



Volunteer Gazette

Thompson House

REHABILITATION & NURSING CENTER ♦ RESIDENTIAL CARE ♦ OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THOMPSON HOUSE

SUMMER 2014

BRATTLEBORO MUTUAL AID
ASSOCIATION, INC.
2014

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FRIENDS OF THOMPSON HOUSE

SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVING IS EASY: we dare to be silly, we celebrate wild Fridays, we eat lots of chocolate, we drink cocktails weekly, we pick flowers on our patio and we relax. Again, thanks to our many volunteers who support our Activities Department in so many ways. Thanks for sharing your time, talents and energy to make our lives joyful and a little bit magical. You are gems!

—Sandra Ware
Activities Director



A highlight of Spring: a bald eagle visits from the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum in Marlboro, Vermont.

FROM THE OFFICE OF OUR ADMINISTRATOR



Dane A. Rank
Administrator

July, 2014

Dear Volunteers,

It's another great summer at Thompson House. Sandy has been busy planning outdoor concerts, van rides, a fishing trip, and many other activities for the next three months. Thank you to everyone who is involved in making these events happen. It means so much to everyone here to be able to get so much activity in during the summer months.

Through all of this, our dedicated rehabilitation team continues to keep everyone up and going at their highest possible level. Unsteady gait, poor balance, and lack of awareness of our environment can lead to trips, falls, and unfortunately, fractures. Our outpatient rehabilitation service meets the needs of people in our community who want to work with Physical and Occupational Therapists to keep us standing straight, walking tall, and to help prevent the bigger injuries that keep us out of the action during the busy summer months. Thompson House will work with your insurance company to get you the benefits that keep you healthy. We offer transportation within Brattleboro to those community members who want to keep fit and head off any problems before they start.

So enjoy all of the walking, digging, and swimming this summer, and feel free to give us a call if we can help you maintain or improve your physical conditioning. You deserve to get the most out of this summer. Thank you for making everyone's lives a little better with your involvement at Thompson House.

Sincerely,



Dane A. Rank, *Administrator*



DEDICATION

WE DEDICATE THIS ISSUE of the *Volunteer Gazette* to our friend and long-term volunteer, Connie Healey. Connie recently retired to spend more time traveling and visiting with family. Connie became involved with the Activities Department in 2005 and has been a regular volunteer ever since. Connie has worked in many capacities including executing office work, providing transportation to activities, helping with fundraisers at the Welcome Center, giving birthday recognition to residents, and so much more. We honor you and say "Thanks for being you."

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- July 4 - Participation in July 4th parade. Residents will be watching from the Bank too!
- July 7 - Retirement party for Dr. Taylor-Olson
- July 11 - David Schoales, Select Board update
- July 11 - Glee Club concert
- July 16 - Kona ice cream truck
- July 20 - Westmoreland town Band concert (outside)
- July 22 - Pedestrian safety rally at the crosswalk on Maple St.
- July 23 - Trip to Mohegan Sun for casino action
- July 24 - Residential band concert

AUGUST

- Aug. 27 - Trip to Maine

ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER

THE ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT is running a 50/50 raffle fundraiser. One chance: \$1.00, six chances: \$5.00. Everybody wins in the end! All proceeds are for Summer special events, "Ding Dong" ice cream cart, restaurant outings, and more. For more information, or to make a donation to Activities, please contact Sandy Ware, Activities Director.

SHARING YOUR LIFE EXPERIENCES

We always welcome:

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

We do not stop playing because we grow old.
We grow old because we stop playing.

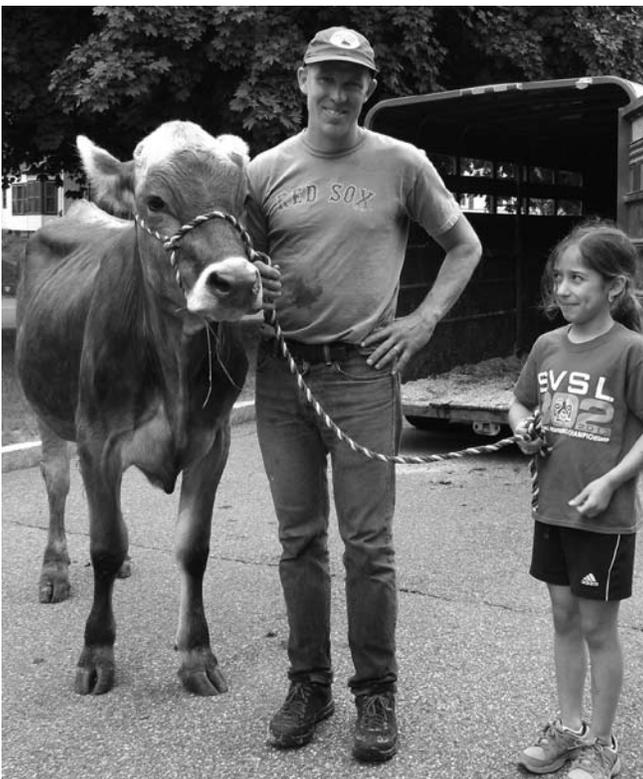
WELCOME

KATHLEEN SAUNDERS is our new Business Office Manager. We welcome her to our Thompson House family. It will be comforting to know that Kathleen is taking care of business.

Employee Quote

"Volunteers bring in bright smiles and happiness to all of the residents which in turn is contagious."

—MONIME, STAFF NURSE



Strolling of the Heifers comes to Thompson House. Thanks Bev and Ross Thurber and family.



Thompson House residents visit Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory.



Resident Quote

"Volunteers are important because they brighten our days. Many times volunteers are our eyes to describe flowers and birds to us. They guide us around the building so we can experience different activities. Volunteers make us feel good all over."

—PEGGY COTY

SPECIAL THANKS

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

West River Marina

28 Springtree Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301

❖
(802) 257-7563

www.vermontmarina.com

4-LEAF CLOVER RESTAURANT

19 South Street
Barnardston, MA 01337

Thanks so much!

SIDE HILL FARM

P.O. Box 1558
Brattleboro, VT 05301

(802) 254-2018

- ◆ Handmade Jams & Toppings
- ◆ Jams for distribution at the Volunteer Dinner

Avenue Grocery

82 Western Avenue, Brattleboro

GENERAL STORE
7 AM – 9 PM

HOT DOGS • GROCERIES
SOFT SERVE ICE CREAM

257-1846

THOMPSON HOUSE LIBRARY UPDATE

OUR LIBRARY has a new face. Thanks to Edna Fletcher and Kate Snow, our library is open 24/7. Come visit and browse our large selection of books available: poetry, mystery, large print history books, and much more. Look for your favorite author.

Our June Open House was a huge success. Watch your calendar and be sure to visit the library during our next library event in August.



A friendly alpaca visits residents on the patio.

THOMPSON HOUSE MAKES THE NEWS

- ❖ *Facebook, Spring, 2014*
Intergenerational Chorus Concert with Andy Davis
- ❖ *Facebook, Spring, 2014*
Southern Vermont Natural History Museum bald eagle visit
- ❖ *Brattleboro Reformer, Spring, 2014*
Eugene Uman and Jim Kurty and the Vermont Jazz Ensemble



Strawberry Hill Fiddlers entertained us, thanks to Peter Amidon.

THOMPSON HOUSE GLEE CLUB

THE THOMPSON HOUSE Glee Club continues to meet monthly under the direction of Becky Graber, Director of the Women's Chorus. Our next concert will be held at Thompson House on July 11th at 2:30 PM. Our August concert will be held on August 8 at 12 PM and will be in The River Garden. All are invited to come and sing along.



Sandy and Meredith clown around.

WISH LIST

WE ARE ALWAYS GRATEFUL FOR:

- ❖ playing cards
- ❖ framed paintings for rooms
- ❖ plastic glasses for cocktails
- ❖ gifts for birthday presents
- ❖ chocolate for treats –
“A Taste of Chocolate”
- ❖ scarves
- ❖ men's ties
- ❖ scratch tickets

GENTLE REMINDERS

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Please knock on all doors before entering.
- ❖ Be aware of the need for good hand hygiene.
- ❖ If taking residents outside, please be aware that some of our folks take medications that make them very susceptible to sunburns. Make sure sunscreen is applied to exposed skin.
- ❖ 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?
- ❖ Please wear a name tag.
- ❖ Please remember to respect the confidentiality of our residents.
- ❖ Please call us if you feel your health would put our residents at risk.

—Sandy Merkel, RN
Infection Control

WE WELCOME NEW FACES

Emily Coutant	Frances Temple
Phil Stimmel	Tim O'Connor
Toby Price	Kate Snow
Frank Verzano	

THANKS TO EXHIBITORS

- Richard Sainsbury – Scottish Exhibit
- Putney Grammar School – artwork
- Bill Steele – photography exhibit
- Guilford School – monthly donations
- Edna Fletcher – quilt exhibit
- Erin Clark – photography
- Robin Stronk – art exhibit
- Polly Wright – art exhibit
- Meredith MacDonald – maxine
- Linda Farnum – ladybug exhibit
- Cheryl LaBarge – games
- Activities – linen exhibit
- Guilford School – abstract art exhibit
- Jeanne Rueter – nesting doll exhibit
- Marion Unsicker – art exhibit

*Letter of Thanks to
Thompson House*

June 2014

Dear Thompson House Cook's Corner:

Thank you so much for the sandwiches, cookies, and muffins. We really appreciate this! Your donation helps provide meals for hungry people in Brattleboro. Thank you.

—LOAVES AND FISHES
BRATTLEBORO, VT



Morris dancers welcome Spring!

COOK'S CORNER & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SUMMER HAS FINALLY ARRIVED. It was a long, cold Winter but our delightful cooks helped to keep us warm and comfortable. Now that warm weather is with us, we are trying some new things. Cookies made with cake mix are always a big hit. Recently, we had Key Lime cookies. We're looking into making our own ice cream. We have a recipe that takes about 20 minutes and the final product is like delicious soft serve ice cream.

Our Community Project is going well. We make about 40 sandwiches in a little more than an hour. This project is a favorite of our Cooks' Corner group, and is greatly appreciated by the Loaves and Fishes Organization. We also send sweet goodies we have made. Our treats gets transported promptly, thanks to volunteer Jean Momaney.

The Sunset Cooking group continues to be a big success. Group members also contribute to the Loaves & Fishes Community Project by making sweet goodies. Sunset Dining is greatly accepted, as well. The idea of a few people and a restaurant type setting is enjoyed by all who attend.

Recently, we added something new: Thompson House cinema and lunch. This is a small group of people who get together once a month to watch a full length movie while having their lunch at the same time. We have seen "The Butler," "Grumpy Old Men," and most recently, the epic movie "Titanic." We are looking into a musical for next time.

Have a great and safe summer.

—Kathy Clark
Cook's Corner

VOLUNTEER WISH LIST

- ❖ Volunteer to lead a weekly current events group
- ❖ Volunteer to read *Brattleboro Reformer*
- ❖ Volunteer to lead a craft class
- ❖ Volunteer to help weed our nature path
- ❖ Volunteers to be a friendly visitor
- ❖ Volunteers to sit outside with residents
- ❖ Volunteers to help with The Westmoreland Town Band in July
- ❖ Volunteers to bring antique cars to visit

KONA ICE
of New Hampshire
(OUR DING DONG CART)

❖
Jim & Sharon Sweeney
(603) 903-1300

**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, flowers on the grounds
254-6965

HAPPY HOUR SERVICE

Cheese & crackers
courtesy of

**Grafton Village
Cheese Company**

www.graftonvillagecheese.com
Thanks Lin Taggard, Jude Lefevre and Toby Price.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Natalie Rancourt has a son who has been in the news a lot. He's a real hero! Ask about him.
- We take trips to Walmart regularly.
- We have enjoyed Pete Harrison on the piano and Andrea Howe on vocals during our breakfast buffet music.
- We enjoy buffet entertainment with Peter and Marion Abell.
- Volunteer Kelly Carter has been helping us with sign work.
- Patty Carpenter entertained us on a Wild Friday.
- Listen for music playing in the elevator.
- Absentee ballots are always available through the Brattleboro Town Clerk's office. Our votes count!
- Our Estey organ has been busy. It was recently played by Alan Dann and Phil Stimmel.
- A shout out of thanks goes to Joe Cook for our baby lamb visit.
- Residents receive presents on their birthdays.
- Residents enjoyed a Vermont Jazz Center Ensemble Concert, thanks to Eugene Uman and Jim Kurty.
- Dr. Ron Svec, VT/NH Veterinarian, visited and shared his Iditarod moments.
- Our plants are under the watchful eye of Renee Durkee.
- We are learning Spanish, thanks to Judy Abascal and Rosa Anderson.
- We enjoy monthly Brattleboro Music Center concerts. Recently, we listened to "Fling," a classical music quartet for our breakfast buffet. Thanks Alex, Michelle, Peggy and Sabine.
- Thanks to musician Richard Erickson from Greenfield, MA.
- We thank Kate Judd and The Brattleboro Area Jewish Community for sharing holiday traditions with us.
- Chris Petrak recently hosted a bird slide presentation.
- We thank Mildred Crowninshield for her holiday napkin stamp work.
- Chris Forbes is a regular worship volunteer.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK...



Residents recently dined out at 4-Leaf Clover Restaurant.

TRIPLE CROWN CORNER

IT WAS AN EXCITING horse racing season, thanks to Winchester Stables. We had our own Triple Crown favorite on display which we named California Chrome. We were also ready for the Kentucky Derby with our favorite horse which we named Maple Boy. Maple Boy was on exhibit in the Activity Area of Thompson House. Maple Boy managed to find his way onto Facebook.

DOCUMENTARY AT THOMPSON HOUSE

Thompson House sponsored a film "Granny's Got Game," a documentary film by Angela Gorsica Alford. There were two showings at Thompson House, and a good time was had by all who attended.



Jumping Geckos jumped for joy and our entertainment.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.ThompsonHouse.info

THANK YOU

WE EXTEND A WARM THANKS to staff, families, residents, volunteers and board members. One big "Thanks" for all you do!

- ◆ Stuart and Bev Thurber – Spring plants and lecture
- ◆ Debbie Baker – cocktails, chocolate
- ◆ Margaret Bemis – cocktails
- ◆ Jeanne Rueter – book
- ◆ Joanna Rueter – forcythia
- ◆ Kathy Clark – photos
- ◆ Edna Fletcher – forcythia
- ◆ Eva & Sid Sherman – odds & ends
- ◆ Chuck Cummings – magazines
- ◆ Donna Borofsky – magazines, maple syrup
- ◆ Toby Price – flags
- ◆ Richard Sainsbury – Christmas decorations
- ◆ Sandy Rancourt – Swamp bat baseball tickets
- ◆ Dot Atominuk – rhubarb
- ◆ Kelly's Dance Academy – flowers
- ◆ Mark Malloy – floral work
- ◆ Family of Vera Harrington – cocktails, books
- ◆ Cherie & Todd – table donations
- ◆ Grace LaFountain – cocktail glasses
- ◆ Paul & Mary Miller – magazine subscriptions
- ◆ Julie Shonbeck – costumes
- ◆ Larry LaBarge – plants
- ◆ Joanne Howard – Asian onions
- ◆ Crystal Richter from HCRS – bird houses
- ◆ Victoria Wellman – table cloth
- ◆ Heather MacDonald – cards
- ◆ Mary Copans – hooked rug project
- ◆ Gini Milkey – landscape, mint iced tea
- ◆ Ayla Clark – painting
- ◆ Sue Cleveland – gifts for powerball
- ◆ Roberta Bremmer – popcorn dishes
- ◆ Phyllis Krisher & Family – wine
- ◆ Bess Richardson – flowers
- ◆ Liz & John Wheeler – flowers
- ◆ Ruth Struthers Family – cocktails & chocolate
- ◆ Laurie Chipperfield – lotions
- ◆ Linden Gardens – vases of flowers
- ◆ Chuck Ranney – daffodils

SPECIAL KUDOS

- ◆ Lin Taggard – original H. Dickinson oil painting
- ◆ Alex & Doreen Wonderlick – financial contribution, weekly calendar work, & Italian greyhound fashion shows
- ◆ Frances Nevins – financial contribution
- ◆ Margaret Bemis – financial contribution
- ◆ Pal Borofsky – financial contribution
- ◆ Kate at The Marina – gift certificates & continuous support

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



An Italian greyhound rocks her birthday suit for Thompson House residents.

SPECIAL TOASTS

WE TOASTED HOLIDAYS, birthdays and just about anything with pina coladas, mint julips and margaritas. Thanks to bartenders Gini Milkey, Vinny, and Alexa.

A TASTE OF BRATTLEBORO

MANY THANKS for our recent dining experiences which included:

- ◆ Tim O'Connor – cupcakes and soda bread
- ◆ Paradise Farm – coffee and muffins
- ◆ V.I.P. Pizza – a taste of pizza, smoked salmon and crackers, a taste of beer, a taste of potato chips on Potato Chip Day
- ◆ Mary Jones – monthly cookies, hot fudge topping, lucky cookies, manly cookies and more
- ◆ Dot Atominuk – a taste of rhubarb
- ◆ Bill Tyler – a taste of popcorn, Girl Scout cookies
- ◆ Meredith MacDonald – munchies
- ◆ Lin Taggard – meatballs
- ◆ Sugar on Snow
- ◆ Fitz Vogt – cooking shows
- ◆ Avenue Grocery – soft serve ice cream
- ◆ Activities – a taste of garlic hummus on crackers
- ◆ Kona ice cream truck – a taste of strawberries

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



Thompson House

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