

# HEROES



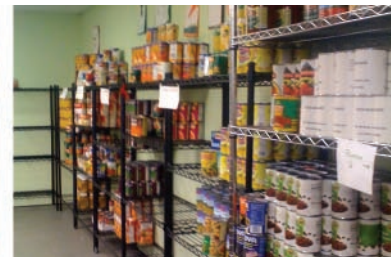
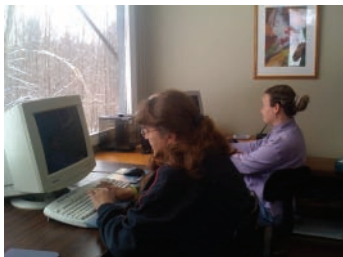
## *The North Country Outreach Center & Andrea Hogan* Committed to Community

We often hear about large organizations devoted to making a difference in our communities. From the Red Cross to the Salvation Army, we recognize their contributions to our nation, as they are brought to our attention daily. It is the small local organizations that fly under the radar. People making a difference in their own backyard don't end up in the national headlines, yet their contributions are every bit as important. Countless local organizations make it their mission to make something out of nothing, and The North Country Outreach Center is a prime example. Created for the people of the North Country by the people of the North Country, the center was formed in an effort to bring the community

understanding of all they do, the usual response is "why don't more people know about this place?" The answer remains somewhat unclear. The NCOC serves the communities of Johnsbury, Wevertown, North Creek, Bakers Mills, Pottersville, Indian Lake, North River, Chestertown, Brant Lake, Warrensburg, Thurman, Minerva, and Olmstedville. Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that these areas are not heavily populated and are nestled in the Adirondack Mountains.

It's true that they serve the needy in these small Adirondack communities—but that's not all. The Outreach Center hosts seminars on defensive driving, job training by the Department of Labor, GED classes, and so much more. The

NCOC volunteers aren't there for recognition or fanfare. They are not there to get their names in the papers or a pat on the back. They are there simply because they believe in the values of being a good neighbor, of being a good person, and of being a part of something bigger than themselves. The NCOC is neither a religious organization, nor do they consider themselves a charity. They are open to all who reside in the community, and they need help spreading the good. Clothing, food items, and time are all graciously accepted. If it takes a village to raise a family, then it takes all of us to support such a worthwhile organization. Whether you are going skiing at Gore Mountain, taking the North Creek train



together— and that is just what it has done.

Headed by Andrea Hogan, the Outreach Center has many volunteers that make it all possible. Judy Brown, owner of Garnet Studios in North River, and several others continue to donate their personal time and resources to make the center possible. Is the NCOC the best kept secret in the North Country? When taking the first tour through the facility and getting an

NCOC, under Andrea Hogan, has also begun some new and creative initiatives such as the community garden. Designed to grow more local produce and bring more people together, it's another great idea that deserves recognition. It is truly impressive to witness all the center does on a shoe-string budget.

I think that is what makes the NCOC so special. It shows the true spirit of America and what we stand for. The

rides through the scenic mountains or white water rafting in the summer, stop by the Outreach Center and make a donation. The NCOC is located at 2718 State Route 8. Mailed donations can be sent to PO Box 201, North Creek, NY 12853. For a list of events and other goodies, please visit the Web site at <http://www.ncoc.info/>. Telephone calls can be taken at 518-251-3481. Make that call, go to that website. Make contact. Our community is everyone's responsibility.