



COMMUNITY VOICES & REFLECTIONS: OUR IMPACT



"And my youngest son, he was talking to a gentleman there and I was surprised. He is a super quiet boy and he came home and told me this story...conversation and I was surprised that he found somebody who he would actually talk to, you know, cause he's super shy until he gets to know somebody."
~ Parent of a 2nd grade student

"She had a lot of fun. She loved meeting the older people and playing games and enjoying a meal with them. She talked very highly of it and she couldn't wait for the next one." ~ Parent of a 1st Grader



"I think it's a great program and it'd be cool to see if they could integrate it into the older grades and make that work. I definitely think it's good for the community, not just for the school, but the community in general." ~ Parent

I was surprised that like, usually I'm always on technology. But once you really get to listen to somebody, it's like very nice and it's very fun and you get to hang out with somebody instead of like staring at a screen all the time you get to hang out and listen to people and it's very nice."
~ Reflections from sixth grade student

"I think that the multi-generational meals is a great way for people to connect and especially knowing that for older people, especially people who their kids have moved off to a college, gone somewhere for jobs, or have potentially lost someone that lived with them. I think it's great for them to get to know people and still get to experience company."
~ 6th Grade Student



One elder commented: "God willing, and the creek don't rise. I'll be there"



"I feel the purpose of these meals, besides sharing good food, is for the seniors and students to mingle between sharing food, making crafts, playing cards, and much more. We always see smiling faces and laughter, and I know both need that. Seniors need it and they need to get out and the students need grandparents in their life."
~ Reflections from a senior.



"It's just nice to be around the children. It makes you feel younger, you know, during that hour, I guess, and it's something to bring home and think about during the week."
~ Community Elder



Educators & Community Partners

"It builds friendships between the older adults and the children. My goal is to bring the community together as a whole and provide nutritional meals, fellowship, and get the community involved." ~ Food service staff

"It's absolutely worth it and so beneficial in so many ways for the kids and older people. We also have activities for the kids and the older people to do to do after the meal. It's not just a meal, it's a fun way for kids and older people to interact with each other and be involved in thinking and having fun with one another."
~ Newport Town School Staff



UVM'S LEAHY INSTITUTE FOR RURAL PARTNERSHIP VISITS NEWPORT TOWN SCHOOL MEAL

One Teacher shared her observations:
"I love watching their faces and their interactions with the students. They just seem to get a lot of enjoyment about being there. They like coming and being with others of their generation too. ...they really do enjoy sharing themselves and helping the students and you can just see them just proud of being able to do that. I don't think they're given the opportunity to be able to interact with a lot of others or be a helper or a teacher."

"STUDENTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SUPER EXCITED FOR IT, EVEN WHEN THEY SEE EVERYONE SETTING UP, THEY'RE LIKE, OH, IT'S ANOTHER MULTI- GENERATIONAL MEAL. THEY'RE LIKE, IS IT OUR TURN?"

