



www.craftsburycommunitycarecenter.org

March 2021

**In This Issue:**

	Page
Letter from CCCC President	1
Spring Fundraiser- Bike Raffle	2
Step up for CCCC Meals	2
Thank You	3
Circle of Light	3
Accessible Trail	4
Holiday Trees	4
News from Our Director	5
CCCC Vaccines	5
New Space for Visitors	6

## Letter from the President



Dear Friends of the Care Center,

What a year! As John Steinbeck said, “best laid plans of mice and men often go awry” and this year certainly fits that description. Our goals for projects and activities at the Care Center are set in advance and we had hoped this would be the year of the major kitchen renovation. Planning was underway but the project was moved to the back burner as it became apparent the air purification/ventilation system project needed to be top priority. The Buildings and Grounds Committee has been hard at work on this and the visitor’s room. In record time, they completed the visitor’s room, carved out from a part of the library, so family can visit with their loved one.

Although we are completing a successful fundraising campaign with our Annual Appeal, we have faced many unforeseen and unprecedented challenges this year. In addition to the expenses incurred with COVID, we have a drop in our census. Usually we have 23 – 24 rooms occupied but the pandemic has prevented us from admitting new residents for much of the year and only 18 rooms were occupied in February. There is a waiting list and we will begin admitting new residents on a gradual basis.

Spring is just around the corner, but we will miss our usual Sugar on Snow Party. The Auction and Cookout in July will also not happen this year. Instead, we will have 2 raffles, one in early May and the 2<sup>nd</sup> on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of July. The raffle in May is for a gravel bike, just in time to enjoy outdoors in Vermont after mud season. The handcrafted canoe by Phil Pike was so successful last year that he has agreed to make another. Stay tuned for more details in the future.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our director, Kim Roberge, for her unwavering leadership of staff through the huge challenge of the pandemic, especially during the COVID outbreak in December. She is our hero along with all the other remarkable staff. Kim worked 33 days straight with many overnights to ensure that there was adequate coverage with so many staff either quarantining or out sick with COVID themselves.

Community support, both volunteer and financial, has also been incredibly important. We are so grateful to all of you.

—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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## Spring Fundraiser — Bike Raffle

Just in time for mud season to be over, the Care Center board in collaboration with Chuck's Bikes in Morrisville is offering you a chance to win a Marin DSX2 gravel bicycle. This fine bike will be either the large size (which fits a person approximately 5'7" - 6'1") or a medium if a smaller size is needed. Both sizes will be in stock. Hank Glowiak of Chuck's Bikes will adjust the bike to fit the winner or, if the winner wants, he/she can trade it in for a different model (a \$790 trade-in).

This beautiful bicycle is a \$1300 value. We will sell 250 tickets at \$25 each. You can support the Care Center with your ticket purchase and give yourself a chance to ride out in the countryside as spring arrives.

The drawing will be held on Saturday, May 1, at the Care Center at 2 pm. The winner will need to pick up the bike at Chuck's Bikes. Tickets may be purchased online at the Care Center website, by emailing Kim Roberge at [ccccenter@myfairpoint.net](mailto:ccccenter@myfairpoint.net), or from Chuck's Bikes in Morrisville. Tickets may also be purchased from Care Center board members. —Jeanne Joslin



## Craftsbury Caterers and Citizens Step Up for Care Center Meals

At the beginning of our outbreak Kim made the challenging but prudent decision to shut down the Care Center kitchen to perform a deep clean and allow staff to focus on direct care needs. Kim contacted board member Penelope Doherty, who contacted Craftsbury's Community Meals/Pop Up Pantry coordinator Kris Coville for help. Within 4 hours Kris had commitments from local caterers to cover meals beginning the next day (25 meals 3 times a day!) while Penelope lined up desserts, snacks, and volunteer "meal runners" to pick up hot meals, deliver them to the Care Center, and bring containers back. A huge undertaking arranged on a dime, made possible by the huge hearts of our community.



Massive thanks to **Tatro's Catering**, **Craftsbury General Store**, **C-Village Store**, and **Chef Nadav** for adding us to already-full plates during Christmas and New Year's weeks. Kudos to the meal runners without whom this would not have run so smoothly. —Penelope Doherty

(pictured)

Front row, L to R: Kit Basom, Craftsbury General Store; Lisa and Gary Tatro, Tatro's; Kristy Lamare, C-Village Store; Chef Nadav.

Second row: Runners: Barb Flint, Barb Strong, Heidi Rich, Kris Coville (catering coordinator), and Lori Mathez.

Back row: Runners: Suzanne Griffiths, Paul Gruhler, Bob Griffiths. (not pictured – Penelope Doherty, team organizer)

## A Big Thank You to All Who Helped

With no new positives since early January, the Craftsbury Community Care Center is deemed "out" of December's Covid-19 outbreak; the residents are doing well, and some restrictions are easing, although executive director, Kim Roberge, emphasizes that the Center continues to err on the side of caution regarding protection and lifting of restrictions when allowed. "We don't want this virus back!" she stated. The Care Center mourns the loss of two residents to the virus, and is extremely grateful for the recovery of other residents and staff who contracted it and that many were able to evade the virus.

The Care Center is overwhelmed by the family and community support received during the outbreak. Board President Jane Marlin and member Penelope Doherty served as temporary coordinators for Ms. Roberge while she focused with staff on direct resident care. Marlin and Doherty recently compiled a list to recognize those without whom the Center could not have navigated this challenge:

- Caterers (Tatro's Catering, Craftsbury General Store, C-Village Store, and Chef Nadav) and meal runners who stepped up when the Center's kitchen closed - with a half-day notice, the team began providing 25 meals plus desserts and snacks as required by regulations, three times a day for over two weeks. A Herculean task at any time, this occurred during Christmas and New Year weeks.
- Families for understanding, despite their anxiety, that the Center needed to manage some tasks, communications, and activities differently for the duration.
- Families, friends and community who rallied round with supplies and donations.
- Board and family members who were available at a moment's notice to source items needed in a hurry - and drive wherever necessary to get it to the Care Center.
- Community members who provided holiday cheer, from indoor decor to outdoor wreaths and lighted trees to cards to caroling and other fun on the circle, and the Craftsbury Select Board who erected a sign thanking staff and volunteers.
- the State of Vermont who brought guidance and resources, local news reps who worked hard to provide current and accurate information with sensitivity, and so many people who expressed concern and support.

And last but not at all least

- The Care Center staff for giving their all when chips were down. Doherty observes "we could never share all the lengths staff went to care for and protect our residents – but they are exemplary and we are darn lucky to have them in our corner and our community."

Marlin added "The community continues to come forward with financial and moral support. When the pandemic began, we were concerned about navigating the necessary changes to resident life, as well as the gaps in fundraising. With this community, we know we can face the coming year with optimism. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who continue to support this very special community care home."

## A Circle of Light

In early December when the Care Center suddenly experienced multiple cases of COVID 19 and all residents had to remain in their rooms, some community members wanted to provide support. A Circle of Light event was then organized. Over 50 friends and supporters encircled the Care Center, each holding a light of hope to show their compassion for residents and staff.



## The Accessible Trail— Adopt a Bench!

The accessible trail that was completed last fall has been hibernating under its cover of snow since November. It is eagerly awaiting the start of springy footsteps of Craftsbury Care Center residents and others who have varying degrees of physical limitations. Additional landscaping is planned for this spring to include perennials, and flowering and fruit-bearing shrubs that may attract birds and butterflies. A small gazebo will be placed along the trail to be a point of destination for relaxation and enjoyment of the natural landscape. **A word of caution:** Do not walk the trail when icy or excessively wet!



**Adopt a Bench** is a unique opportunity to donate the cost of one of the four trailside benches, in honor or in memory of a person who you have specially valued in your life. The benches are handcrafted of iron and cedar by Artisan Metalworks of Montpelier. They are sturdy and safe for persons of varying abilities and will withstand many years of Vermont weather. There are four benches available; a donation of \$1500 will cover the cost of one bench and a commemorative plaque.

— Norm Hanson

## Holiday Trees Donated for Resident Courtyards

Two days before Christmas, little holiday elves arrived (distanced, of course) with two truckloads of holiday trees and lights to bring cheer to our quarantined residents! Carol Maroni and Moffatt Tree Farm (namely Jimmy and Steve) thoughtfully and strategically made sure that every resident could see a lighted tree from their room, just in time for Santa. Carol then drove by every couple days to be sure the lights were still lit! What a lovely treat for all, and a perfect complement to the holiday wreaths brought by The Kingdom County Farmers 4-H youth group. What a thoughtful effort for our residents.

— Penelope Doherty



## News from Our Director

Greetings,

Wow, it seems like a lifetime since our last newsletter and yet it has only been four months. The Care Center residents, staff and family have certainly experienced some very difficult times since our last newsletter. After nine months of following all guidance and doing all we could to keep everyone healthy the Covid 19, virus crept into the facility. Once again, we had to quickly change how we were providing all services and residents were asked to remain in their rooms. While I cannot fully explain all that everyone went through physically and emotionally, I can say that I am so proud of the staff and residents for enduring the many challenges before them, all the while being there for each other.

Heroes is the word that comes to mind when I think of the staff that put their lives on hold and gave everything they had to care for and support residents and each other with such compassion during this very difficult period of time. And the staff that were not able to be here, due to battling the virus themselves or protecting their loved ones, still found ways to emotionally support their co-workers and as soon as they were able, jumped right back in to help.

Champions is the word that comes to mind when I think of the residents and how hard they fought to come out of either the illness or the isolation they felt during this time. The determination to beat the virus was evident in so many. Not to mention family members that had to endure the separation, all the while fighting from afar for their loved ones to get better physically and emotionally.

Extremely Thankful is what comes to mind when I think of everyone else that helped us navigate through the very challenging times: members of our board who stepped up to assist in ways they never dreamed would be part of their role, State agencies that helped and guided us with true compassion, and community members who offered compassion and help in so many ways allowed us to continue providing direct care to residents. We are so grateful!!

We are deeply saddened by the losses during the past few months, while also relieved and happy to be Covid free at this time. Residents have been able to participate in communal dining, daily activities and socializing with each other, all while maintaining six-foot distancing and wearing masks. The laughter, conversations, staff and residents joking around, and hallways full of residents walking around are such welcome sights and sounds.

As I write this, we have completed our vaccination clinics for those eligible; a number of residents will become eligible to get their vaccination towards the end of March. We will breathe easier when all have completed the course.

We continue on our journey of lifting restrictions as soon as guidance from the State allows and new cases remain low, while remaining cautious and vigilant in our fight against this virus.

A massive shout out to everyone who has and continues to support us through this unprecedented time.

**THANK YOU!**

*Kimberly Roberge*  
Executive Director

## Care Center Vaccines

The Care Center residents and staff have been able to receive both doses of the COVID vaccination. Residents who received monoclonal antibodies treatment for COVID have a 90-day waiting period and will be taken to get their vaccines at the appropriate time. In the picture, a person from CVS is giving the vaccine to a member of the staff. CVS came to the Care Center three times to vaccinate the residents and staff.



## New Space for Visitors

The Care Center is pleased to announce a new “Welcome Room” for family visits with residents. The pandemic has imposed many kinds of restrictions on the usual relationships and activities at the Center. The most difficult for residents and families has been the separation/isolation from each other. As long as positivity rates stay low, the room will allow for residents and family/friends to begin face to face visits.



Space for the new room was carved out of the library/conference room. It meets pandemic standards for ventilation and has a separate outside doorway for the entry and exit of visitors. The space can accommodate 3 persons with comfortable 6 foot spacing.

PLEASE CALL THE CENTER to make a reservation. Limit of 2 visitors at a time. Mask and distancing protocols apply.  
—Norm Hanson

## Board of Directors:

- Jane Marlin, President
- Geoffrey Bok, Vice President
- Janet Travers, Secretary
- Rebecca Young, Treasurer
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- Penelope Doherty
- Joan Feffer
- Kathy Hemmens
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- Pat Lemay
- Gary Michaels
- Jonathan Morey
- 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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