

Thumbs Up!

Battling substance disorders and the disease of addiction is a big part of life for many Dismas residents. Recently, three residents at once lived at Dismas while also attending the Rutland Adult Drug Treatment Court or the Federal Treatment Court. The Rutland Treatment Program is currently a minimum length of fourteen months. Completion of the program requires that each participant sustain a lengthy period of abstinence, maintain employment or continue to further their education, maintain stable housing, and engage with peer recovery supports. We are so proud of Jack, Heidi and Randy who worked so hard at recovery while being supported by the staff and other residents at Dismas House. Heidi, who graduates from Federal Treatment Court on February 21st, says she could



Randy, in Rutland County Treatment Court and Heidi, in Federal Treatment Court, give a thumbs up to their successful work.

not have done it without Dismas. She had failed at earlier efforts. All three residents have transitioned from Dismas, moved on to their own apartments, and continue to do well. Jack got married on January 25th. Randy continues to work at the Westminster Cracker Factory, even taking on more leadership responsibilities there. ❖

Journey to Wholeness – Dismas Annual Celebration!

Please join us for the Rutland Dismas House Annual Dinner Auction, on May 20th at the Holiday Inn at Rutland. Our theme is *Journey to Wholeness*.

We are delighted to announce that our guest speaker is William Cope Moyers, author of *Broken: My Story of Addiction and Redemption*. Mr. Moyers



Guest Speaker
William Cope Moyers.

is Vice-President of Public Affairs and Community Relations at the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, where he has been the public advocate since 1996. He has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey

Show, Larry King Live, Good Morning America and National Public Radio. He is himself a survivor of the repetitious perils of drug addiction and in recovery since 1994, devoting his life to helping others, and their families, who struggle with addiction. William Cope Moyers is the son of journalist and past White House Press Secretary, William “Bill” Moyers. We

are thrilled for the opportunity to hear his experienced and personal perspective on addiction and recovery.

A special focus of our celebration this year is the Rutland Adult Drug

HOUSE HAPPENINGS

Save the Date

May 20, 2018

Rutland Dismas House Annual Dinner Auction at the Holiday Inn, Rutland, VT
Call: 802-775-5539
Order Online: www.dismasofvt.org
Invitations mailed end of March.

Dismas Benefit Golf Tournament

March 23, 2018

Stonehedge Indoor Golf, Rutland, VT
Call us at 802-775-5539 for sign-up info.

GOLDEN TICKET

Rutland Dismas Annual
Celebration & Dinner Auction

MAY 20, 2018

GOLDEN TICKET

Treatment Court for criminal offenders with substance disorders. Come help us celebrate Judge Frank McCaffrey as the recipient of the Jack Hickey Award and Public Defender Steve Zwicky and the Drug Treatment Court as recipients of the Mary O. Award. Martha “Marty” Barclay will be receiving our Loving Spoonful award.

Look for our invitations in the mail at the end of March! You can also go to our website at www.dismasofvt.org and purchase dinner auction tickets there. ***Please note*** that our web address has changed since last year! If you had our website bookmarked, please make the change! ❖

Letter from the Director – Terese Black, House Director

Rutland Dismas House made it through the holidays with a lot of celebration and gratitude for the generosity of so many donors and gift bearers. The residents all got together and gave the staff gifts this year! You need to see our new fleece jackets bearing our names and Rutland Dismas House! Then a week later we, as staff, were able to bestow upon the residents many, many gifts thanks to the generosity of our Board members and other “Santa –



House Director Terese Black, Dismas House Christmas.

playing” donors. They were even able to pick out a brand new pair of boots or shoes from Super Shoes which sure helps during these wet, cold days.

We ended 2017 having housed thirty-two individuals from the prisons. Twenty-four of these moved on and another eight stayed on into 2018. Of those twenty-four who moved on, eleven were able to move into their own positive, safe housing beyond Dismas. However, we feel all twenty-four who lived here were success stories because they were able to feel the support of Dismas and learn that there are people out in the

world who care about them and are willing to give them a chance. They saw, learned, and lived a different way while they were with us. To change is always difficult, and sometimes it takes quite a few tries to make a full change in one’s behaviors, choices, and life styles, but Dismas is always here to give them the space to either begin that journey or continue the journey. Living at Dismas is one step of success.

With that, we are beginning the work for our 28th Annual Dinner Auction to be held on Sunday, May 20th. Our theme is: Journey to Wholeness. Join us this year to hear William C. Moyer share his own journey and to support the Dismas residents as they continue toward wholeness.

Once again thank you all for your continual support to Dismas. Please stop in and say hello. ❖

In Remembrance...

Throughout the past year Rutland Dismas House received donations to honor the good works of friends and family members and to memorialize the lives of those who lived a good life. These donations are truly appreciated and contribute greatly to the ongoing needs at Dismas. During the holiday season candles were lit and names of the honorees were read by residents. Contributions were received to honor the following:



Candles to remember our friends.

In Memory

Robert Abel	Paul Kerns
Alex Alexander	Timmy Kuehn
Molly Burke	Steven LeFoll
Jenna Carroll	Amy Murray
Keith Crossman Sr.	Jim Nicklas
Tony DesRoches	Mary O’Neil
Chuck Devoe	Barb Rouleau
Ethel Drew	John Stager
Jeannie & Joe Guzzo	Pam Tomkalski
Bill Hagar	Joyce Wilson

In Honor

Kym Anderson	Frank & Rita McCaffrey
Carol & Joe Barbagallo	Muriel Nicklas
Marty Barclay	Mike & Carole Ryan
The Buckeys of Killarney, Ireland	Tom & Joan Sonneborn
Arthur Burke & Sarah Weissman	Susan Stager
Madeline Burke	Doug & Sheryl Stratton
Jim Candon	Keith & Rhonda Stratton
Diane Carmolli	Rev. Douglas & Esther Stratton
Betty Edson	Dr. Daniel Unger

2018 Rutland Dismas Awardees – to be honored on May 20th

Frank McCaffrey – Father Jack Hickey Award

- Heather Hurley, Assistant House Director

This year at our 28th Annual Dinner Auction, Rutland Dismas House honors Judge Frank McCaffrey with the Father Jack Hickey Award. Judge McCaffrey, known by most of his friends as “Mac”, is best known in our circle as Founder Rita McCaffrey’s driver/husband who helped to start the Rutland Dismas House. He is a valued, longtime Board leader and guide, and a “father figure” for us. I first knew of him only as a Judge. Back when I was a new Probation Officer I wrote a Pre-Sentence Investigation on a case that was presided over by Judge McCaffrey. After the sentencing was completed he said, “This was a very well written report. Good job.” I think my jaw dropped. Judges don’t usually compliment a Probation Officer.

Those of you who know Frank probably aren’t surprised at all. He has a way of seeing the humanness in all of us and in every defendant who stands before him.

Today, after retiring from his regular career as a judge, Judge McCaffrey presides over the Rutland County Adult Drug Treatment Court. We know the devastation addiction causes to individuals and families. The Judge “came out of retirement” because, in the midst of what he considers the most compelling social problem of our time, he knows there is also hope for those who choose the path of recovery, and that individual and family healing is possible. Judge McCaffrey often recommends Dismas House to those who come before him



in his treatment courtroom. We provide a housing option and social experience that is safe, sober and separated from the former, unhealthy influences and stresses in residents’ lives that promote relapse rather than recovery.

Our Jack Hickey Award thanks Judge Frank McCaffrey for always going above and beyond, with humanity and wise guidance, for the betterment of our community. ❖

Rutland Drug Treatment Court

– Mary O. Award

Started in 2004, the Rutland County Treatment Court Program is a collaboration between Evergreen Substance Abuse Services; the Public Defender’s Office; the State’s Attorney’s Office; the Department of Probation and Parole; the Rutland City Police Department; the Rutland Superior Court, Criminal Division and of course, Judge McCaffrey. These organizations recognize that many crimes are committed as a result of substance

dependence or addiction and that the best way to prevent repeat offense is to engage the individuals in the treatment they need to manage their disease. The goal of the program is to provide the structure, support, and accountability needed for people to engage in their own recovery. Weekly court sessions allow for



As pictured from left to right: Sarah Walker, Jess Daniels, Officer Whitehead, Travis Denton, Clay Gilbert, Judge McCaffrey, Shari Fenn, Steve Zwicky, Kiley Dickson, Megan Wilson.

immediate and predictable responses, both in the form of praise and incentives for compliance and sanctions for non-compliance. Since 2004, the Rutland County Treatment Court Program has

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Martha “Marty” Barclay – Loving Spoonful Award

This year our Loving Spoonful recipient is Marty Barclay. Marty has been involved with Dismas in one form or another for more than ten years. She was on our board of directors for seven years, and she has done our grocery shopping for the last ten and a half years. Marty was still working full-time when she started shopping. She says that back then it was a way to give back on her own time and schedule.

Marty recently retired as our grocery shopper because she wanted to spend

more time with her grandchildren and because she felt she needed to pass the torch to someone else and give them the opportunity to contribute.

Marty first became involved with Dismas through her involvement with Grace Church, and because she supported the concept of giving people second chances. Marty appreciates Dismas because it offers individuals a home and a community-style living situation that is the best way for someone to get well and



progress towards a productive life.

Thank you, Marty for all of your years of dedicated service to the men and women of Dismas! We appreciate you! ❖

Reconciling Former Prisoners with Society, and Society with Former Prisoners for 32 Years!

"I am a broken individual who has a lot of work to do on myself. Dismas is a safe place to do this."

- Dismas Resident

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Executive Director (ex officio)

Bruce Wyatt

STAFF ADVISORY

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Richard Gagne... *Program Manager*

Living Change: New Strategic Plan

by Jan-Roberta Tarjan, Executive Director

For our Dismas residents, change is their very lifeline. Transitioning from incarceration to the less structured, more complex demands of "regular" society means changing almost everything about their daily lives. It means letting go of old ways of negotiating the world and deliberately choosing new ones. They live change every day. If they do not change they literally may not survive. But through change comes renewal, and through renewal comes a sustainable life.

Organizations and communities share that same need to embrace change and to negotiate an ever-changing world.

Through healthy change built upon a strong heritage of principles, their missions are renewed and their contributions to the common good are sustained. This is just what

Dismas of Vermont, Inc. has been doing this past year as we worked out a new strategic plan. Our new plan is made,



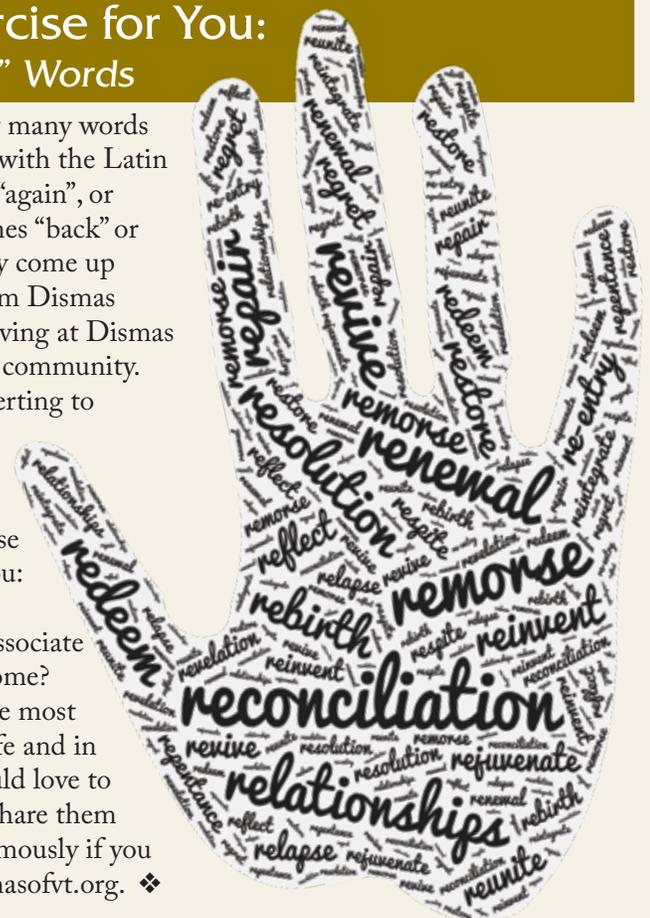
Jan-Roberta Tarjan,
Executive Director.

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Meditation Exercise for You: Dismas and the "Re" Words

Have you ever noticed how many words associated with Dismas start with the Latin prefix "re"? The prefix means "again", or "again and again", or sometimes "back" or "going back". No wonder they come up so much in our work, and from Dismas residents! Men and women living at Dismas are coming back again to the community. Sometimes they stumble, reverting to poor choices. The biggest of the "re" words for us is RECONCILIATION.

Here is a meditation exercise on the Dismas mission for you: Read the "re" words here. How many of them do you associate with Dismas? Did we miss some? Which ones "re-verberate" the most deeply for you in your own life and in your connection to us? I would love to know your thoughts, and to share them in our next newsletter, anonymously if you prefer. Email me at jan@dismasofvt.org. ❖

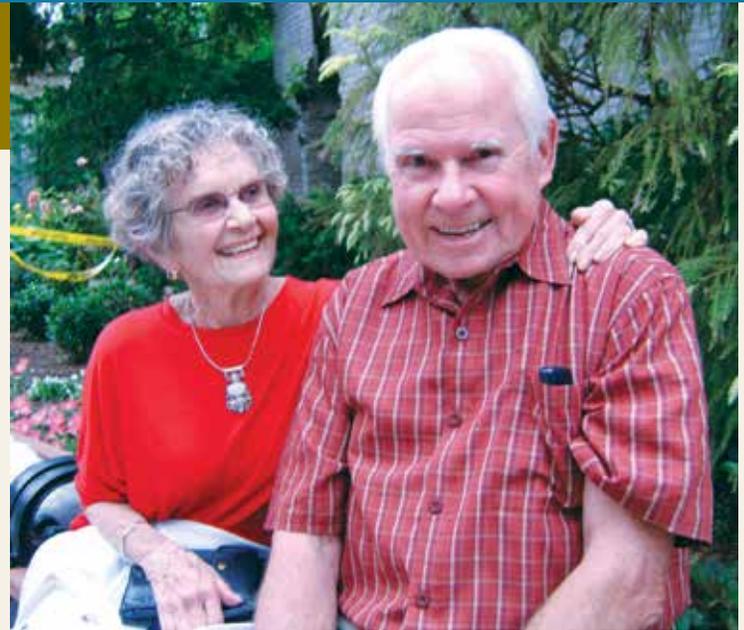


Donors Shine a Light for Rutland Dismas House

Dr. Theresa Nicklas and husband Robert Reimers recently made a wonderfully generous gift of \$12,500 to Rutland Dismas House in honor of Theresa's parents, Muriel and Jim Nicklas, who served as volunteer cooks and supporters of the Rutland Dismas House for fifteen years before moving away to be nearer their grandkids and family. Jim passed away in 2015. "Our donation was made on behalf of Muriel and Jim because they leave behind such fond memories of Rutland, and a humble legacy of service to Rutland Dismas House, which they hope will continue to grow with the help of dedicated volunteers and supporters of this great mission", writes daughter Theresa and son-in-law Robert. Muriel, always a bright presence, commented about how much she loved to sit around the dinner table and hear residents' stories.

A quote from Roy T. Bennett's *The Light in the Heart* expresses the spirit Muriel and Jim brought to Dismas:

"Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone's life. Be the light that helps others see; it is what gives life its deepest significance."



Honored: Muriel and Jim Nicklas.

Dismas is deeply grateful for the light Muriel and Jim shone on the lives of residents for all those years, and for the renewal of that light which this very special gift represents. ❖

Living Change: New Strategic Plan

(continued from previous page)

and we have moved into the implementation stage. All the basics you love about Dismas will not disappear. We will remain personal, community and mission driven, simple in our needs and compassionate in our outreach. The plan calls for streamlining our governance and oversight processes, examining our human resources and broadening our donor base by getting the good news about Dismas out there to those who can help.

From the base of our new strategic plan we can build a future which will continue to offer second chances, promote community reconciliation and meet new challenges with innovation. Dismas will be "living change" toward a stronger future, just as do our residents. If you would like to hear more about Dismas of Vermont, and how you can be part of our mission, please contact me at jan@dismasofvt.org. ❖



Annual Celebration Dinners and Auctions at all three Dismas locations are happening this Spring! JOIN US and meet very special people, peruse auction goodies, honor our volunteers and hear from residents and distinguished speakers.

(Photo from the Burlington Dismas Annual Celebration, 2017)

Ways to Give

Discover the many ways to support Dismas and make a difference in someone's life

No matter how you give, why you give, or how much you give, your gift is vital to Dismas of Vermont's programs. Leaving a philanthropic legacy through planned giving is a powerful and meaningful way to give back. You can give to support one of our local programs, or to Dismas of Vermont in general. Please contact either the program you wish to support, or our Executive Director, Jan Tarjan, for more information or assistance.

GIFTS BY CHECK:

Checks should be made out to the local program you wish to support, or to Dismas of Vermont Statewide if you prefer, and mailed to the addresses listed on this page.

GIFTS BY CREDIT CARD:

Credit Card donations may be made by visiting us online at <http://www.dismasofvt.org/donate>

MATCHING GIFTS:

Your employer may offer an employee matching gift program to support your charitable giving. Please check with your employer to determine if they offer this option.

HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS:

These gifts offer a meaningful way to pay tribute to loved ones.

GIFTS OF STOCKS, SECURITIES:

You can make a gift of stock by contacting our brokerage account with MassMutual.

ACCOUNT NAME: Dismas of Vermont Inc.

ACCOUNT NUMBER: R72025577

DTC NUMBER: 0226

MASSMUTUAL RE: Roger Webster

Phone: 802-264-6620

PLANNED GIVING/BEQUESTS:

You may include Dismas in your lifetime charitable giving plans through a bequest, charitable gift annuity, insurance policy, charitable trust or other planned giving vehicle.

Planned gifts can be constructed today to benefit Dismas of Vermont at a future date.

Contact our Executive Director to learn more!

DISMAS PROGRAM LOCATIONS:

Burlington Dismas House

Locations at:

96 Buell Street, Burlington, VT 05401

103 East Allen Street, Winooski, VT 05404

Kimberly Parsons and Richard Gagne, House Directors
(802) 658-0381

kim@dismasofvt.org

Hartford Dismas House

1673 Maple Street, PO Box 174, Hartford, VT 05047

Renee DePalo, House Director

(802) 698-8661

renee@dismasofvt.org

Rutland Dismas House

103 Park Avenue, Rutland, Vermont 05701

Terese Black, House Director

(802) 775-5539

terese@dismasofvt.org

Dismas of Vermont, Inc.

103 East Allen Street, Winooski, VT 05404

Jan-Roberta Tarjan, Executive Director

(603) 795-2770

jan@dismasofvt.org



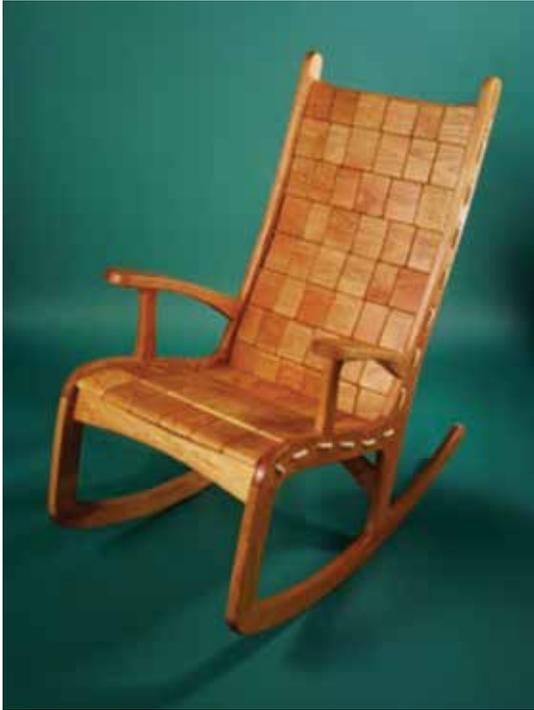
Volunteering is reconciliation in action. Dismas residents planting trees at the Riverside Church in Hartford, VT.

Jim Geier: Donating Skill and Beauty

One of the highlights of our Annual Dinner Auction is the raffle of a very special chair made by Jim Geier who owns and operates Vermont Folk Rocker in Starksboro, Vermont. Jim has been a friend of Dismas for a number of years, initially through his college buddy and long time Dismas supporter Mike Ryan. Jim has been donating his chairs to our dinner auctions since 2008.

Jim started his creative career doing masonry with his grandfather, a marble mason who worked on the famous “Million Dollar Staircase” at the capitol building in Albany, NY. Jim made custom cabinetry and furniture, opened a furniture shop in Burlington,

eventually focusing his creative energy on chairmaking, and in particular, rocking chairs. The Vermont Folk Rocker was born.



The Geier Folk Rocker, a Vermont tradition.

Now these aren't your typical Grandma's rocking chairs! You would be hard pressed to find a more interesting and comfortable piece of furniture while maintaining a simple, classic, shaker influenced design. Jim uses 2,000 pound weight-tested nylon rope and strings it through 3X3 wooden blocks. This method gives the chair a supple quality that adjusts and contours to your body. These chairs are beautifully made in a choice of cherry, red oak, bird's eye maple or black walnut and come in two different



Jim Geier, Chairmaker, and “Wally” the shop mascot.

sizes. The first rocking chair that Jim made, more than thirty years ago, is still in excellent shape with no signs of rope fatigue.

If you are interested in owning one of these beautifully handcrafted, heirloom, rocking chairs, make sure you come to our dinner auction on May 20 and buy some raffle tickets! (\$10 each or 3 tickets for \$25) Thank you, Jim, for all of your years of support to Dismas and our annual dinner auction, we greatly appreciate it! ❖

“Dismas has fulfilled the family and things I missed growing up. It also offers unconditional love and acceptance, structure, and the stability to find success.”

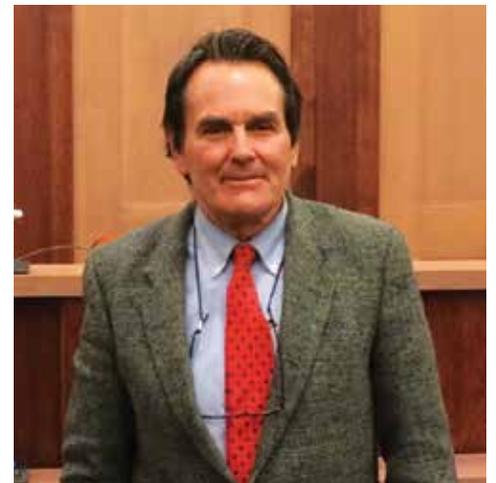
- Kaitlyn

Rutland Drug Treatment Court *(continued from page 3)*

served over 340 offenders in Rutland County.

Steve Zwicky is the assigned Public Defender at Treatment Court and has participated in the program since its inception. You might recognize him by his kind face and eyes that smile. Steve cares deeply about defendants' successes and failures. He lets them know that their voices can be heard, and that he will listen. Oftentimes participants bare their souls in treatment court. Steve appreciates their courage in expressing such vulnerability. Their candor strengthens the connection and investment between participants and the Treatment Court team members.

Collaborating with the Treatment



Steve Zwicky, Public Defender at the Rutland Drug Treatment Court.

Court has been a gratifying experience for us all. For their combined efforts and hard work, we thank Attorney Steve Zwicky and the entire Court team. ❖

Caley's Poem

- Written by a former Dismas resident while incarcerated in 2017.

Take a sip from this cup of tears
So you can taste the pain inside
Shed from these forbidden, inner fears
Creeping out from where they hide.

A twirling array of colors fade,
Clouds of chaos block the light.
Tongues of fury pierce your dreams
Goals drift away far out of sight.

While beasts of fate feast on your soul;
The fingers of reality tighten their grip.
Cause choking gasps, last breaths of life
Lived on the edge until you slipped.



Residents' Mentor Connection bowling team raising funds to support Rutland children.

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Geraldine Burke
Part-Time Asst. House Director
Cassandra Pitts... *Sunday Staff*



Residents show off brand new backpacks, filled with toiletries, donated by St. Peter and St. Alphonsus parishioners.

RUTLAND DISMAS HOUSE

103 Park Avenue
Rutland, VT 05701

(802) 775-5539
dismasofvt.org



United Way of
Rutland County