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Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

It's a sweet thing to see spring coming around the Care Center – and now, finally, summer. The muddy driveway dries out (Yes; that's on our list to improve!); flowers start to show their new growth; residents feel more comfortable getting outdoors in the warming air and sunshine; and the myriad activities that make up life in this community have a fresh, growing hum to them.

I have a hard time imagining that there is a community of twenty-two or twenty-four people anywhere that has as much going on as is the case at the Care Center. Discussion groups; Jeopardy; music, putting golf balls on the carpets (NEW carpets, thanks to your capital campaign contributions; did you notice,?); Bone Builders; children from local schools stopping by to undertake multi-generational projects; art hanging on the walls; and on and on the list goes...

The Care Center Board is active as well, both within the day-to-day life of the Center and behind the scenes. We're glad to welcome three new Board members; Johanna Laggis, Julian Sharp, and Diane Irish bring new skills and energy to a Board that is already peopled with folks who put countless hours into the background work that helps make the Center tick. We assist our Director, Kim Roberge, with updating of polices; manage renovation projects; raise funds that supplement the Center's regular income; help to make sure those funds are carefully deployed; develop new marketing efforts designed to ensure that our occupancy is maximized; and finalize plans for our big summer event, the picnic/barbecue and auction. (Don't miss it; Saturday, July 27!).

I've served on a number of Boards over the years, but have never served on a better Board than this one. I said at a recent meeting that I'd never heard anyone on the Board say anything thoughtless or unkind; had never felt that any member wasn't pulling his or her own weight; and had never seen a group of volunteers function as well and kindly with each other as is the case here.

And that's just the Board; it's worth noting that the same is true for our incredibly diligent, caring staff. From personal care assistance, to food preparation and service, to activities management, to housekeeping and outdoor maintenance, what you'll notice if you stop by is a community where the 'boundaries' between one function and another are nearly seamless. If only every community could so function.

And, of course, there's you: the families and friends of the residents here, and all others who have touched this place with their care and support. I hope you know how welcome you are here, whether here is reaching out across space to offer further support, or coming and visiting, just as you should feel comfortable visiting any community. It's a community that grows every time the door opens.

Craftsbury Community Care Center, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization and Equal Housing Opportunity Facility.

Our mission is to provide a caring, homelike affordable residence for seniors, in a setting that encourages independence, activities and involvement with families, friends and the larger community.

Craftsbury Community Care Center
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 Craftsbury, VT 05826
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Blessings, thanks, and Happy Summer!
 Alan Parker, President of the Board

Resident Highlights

Elsie Whiting is the Life of the Party

In 1915, Elsie was born in Belvedere, Vermont. In September, she will be 98 years old! She grew up with one sister and seven brothers. Two of her brothers were twins – Merle and Earl. The twins were born when Elsie was in her teens, and she has a special memory of feeding Earl his bottle. She says she considered Earl her baby.

Elsie's high school years were spent at Craftsbury Academy. Unfortunately, she needed to take a couple of years off to care for the twins when her mother was ill. But, she finally finished with the class of 1935. Shortly after graduation, she married Wendall Griggs. They both operated the North Wolcott Store for several years. After their divorce, Elsie moved to various places around the country. In California, she worked for the government as a civilian payroll clerk for the military.



While in Alabama, Elsie met Joseph Whiting who was an electronics engineer. He worked for a company that had several paper mills. Joe would travel to these paper mills, analyze problems, and correct any issues with the machinery so that production would resume smoothly. Elsie and Joe were married for 30 years, until he passed away in 1994.

After Joe retired, they lived in Citra, Florida as their home base. But, they travelled around the country in their Airstream, hooked to their Chevy Blazer. They were active members of Caravan Club International and ended up visiting 48 states with this wonderful group of friends. Elsie was a great letter writer, and she enjoyed writing letters to other club members to keep in touch in between their travels. They attended lots of caravan rallies, and she was quite the social butterfly. The parties were lots of fun, she says. Elsie refreshes her memories of these good times by reading the detailed journal she kept of their travels far and wide.

When she was younger, Elsie's vagabond lifestyle meant that she held jobs for short periods of time. After she and Joe retired to Florida, though, Elsie decided she wanted to stay in one job for a while – her goal was for 20 years. And that's what she did – at the Orange Shop. She especially enjoyed Christmas time, when she would send out the oranges for Christmas gifts. She ended up working there until she was 87 years old! And she loved the parties they held there, too!

Elsie is an animal lover, is a strong animal advocate. In Florida, she saved many a cat by giving them food in the lot next door to their home. She and Joe used to take their poodle, Tammy, traveling with them everywhere in their Airstream. Now, Elsie resides at CCC with her beautiful 16-year-old manx, the color of butterscotch – appropriately named Scotchy!

Elsie has always been a charming lady. When she was 82, she was stopped by a police officer for speeding. While she deserved a speeding ticket, she sweet-talked the officer so much, that she was let off with a warning and reminder to wear her seatbelt! Elsie also has been one to speak her mind – in a charming way. Years ago, her Cardiologist discussed the concept of her giving up her Happy Hour. Elsie piped right back by removing the pack of cigarettes from the doctor's lab coat pocket. She said that she'd give up her Happy Hour when he gave up cigarettes. When the doctor said that people would not like him if he gave up cigarettes, she said "Well, people would not like me if I gave up Happy Hour!" And so, the Happy Hour tradition continued.

After Joe passed away, Elsie visited a niece in Vermont during the summers. Her niece would accompany her between Florida and Vermont. When they were driving between both states, Elsie had fun flirting with the truck drivers, putting on lipstick and waving to them as they drove by. The truck drivers would sound their noisy air horns in response.

In 2005, Elsie moved back to Vermont. She rented a room from different families in the area. To provide greater stability in her living arrangements, though, her doctor recommended that Elsie consider moving to Craftsbury Community Care Center. So in July 2010, she and Scotchy made the move! "Everyone's nice here," she comments. A niece lives only 12 miles away and is able to visit her favorite aunt often. Scotchy enjoys the outdoors from Elsie's patio. Elsie's favorite pastime now is doing full-page crossword puzzles.

Elsie's room is filled with pictures of her family – eleven nieces and nephews and a whole bunch of grand nieces and nephews. Her walls are graced with her collection of delicate, oriental design plates called, the Beauties of the Red Mansion.

Craftsbury Community Care Center is delighted to have this almost-centenarian as part of its family.

—Submitted by Janney Johnston

Spotlight on Staff

Cathy Cole has been a housekeeper at Craftsbury Community Care Center for 18 years – since CCCC first opened. She was born in Hardwick and has lived all her life in Craftsbury. Cathy had two children – a son and a daughter. What brought her to CCCC was a tragedy. In 1994, her daughter and two grandchildren were killed in an automobile accident. Cathy was also going through a divorce at that time. Her life seemed to be falling apart before her eyes.

She needed a job, and as CCCC was opening, the Center had several types of positions available. Cathy thought that the routine of a housekeeping position would provide her the structure she needed while she tried to put her life back together.



What she discovered was the comforting environment and compassion of the CCCC staff. “Craftsbury Community Care Center has been a healing ground for me,” she explains. As she worked through her grief, she took pride in her work, and found that she really enjoyed relating to the residents.

Cathy has put her heart and soul into her work at CCCC, and her efforts really shine! The staff considers her the “go to” person for housekeeping issues.

She is very proud of her son and daughter-in-law, and delighted with the newest addition to her family - her 5-month-old grandson, August James Emanuel Cole, the light of her life.

Cathy wants to thank the staff of Craftsbury Community Care Center for their support over the years. And we thank Cathy for her dedication and outstanding work at CCCC.
—Submitted by Janney Johnston

Capital Campaign — More than Halfway There

Your generous gifts to the Capital Campaign have enabled us to meet critical needs and to begin dramatic enhancement to our building.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Worn carpeting replaced
- Computer system updated

UNDERWAY

- Major septic system overhaul (including, would you believe, 1000 gallon grease trap!)
- Energy efficiency audit

SCHEDULED

- Fall painting of the exterior
- Transformation of back sun porch, doubling the size

This last endeavor will create a much-needed year-round multipurpose room. The architect’s plans are approved and a builder will soon be selected for a 2013 completion. This room will provide space for resident programs and activities, for the resident/community Bone Builders exercise program, will add much needed storage space and will offer a cheerful place for residents and their guests to relax. Additional important benefits of moving activities from the dining room, which is currently used, will be to relieve staff of set-up and take down chores and allow more flexible scheduling.

FUTURE NEEDS

- A new roof
- Exterior walkway improvements
- Refurbishment of common rooms
- Landscaping

You get it!! We need help to maintain this unique and splendid residence.

Please be generous! Gifts can be sent to CCCC with a note Capital Campaign.

The Capital Campaign brochure and gift form are on the website www.craftsburycommunitycarecenter.org

Spotlight on Volunteers

Driving Education

When a CCCC resident is looking for transportation to a medical appointment there are two very remarkable, willing and dependable drivers who frequently answer the call. Both Lois Charron and Marsha Gadoury are exceptional volunteers who have spent many years ferrying residents to Hardwick, Morrisville, St. Johnsbury and as far away as Stowe. The CCCC staff particularly mentioned that even last minute calls are responded to enthusiastically and promptly. According to them, Lois and Marsha always go “out of their way” to accommodate a resident seeking an errand before or after a scheduled appointment. From the residents’ standpoint these special volunteers are helpful, entertaining and the catalyst for lively conversation.

After retiring from years of teaching kindergarten in Lyndonville and Albany, Lois met Kristin Urie, then Program Director at the Care Center. At the time Kristin was looking for someone to take residents to Willey’s Store for a weekly shopping expedition. That has become a Wednesday afternoon ritual which continues today, 11 years later. Lois expanded her volunteer efforts to include taking at least one resident to church regularly, driving to medical appointments, stopping for a bit of shopping or a cup of tea before returning home. Occasionally she comes by CCCC to play Cribbage with a particular game enthusiast. She feels a strong attachment to her friends there and they return that feeling.



Former Board member, Janet Long, was responsible for connecting Marsha to CCCC. As a close friend, Janet persuaded Marsha to help cashier at the Sugar on Snow and Cookout and Auction events beginning about 7 or 8 years ago. It was a natural step for Marsha, whose favorite pastime is driving, to offer taking the residents to their doctor or therapy appointments. Marsha recounted her father saying to her when she first began driving that she wouldn’t like it for long. That was many years ago and she still enjoys the driving as much as the company and laughter of her passengers. One of these days in the distant future Marsha expects that the roles will reverse and she will be driven by the next generation of volunteers.

For both Lois and Marsha the winter months are the busiest because a number of volunteers travel to warmer climates. It is unanimous that CCCC is extremely fortunate to have such caring, reliable and engaging friends who are “big assets” to the staff and residents alike.

—Submitted by Anne Cassidy

Online CCCC Calendar of Events

The Craftsbury Community Care Center’s calendar of events is available online. We now have bolded the events that the public is invited to on the calendar. We hope you can stop by and enjoy one of our activities!

Fund Drive Thank You

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to those who have generously contributed to our Annual Fund Drive of 2013. We very much appreciate your ongoing support. We have now reached \$30,000. This money helps us care for our residents as it goes toward our operating expenses and unexpected maintenance costs.

With our sincere thanks,
Craftsbury Community Care Center Board and Kim, our Director

Picture Gallery



Jeanette Tanguay enjoys the company of a preschooler who is watercolor painting.



Grace and Andrew McIntosh and George Bickford follow Sha'an Moulert as she leads them in Tai Chi. Sha'an is an Americorp volunteer who has been providing gentle exercise weekly, since last November.



Brent and Maya McCoy from The Secret Circus perform for residents and preschoolers.



Rebecca Wetmore's second grade class in Wolcott Elementary School welcomed 6 residents into their classroom. The children and seniors discussed past and present school days.

Reminder — Help Us Update Our Newsletter List

Please call or email at ccccenter@myfairpoint.net if you have any address corrections or if you would rather have this newsletter sent via email instead. Thank you for helping us keep our mailing list up-to-date.

Annual Cookout and Auction

Save the date – Saturday, July 27th! The CCCC Board’s major fundraiser is just a month away. Please bring your friends and join us for a festive meal of delicious home-cooked food, a lively auction and great fun, all in support of this very special residence.



The traditional lunch of spit-roasted beef and deep-fried turkey with all the fixins will be served at noon. Once again the CCCC Bone Builders have agreed to bake a delectable array of cookies and brownies for dessert. Ron Sanville will conduct a lively auction beginning about 12:45 p.m. The flying enthusiast can hope to win a one-hour plane ride and the gardener can bid on landscaping work. Ross Morgan has donated several hours of forestry management. For the outdoor enthusiast there is a 14 foot aluminum canoe (used but in good condition) with paddles, a Craftsman Broadcast Spreader and a 14 cubic foot dump cart. For the music lover there are tickets to the Greensboro Summer Music concerts. There is a splendid colored photograph of a dragonfly taken by Elinor Osborn, our well-known local photographer. Jasper Hill has donated a selection of their special cheeses. The silent auction will feature numerous gift certificates from local garages to food and farm stores.

Cookout tickets are now on sale at CCCC - \$10.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children and free for children under five.

We look forward to seeing all of you on the 27th!



Board of Directors:

- Alan Parker, President
- Anne Cassidy, Vice President
- Jenny Stoner, Secretary
- Larry Gluckman, Treasurer
- Amelia Robinson-Fritz
- Diane Irish
- Jim Jones
- Janet Johnston
- Johanna Laggis
- Janet Long (honorary member)
- Jane Marlin
- Julian Sharp
- Cilla Bonney-Smith
- Bob Twiss
- Bruce Sweeny
- Michelle Warren

Executive Director:

Kimberly Roberge

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