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November 2020

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Letter from the President



Dear Friends of the Care Center,
 Plans for the 25th Anniversary Celebration to honor the opening of the Craftsbury Community Care Center in January 1995 were well underway when COVID hit. Invitations had been mailed, including to Governor Dean who was present at the opening ceremony. The event had been planned and work had begun to have a special day. As with so many things this year it was not possible to celebrate in person, but we did not want to let the year go by without notice of the outstanding residence that is in East Craftsbury.

What a remarkable addition to the town of Craftsbury, the Care Center is. Carol Maroni had a dream of building this in a time when Assisted Living was very new. Her love of her grandparents and elders were the spark. The goal of Assisted Living is to provide a home where the resident has their own apartment, furnished with their own things so they can live as independently as possible. At CCCC most have their own porch or balcony, and they can have small pets. Residents are free to enjoy the activities offered as both housekeeping and meals are provided.

The original design was a great starting point but as needs changed and evolved, expansion was needed to meet those needs with the addition of the Community Room, (what did we do before it was added?) and of Randi's Shed. As we all know as a building ages, it requires maintenance and upkeep. Initially, there was no one, but as the years went by first part time and now full-time maintenance is necessary. There is a long list of projects from snowplowing, keeping sidewalks clear and sanded, mowing lawns, painting and refurbishing rooms between residents and a myriad of repairs of all sorts. In addition, equipment needs replacing as it becomes obsolete or wears out. We are in the midst of a complete redesign of the kitchen to better meet our current needs. This has been slowed during the pandemic but is at the top of the list of next projects.

The newsletter was first mailed before the actual opening of the Care Center and keeping the public informed has continued. It now reaches 550 homes keeping them up to date with the happenings at the Center. Meals on Wheels was implemented in 2001 serving 5-8 people and has grown to serve 14-16 people. It was recognized early on that money from outside sources was necessary to support the mission of the Care Center to have affordable housing for all. Costs of goods and services have dramatically increased over that time and even more so with COVID and the Board has expanded fundraising to help meet that need.

Community support, both volunteer and financial, has remained key during the past 25 years and is so important in the continued success of the Craftsbury Community Care Center. Your donation is especially needed and appreciated this year. What changes will the next 25 years bring? —Jane Marlin, President Board of Directors

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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Happy 25th Birthday

Starting as a twinkle in the eye of visionary Carol Maroni, the Craftsbury Community Care Center has become a vital and essential part of the life of the greater Craftsbury community. She brought together community leaders to work with her, wrote grants, did fund raising, got necessary permits and oversaw the construction of a beautiful building in keeping with our rural community. The first residents arrived in 1995.

In the first years one concern was whether there were enough parking spaces for residents' cars. A clear indication of the evolution of the level of care provided is that now one issue is "parking" for walkers outside the dining room. Over the years as needs of community members have changed, the Care Center has evolved to meet those needs.

One very important factor in the success of CCCC is the increased level of commitment by the Board of Directors. Because CCCC is committed to accepting about 40% of residents who are not able to pay the cost of the housing and care, fund raising has always been necessary. In the early 2000s one board member suggested that a pig roast and auction could be an important fund raiser, and a Ways and Means Committee took on the challenge. This very successful event evolved into the Barbeque and Auction and provides vital income and a wonderful community gathering. The Ways and Means Committee continues to organize and manage all fundraising functions, including the Annual Appeal.

In 2007 we did not have enough residents to cover expenses so the board formed a Marketing Committee with the goal of attracting more residents. Over the next few years they developed first radio ads and then TV ads, developed a brochure which was widely distributed, accepted the responsibility of producing a newsletter 3 times a year, worked with Michelle Warren, who graciously volunteered her services, to turn a very basic website into a most effective one, placed ads in appropriate local and regional publications and continues to find imaginative ways to share our story. These efforts are at least partly responsible for the fact that from having only 17 residents in some of 2007, in recent years (before COVID) we have had an average of 23 residents for our 24 rooms.

In 2011 the board and staff became very aware of significant needs of our building and decided that a capital campaign was needed. With wonderful community support we raised \$250,000 which enabled a new roof, a beautiful new community room, new flooring, upgraded computer system and other needed improvements. The building project was supervised by the volunteer chair of the Building and Grounds Committee. This committee continues to oversee building projects, including the new walking path.

All through the years strong support by the community has been essential. Annual grants from Craftsbury, Greensboro and more recently from Albany, Glover and Hardwick make a big difference. Involvement by talented volunteers for music and other entertainment programs, for driving residents to medical appointments, reading to or playing games such as bridge and Mahjong with residents to supplement the many offerings from exercise to memory games provided by activities staff significantly enriches the lives of residents.

Recently the board has been addressing long term needs of CCCC as a way to ensure a healthy future. A Development Committee was formed which determined that an endowment was needed. They explored options and then set up an endowment fund to which all board members made contributions. This is now functioning and receiving gifts from community members.

The constant fact during our first 25 years has been the strong support of the community. With your continued support we look forward to meeting the continued challenges of the next quarter century.

— Jenny Stoner

Looking to the Future

As we celebrate our 25th year, the Board is looking toward our next 25 years, setting goals and planning for the future financial security of the Care Center. Toward this goal, the Board has established the Craftsbury Community Care Center Endowment Fund which is continuing to grow since its start-up in January 2020. We are grateful to all who have donated, giving the Endowment Fund a strong start. We hope you will consider a special gift or a designation in your will or trust to help ensure the future of the Care Center.

— Jeanne Joslin

Annual Appeal

With the pandemic underway, this year's Annual Appeal is more important than ever. Many new regulations and guidelines have been issued by the state in order to protect our residents. These have resulted in many new expenses and changes to the interior of the building. For example, during the warm weather outside visitations were possible, but now it is too cold to be comfortable, so we are currently working on converting the library into a space for visitors. This entails making an outside entrance into the area so visitors can be isolated from the main building. Also, more staffing is necessary to comply with all the mandated changes, and until recently, we were unable to fill resident vacancies, so revenue is down. We have an aging facility and an increased need for space because of social distancing. Both are being addressed as funds become available. The big project for the coming year is complete renovation of the kitchen, including moving the commercial refrigerator and freezer outside of the main kitchen area. It is now in the design and estimate stage so when the pandemic is past and workers are allowed in the building, it will be ready to go. With all these changes we need your help more than ever. Please give generously.

Many of your gifts to the 2019 Annual Appeal were given in memory of a loved one and they are listed here. In addition, gifts given directly to the Care Center are also listed.

In Memory Of

Ruthie Jones Curtis	Delia Lawrence	Alma Rowley
Erla Bailey	Leon Frisbie	Ruth Lawrence
Roberta Ballantine	Norman Frisbie	Louisa Levine
George Bickford	Jane Greaves	Barb Lussier
Inez Bird	Carl Harvey	Laura Dustan
Etta Burghardt	Bill Heinchon	Beatrice Frisbie
Randi Calderwood	Stella Lammert	Helen Renaud
Marcello Coddou	Sarah Larabee	Morris Rowell

Ann Sullivan
Emeric and Jeannette Tanguay
Marj Trusdell

In Honor Of

Ann Sullivan
Care Center Board of Directors

Maintaining Connections - Part Two!

In our last letter, we happily recounted tales of the Skype station set up by volunteers to keep residents connected to loved ones during what we thought at the time might be a few months' separation. It seems we were overly optimistic about the duration of COVID restrictions.

Thankfully, this summer the Vermont governor provided guidelines for congregate living centers to facilitate in-person visits under certain circumstances - and once again Care Center staff and board members swung into action to make this possible for residents. Because the required monitoring of visits would have diverted limited staff from critical duties, a small volunteer team agreed to curtail personal interactions in order to serve as visit monitors. This enabled many more resident visits than otherwise would have been possible.

And what a treat the monitoring "job" has been! I can say from personal experience how great it is to see the happy reunions (socially distanced!) between residents, families and friends under the tent; to watch the initial relief of coming together again evolve into a regular and relaxed cadence of connection. Facilitating these visits has been truly rewarding and I look forward to it each week.

As Vermont winter looms, Care Center leadership is racing to adapt to newly-released requirements for safe and meaningful indoor visits - and by the time you read this, I'm confident adjustments will be in motion. If there's one thing I've learned as a family member, volunteer, and board member of Craftsbury Community Care Center, the commitment of our staff and leadership to the needs of residents is unmatched - and these connections are recognized as crucial to all involved.

However it happens, we know that by our next newsletter, we'll be able to report to you a successful and happy Maintaining Connections - Part Three!

— Penelope Doherty



Care Center's First Raffle a Success!

Craftsbury Community Care Center's first try at a raffle was a great success, raising nearly \$10,000 to help make up for 2020 fundraisers cancelled due to Covid-19. Phil Pike, maker of the beautiful and sought-after handmade canoe being raffled, drew winning ticket #155 at the Craftsbury Farmer's Market on Saturday, August 8.

A frontline healthcare worker and boat enthusiast from Lake Elmore won the handcrafted canoe. Greg McLelland, an ER nurse at Copley Hospital, bought just one ticket through a colleague. "I was so excited when I heard," McLelland said. "I can't wait to try this out!" McLelland and his father attended a workshop last year in Maine for making wooden boats and subsequently built a wooden kayak. Phil Pike's canoe will be a fitting way to decompress and spend more time with his father.



As a non-profit providing quality assisted living for elders in all socioeconomic sectors, including Medicaid-based, the Care Center finds fundraising critical to closing financial gaps. Our usual fundraisers, March's Sugar on Snow and July's Cookout and Auction, were both cancelled for 2020.

The raffle's success meant we could continue with plans to replace declining kitchen equipment, install a new walking path for residents off the vehicle drive, and adapt and enhance activities to support residents during the pandemic.

Only 200 tickets were sold at \$50 each. Credit for the raffle's success goes to Phil Pike, whose generosity made the raffle possible, and Care Center Board immediate past president Mark McAndrew and current President Jane Marlin, whose hard work led the board in this new endeavor.

The Care Center Board is considering another raffle for 2021, as it looks quite possible constraints won't lift in time for in-person fundraisers to resume. Watch this space for updates! Of course donations to the Care Center are always welcome and can be made via the website or by mail.

—Penelope Doherty

The New Accessible Trail – Out Back

Construction of a new walking path for residents and their visitors was finished in September. The trail starts at the parking area at the rear of the Center's buildings, winds down gentle slope through the orchard and then takes a loop through the grasslands of the Center's property. The need and desire to develop this pathway has been talked about for over 20 years. Walks out of doors for our residents have been largely limited to the driveways and parking areas, and taking a walk along East Craftsbury Road is a hazardous adventure with traffic. The beautiful but rugged terrain on Center property to the south was accessible to only a few stalwarts.

An Accessible Trail consists of a solid base, a smooth unobstructed surface and gentle slopes that can accommodate the needs of persons of varied levels of physical abilities, and walking aids or wheelchairs. Sturdy benches are placed along the way for rest and relaxation to enjoy the natural setting. Residents of the Care Center have been quick to venture forth and for many the walking path has become a regular part of daily activity. One of those persons is Vaughn Earl who counts six laps by transferring a quarter from one pocket to another each time that he completes a loop. He quips, "...and the benches are like a cherry on top of a banana split!"

Coming next Spring, there are plans to plant a variety of shrubs and perennials at points along the trail to attract birds and butterflies. A blueberry patch would attract some of the rest of us!

We wish to give credit to the crew from Timber and Stone of E. Montpelier for expertise in construction, and to Iron Artisans of E. Montpelier for crafting the benches. We also wish to acknowledge the supporting roles of governing agencies that oversee land use in Vermont. These include Vermont Act 250 Division for land use permits, the Vermont Land Trust, and the Board and Committees of the Town of Craftsbury. Funding for the trail was supported in large part by a matching grant awarded through the Northern Forest Center and Northeastern Vermont Development Association with federal funds provided by Northern Borders Regional Commission.

— Norm Hanson

**A note of caution: Use of the trail is NOT recommended when covered with ice or snow.*

News From Our Director

2020 was supposed to be a year of celebration for everyone who has been involved with The Care Center as it is our 25th year of providing services to so many. Who would have imagined that our 25th year would have turned into a year of twists and turns and everchanging ways of keeping staff and residents as safe and healthy as possible?

While we are not able to celebrate the challenges and success of the Care Center over the past 25 years together, we can acknowledge and celebrate all those who have worked so hard to meet the regulations and guidances set before us over this past year as well as everyone who has contributed to helping the residents remain as healthy as possible.



- Let's celebrate all the staff who have worked tirelessly to keep the facility and residents healthy and safe through these very challenging times. The extra hours put in, increased workloads, everchanging procedures, changed lifestyles, and heartfelt compassion for the residents they serve every day are the reasons we can proudly call ourselves the "Care Center". THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND HARD WORK!!
- Let's celebrate those who have volunteered to monitor outside and now inside visits for families and friends to visit their loved ones. What a great help that has been to all of us and has allowed for more availability of time slots. The residents so needed to see family/friends and what joy you have brought to their lives by sharing your time with us. THANK YOU!!
- Let's celebrate the Board of Directors who have contributed in so many different ways besides their normal board member duties. They have really been there when we have needed them and we can't say thank you enough!!
- Let's celebrate and continue to offer support to residents and their families who have had to endure the loss and frustration of not being able to see and/or embrace each other over the past nine months. We truly appreciate your understanding of the need to follow guidances that help us all to remain safe and healthy.
- Let's celebrate everyone else who has offered their assistance in so many ways such as: financial assistance, driving, obtaining needed items for residents, emotional support, PPE, food, and so much more!!! Your support is invaluable.

A few updates for all; We are still free of Covid at this time and hope to remain that way even though VT is surrounded by new cases. Residents are enjoying all meals in one of our three dining spaces and dining at individual tables. Small group activities are occurring several times a day; everyone is enjoying the comradery again. Examples are; Bingo, word games, storytelling, readings, Wii Games, video taped church services, and video taped music. Everyone enjoyed the Halloween Party with treats and games while maintaining our six-foot distancing.

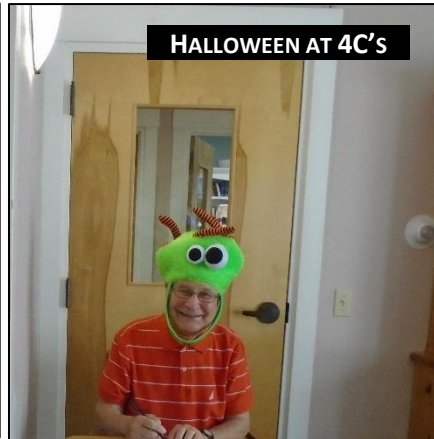
Residents were able to enjoy visits with family and friends with outdoor visits as well as a few musical events. They have also thoroughly enjoyed the new walking path. Now that weather is changing, indoor visits have begun with new sets of protocols including only 30 minutes in duration.

I look forward to the day we can welcome everyone back into the Care Center, families can visit whenever they like, residents can enjoy activities away from the center and the constant threat of illness is behind us. Until then, I thank you for your continued support and understanding that we are doing what we believe is in the best interest of everyone's health.

Stay Healthy,
Kimberly Roberge



WALKING ON NEW PATH



HALLOWEEN AT 4C'S



HALLOWEEN AT 4C'S



CARDMAKING AT 4C'S

Board of Directors:

- Jane Marlin, President
- Jeanne Joslin, Vice President
- Janet Travers, Secretary
- Rebecca Young, Treasurer
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- Rob Dewees
- Penelope Doherty
- Joan Feffer
- Norm Hanson
- Kathy Hemmens
- Jim Jones
- Karl Krantz
- Pat Lemay
- Mark McAndrew
- Steve Pitkin
- Jenny Stoner, honorary member
- Anne Cassidy, honorary member
- Janet Long, honorary member
- Michelle Warren, Newsletter Assist.



Executive Director:

Kimberly Roberge

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