



# Volunteer Gazette

Thompson House

REHABILITATION & NURSING CENTER ♦ RESIDENTIAL CARE ♦ OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THOMPSON HOUSE

SPRING 2014

BRATTLEBORO MUTUAL AID  
ASSOCIATION, INC.  
2014

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## FRIENDS OF THOMPSON HOUSE

**A** GREAT BIG THANKS for seeing us through another holiday season. Looking out my window yesterday, I saw a robin — a sure sign that Spring is just around the corner. Welcome, Spring! And we have many plans to make this Spring a joyful one. Our volunteers continue to make it possible for us to provide a varied activity program. You are so much loved.

—Sandra Ware  
*Activities Director*



Santa and Mrs. Claus brought holiday cheer to Thompson House, thanks to David and Shirley Emery.

## FROM THE OFFICE OF MARK MALLOY, RN

March, 2014

I WAS RAISED with dogs as a part of my life. Growing up we always had at least one as part of the family.

Never doubt that dogs are family members. Their unconditional love and devotion speak volumes to the role of the canine in our daily lives. Always happy to see you when you come through the door, even if you just went out to get the mail, it would be no different of a greeting than if you had been gone all day. No matter how many toys they have, dogs would much rather spend time with their human playing together or just chillin'.

Many people have to end their relationship with their pets when they go into a long-term care facility. Others have not been able to care for a pet for some time and miss that bond and companionship. There are very few days in the calendar year that do not have some form of animal visit at Thompson House. The range is astounding—from rabbits to dogs to donkeys and llamas, sheep and goats, heifers and miniature horses—to raptors and birds of prey.



Ronan

I am fortunate that I can bring my dog to work twice a week to visit with residents. We make our rounds and I watch as he works his magic with those he comes into contact with. The enthusiastic greetings he receives from residents and staff make me smile. I am amazed when residents with limited word usage speak in full sentences or when residents see me but look at my hip first to see if Ronan is here. For those of you who don't know, Ronan is a miniature dachshund and he visits the floors in a sling-type carrier. He is then at the perfect height for residents who are sitting or in wheelchairs. The joy in residents' eyes when they see him, and pat his head, and ask questions, and share stories about pets they have owned and loved, is beyond measure. And for me, this joy is many times more therapeutic than anything that comes in pill form.

For the residents who have given up so much of who they were prior to facility life, a pet visit is a piece of who they were. And even if it is just for that moment, there is total JOY. For that one moment there is no pain. For that one moment, there is tail wagging and unconditional love.

—Mark Malloy, RN

### SPECIAL THANKS

WE SALUTE Chuck Cummings and we remain very grateful for Thompson House's Charles Cummings Activity Area. Thanks, Chuck!

### DEDICATION

We dedicate the Spring 2014 *Volunteer Gazette* to the many groups, clubs, and organizations in Brattleboro and surrounding towns who continuously touch our lives. To the many schools, restaurants, volunteers and concerned individuals who help us remain active, participating members of our community, we say "Thanks."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH

- Mar 12 Visit from Southern Vermont Natural History Museum
- Mar 19 Trip to Montpelier

### APRIL

- Trip to Mohegan Sun

### JUNE

- Jun. 11 Swampbats baseball game
- Jun. 15-28 Key Bank Exhibit

### JULY

- July 4 Parade participation
- July 20 Westmoreland Band



Residents enjoy getting outdoors for some fresh air with the Polar Bear Club.

## Letter from the Family of a Resident

*The contributions of the volunteers make such a difference in the lives of the residents. Mom loves the Stockwell family singers, bingo, bagpipe music, the trip to Mohegan Sun, visits from the miniature horses, and the goodies that local restaurants, stores, and farms donate. Thank you all for sharing! Our sincere thanks to all volunteers.*

—LAFOUNTAIN FAMILY

## WELCOME, MARY WOODS

**Admissions Coordinator,  
Social Services**

MARY HAS LIVED in the Brattleboro area for 21 years, is happily married, has two daughters and a miniature Eskimo dog, Rosie. Despite being born in Mississippi, Mary feels very much at home in Vermont. Before coming to Thompson House, Mary has worked at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital as a staff nurse for 12 years, and also has 8 years experience working for the State of Vermont in long-term Medicaid Choices for Care. Welcome, Mary!

## JOIN US!

**Neighbors Caring for  
Neighbors Block Party**  
on the flat-bed truck  
Bluegrass & Country music

**Saturday, June 21**  
**1:30 – 3:30 PM**

*Join Jim Knapp and Friends,  
in front of Thompson House!*

## Volunteer Quote

*“After all my years of working as a nurse in long-term care, I immensely enjoy having so much fun with the residents in the Activities Program.”*

—JULIE MERRIGAN,  
VOLUNTEER & RETIRED RN

## GENESIS REHABILITATION AT THOMPSON HOUSE

THOMPSON HOUSE has a reputation in the community as a great nursing home. What is not well known is that we have a full service rehabilitation department. Thompson House Rehabilitation is provided by Genesis Healthcare Services, one of the largest nationwide rehabilitation companies. At Thompson House, treating older adults is our specialty. Our staff is comprised of Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapists. Each individual’s treatment is designed to maximize progress, and all goals are set with the involvement of patient and family. We also have an outpatient license which allows us to treat members of the community. We do not have a waiting list. There are too many treatment options to list, so if you or a loved one needs therapy, or if you just have questions, please contact Monica Mattocks, Rehabilitation Manager, at (802) 257-3740. After all, we are “neighbors caring for neighbors.”



Friends from the VT/NH Veterinary Clinic brought rabbits to visit.

## COOK'S CORNER & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**S**PRING WILL SURELY be a wonderful sight to see after such a long Winter. We, here at Cook's Corner dislike this frigid weather as much as anyone else, but we do keep warm in our cozy, little kitchen. We have been making a lot of cookies and brownies in addition to our usual sandwiches, which we have been donating to the homeless, as part of the Loaves and Fishes, our Community Project. Our volunteer, Jean, also helps us and we thank her very much. We are going to continue with this project, as it gives us so much satisfaction. We also have been enjoying some of the things we make (just a little...).

The Sunset Cooking Group continues. This group has the opportunity to enjoy the smells. Some residents assist when they wait. This is a big cookie crowd. We make things that smell so good that the smells drift up to the other floors, so we are told. The Sunset Dining continues monthly. The restaurant-like setting is enjoyed by all.

We occasionally have a family member or two join us. We always welcome visitors to our little kitchen. See you next time when the flowers will be blooming.

—Kathy Clark, *Cook's Corner*

"It is important to have a twinkle in your wrinkle."

## WORSHIP UPDATE

**T**HE CHURCH of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints offers worship every Sunday at 2:00 PM in the Charles Cummings Activity Area on the lower level. All are invited.

## WE WELCOME NEW FACES

Toby Price  
Christine Douglass  
Eddie Benoit  
Kelly Carter

### Retreat Petting Farm

LINDEN STREET

257-2240

Thanks for goat visit, Fall 2013.

### The Marina

(802) 257-7563

Putney Rd., Brattleboro, VT 05301



VermontMarina.com

*Thanks, Kate.*

## CULINARY NEWS

**H**ERE AT THOMPSON HOUSE, we continue to provide the freshest choices in locally grown foods. We are currently in the process of changing food suppliers, but we will continue to use Windham Farms as a local, farm-fresh produce provider, and will also include fresh foods from Black River Produce, a company out of Springfield, Vermont.

—Vincent Milano

*Food Service Director, Fitz Vogt & Assoc.*

### 4-LEAF CLOVER RESTAURANT

19 South Street  
Barnardston, MA 01337

*Thanks so much.*

### HAPPY HOUR SERVICE

Cheese & crackers  
*courtesy of*

### Grafton Village Cheese Company

www.graftonvillagecheese.com

*Thanks, Lin Taggard.*



Jazz pianist Eugene Uman and reknowned vocalist Samirah Evans provided a splendid performance during the Mardi Gras festivities.

## NEW EVENTS

- **Thompson House cinema and bag lunch** – Once a month we enjoy a flick, classic, or new release on our large screen TV in the Chuck Cummings Activity Area.
- **Polar Bear Club** – Every Thursday at 4:00 PM residents don Winter coats, blankets, and hats, and join volunteer Peg Lemnah to venture out into the elements for a breath of fresh air! The air is pretty fresh at 10-12°. It has been nippy!
- Every Tuesday at 2:30 PM the **Womens' Group** and the **Mens' Group** alternate meetings, so each group meets every other week. This activity is co-directed by Social Services and Activities.

## HEALTH TIPS FOR SPRINGTIME

**SPRING IN VERMONT** is a great time of year. Plants are coming up and everyone is anxious to get outside. Make sure during this time that you stay healthy, because it is easy to catch a Spring cold. You should continue to follow the golden rule of infection control and keep up with all the important things you should do:

- ❁ Get plenty of rest
- ❁ Eat a well-balanced diet
- ❁ Exercise
- ❁ Wash your hands frequently
- ❁ If you become ill, stay away from other people.

Enjoy the great outdoors, Spring, and stay healthy and well!

—Sandy Merkle, RN  
*Infection Control*

## GENTLE REMINDERS

- ❖ Please wear a name tag.
- ❖ Please knock on doors before entering.
- ❖ Please remember to respect the confidentiality of our residents.
- ❖ When in communication with our folks, please be aware of who is hard of hearing, who may be cognitively impaired, and who may have visual impairments or other barriers which may impact the way in which they respond.
- ❖ Remember, nicknames are only permitted with resident's approval.
- ❖ Make sure you are aware of any and all dietary restrictions before serving residents any food or drinks. Can they feed themselves? Do their liquids need to be thickened?

—Sandy Merkel, RN  
*Infection Control*



Jane S. visits with miniature horses from Gerda's Animal Aid Horse Rescue. Residents donated to Rescue and received a nice thank you in return.

## THOMPSON HOUSE GLEE CLUB

**T**HOMPSON HOUSE GLEE CLUB continues to meet monthly under the direction of Becky Graber, Director of the Women's Chorus. Our last concert was held Friday, Feb. 10. Our next concert will be held in the summer and open to the public.



Marie O. uses the library. Thanks to Edna Fletcher and Jeannie Walker, our library volunteers.

## THOMPSON HOUSE MAKES THE NEWS

- ❖ *Brattleboro Reformer, Winter, 2014*  
Photos of Becky Tracy and Keith Murphy and students of Brattleboro Music Center playing Celtic music at Thompson House
- ❖ *Brattleboro Reformer, Winter, 2014*  
Thompson House Glee Club upcoming concert listing in *Around Windham County News*
- ❖ *Brattleboro Reformer, Winter, 2014*  
Brattleboro Women's Chorus singing valentines at Thompson House

## DREAMS HAPPEN UPDATE

SEVERAL RESIDENTS have enjoyed having their dreams fulfilled. Our sports-minded dreamers are planning and looking forward to a trip to Keene, New Hampshire to watch the Swampbats play baseball. Thanks, Rick Durkee, our sports volunteer.

### *Quote from a Family Member*

*I am writing to say kudos to you and all those fabulous volunteers who made the holidays at Thompson House feel like "coming home." The decorations and activities were fun, yet warm, and the music gave many people a sense of how much they enjoyed the holidays "back in the day." Thanks again.*

**KELLY CARTER**

—DAUGHTER OF A RESIDENT

## WISH LIST

**WE ARE ALWAYS GRATEFUL FOR:**

- ❖ forcythias to force
- ❖ pussywillows
- ❖ liquor for special events
- ❖ plastic glasses for cocktails
- ❖ gifts for birthday presents
- ❖ scarves
- ❖ current magazines for our magazine rack
- ❖ chocolate for "A Taste of Chocolate"
- ❖ scratch tickets
- ❖ playing cards

## Avenue Grocery

82 Western Avenue, Brattleboro

GENERAL STORE  
7 AM - 9 PM

HOT DOGS • GROCERIES  
SOFT SERVE ICE CREAM

257-1846

## PARADISE FARM SUGARHOUSE

Rte. 9/Marlboro Road  
Brattleboro, VT 05303-2358

**(802) 258-2026**

*Thanks for monthly cider donuts & coffee!*

## HOLLANDS BLOOM

*Thank you, Linda Bailey.*



Beautiful flower gardens, flower beds, Fall & Winter arrangements

254-6965

## PANDA NORTH

*Chinese & Japanese Restaurant*

1332 Putney Road • Brattleboro, VT

Tel: 257-4578 / 257-4486

www.pandanorth.com

*Thanks for order-out Chinese luncheons!*

## NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Peter Gould juggled for us!
- Thanks to Marion and Peter Abell, we hosted our tailgate party.
- Residents enjoyed a harp and recorder concert with Joan and Gerhardt.
- David and Shirley Emery visited as Santa and Mrs. Claus.
- Activities hosted a pancake brunch. Mary Jones made pancakes, Meredith made bacon, Kathy Clark made fresh fruit salad and we enjoyed berry pie from Dutton Farm.
- Doris Stephens shares her creative talents monthly. Thanks for berry vases too!
- Brattleboro Music Center quartet entertains monthly – thanks Michelle L., Sabine R., Alex O. and Peggy S.
- Special thanks to Bev Perna for Valentine's Day table decorations
- Argentine Tango Dancers visit quarterly – thanks A Choired Taste and great music
- Thanks to breakfast buffet entertainers Piano Pete and Jack Arensmeyer on guitar.
- Thanks to SingCrony quartet for great vocals.
- Thompson House Library is getting a facelift, thanks to Jeanne Walker and Edna Fletcher.
- Residents travelled to "The Farm" in Chesterfield, NH to view a Christmas display.
- Resident Blanche Mills volunteers regularly to play the piano.
- Residents were treated to a slide show and lecture by Chris Petrak entitled "Winter Birds."
- Frantz Robert, 16-year-old jazz prodigy, and Bill Forchion, vocalist, presented a concert for us.
- Residents hosted a retirement party for Toby Price.
- Several residents are voting by way of an absentee ballot. Thanks, Annette Cappy, Brattleboro Town Clerk, for visiting. And thanks also Edna Fletcher, our ballot volunteer.
- We enjoyed many carolers, the American Legion Band, Lynn Caulfield and friends, Pickles Bedard and friends, Boy Scout troop 405 (thanks, Jeannie Crosby), Ken & Cal Heile and friends, Fred and Ginny – accordion music, Peter and Marion Abell, Eris Howe, Ron Banks, Alan Dann on organ, Gin Mill Bill, Jim Knapp, Banjo Dan, Just Us, Little Edie, Bills Band, Andrea Howe, Luella Frechette, Shelly Sparks, Jim Kurty and more.
- We made jewelry with Julie Shonbeck.
- Thanks Matan Rubenstein and Putney Grammar School for the fabulous concert!
- Mardi Gras festivities included tattoos, beads, a parade, and musicians Samirah Evans and Eugene Uman.
- Mollie Burke visited with the report from Montpelier.

## THANKS TO EXHIBITORS

- Sandra Dowley – counted croosstitch
- Phyllis Krisher – tatted tablecloth
- Vera Harrington – quilts, crocheted dress
- Richard Sainsbury – Presidents exhibit
- Sue Cleveland – Northern Lights
- Edna Fletcher – quilt
- Bev Perna – wall hanging
- Caryn King – animal paintings
- Kathy Meeks – felting
- Erin Clark – photography

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK...



Peter Gould juggled for our pleasure.



### THOMPSON HOUSE EXHIBIT

THOMPSON HOUSE EXHIBITS IN THE WINDOW OF KEY BANK:

JUNE 15 - 28.



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.ThompsonHouse.info](http://www.ThompsonHouse.info)

## THANK YOU

WE EXTEND A VERY BIG THANKS to staff, residents, families, volunteers, and Board members!

- ◆ Betheny Kemp – Christmas cards
- ◆ Chuck Cummings – magazines
- ◆ Sue Cleveland – odds & ends
- ◆ Guilford School – decorations
- ◆ Ernie Clark Family – candy
- ◆ LaFountain Family – glasses, stuffed animals
- ◆ Doris Stephens – monthly decorations
- ◆ Eleanore Robinson Family – poinsettia
- ◆ Ruth Struthers Family – cocktails
- ◆ Windham Regional Career Center – center pieces
- ◆ George & Polly Pond – playing cards
- ◆ Community Bible Chapel – flowers
- ◆ Judy Abascal – magazine subscription
- ◆ Cheryl LaBarge Family – CDs
- ◆ Margaret Bemis – glasses, cocktails
- ◆ Perna Family – crafts, glasses, wine
- ◆ Vera Harrington – popcorn, chocolate
- ◆ Donna Borofsky – playing cards
- ◆ Tim O'Connor – candy canes
- ◆ Newfane Congregational Church – Neighborhood Night
- ◆ Nancy Olson – cookies
- ◆ Avenue Grocery – magazines
- ◆ Tina Blust – chocolate
- ◆ Sid & Eva Sherman – wooden sculptures

THANKS TO ALL STAFF who go above and beyond the call of duty to aid in Activity success. Apologies to anyone not mentioned in this issue of the *Volunteer Gazette*.

### VOLUNTEER WISH LIST

- ❖ Volunteer to read to residents
- ❖ Volunteer to play Scrabble
- ❖ Volunteer to show cinema programs
- ❖ Volunteers to sit on the patio.

### SPECIAL KUDOS

- ◆ Rotary Club – Christmas presents
- ◆ Kelly Carter – presents
- ◆ Deborah Ronzano – financial contribution
- ◆ Krisher Family – financial donation for plants in the garden

### SPECIAL THANKS

- ◆ Edna Fletcher – laprobes
- ◆ Hinsdale Elementary School – valentines
- ◆ Chuck Ranney – beads
- ◆ Chief Bob Edwards – videos from West Dover
- ◆ Toby Price – financial donation
- ◆ Judy Lawrence – cards
- ◆ Linden Gardens – bouquets of flowers



Mardi Gras festivities

### SHARING YOUR LIFE EXPERIENCES

*We always welcome:*

- ◆ travel slides
- ◆ collections to share
- ◆ singers, musicians & performers
- ◆ small and/or exotic animal visits
- ◆ gallery exhibits, art & sculpture

### SPECIAL TOASTS

WE TOASTED HOLIDAYS, birthdays, snow and just about anything with Rum punch, sombreros, white Russians, vodka tonics, whiskey sours, rum and Cokes, drunken cocktails, and cider and rum.

### A TASTE OF BRATTLEBORO

MANY THANKS for our recent dining experiences which included:

- ❖ smoked salmon and crackers
- ❖ lemon cake – Rita Lashway
- ❖ donuts from Paradise Farm
- ❖ cookie varieties & hot fudge – Mary Jones
- ❖ shrimp cocktail – Fitz Vogt
- ❖ prizzells – Joanne Ulbrandt
- ❖ spanikopita – Ayla Clark
- ❖ shrimp platter – Judy Abascal
- ❖ meatballs / Happy Hour – Melinda Taggard
- ❖ soft serve ice cream – Avenue Grocery
- ❖ Cooking show monthly – Vinny from Fitz Vogt
- ❖ popcorn – Bill Tyler
- ❖ many tastes – Carol Eddy
- ❖ spuds on the run, baked potatoes with the works, garlic hummus & crackers monthly – Brattleboro Food Coop
- ❖ V.I.P. pizza
- ❖ Polish luncheon – Sandy Merkle
- ❖ lunch at the 4-leaf Clover
- ❖ order out from Panda North
- ❖ French fries from McDonalds

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



Thompson House

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