



The Waysmeet Center

Creating positive change through direct service grounded in compassion, equity, and social justice in the NH Seacoast and surrounding communities.

November 25, 2025

Dear Friends of Waysmeet,

In a house meeting this summer, a Waysmeet resident shared what he had recently learned about community development work in a class in the Carsey School of Public Policy. He said optimism is essential to community building. I've never thought of myself as an optimistic person, but in my time as executive director of Waysmeet, I've certainly become more hopeful. I feel optimistic not just about Waysmeet's future, but about our human ability to see each other and be better to one another. If you're not feeling hopeful right now, volunteer in your community. Prejudice and division are all-too pervasive in our society. Serving others creates opportunities for connection, understanding, and joy, and reminds us of the good things we can achieve when we work together.

Some updates from Waysmeet: In August, we welcomed **Anya Teehan as Cornucopia Food Pantry Manager**. Anya's warmth and kindness have been a gift to our community! As a recent UNH alum with a background in sustainable food systems (and a passion for baking thank-you treats), she has worked magic



in the pantry. This year we received a \$1,200 NH Feeding NH grant, and we were happy to purchase produce from **UNH's Organic Garden Club, Hollister Family Farm, and the Zuri Wingi Project at Tuckaway Farm** in Lee. Anya embraced our role as a Plant-A-Row collection site for locally grown produce, and worked diligently to strengthen our relationships with the **Wagon Hill Community Garden**, our **neighbors** throughout Durham, and the **LocaBerry farmers at Emery Farm**. These community members collectively donated 1,500 lbs. of produce and eggs each month during the late summer and fall. We're looking forward to **hosting a UNH Sustainability Institute Fellow next summer** whose goal will be to increase the amount of nutritious local food in the pantry by 25%.

Your financial support makes it possible for us to offer paid learning opportunities to students, like the UNH SI Fellowship, while strengthening our local food system and improving our pantry options by sourcing food directly from farms.

Over the summer, we hosted our first international student furniture and housewares drive. This successful and busy project kept useful items out of the landfill while helping our international student neighbors set up more comfortable homes. A huge thank you to the volunteers who shared their time, energy, and vehicles to deliver furniture to students. As we talked with more and more students, we learned those with families are feeling particular financial strain and, at times, social isolation.

Where all journeys connect. Where all ways meet.

15 Mill Road, Durham, NH 03824

In June, we partnered with **Community Action Partnership of Strafford County**, and by the end of this year our extremely dedicated volunteer, **Joanna Wicklein**, will have delivered over **6,000 free diapers** to international student families. In November, we started a **weekly playgroup** at the Durham Public Library for students with young children. Creating social opportunities for students, their families, and the broader community brings us so much joy. We've partnered with the **UNH Office of International Students and Scholars** and the **Community Church of Durham** to develop Community Connections - a program that pairs international students with local individuals and families for support and friendship. For our next initiative, in December and January, we are hosting co-working hours at Waysmeet for community members and students who stay in the area through winter break. Across our international student support projects, we've had participants from **Riverwoods Durham, Dover Friends Meeting, First Parish Dover, and St. George's Episcopal Church**, as well as financial support from the **American Friends Service Committee** and **ACLU New Hampshire**, plus outreach and volunteer support from the **Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship** and **Lee Church Congregational**. We could not do what we do without the network of kindness and compassion that surrounds us.



Community service and engagement are the heart of every Waysmeet program, and coordinating volunteers and partners takes time and resources. Donate today to ensure we can keep up the good work in 2026!

The nine UNH students who call Waysmeet home have been wonderfully patient as we tackled maintenance projects, heating system repairs, and site improvements this fall. We're delighted to have a new and improved driveway and walkways. Funding for this work primarily came from our charitable gaming partnership with **REVO Casino and Social House** in Dover. We are fortunate to have received **\$55,627.88 in September**. We are also grateful to have the support of over **135 unique individual donors** who contribute \$5.00 to \$5,000 each. THANK YOU to those of you who have supported us this year! Keep an eye out in 2026 for our campaign to raise funds for even more improvements to our beloved 115-year-old building at 15 Mill Road!



With gratitude and hope,

Eileen Murphy, Executive Director (director@waysmeetcenter.org)

Anya Teehan, Food Pantry Manager (foodpantry@waysmeetcenter.org)

Board Members: Katy Allen, Steve Fellows, Lena Romaldini, Kari Allen, Belle Vukovich Kenoyer, Engin Taze, Rachel Pincince

To make a secure donation online and for information about giving through an investment account, IRA, or donor-advised fund, visit waysmeetcenter.org/donate
Donations may also be made by check, payable to The Waysmeet Center.

