



Social Services and Emergency Preparedness in Libraries

We've been fortunate to work with our local program partners and offer a variety of programs and resources related to social services and emergency preparedness. We are also lucky to have received funding from the National Network Libraries of Medicine for a Charlie Cart and a website re-design.

I think it would be helpful to corral all of the information from libraries so that we can better work together to respond to social service needs and emergency situations in our respective communities. A shared bank of information and how to negotiate

various situations could help us all.

Social Services at the Charlotte Library

1. Food Security:

- a. School Lunch Pick-up: The library served as the pick-up spot for free lunches available during the summer of 2020 and 2021.
- b. Brownbag Pick-up: We work with the local Food Shelf and Congregational Church to put together brownbag meals of non-perishable items. These are available to pick up in the library lobby.
- c. Charlie Cart food literacy: We offer intermittent programs on using and cooking local foods that are available in gardens and at farmers markets. We would like to make this a more regular program.

2. Mental Health Resources:

- a. Information Outreach: We hosted a series of mental health information sessions with local professionals, funded by the National Libraries of Medicine.
- b. We have an iPad dedicated to health resources, available for patrons to use to access a variety of health information sites.

3. Accessibility:

- a. Visual Aids & Support: We co-hosted with two information sessions from the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired with our senior center.
- b. Children & Visual Impairment: Our children's librarian organized a story time with VABVI to show what visual impairment means.
- c. Website Accessibility: We are working on a new website design to make our website more accessible and aligned with the Website Content Accessibility Guidelines.

Emergency Preparedness at the Charlotte Library

1. Emergency Management Team: The library is a member of the EMT here in Charlotte. Two staff members regularly attend meetings and trainings.
2. Heating/Cooling Site: The library serves as a cooling site in the summer and warming site in the winter for our community. We follow the guidelines from the Department of Health: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ENV-CH-community-cooling-center-guidance.pdf> In the past year, we have hosted 50 people as heating/cooling center.
3. CREW: The library has joined this network: of "local leaders building grassroots climate resilience working to equip families & communities with the resources and capacity to prepare for and respond to local climate changes equitably, sustainably, & collaboratively." <https://www.climatecrew.org/>