



www.craftsburycommunitycarecenter.org

November 2021

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Letter from the President



Dear Friends of the Care Center,

As Charles Dickens said, “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times”. No one will disagree that this past more than a year and a half have been a large challenge for the world including the Care Center. This crisis has however, revealed what a dedicated and committed staff we have, what a caring, supportive community we have, and what a talented board who have been there to pitch in whenever asked and suggest solutions to problems.

As you'll hear from our Executive Director, staff at the Care Center have gone above and beyond what was expected in normal times, working many extra hours and pitching in where needed even if it was not their job description. Staff made resident needs their top priority.

The Care Center Board has always been a working board and during this time it has been even more so, demonstrating their dedication and commitment and using their expertise and experience to navigate us through this crisis. The board has also taken on new responsibilities. A special committee has been formed to look at what we did well and areas where we could have done better in our handling of the COVID outbreak, and changes that need to be implemented to prepare for the possibility of future pandemics. The committee is continuing to meet with various family members, residents and staff. The Development committee was proactive in the spring in hiring an experienced grant writer to assist us in securing funds to pay for needed projects. Key among those projects is the air handling/ventilation system. The Building and Grounds committee has spent many hours meeting with the engineering firm, architect and other key people to finalize the plan. A short term solution to improve air quality is progressing well and should be finished by the time this newsletter is published. The long term plan will take around a year to complete. The Budget and Finance committee is working on improving the benefits and pay structure for the staff.

We also have a very loyal and supportive community who have been there for us over the years and especially during this time of crisis both with their volunteer hours, and their financial contributions. You are needed now more than ever and we are grateful for all you do.

—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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Annual Appeal

As you will have received your Annual Appeal letter by now, this is to reinforce how important this campaign is to our financial well-being. This past year plus has added many unexpected and increased costs to our operating budget. Although we will be receiving grants for big projects, we still have matching funds and costs not covered by these grants. We can't do these projects with grants alone so it is incumbent on us to raise the added funds. This is in addition to our need to raise monies to supplement the Medicaid reimbursement that is less than half the actual cost of services. We can't do it without you.

Many of your gifts to the 2020 Annual Appeal were given in memory of or in honor of a loved one. They are listed here. In addition, gifts given directly to the Care Center are also listed.

In Memory Of

George Bickford

Inez Bird

Randi Calderwood

Ron & Ruth Curtis

Louise Davis

Sally Fisher

Beatrice, Leon, Norman Frisbee

Jane Greaves

David Kelly, Jr

Donald Hislop

Stella Lammert

Barbara Lussier

Carolyn McMaster

Ruth Nelson

David Perham

Helen Renaud

Gladys Spaulding

Marion Stegner

Ann Sullivan

Emeric Tanguay

Jeannette Tanguay

Phyllis Van Matre

Steven Williams

Robert & Harriet Wilson

Steve Wright

In Honor Of

Roberta Alexander

Kim Roberge & CCCC Staff

The Times We Live In...

Staffing Challenges at CCCC

Like most employers, the Care Center is facing considerable staffing challenges in these difficult times. "Frontline" industries, of which healthcare is one, seem particularly hard hit - we have more openings than usual and see fewer applications for open positions. Fortunately, we have wonderful staff who are stretching beyond expectations to cover gaps while we continue an aggressive outreach for qualified personnel. They cannot shoulder the burden forever, of course, so we are being creative and flexible in aligning shifts and tasks to make things work – for our responsibilities, for our staff, and to appeal to the broadest number of applicants.

At this writing cooks, nursing assistants, and housekeeping remain our most challenging need. We were also sad to lose both our valued activities staff this summer to family situations. Emily Varvir, our former activities director, continues to assist us from her home and board member Penelope Doherty has temporarily stepped in as a combination activities lead/administrator. Between them we continue to organize the quality activities our residents deserve while searching for our new Activities team.

So please spread the word and send qualified friends and neighbors our way - as we say in our employment ads, "Experience with elders a plus. Smiles with elders guaranteed!"

—Penelope Doherty



A Little Help from Our Friends!

Cedar Pavilion Comes to Care Center

We've watched as the Care Center planned and installed its new walking path, complete with gazebo, benches, and landscaping, and excitedly accepted offers to adopt our five benches (thank you so much!). Then a generous supporter upped the excitement by offering a beautiful cedar pavilion, with one tiny challenge: we had to figure out how to move it! Oh my.

Multiple Care Center friends stepped in: Steve Pitkin, our awesome Buildings & Grounds guru, looked at the structure and felt it could be moved with the right support. Board member Penelope Doherty took on the project and gathered community friends for help: several contractors offered installation ideas, then the Buildings team at Craftsbury Outdoor Center thought them through (thank you Davis, Don, Eric and team), Glen Burkholder of Town & Country Sheds (supplier of our gazebo) said he could move the pavilion to the Center with bracing, Tim Beauregard signed on to brace it, and Cody Thompson of CT Stoneworks moved heaven and "earth" (get it??) to fit the re-installation into his schedule. Cody even wrangled a friend to bring in helical screws to make our installation even more durable. So many helpers!

The cost for all this was higher than anticipated, so even MORE Care Center friends stepped to the plate: Eva Church and daughter Penelope Doherty, Rob and Barb Strong, and the pavilion donor partnered to underwrite move costs, while Glen and Cody threw in some in-kind services to make it all work – even leaving a bit for plantings in the spring!

Now proudly in place, the newly named Friends Pavilion honors a great group of community friends

who came together to provide this gracious place of respite for our residents' enjoyment. Thanks to all who made this possible - what a wonderful community we live in, surrounded by friends.

— Penelope Doherty

And welcome back, social connections! We're so glad to see you again ...



EVA ENJOYS A PICNIC IN VIEW OF THE PAVILION



GLEN AND CODY FINE-TUNE THE INSTALLATION

Staff Spotlight: Kelly

Kelly Peters never stops helping people.

Kelly is a part time registered nurse at the Care Center where she has worked for approximately 12 years in various positions. She assists in the oversight of medical care at the Center which includes compliance with doctors' orders and appointments, evaluation of lab tests and coordination of residents' speech and physical therapy sessions. Kelly also assists with the supervision of LPN's and aids in areas such as fire safety, CPR, pathogen identification and other basic procedures at the Center.

Kelly lives in Albany with her partner, Sam, and their two children Oscar (10) and Olivia (9). She has a number of other nursing jobs, some of which have involved remote training during COVID. She is active in her community, serving as staff nurse at the Albany Community School, working at Heartbeat Lifesharing, and helping every week at the Albany Food Share. Kelly volunteers as a caregiver for rescue animals, usually cats. She also volunteers for the Medic Reserve Corps which is a national program helping people get COVID vaccinations, and Kelly has given many, many vaccinations since they became available in Vermont.

Kelly grew up in Fletcher, Vermont and graduated from Johnson State College with a degree in Mathematics and Business Administration. She was director of an Animal Shelter and managed a Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program before becoming a registered nurse. Kelly is always cheerful and upbeat and looking for ways to make people's lives better. She is a huge asset to the Center, and Kelly says "I love working here".

—Rob Dewees



KELLY & BARBARA SHARE A GIGGLE

A Work of Art

Once again Phil Pike has outdone himself for the Craftsbury Community Care Center. With the help of local cedar supplied by Mark McAndrew, Mr. Pike performed his magic and created a beautiful canoe for the Care Center to raffle off this past summer. His boats are functional and true works of art.

Mr. Pike himself drew the winning ticket, number 49, at Craftsbury's Old Home Day on August 14th and Jack Travelstead, a long-time supporter of the Care Center, held that winning ticket. "This is unbelievable," Mr. Travelstead told Jane Marlin, the Care Center Board President, when he picked up his canoe the following day.

This was the third small boat Mr. Pike has made to benefit the Care Center. Three years ago he made a kayak that was sold at the Center's annual July Barbeque and Auction and for the past two years Mr. Pike has crafted a canoe to be raffled to benefit the 4 C's. His untiring support of the Center and its mission is greatly appreciated and we send a big thank you to everyone who supported the Center by buying raffle tickets.

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Jack Travelstead of Woodbury loads the Phil Pike Canoe he won through the Care Center's raffle

— Janet Travers

A Message from the Executive Director

With so much uncertainty over the past year and a half and continuing into the near future, some things remain certain here at the Care Center:

The incredible staff that have remained with us through all the ups and downs and the new staff willing to join us in times of “what’s next”. With staff shortages everywhere, it is very difficult to fill all positions therefore staff are working longer hours and more hours than usual. With Covid continuing to surround us staff have extra responsibilities and remain masked up including wearing additional eye protection. The staff’s dedication to being part of a team that is striving to meet the resident’s care needs, emotional, physical and social needs is commendable! I want to sincerely thank staff for finding creative solutions to the ever-changing guidelines, and for all they do to make the Care Center a safe, healthy and happy home for residents to live.

Residents have asked me to also thank staff on their behalf, expressing at their recent Resident Council meeting gratitude for the great efforts put in by staff and wanting to make sure everyone knows how much they are appreciated.

The commitment from The Board of Directors to provide guidance, support and decision making that promotes the well being of residents, staff and the facility. They are a working board that provides a lot more than guidance once a month, as the amount of time that has been spent jumping in and helping in so many ways during these difficult times has been incredible. I want to thank the Board of Directors for their hard work, collaboration and creativity in supporting staff recruitment and retention and promoting a safe and superior environment for residents while working within some financial constraints.

It certainly appears that the COVID 19 virus remains a threat to all communities including all long-term care communities. All long-term care facilities are doing everything possible including screenings, visitation procedures, rigorous sanitation procedures, and weighing the risks every day (to name a few) to keep residents healthy, all the while knowing there is no foolproof measure. We so appreciate the support and understanding from residents, family, friends, volunteers and the community for navigating through all the extra challenges brought about by this virus with us.

As I walk through the halls, visit with residents, listen to events or interactions that are occurring I am reminded every day that while there are always struggles and bumps in the road, it is the laughter, cheerful voices, acts of kindness and fun activities that bring joy and smiles to residents and staff.

—Kimberly Roberge

Resident Highlight: Richard (Dick) Smyth, Naturalist

From his earliest days, Dick has been a lover and student of nature. He remembers the pleasure he had as a young child, sitting on a rock, observing the water of Long Island Sound where he, with his parents and sister, lived in Darien, CT. As a teenager, when he attended Putney School in Vermont, he took delight in being introduced to the study of trees and other plants. This interest became central to his life, carrying over to his beautiful drawings as well as his vocation.

His high school days did not have an easy start, for he contracted pneumonia and missed well over a month of his first year at Putney. He overcame this difficulty, completed Putney and went to Harvard. Sitting in classrooms was not to his liking, so he left after 2 years and took time off. He then accepted an invitation from his sister to accompany her and a friend driving to California. He stayed there for a while, and was able to use his love and knowledge of plants for a job with a landscaping business. From this beginning, he worked at landscaping and gardening businesses in several places and eventually started his own nursery and gardening business on family land in Connecticut. Later he did both landscaping and guided tours of the area around the Trapp Family Lodge. He later taught and led field trips at the Center for Northern Studies (CNS) in Wolcott and then at Sterling College, when CNS merged with Sterling. His contributions were so honored by Sterling that he was awarded an honorary degree.

Dick was married but divorced. He has two sons: Peter who lives in Glover, VT with his wife and two children and Tom who lives in Wyoming. Dick really likes being at CCC where he especially enjoys the companionship and the comfort of having his needs taken care of.

—Jenny Stoner





VERY LIVELY BALLOON BOP



SCRABBLE IN THE MORNING



CHAIR TAI-CHI

Board of Directors:

- Jane Marlin, President
- Geoffrey Bok, Vice President
- Janet Travers, Secretary
- Rebecca Young, Treasurer
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- Penelope Doherty
- Joan Feffer
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- Pat Lemay
- Gary Michaels
- Jonathan Morey
- Steve Pitkin
- Barb Strong
- Jenny Stoner, honorary member
- Anne Cassidy, honorary member
- Janet Long, honorary member
- Michelle Warren, Newsletter Assist.

Executive Director:

Kimberly Roberge

