

WHAT: Hunger Council of the Northeast Kingdom Meeting

WHERE: Barton Public Library, 100 Church Street, Barton, VT

WHEN: Friday, February 12th, 2016, 10:00 – 12:00

Staff in school cafeterias across Vermont work hard every day to serve over 66,000 healthy meals. School breakfast and lunch are sometimes the only nutritious meals a student will eat each day, and participation in these programs is increasing. As schools and their communities grapple with school budgets this year, the Hunger Council of the Northeast Kingdom will meet on February 12th to learn more about school nutrition programs, how they fit into the school budget, and what can be done to support them locally.

Child nutrition programs, including school breakfast, school lunch, afterschool, and summer meal programs, play an important role in ensuring children are eating enough nutritious food throughout the year. At the Hunger Council meeting, Hunger Free Vermont will share a general overview of the federal nutrition programs that support school meals across the state. Following the presentation, Council members will hear local perspectives from school and food service professionals working in the region - what's working with their programs, what challenges are they facing, and what they would like to see happen. Hunger Councils have been active in supporting school meal programs in the past, increasing access to breakfast and lunch for low-income children in 2008 and 2013, and guest presenters to the meeting have been asked to come with specific talking and action points for the Council to consider.

Launched in December 2015, Council membership is open to anyone with an interest in combating food insecurity in their community. The next Hunger Council of the Northeast Kingdom will be held on Friday, April 22nd, 2016 from 10:00 - 12:00 at the Barton Memorial Hall in Barton.

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About Hunger Free Vermont: *Hunger Free Vermont is a statewide nonprofit organization that works with state agencies and community groups to end the injustice of hunger and malnutrition for all Vermonters. Since 1993 Hunger Free Vermont's outreach programs have substantially enhanced Vermont's nutrition safety net and increased access to nutritious foods.*

www.hungerfreevt.org

About the Hunger Councils: *The Hunger Council of the Northeast Kingdom is one of eight Hunger Councils currently facilitated by Hunger Free Vermont. The Councils are groups of local leaders in Addison, Chittenden, Franklin & Grand Isle, and Washington Counties, in the Northeast Kingdom and Windham Regions, and in the Lamoille and the Upper Valleys, who are committed to learning about hunger and improving community and household food security. The Hunger Councils coordinate efforts and build strong nutrition safety nets at the community level and statewide. This project is a comprehensive approach to addressing hunger: by educating community members about the local causes and effects of hunger and providing tools to improve nutrition and reduce hunger in their communities and beyond.*

Membership in the Hunger Council of the Northeast Kingdom is open to anyone interested in learning about anti-hunger initiatives and taking action. To learn more, visit <http://hungerfreevt.org/northeast-kingdom> or contact Jenna Banning, Hunger Council Organizer, at jbanning@hungerfreevt.org.