

During a Storm, Vermonters Learn: “One Person Could Never Do It Alone”

Amy Cowan

Nicole Roscioli and her husband, Dan, own a pizza and pasta shop in Vermont. While their home and business were unaffected when Tropical Storm Irene struck Vermont in August 2011, their community was devastated. Some people lost everything, and even more were in serious danger during the storm. Seeing the challenges that their community faced, the Roscioli family pulled on their mud boots and got to work helping.

People didn't ask for help; they were too busy. They couldn't even answer the question, “What do you need?” So Nicole and her husband Dan thought of something they could give—food! They spent several evenings driving around flood damaged areas handing out hot pizzas to families and volunteers. Nicole said, “Many people had no power and no appliances. They had been working through the day without rest. It was

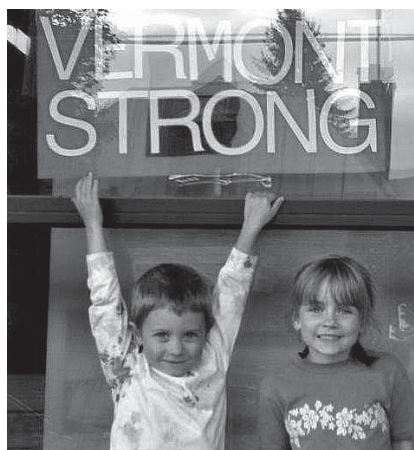
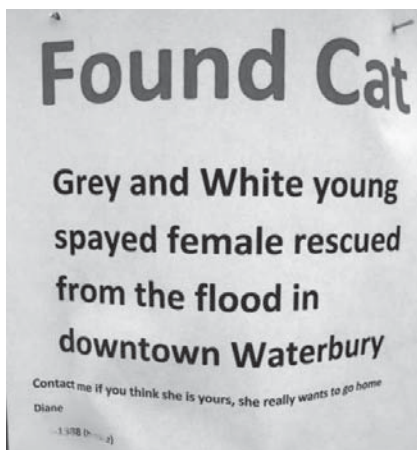
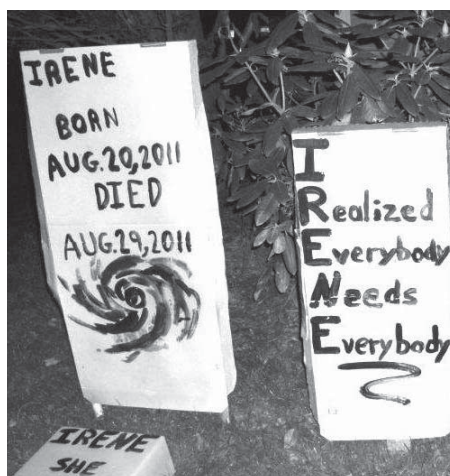
a good feeling to hand them some hot pizza and wish them luck.”

The Rosciolis know that repairing their community is an ongoing process. Throughout town people have made signs of encouragement as they come together to move forward.

Nicole said, “What we gave was so small. There's a humbling feeling of not being able to do enough because one person could never do it

alone.” Thanks to people like the Rosciolis and many others who stepped up to help, no one will have to do it alone.

Amy Cowan is a High School Completion Plan Manager with Vermont Adult Learning in St. Albans, VT. Born and raised in Vermont, Amy wrote this article in an effort to highlight the effect of Irene on many communities and how each person plays a role in rebuilding Vermont.



Describe the photos you see on this page. How are the images examples of Vermonters helping each other? Photos by Nicole Roscioli.