



Thompson House

Volunteer Gazette

REHABILITATION & NURSING CENTER ♦ RESIDENTIAL CARE ♦ OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THOMPSON HOUSE

FALL/WINTER 2011

BRATTLEBORO MUTUAL AID
ASSOCIATION, INC.
2011-2012

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FRIENDS OF THOMPSON HOUSE

HOLIDAY GREETINGS to you and yours, warm wishes, and many thanks for being part of our Thompson House family.

—Sandra Ware, *Activities Director*

I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book
And every year at holiday time, I go and take a look.
And that is when I realize that these names are a part,
Not of the book they're written in, but of my heart.

For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path sometime,
And in that meeting they've become the "rhythm in each rhyme."
And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,
I really feel that I'm composed of each remembered name.

And while you may not be aware of any "special link,"
Just meeting you has shaped my life much more than you may think.
For once I've met somebody, the years cannot erase
That memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.

So never think my holiday cards are just a mere routine,
Of names upon a holiday list, forgotten in between.
For when I send a holiday card that is addressed to you,
It's because you're on the list of folks I'm indebted to.

For I am but a total of many folks I've met,
And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget.
And, whether I have known you for many years or few,
In some way you have had a part of shaping the things I do.

And every year when the holidays come, I realize anew
The best gift life can give is meeting folks like you.
And may the holiday spirit that forever endures
Leave its richest blessing in the hearts of you and yours.

—Anonymous

Thanks for being you!

—Sandra Ware, *Activities Director*

FROM THE OFFICE OF OUR ADMINISTRATOR

December, 2011



Dane A. Rank
Administrator

Dear Volunteers,

Thank you for your continued efforts and goodwill for the benefit of the residents of Thompson House. You all bring the best of our community to everyone here. You make Thompson House a dynamic, engaging, and fun place to be, and you make a difference in the lives of everyone you touch through your volunteering.

Our community outreach this Summer showcased many of the activity programs we offer. These included a special on our Activity Program in *The Commons*, a *Reformer* and *Observer* special on a visit from Governor Shumlin, and continued radio and television spots to tout our very high quality of programming and care. Thompson House continued this year to be ranked by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as Windham County's only 4-star Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility. This enhances our reputation for quality as the Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility of choice in Brattleboro and the surrounding towns.

We have endeavored to be good neighbors in our operations as well. This year we completed the move of our accounts to local banks with the transition of our operating and payroll accounts to Brattleboro Savings and Loan. The money that we invest in our community continues to benefit the people of Brattleboro and the surrounding towns as those dollars are invested in local people and businesses locally.

In the days following the devastation of hurricane Irene, the Thompson House annual fundraiser was held at the Colonial Pool and Spa. The Splash-A-Thon raised over \$6,700 from our local sponsors. The money raised was to benefit the residents through the "Cooler and Greener" project, an air conditioning and air handling system for resident rooms. However, after seeing how hard our neighbors were hit with financial hardship—losing cars, houses, and livelihoods—it became apparent that we needed to be good neighbors in a time of need. We contacted our contributors to ask for help, and many of you asked that we pool your donation with others to assist our neighbors. Through your good will, Thompson House was able to present the Vermont Food Bank with a check for \$6,300 to assist in the aftermath of the storm. Thank you to our supporters for your kindness and understanding.

Please know that the time you spend painting, worshiping, singing, and playing is treasured by everyone here. You make the day more interesting, the meals more eclectic, and our souls a little lighter. Thank you for everything you do!

Sincerely,



Dane A. Rank, *Administrator*

NEWS FROM THE ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER is a colorful month and we enjoyed many bright, colorful experiences here at Thompson House. We enjoyed many spectacular events. Our team participated in the Senior Olympics in Winchester, NH and we brought back medals which are on display. Thompson House residents were out in force for the Windham County Humane Society's Walk for Animals where we walked and rolled and raised \$100 to benefit the Humane Society. We honored our centenarians with a celebration on Centenarians Day. Many thanks to Dick DeGray for joining us and presenting certificates.

September was Fair Month and we celebrated with music under the Big Top. We enjoyed soulful tunes by Patty Carpenter, vocals by the Hallowell Singers, Ed Fenton, Burdo Family Singers, as well as weekly Tuesday luncheon music with Becky Graber and Father Richard. We were treated to keyboard entertainment

by Blanche Mills, Alice Gausch, Luella Frechette, Pete Harrison, and Eris Howe. We listened to guitar tunes with Ron Quinlan and Gordie Plant, Gin Mill Bill, Dan Sicken and Jim Knapp. Many thanks also to The Brattleboro Music Center Fling Quartet for their monthly breakfast serenade.

September was a tasty month. We had New England clam chowder from the New England House as part of "A Taste of Bratteboro." And we sipped on vodka tonics, rum and cokes, and sombreros for happy hours.

We enjoyed monthly visits from students from Putney Grammar School and Guilford School. We also played poker with Richard Stewart.

We had art exhibits in our Exhibit Hall. We learned new things thanks to lectures with Charles Marchant, Denny Robinson/Athlete, Chris Petrak and Bill Holiday. We were kept up to date with Montpelier updates from Molly Burke, Bob Engel shared his travel experiences with "A look in the rear view mirror," and a farm update was given by Bev and Stuart Thurber.

October brought beautiful color, pumpkins, and lots of fun. We belly laughed with our Fall fashion show brought to us by Doreen Wonderlick and starring her lovely Italian Greyhounds. Huntley Hashagen and Judy LeFevre visited with King Charles Spaniels. And we received licks of love daily thanks to Ronan, Bandi, Jenny, Lady Daphne Doodles, and Clover.

We thrilled to the bagpipe music of Eric Goodchild and Phalan Muller.

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WELCOME, AYL!

WE WELCOME AYL CLARK, performer, teacher, and composer of music for an East European harp known as a "Kanun." Ayla has been performing great music for Thompson House on a volunteer basis while completing her doctoral degree in Music Therapy. She has been involved with Turkish music for more than 35 years. Welcome, Ayla!

New England House

254 Marlboro Road
Brattleboro, VT
254-6886

PETE KERBER, OWNER

NEWS FROM THE ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

continued from previous page

We enjoyed weekly happy hour with Lin Taggard.

We had many intellectually stimulating visits from members of the local community. Rabbi Tom presented a Rosh Hashanah program. We had art classes with Marilyn Allen from River Gallery School and artist Trudy Crites. We viewed Art in Motion with Robin Stronk and Sylvia Jones. We feasted our eyes on a gallery exhibit with John Gurney. We continued to keep up with the changing times with monthly updates from Richard Guthrie. And we watched Linda Stavley and her cooking show and sampled the results.

We experienced the beauty of New England Fall foliage thanks to weekly van outings with Jerry Remillard, Joanne Ulbrandt, Rita Lashway and Steve Rowell.

November is a month to be thankful and we had much to be thankful for. We had lots of pie! Vermont Country Deli treated us to their delicious pumpkin pie as a part of "A Taste of Brattleboro." We were also treated to Dummerston Pie Festival pies. We had a lobster party with Craig and Diana Bills of Gillies Restaurant. We enjoyed hot, out-of-the-oven snacks thanks to Carol Eddy. We are ever grateful to Grafton



Village Cheese for their delicious contributions to our weekly wine and cheese hour. And of course, who can forget Thanksgiving Dinner!

As the weather cooled in November, the music here at Thompson House was hot. Alan Dann got our Estey organ cooking. Eugene Uman treated us to a jazz concert. Bob Hancock played the violin. Richard Sainsbury sang for us. Jim Kurty and his Extension

Band provided a great performance. We also enjoyed monthly vocals with Tony Barrand, The Bills Band as well as monthly concerts with the Heiles and Marion and Peter Abell.

We danced in our seats with the Argentine Tango Dancers and Marlboro Music and Sword Dancers. The New England Center for the Circus Arts visited and provided an awesome performance.

Visits included a horticulture presentation by Mark Malloy. We had Spanish lessons with Brattleboro Union High School Spanish teacher Judy Abascal. We enjoyed weekly Bingo and "The Rhema Word" with Carolyn Blake Deyo.

Thanks to all of you and the many others too numerous to mention. We enjoy each day to the fullest.

GILLIES RESTAURANT

911 Western Avenue
West Brattleboro, VT



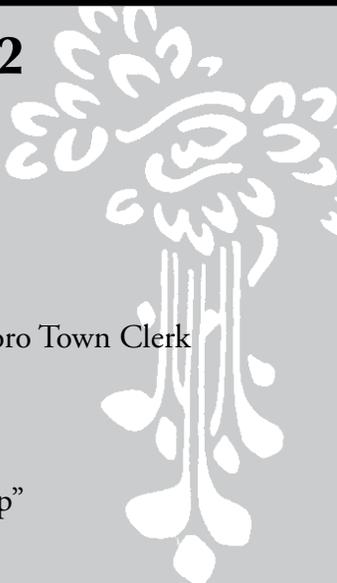
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ACTIVITY MOTTO

*I never play as though
tomorrow will come,
but I always act like
it will never end.*

UPCOMING EVENTS • 2012

- Venison Dinner
- Eugene Friesen, cello concert
- Soft serve ice cream
- Patti Smith, beaver lecture
- Visit from Annette Cappy, Brattleboro Town Clerk
- Bagpipe music
- “Achoird Taste,” vocals band
- Cheryl Wilfong, “Mindfulness group”
- Sleigh ride at Fair Winds Farm
- Trip to Mohegan Sun gambling casino
- Trip to Maine



WE WERE THERE:

BRATTLEBORO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL HEALTH FAIR

COMMUNITY SERVICE

WE AT THOMPSON HOUSE keep on cooking! Thanks to Helen Davis, Director of our Cooks Corner Program, we continue to bake for the Brattleboro Area Drop-In Center and Turning Point.

SHARING EXPERIENCES

We always welcome:

- ◆ Collections to share
- ◆ Small animal visits
- ◆ Singers, musicians and performers
- ◆ Adventure travel: a trip to share
- ◆ Gallery exhibits, art and sculpture



Avenue Grocery

82 Western Avenue, Brattleboro

GENERAL STORE

7 AM - 9 PM

HOT DOGS • GROCERIES

SOFT SERVE ICE CREAM

257-1846

THOMPSON HOUSE MAKES THE NEWS

◆ *Brattleboro Reformer, September 2011*

Article by Josh Stilts

Thompson House celebrated Centenarians Day honoring residents Sophie Blodgett, 104, and Marian Pritchett, 102, with guest speaker Brattleboro Selectboard Chairman Dick DeGray.

◆ *The Commons, October 2011*

Article by Thelma O'Brien

Regional artists bring their work to Thompson House for monthly gallery shows and conversations thanks to the kind and dedicated efforts of numerous local artists including Leonard Ragouzeos, organizer and visiting artist.



Senior Olympian receives medal.



SUPER THANKS...

- ◆ to Steve Donovan for the beautiful mural.
- ◆ to Bill and Betty Tyler for Thompson House's brand new, deluxe popcorn machine.
- ◆ to Orly Munzing and Strolling of the Heifers for wonderful activities, generous fundraiser participation and financial support.

WISH LIST

- ★ Holiday glasses for special cocktails
- ★ Gifts for birthday presents
- ★ Scarves, chocolate bars, Red Sox hats
- ★ Current magazines for magazine rack
- ★ Bag candy
- ★ CD players

HAPPY HOUR SERVICE

Cheese & crackers
courtesy of

**Grafton Village
Cheese Company**

www.graftonvillagecheese.com

VERMONT COUNTRY DELI

436 Western Ave.
Brattleboro, VT

Exit 2 off I-91

SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR GREAT VOLUNTEERS

ONCE AGAIN, Fall and Winter are upon us with the ever present potential for colds, flu, and all other “bugs” that come with weather change. To keep our residents safe during this time of year, I would like to remind all of you to:

- ▼ Remember to wash your hands or use hand sanitizers frequently.
- ▼ Cough or sneeze into your shoulder or into a tissue.
- ▼ If you are ill with a fever, cough, or temperature, please call us to let us know and stay home and get well.
- ▼ Eat healthy foods, get plenty of rest, and exercise, and we will have a healthy Fall and Winter for everybody—volunteers, residents and staff.

Happy Holidays!

—Sandy Merkle, RN,
Infection Control

VOLUNTEER REMINDERS

- ◆ Please wear a name tag
- ◆ Please remember to respect the confidentiality of our residents
- ◆ Please knock on doors before entering
- ◆ Please call us if you feel your health would put our residents at risk

—Sandy Merkle, RN,
Infection Control



VOLUNTEER WISH LIST

- ❖ Volunteers to be a friendly visitor
- ❖ Volunteers to lead a craft class
- ❖ Volunteers to read to residents



SPECIAL THANKS

WE SALUTE **CHUCK CUMMINGS** and we are very grateful for Thompson House’s Charles Cummings Activity Area. Thanks, Chuck!



Lobster dinners!

THANK YOU

THANKS to everyone who helped with our fund-raising efforts at the Vermont Welcome Center. We raised over \$1,000 dollars for our Activity Program.

WELCOME CENTER HELPERS

Corporate Sponsors

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Todd Frost
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Lisa Kemp
Marcia Charlonne
Donald Chaffee
Orly Munzing



Resident Workers

Marie
Florence
Grace

On-Site Volunteers

Nancy Lord
Meredith MacDonald
John and Cindy Wilcox
Ben Abel
Bess Richardson
Richard Guthrie
Shayne Berry
Connie Healey
Alice Gausch
Sandy Merkle
Dane Rank
Toby Price
Lin Taggard

Bakers

Mary Jones
Teresa Massiello
Donna Brofsky
Les and Arlene Sherman
Judy LeFevre
Katie O'Bryan
Ruby Nadeau
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Cheryl LaBarge
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Alice Gausch
Dot Atomanuk
Sheila Groeger
Doris Stephens

The *Volunteer Gazette* is published quarterly by the Activities Department at Thompson House.



Thompson House

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