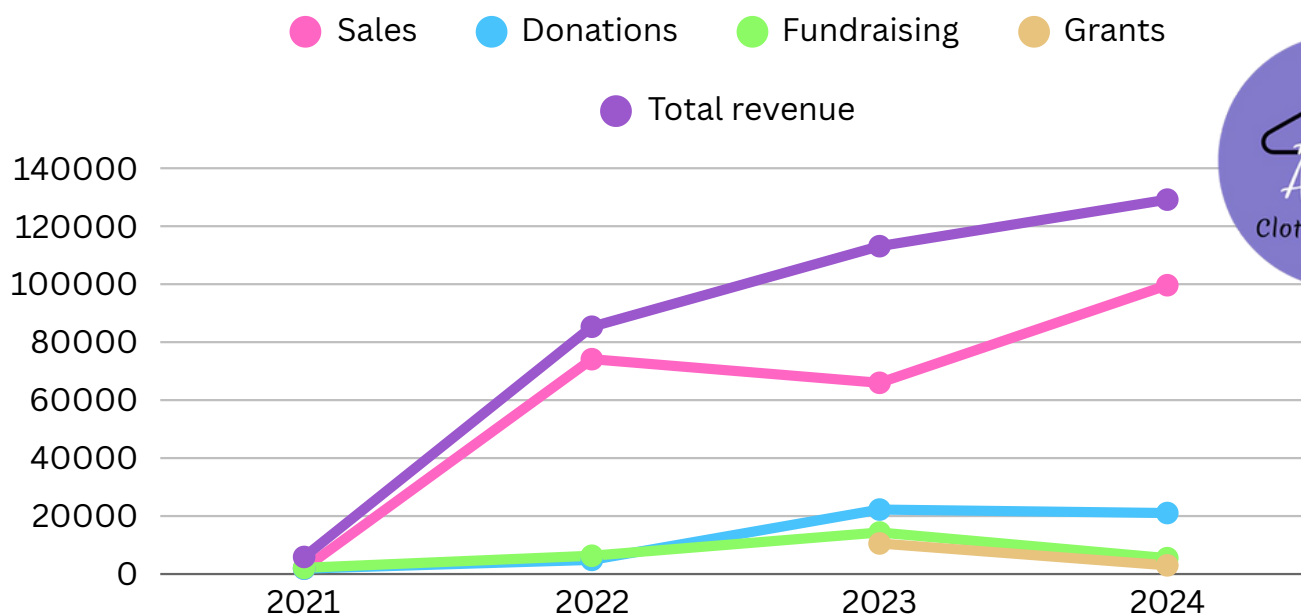
Amy's Armoire's mission is to improve outcomes for Vermont foster/adopt/kin children and youth by connecting families to the resources they need.



FISCAL HEALTH

Although the pink line below shows that sales dipped in the summer of 2023, this was due to flood recovery. However, we had an increase in donations and grants which allowed us to make repairs and improvements and reopen stronger than before the flood.

In 2024, sales increased as we expanded our store mid-year, doubling its size. Revenue looks strong for the 2025 year.



When we started in June of 2021, we were in an 800 square ft. space in a hard-to-find location. Now we have a 3000 square ft. warehouse for donations on Main Street for sorting and storage and a 1200 square ft. Family Center in the same location. In June of 2024, we expanded the retail space right in the heart of downtown Barre on Main Street and were able to hire two part-time employees to oversee the operations of the 3500+/- square ft. retail store that supports it all.

WELCOMING OUR FIRST HIRES!

RETAIL STORE MANAGER- ROBYN CATES

In June of 2024, Robyn was chosen to be our Retail Store Manager because she demonstrated her commitment to our mission as a volunteer since 2022. She is a true leader and models all the values we hold dear. She has a positive attitude no matter how big the challenge. She knows how to find the individual assets volunteers bring to the table and brings out the best in them.

She also brought hundreds of volunteers into our state to help with flood remediation in 2023 and also secured the funding and volunteers Amy's Armoire needed to install new flooring. She participates in the organizing of the annual Night to Shine event for the Special Needs community in partnership with Faith Community Church.



Assistant Retail Manager-Ian Parker

Lillian "Ian" is a true gem and we are so lucky to have her as part of our team. She started with us as a volunteer and quickly shined. In September of 2024 she was hired as our Assistant Retail Manager

She takes initiative, is responsible and reliable, and has the softest demeanor, which is ideal for customer service. She is kind, patient, and helpful with customers of all walks of life. Ian has qualities that aren't easy to find that we truly value.

Together, Ian and Robyn have taken on more and more responsibilities of running the store so Amy can concentrate on expanding into the Annex and other projects.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- STABILIZING PLACEMENTS
- CHANGING OUTCOMES
- RESOURCE CONNECTIONS
- ADVOCACY
- SUPPORT



"Amy's is a true asset to the community! Whenever I have had a need for a child in my care, Amy's has gone above and beyond to get the need met. The support that Amy's offers to less fortunate children especially is exceptional!" Foster Caregiver

"Amy's never takes a one-size-fits-all approach. Amy's Armoire wraps youth and their networks in community and belonging."

♥
Sarah R. Miller, Esq.

We partner with programs that support youth who age out of foster care, but there are still gaps. In this case, there was a need for everything when a youth found his first apartment, and we were able to help him!



This youth recently called to thank us and celebrate the completion of his probation, because, as he said, "You were there from the beginning."

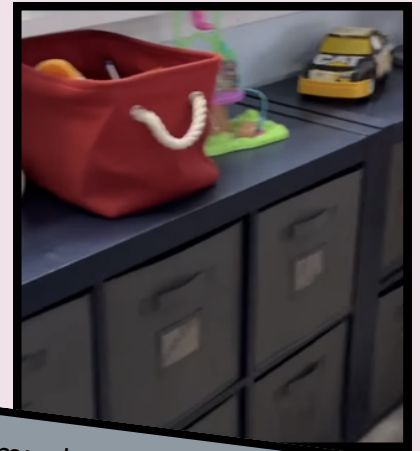


"I want to thank Amy's Armoire for all the help and support that they have given me...after being in a hotel a long time, having to start over...she was just so genuine and caring and kind...has helped in many ways, and I don't know where I would be without their help." --Mindy

Community Impact

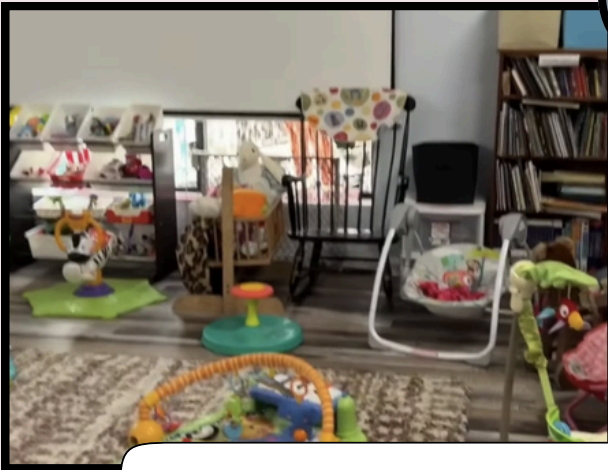


“The Donation Center and Amy’s Armoire has been absolutely invaluable to us in our foster care journey.”
Beth Frost



- 38 times in 7.5 months
- 35 children benefited
- 19 separate families
- 3 visits by Social Worker staff

“In a world where so much feels uncertain, one constant I can always rely on is the support provided by Amy’s Armoire. As an adoptive parent, it brings immense relief to know that I have access to essential baby and toddler items through the organization’s warehouse. This resource has been an incredible help in meeting the needs of my growing household.”
Anonymous adoptive parent



Foster Closet usage
5/15/24-12/31/24

Foster Closet- items in the Donation Center/Family Center are free for foster, adopt, kin, and birth families. A digital lock allows access anytime they need for their families.

New and used supplies FREE 24/7

- Hygiene items
- Books
- Furniture
- Strollers
- Baby Equipment
- Baby Carriers
- Diapers
- Car seats
- School Supplies/back packs
- Toys/Crafts
- Clothes (parkas to underwear)

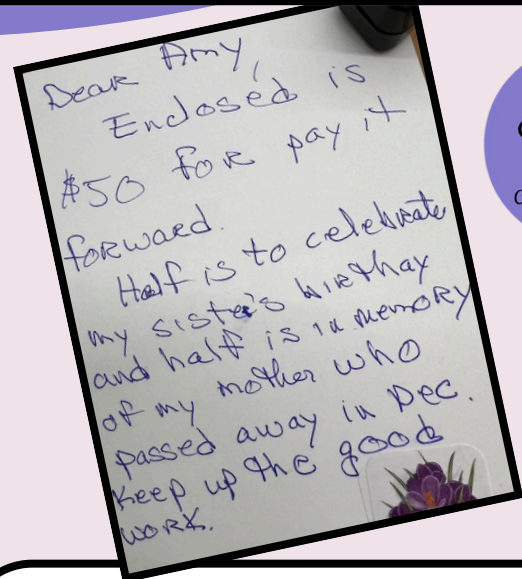
- Digital Lock installed
- Families have 24/7 access

Community Impact

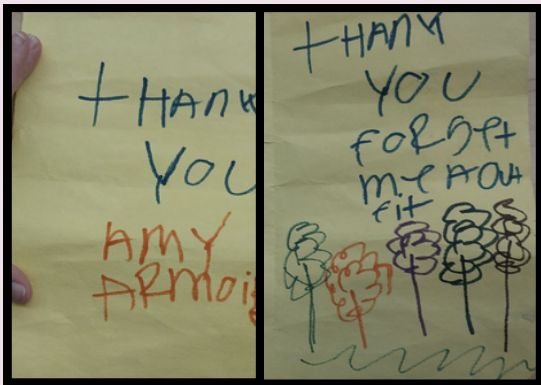
221 Pay It Forwards used in
2024

Top Pay it Forward Donors

- Lions Club
- Wobby Jewlers
- Chris Wright
- Heather Slayton
- Cindy Wedding
- Amy's Armoire



Night to Shine is a Prom for the special needs community. Below is from a Pay It Forward recipient of a free prom outfit.



Through a partnership with the community, we help those in need of clothing due to poverty, flood, fire, homelessness, etc.



\$3,007 of free clothing to...

- 155 individual families
- 17 kids with parents working with DCF
- 8 foster, adopt or kin families
- 20 flood victims
- 9 unhoused individuals
- 7 prom/Night to Shine recipients
- 4 who aged out of foster care

This doesn't count the free items given out straight from the Donation Center to foster, adopt, kin, and birth families. We have no way to track the amount.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

• REBUILDING COMMUNITIES



"During the holiday season, Amy's Armoire's dedication ensures that my children experience the joy and magic of Christmas. While the gifts may appear to come from Santa, I know they are the result of tireless efforts and thoughtful coordination with generous donors. The work—often done quietly and without recognition—is both time-consuming and deeply impactful, and I am sincerely grateful." Adoptive Mom

24 foster, adopt, kin, and birth families in 4 districts, supported with holiday gifts! Making the holiday brighter for 67 children!



Foster/adoptive parent:

"Our first year ... every gift received was used so their mom could have things to wrap and give them for the holidays. It was so important to us to have her still part of their holiday! Last year, we turned to Amy's Armoire again as our family welcomed a teen and her new baby to add to our crazy crew. Our kids have all received warm winter gear, clothing for the season, and tons of toys, books, and other items they've cherished. This amazing program helps us make Christmas as magical as these kids deserve without stressing about how to afford it."

-Jessica Summer



Join us for the

Annual Christmas PJ event next year

Fundraising FUN!



Is there someone you'd LOVE to see out on Main Street in Barre in PJ's???

Get Sponsors and raise enough \$ to get someone to agree to get out there.

Nominate someone!
your principal,
your minister,
your Dad,
or someone else?



We have some Christmas PJ's we can loan out, or you can order your own in the off season before they get expensive!!



Get friends to pay you to get out on Main Street in Barre to show your support for Amy's Armoire and join in the fun!



EXPANSION

2024 was a year of growth!

We had fewer overall volunteers in 2024 in part due to no flood/recovery needed, and we stopped accepting Vermont Department of Corrections short-term volunteers due to a conflict with Amy's husband's new position there. We now employ two staff who cover 40 hours a week between them. We are happy to report we have gained more long-term steady volunteers in 2024.



Entry to the new Annex
as we were setting up



Window display at the Annex



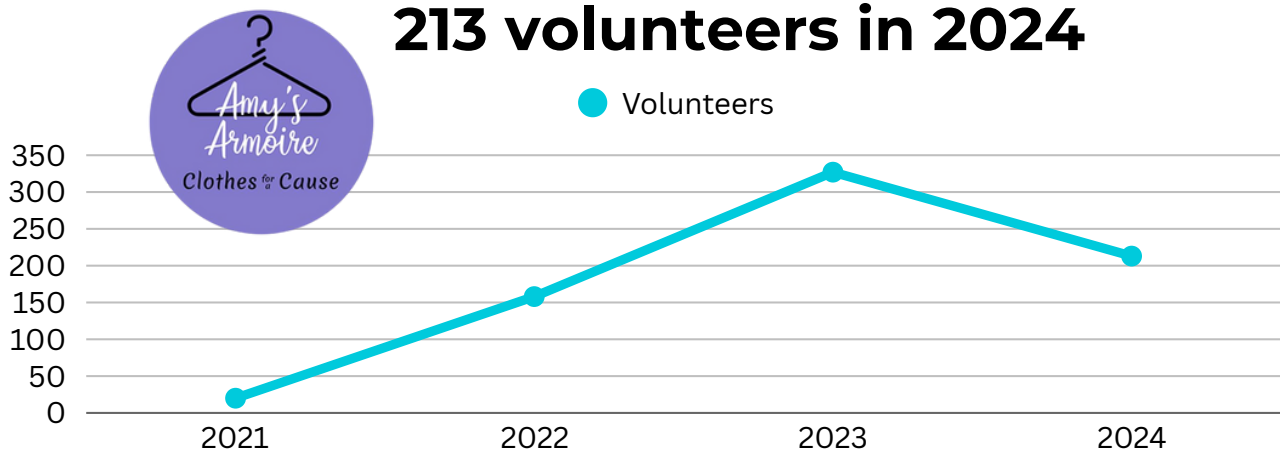
Bonnie George cleaning to
prep the Annex

the
annex
UPSCALE THRIFT

Posh shopping
in support of



213 volunteers in 2024



AWARDS

2024

Volunteers of the year

**Full write ups on FB in
November of 2024**

Patty possesses integrity and drive. Without Patty, we'd never have been able to hire two paid employees. She manages our accounting, payroll, and mail and takes on administrative tasks I can't get to. She donates countless hours, and without her we would not be successful.



Patty Ristau-Administration



**Nate Methot-
Resource Navigator**



Nate manages the inventory/donations, responding to messages from community members wanting to donate items, as well as those from social workers, and foster, adopt, kin, and birth families who need things. He tracks what we have and what we need. He also assists with editing documents for us.

"No one is more
cherished in this
world than
someone who
lightens the
burden of another."
Joseph Addison



**Bonnie George-
Donation Center
Lead**

Bonnie is known for volunteering 6-8 hours at a time, standing on cement at the Donation Center, sometimes 2-3 times a week. Without her contributions, the Annex wouldn't have opened on time and the Donation Center wouldn't be able to accept the donations in the volume we do.

AWARDS

2024

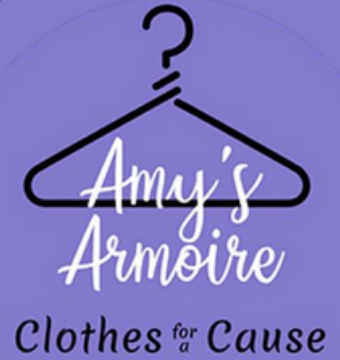
Volunteers of the year

I can do things
you cannot,
you can do things
I cannot;
together we can
do great things.
-Mother Teresa

Ernie Drown- Handy Man



Ernie is the type of person who sees something that needs doing and offers to do it before I even realize it's needed.



Danra Kazinski-Fundraising/ Marketing

Danra is one of the dedicated few who started in the winter of 2021 sorting clothes in my garage--even in the cold--for over a year. Later, she helped by posting high-end items in our Annex Facebook auction group, which helped keep us afloat during the flood recovery of 2023. She continues to support us through her skills at helping with marketing posters and content.

**Full write ups on FB in
November of 2024**

Lillian "Ian" Parker- Retail Sales Associate

Ian promotes our brand at the highest level of professionalism and has a positive attitude and gentle spirit. She raises the bar for everyone, as negativity just doesn't exist around Ian. Fellow volunteers express they love working with Ian.



GRATITUDE

2024 TOP SUPPORTERS

Top In-Kind Donors



- A Storage Place
- Russel Masi Contruction
- Pack & Park Storage
- Richard King
- Vermont Self Storage

Organizations with the most volunteer hours



- Kohl's
- Union Mutual of Vermont
- Albertville, First Baptist Church

Top Grants and gifts



- Catherine Beal
- Ellen Stein
- Marjorie Westphal
- Gregg Forbis
- Mary Jane Grace
- National Life match
- David Orcutt
- Redducs Foundation
- Rotary Club of Barre
- Sarah Suscinski
- SECCA-State Employees
- Leslie Wilcox



Monthly donors who commit to help us long term!



Sustaining Donors

- **Aislyn Taber**

RECOGNITION FOR OUR WORK



2021

- Governor Scott Rays of Kindness Award
- Invited to the tree lighting ceremony by the Governor

2022

- Times Argus Reader's Choice Award- Best Thrift Store
- Times Argus Runner up as the Best Clothing Store

2023

- ABC 22/FOX 44 Award
- WOKO 20 Outstanding Women

2024

- Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award
- Times Argus Reader's Choice Award- Best Thrift Store
- Times Argus Reader's Choice Award- Best Clothing Store-Kids
- Times Argus Runner's up as the Best Clothing Store Overall



LOOKING AHEAD

GOALS FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

- Strengthen partnerships with organizations doing similar work to share knowledge and resources and create avenues to quicker problem solving
- Strengthen partnerships with at least one more district family services office
- Secure recurring funding by 2026
- Purchase a building by 2026
 - Meet needs of another district
 - Increase revenue for two more part-time staff for 2026
 - Respond to administrative functions and help with family support
- Provide networking events for FAK families annually starting 2026
 - Local in 3 districts
 - One regional
- Pilot the changes we want to see by 2027 by expanding the resources for families in the Barre DCF-FS district to include some of the following:
 - mentoring
 - respite
 - Protective Service certified childcare
 - transportation



<https://venmo.com/u/amysarmoirenoprofit>

[Amysarmoire.org](https://amysarmoire.org)

to donate online OR

Mail a check to

PO BOX 869 Barre, VT 05641

**DONATE
TODAY!**

LONG-TERM

SHORT-TERM