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Letter from the President

Dear friends of the Care Center,

Sitting down to write this letter, I note an item on my calendar for tomorrow. It says, "Care Center." That notation appears fairly often, but if this particular instruction were to be more specific, it would say, "Go to Care Center to have picture taken admiring new plaque honoring those who contributed to our Capital Campaign." I write in shorthand on my calendar; I can keep the detailed instructions in my head, but, like many, I need a reminder of when to be where.

One of the light-hearted privileges of chairing the Care Center Board is that I get to do things like this. But as I imagine this little task tomorrow, I think to myself, "The people who should be having their picture taken are the ones whose names are on the plaque." They should be standing with a group of residents as the sun streams in the windows and they share a moment of celebration.

Stopping by the Care Center is always a delight; if you've visited before, or have a family member living here, you know this. There is always something going on; someone is playing music in the Community Room; someone has brought lambs or dogs to visit with the residents; another person is admiring the new art adorning the walls of the public spaces. A group of residents is playing Jeopardy, bridge - even tennis or bowling - on the Wii; over in a cozy corner, a resident is chatting with a visiting family member. You get the picture.

And all of this is both "life as it is here", and a testament to the many people who have helped to create the space that this community occupies - the people who work daily to bring the physical space to vibrant life. The web of connections between those who live here and those who grow this community beyond its walls is both humbling and astonishing - often almost breathtaking.

A few times each year, we send you this newsletter so that we can offer up a snapshot of the life of this community - biographies of residents; updates on new projects, news of upcoming events, and other notes of interest. We hope that our effort to keep you up to date helps you to understand how treasured the support that you offer to the Care Center is. The need for this support is ongoing, and we're endlessly grateful for your part in it.

So, as a couple of Board members pose for that picture tomorrow, please be assured that we are standing in for you; we are servants of the great community that you help to make possible.

One somewhat sober note. The Board has said a sad, but deeply grateful goodbye to one of our members, as Bruce Sweeny and his wife Susan recently moved to Virginia to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Bruce has done brilliant work as a member of the Board, especially in leading the various construction projects that have enhanced this facility over the past four years. He will be sorely missed, and we wish him and Susan the very best.

Ready now? Everyone smile for the camera! Any snapshot of the life of this community includes you.

With much appreciation— Alan Parker, for the Board

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.

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Resident Highlight — Evelyn Erskine

I interviewed Mrs. Erskine sitting in her favorite oversized velvet wood trimmed antique chair. She looked so comfortable and content. Indeed, she says that she is both comfortable and content at CCCC, where she has lived for the past two years.

Mrs. Erskine was born in Pomfret, Connecticut. At age five her father died and her mother moved back to her home state of Vermont where the family lived first in East Burke and then in Lyndon. She attended the Lyndon Institute followed by Lyndon State Teachers College where she earned a certificate degree. Mrs. Erskine began her three year teaching career at a one room rural school where she found the eighth graders enjoyable outside the classroom and annoying in school because they thought that they knew everything. She married a fellow teacher whom she knew as a youngster and who taught physics and chemistry at Lyndon Institute. He was a member of the 10th Mountain Division and that background qualified him to be the school ski coach and, also, a ski jumping judge. When I asked Mrs. Erskine if he instructed her in the sport, she replied that “it’s too cold and I like to be warm and I’m not that coordinated.”

She retired from teaching to raise five children – 4 girls and a boy – two of whom live in St. Johnsbury, two in Alabama and one in Colorado. She now has 16 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. After the youngest of her children turned twelve, Mrs. Erskine returned to Lyndon State to further her education, graduating at age 55. She went on to become a kindergarten teacher in Sheffield for several years. Throughout her life Mrs. Erskine was a dedicated Sunday school and Summer Bible school teacher. Her faith helping her through the tough times she faced.

During her courtship and early years of marriage she and her beau/husband enjoyed the Saturday night dances at the Lyndonville Ballroom, where the foxtrot was in vogue. She was also fond of swimming, the one sport she really enjoyed. Her current interests include doing crossword puzzles, reading historical novels and watching old time favorites like *Little House on the Prairie*, the *Waltons* and *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*. She is thankful to be here at CCCC where she can eat, sleep and read to her heart’s content.

— Submitted by Anne Cassidy



Thank You, Tammy

Tammy Benway has worked as a Personal Care Attendant at the Craftsbury Community Care Center for four years. She was born in Berlin and grew up in Hardwick where she graduated from Hazen Union. She married Jeremy, and began a family soon after high school. They have three sons, Freddy (16), Owen (12), and Chase (8).

Tammy has always worked and has held a variety of positions in stores, schools, and housekeeping. Then she began to work in private care, first with a lady in Danville and then with a man in the Walden area. She had taken an LNA course at Genesis in Morrisville right after high school but had then let her certification lapse. During these private care jobs, she realized that caring for and helping people was what she really wanted to do, and then she began her work at Craftsbury Community Care Center.

In addition to working as a PCA, she was editor of the 4 C’s facebook page, and we have been receiving wonderful feedback about our Facebook page. Tammy deserves a lot of credit for this, and we owe her our sincere thanks. Tammy is busy with her work and family, but fitness is very important to her, and she finds time to jog and power walk, enjoying being out in nature as well as the exercise. She relaxes by going out each week with her mom, who still lives in Hardwick, to play bingo.

Tammy is leaving us at the 4 C’s to take a position as a medical receptionist at the Hardwick Health Center. It says so much about Tammy’s caring ways that she made sure to speak with each of the residents individually about her coming departure. This change is bittersweet for her; many residents, staff and volunteers have wished her well but said how much she will be missed. She said, “I love the people and this community, and I really feel like I made a difference.”

You certainly have made a difference, Tammy. We will miss you. We thank you and we wish all the best in your new job.

— Submitted by Jeanne Joslin



Tammy (left) with Carol, DNS

Volunteer Spotlight – Grace Willean

The Center is very blessed to have wonderful volunteers that come to spend time with our residents. One of those great volunteers is a young woman named Grace Willean.

Grace is a very busy young lady. She lives in Craftsbury and is a junior at Lamoille Union High School. At school she is involved in three sports – soccer, lacrosse, and skiing. She is also involved in Student Council, the Environmental Club, Varsity Club, Peer Support, and the Yearbook.

Her favorite activities are traveling, playing sports, writing, spending time with friends, and dancing. Over the years she has traveled to places such as Korea, Japan, and Paris. She loves to go somewhere completely different to see diverse cultures and lifestyles.

Grace shares stories of her travels with the residents on her Sunday afternoon visits. She also enjoys playing card games with them. She first started volunteering because she wanted to give back to her community and thought it would be interesting to meet some of the older, influential people from her community.



These are her thoughts on being at CCCC: “I really enjoy volunteering at the Craftsbury Community Care Center because it feels good to see the residents so happy while playing games with me. I like being able to give them something to look forward to in their day and to spend time with my friends at the Center. Not only is it fun for them but I also enjoy playing, relaxing, and hearing stories about their lives”.

As for her future she is not 100 percent sure, but volunteering at the Center has made her aware of her enjoyment with working with people. She hopes to do something in the communication field.

The Center truly appreciates all the volunteers that come in to share their lives with our residents. It so enriches their lives. We are sincerely thankful to Grace for being part of the CCCC family.

— Submitted by Doreen Noyes

Community Room Plaque

Board President Alan Parker and Vice-President Anne Cassidy express their joy for the generosity of all the donors to the CCCC Capital Campaign who are recognized on the plaque behind them.

The community's generosity has made possible the many significant improvements of the last 3 years.

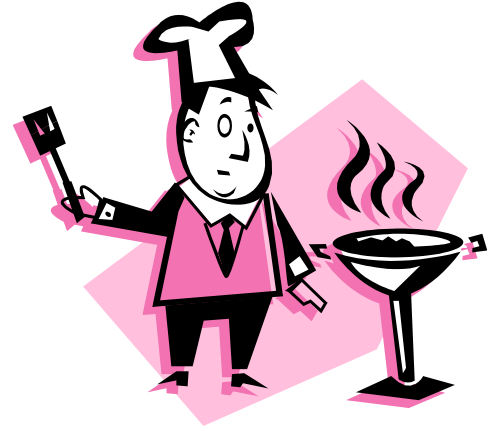
Stop by to see this plaque and another in the Community Room thanking significant donors who made that room possible.



A Successful Cookout and Auction

The weather was ideal, the crowd was eager for lunch and ready for the bidding to begin. Thanks to all our friends and neighbors, this year's July Cookout and Auction raised over \$8,800.

We are greatly indebted to the many extremely generous individuals and businesses that contributed to the success of this important fundraiser. As they have in the past, Pete Johnson and Robert Linck provided plenty of fresh greens and potatoes for salads. Board President, Alan Parker, made his specialty – delicious potato rolls. The succulent pork roast came from Sterling College where the pigs were raised especially for our noon meal. Again this year we thank Pat Rhodes for baking all those tasty beans. And finally, the multitude of varied dessert cookies and bars were courtesy of Bone Builders and Effie and Norma Waterhouse.



Our auctioneer, Frank Jarvis, did a fine job of keeping everyone's attention while moving along the bidding. We are most grateful for his commitment to CCCC. While local cheese, hours of landscaping, opportunities to play golf or take an airplane flight drew plenty of interest, this year's focused attention seemed to be on the Vermont Daylilies and Stillmeadow Garden plants. In addition to the Silent Auction we set up a "Make an Offer" table with a wide variety of knick-knacks. Pat Rhodes kept it running smoothly and very profitably.

The outstanding CCCC staff was essential in helping throughout the day as were numerous volunteers who pitched in to serve meals, assist with setting up both the live and silent auctions and generally overseeing all the activity. In particular, we are grateful to Barb Paterson, our scribe, and Tom Twetten who totals and collects all the auction receipts. Both have been longtime faithful volunteers at the Auction. And we can't forget the Craftsbury Outdoor Center who provided us with tables and chairs, a truck to transport them and their Green Team who, with apparent ease and good humor, raised the big tent and set up the tables and chairs. Thanks, too, to the Craftsbury Fire Department who lent us their tent, putting it up and taking it down.

THANK YOU to all who volunteered, attended and bid at this year's Cookout and Auction!

— Submitted by Anne Cassidy

Making Annual Appeal Donations Easy

The CCCC Annual Appeal was mailed out in mid-October. We hope that all of you will support this extremely important part of our yearly funding. For those of you who have not received our letter or may have misplaced the appeal, we are enclosing a return envelope in this newsletter. In addition, for your convenience, you can make a donation on line by going to "craftsburycommunitycarecenter.org" and clicking on "contribute". We express our warmest gratitude to our many generous donors.

— Submitted by Anne Cassidy

Craftsbury Community Care Center on Facebook

Check out CCCC on facebook!

www.facebook.com/craftsburycommunitycarecenter

Barb has been sharing some fabulous activities and photos at CCCC on facebook. Check back often!



Craftsbury Community Care Center's Photo Gallery



Upcoming Events

- Friday Dec. 4 at 3 PM
Artist Reception with Alyssa DeLaBruere
- Tuesday Dec. 8 at 10:30 AM
Professional singer Corey Gottfried
- Wednesday Dec. 16 3:15 PM
American Heritage Girls Troop
- Friday Dec. 18 at 10:30 AM
Card Making with Emma
- Wednesday Dec 23 at 10:30 AM
Professional Singer Mark Shelton



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