

# WEST FAIRLEE COMMUNITY CLUB

## **WHO WE ARE**

We are proud of a nearly 100-year history of building community, of caring for and restoring historic buildings in West Fairlee Center, and of charitable giving. Our founding organization, the Mother's Club, was established in 1918 as a means for the women of W. Fairlee Center to meet with neighbors, and share everything from problems of child rearing and care of the sick and elderly, to methods of farming and small manufacture. Clubs such as this were once the backbone of social support, home education and economic advancement for local communities in Vermont. Sometimes speakers were brought in to teach valuable skills, ranging from home first aid to marketable crafts, though more often members pooled their own talents and abilities and instructed one another.

## **WHO WE ARE TODAY**

No longer a "Women Only" club, we welcome anyone who shares our mission, pays annual dues of \$2.00 and agrees to volunteer time. Membership today includes residents of surrounding towns and summer visitors.

## **OUR MISSION**

*In our century-old tradition of mutual support and community self-sufficiency, we adopt the following mission: We support our community by organizing social and recreational activities to bring neighbors together, providing educational opportunities, facilitating activities of other groups that may benefit the community, and giving of our time and resources to people in need.*

## **WHAT WE ARE UP TO**

**WEST FAIRLEE COMMUNITY CENTER.** In 1927, The town of W. Fairlee offered the former "Little Brick Schoolhouse" to the Community Club, on the condition that we keep the building maintained and insured. Community activities of all kinds have been held here, including family reunions, weddings and community dinners, church, club and service organization meetings. The WFCC assumes the entire responsibility for funding and maintaining the Center (property tax, insurance, utilities, maintenance), which total several thousand dollars per year and constitutes our major budget item. We offer the Community Center to civic organizations and private groups as part of our mission, asking only that private groups make a monetary donation to help offset our costs.

**ELDER NETWORK.** We provide transportation assistance, visits, help with home needs and other services aimed at enabling area seniors to remain in their homes and involved in community life. A WFCC delegate attends Thetford Elder Network (TEN) monthly steering committee meetings to help coordinate our efforts with upper valley- and state-wide services.

**OTHER MATERIAL AID.** The WFCC has helped to fund local heating assistance, emergency aid, the W. Fairlee Food Shelf, the Margaret Eaton Scholarship Fund, conservation projects, and snack and lunch money for Westshire Elementary School.

**FUND RAISING AND FUN RAISING** - Because we think volunteering to work with neighbors on a project to raise *funds* is also a lot of *fun*. Popular club events have included "Muddy Gras", our own Vermont version of the party that ushers in Lent, concerts, brunches and dinners at the Center, Christmas caroling and potluck. We frequently collaborate with the W.F. Center church (concerts, art tour, special services). "Bed & Breakfast" is an annual project in which area hosts open their homes to families of Aloha Foundation campers on Parents' Weekend.

## **CONTACT US**

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