



Thompson House

Volunteer Gazette

REHABILITATION & NURSING CENTER ♦ RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THOMPSON HOUSE

FALL 2010

**BRATTLEBORO MUTUAL AID
ASSOCIATION, INC.
2010-2011**

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FRIENDS OF THOMPSON HOUSE

We at Thompson House strive to provide an environment in which our residents remain active participating members of our community. As we welcome the holiday season, I am reminded daily of our wonderful volunteers who pass through our home on a regular basis. The activities program at Thompson House is built on the firm foundation of our volunteers. You are special people. Thank you for your many acts of kindness.

—Sandra Ware, *Activities Director*

NEWS FROM THE ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

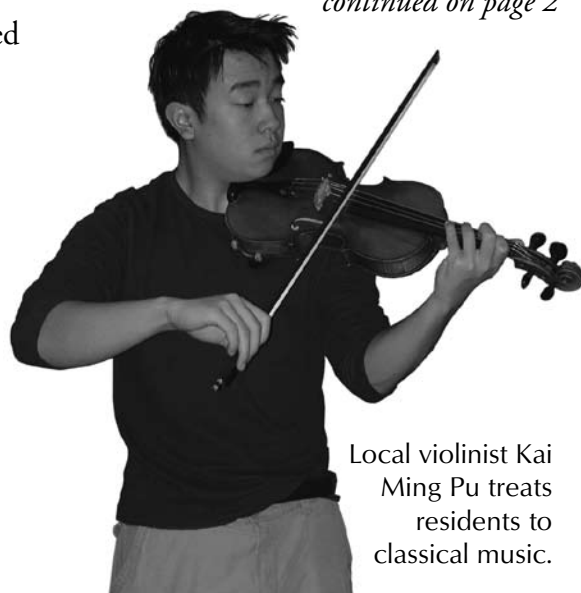
This Fall, our residents took part in a wide range of activities both at home and throughout the community. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make this possible.

Some of our residents participated in the Senior Olympics held in Winchester, New Hampshire. We brought home several medals!

We enjoyed a pleasant day trip in our new van to the seacoast at Nubble Light in York, Maine. Our van also made it possible to enjoy scenic rides throughout our beautiful southern Vermont countryside.

In service to our community, we participated in the Walk and Roll fundraiser for the Windham County Humane Society. Thompson House residents raised over \$100.00.

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Local violinist Kai Ming Pu treats residents to classical music.

FROM THE DESK OF OUR ADMINISTRATOR



Dane A. Rank, Administrator

October 21, 2010

Dear Volunteers,

Due to Vermont regulation, and for the continued safety of our residents, Thompson House is required to perform Criminal Record Background Checks on all personnel who work with residents while unsupervised. This is in no way punitive, or meant to dissuade you from your volunteer work here, which our residents appreciate so very much. Without your continued support, Thompson House would not be able to provide the quality and variety of activities that our residents currently enjoy.

A request for information will be included in the *Volunteer Gazette* for your completion. Please return this to Sandy Ware at your leisure. If you have any questions, or if there is anything about which you wish to speak with me discreetly, please call me directly at (802) 254-4977 extension 201. Be assured that our conversation will be held in the strictest confidence.

Thank you again for all you do for everyone here. My door is always open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dane Rank". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Dane A. Rank, *Administrator*

NEWS FROM THE ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

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Taste of Brattleboro activities included a taste of cheese, thanks to Grafton Cheese, and a taste of New England clam chowder, thanks to New England House. We also enjoyed shrimp cocktail from Gillies restaurant, pumpkin pies from Vermont Country Deli, and soft serve "creemies" from Avenue Grocery.

Around the House, we welcomed a cheerful visit with Franko the donkey from Winchester Stables. We celebrated Centenarian Day with a visit and presentation from Barbara Sondag, Brattleboro Town Manager. Residents also enjoyed golf cart rides around the building grounds. We had many good times this Fall, thanks to our volunteers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On **Friday, May 13** at 11 AM, we will host a dedication of our Green Mountain Nature Trail at Thompson House. All volunteers are invited to attend. If you are interested in helping, please call 254-4977, ext. 242.

MANY THANKS

- Thanks to all volunteers who baked or helped with Fall fundraising at the Vermont Welcome Center. We raised \$1300 for the Activities Department.
- Thanks to Fran Lynggaard Hansen for her wonderful article about Thompson House which was published in *The Commons*.
- Thanks to all volunteers who participated in the September Exhibit Hall. Thanks for supporting the event!
- Thanks for help with our Green Mountain Nature Trail: Sid and Eva Sherman crafted beautifully carved wooden signs and Minta Fish from the Vermont Association for the Blind donated braille for our plant identification markers.

ART DONATIONS

Thanks to “Art in Motion” volunteers Sylvia Jones and Robin Stronk for their generous donations. A painting by Sylvia Jones hangs in the Chuck Cumming activities area. A painting by Robin Stronk will soon be hanging on the main level at Thompson House.

NEW FACE

Please welcome Sarah Horowitz, Assistant Director of Fun. Sarah will be working in Activities 20 hours a week. Welcome, Sarah.

THANKS TO YOU, WE’RE GOING PLACES!

We at **Thompson House** extend our sincerest thanks to everyone who helped make it possible for us to enjoy New England. Brattleboro’s first low emissions, propane, hybrid van was made possible through the generous support of you, our local, organizational, corporate and state sponsors.

Thanks to you, we’re going places!



Cheers! Residents of Thompson House enjoy a scenic trip to Maine, complete with a visit to the shore, lunch at a seafood restaurant and ice cream for dessert.



LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

Please send me your email address so I can keep you up to date with our activities program and notify you of upcoming events. My email address is sware@sover.net.

Please send your mailing address as well, so we can be sure our files are current and correct.

—Sandra Ware,
Activities Director



VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION REMINDERS

- ✓ Please wear a name tag
- ✓ Please wash your hands often and remember the safety tips we provide
- ✓ 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

Remember, if you keep yourself healthy, you keep the residents healthy!

—Sandy Merkle, RN,
Infection Control

SHARING EXPERIENCES

WE ALWAYS WELCOME:

- ❖ small animal visits (pets or farm animals)
- ❖ gallery exhibits / collections to share
- ❖ a hobby to share
- ❖ a trip to share
- ❖ singers, musicians and performers



WISH LIST

- ◆ Current magazines for magazine rack
- ◆ baseball hats and gifts for men (second-hand welcome)
- ◆ 2011 calendars
- ◆ small engine for residents to work on

VOLUNTEER WISH LIST

- ◆ Volunteers to be a friendly visitor
- ◆ Volunteers to read to residents
- ◆ Volunteers to bring magazines and books from room to room
- ◆ Volunteers to bring babies to visit
- ◆ Volunteers to help with holiday/Winter activities
- ◆ Volunteers to help with activities on weekends
- ◆ Volunteers to show movies on weekends
- ◆ Volunteers to play bridge — Any interest?

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



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ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT:
Sandra Ware
(802) 254-4977 ext. 242