

Shelburne Charlotte Hinesburg Interfaith Projects, Inc. (SCHIP)

What: Shelburne Charlotte Hinesburg Interfaith Projects, Inc. (SCHIP) was formed in 2003 to pursue a mission of raising funds to help make grants to benefit the above named communities and the ministries and missions of the faith communities who are members of SCHIP.

SCHIP's Mission: Local faith communities working together to raise funds for grants to improve the lives of our neighbors and the strength of our communities.

When: The board meets the second Thursday of the month, at 3:30 p.m., at Shelburne Methodist Church.

Who: Board membership consists of two representatives of each sponsoring faith community. Jo White and Lucy Beck are Ascension's board members in 2009.

How: In August 2004, SCHIP's Treasure Resale Shop opened in Shelburne, as SCHIP's main project, to sell and receive gently used high quality clothing and household items. Proceeds fund projects within the communities related to the mission. The Resale shop also makes items available to persons in need, at no cost.

By 2008, total grants of \$132,000 have been made. Grants are often listed and detailed in local papers. Board members are asked to meet every month, as well as to attend any needed special meetings. Quarterly, all board members read and review grant proposals and together, determine level of funding and appropriateness.

At Board meetings, board members review the financial reports of the Resale Shop, help with decisions about its business model, and employee issues. Board members are asked to promote the activities of the resale shop in the participating churches, both by encouraging people to shop there, encouraging parishioners to donate good quality clothing, and by soliciting volunteers to work in the shop.

One of the more difficult stipulations of SCHIP grants, for Ascension, is that monies given must be for the benefit of only those who reside in Charlotte, Shelburne, and Hinesburg.

SCHIP funded a major portion of Ascension's Faith and the Environment series.