



Volunteer Gazette

Thompson House

REHABILITATION & NURSING CENTER ♦ RESIDENTIAL CARE ♦ OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THOMPSON HOUSE

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

BRATTLEBORO MUTUAL AID
ASSOCIATION, INC.
2011-2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

John C. Mabie, Esq. (2011)

Vice President

David Neumeister, DDS (2010)

Secretary

Sheila Groeger (2012)

Treasurer

John Abel (2010)

Betty Tyler (2010)

Richard Guthrie (2010)

Theresa Masiello (2012)

John Wilcox (2012)

Kathleen K. Brooks (2012)

Herb Rest, MD (2010)

Trudy Crites (2013)

Joe Fortier (2013)

Donna Borofsky (2013)

ADVISORY DIRECTORS

Charles Cummings, Esq.

Thomas Johnson

FRIENDS OF THOMPSON HOUSE

Welcome Spring! It was a good Winter and we anticipate a spectacular Spring. A great big Thank You to our volunteers for seeing us through another exciting year. Thanks to you, our Thompson House residents are able to share our community resources, and remain active, participating members of this wonderful community. You make it possible to provide our rich calendar of events, for which we cannot thank you enough. You, our volunteer family, are much loved.

—Sandra Ware, *Activities Director*

NEWS FROM THE ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

Where has the time gone? The time has gone to a lot of exciting places and our memories remain vibrant.

We enjoyed hot out-of-the-oven baked goodies from Carol Baker Eddy. We sipped special monthly cocktails including mint juleps. And, we had Sugar on Snow.

Local visual artists shared gallery exhibits with us, including Brian Cohen, Sylvia Jones, and Caryn King. Local musicians shared classical, folk, gospel, country and bluegrass music. We especially enjoyed the talented, young Kai Ming Pu who plays violin for us. Other highlights included an evening with the River Spinners.

Faith Evans visited and told us about quilt making. Kathy Meeks introduced us to her furry friends.

We picked our Kentucky Derby House at Churchill Downs. And, we took a road trip to Mohegan Sun where we played the slot machines.

Thanks to all of you from all of us!



Let the good times roll! Thompson House residents play at Mohegan Sun casino.

FROM THE OFFICE OF OUR ADMINISTRATOR



Dane A. Rank
Administrator

May, 2011

Dear Volunteers,

Spring has sprung and the flurry of outdoor activity begins! Thank you for all of your hard work whether it be planting, or singing, or playing, or painting, or any of the vast array of great things you do for Thompson House and our residents.

The Thompson House team and Board of Directors have been busy all Winter. There are two big projects on which we have been making great gains. The first is a shift in our spending and banking activities. The second is an improvement in the comfort and quality of life for our residents.

In the past two years, Thompson House has begun to shift our business to local companies. We continue to find local sources for our supplies, and have changed to local vendors for things like uniforms, office supplies, and vending. We began purchasing furniture and equipment like washing machines, dryers, and vacuum cleaners from local businesses. Last year, we moved all of our banking to local banks to do our part in helping Brattleboro and the surrounding towns, as those dollars stimulate business locally. We want people to know that when they give to Thompson House, those dollars stay in the local economy.

The Cooler and Greener project is moving forward as well. The proposed project will benefit our 60 elder residents of Brattleboro by keeping them cool in the summer, and warm in the winter. By removing existing window units, it will brighten their rooms and provide views of the outdoors from wheelchairs. It will promote respiratory health. The system will use an efficient heating/cooling system for resident rooms and common areas, saving an estimated \$2,500.00 per month in electricity and oil bills. Our reduced consumption of oil and electricity will benefit our community, and the lower cost of operation will allow us to continue our mission in Brattleboro.

So have a great Summer, and thank you for your continued support of our residents!

Sincerely,



Dane A. Rank, *Administrator*

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

On Friday, September 9, we will host a baked goods table at the Vermont Welcome Center. Tourists stopping at the Center will be treated to snacks and welcomed to Vermont. This is usually a way for the Activities Department to raise \$1000. If you are able to bake an item such as brownies, cookies, breads and donuts, or donate supplies such as water,

apples, and chips, or if you would like to financially support our activity, please see Sandy. Volunteers are needed to transport items, gather baked goods, and help out.

SAVE THIS DATE: Friday, September 9

Deliver baked items (individually wrapped, please) on Thursday, September 8 to the Charles Cummings Activities Room on the lower level.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 28** Morris Dancers, 1:00 PM in front of Thompson House
June 1 Heifer Parade, Heifer Moment, 10:30 AM in front of Thompson House
June 1 Circus Show, 3:50 PM, New England Center for Circus Arts
June 3 Heifer Van Trips, Touring Farms, 2:00 PM
June 11 Fishing at Weatherhead Hollow, 9:00 AM
July 4 July 4th Parade, Parade participation and viewing
July 10 Eugene Friesen on Cello, 3:30 PM
July 22 Green Mountain Nature Path Dedication, 2:00 PM
Aug. 9 Westmoreland Town Band Concert, 7:00 PM in front of Thompson House
Sept. 9 Welcome Center Activity Fundraiser, Food Sale—donations accepted
Sept. 11 Splash-A-Thon, Thompson House Fundraiser
 * Trip to Nubble Light, one of Maine's most photographed lighthouses
 * DATE & TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011
It's the 4th Annual Splash-A-Thon
to benefit Thompson House

We need your help! If you're interested in helping with food preparation or food sales, contact Sandy Ware at 254-4977 for more details about this fun event.

SWIMMERS AND SPONSORS NEEDED!

Swimmer pledge sheets are available at The Colonial Pool or by emailing Theresa Masiello at tmasiello@brattbank.com



*Sponsored by
The Colonial Pool & Spa*



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



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Twice a week, residents bake for the Drop-In Center and Turning Point. Cooks Corner is directed by Helen Davis, a superb baker. Yum, Yum.

LOOK AT US

The Thompson House Activities Department has been invited to showcase a window display at Taylor for Flowers. We plan to rise to the occasion, so watch for us on June 20, 2011.

INFECTION CONTROL TIPS FOR SPRING AND SUMMER

- ◆ Washing your hands continues to be of utmost importance. Since we spend so much time outside, we need to be especially careful to keep our hands clean.
- ◆ Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- ◆ If you are ill, please remember our residents, and do not come to see them.
- ◆ Keep yourself healthy.
- ◆ Just another reminder: Our residents are special people, and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. They are adults and should be treated and spoken to as adults, not children.

—Sandy Merkle, RN,
Infection Control

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

VOLUNTEER WISH LIST

- ❖ Volunteers to play bridge
- ❖ Volunteers to help with patio garden
- ❖ Volunteers to help with patio activities
- ❖ Volunteers to march with us in July 4th parade & volunteers to help sit and watch parade
- ❖ Volunteers to be a friendly visitor
- ❖ Volunteers to read to residents
- ❖ Volunteers to help with Spring/Summer activities
- ❖ Volunteers to help with activities on weekends

THANKS, THANKS, THANKS

We extend our sincerest gratitude to those of you who have donated items from our Wish List including odds & ends, magazines and gifts. Many thanks to those who have made financial donations as well. And, a special big thanks to Alex Wonderlick for his generous donation towards soft serve ice cream!

WISH LIST

- Gifts for birthdays
- Bag candy
- Microwave popcorn
- CD players
- Soft-serve ice cream machine
- Current magazines for magazine rack
- Red Sox hats
- Plants for garden
- Flowers for patio

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



Thompson House

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

Do You Know?

People often ask "What does Joe do?" Here goes:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Bob Engel – shares his travels with us | Dick Graber – musician | Stuart and Bev Thurber – farming lectures |
| Chris Petrak – bird lecture and slide show | Craig and Diana Bills – craft club | Orly Munzing – heifer moments |
| Patti Smith – wildlife lecture | Tina Blust – chocolate fondue parties | Jon Evans – gospel singer |
| Darrell Pillsbury – news from Brattleboro | Roberta Bremmer – swap connection | Ed Fenton – vocalist |
| Richard Guthrie – Current Events/Veteran Activity | Burdo Family – gospel singers | Louella Frechette – musician |
| Charles Marchant – [please help] photography | Judy Carpenter – yoga | Alice Gausch – musician |
| Eugene Friesen – cello concerts | Joe Cook – bike adventures, lamb visits | Ellen Hamilton – musician |
| Lin Taggard – donkey visits, horticulture, etc. | Nancy Miller – lamb visits, apple connection | Lynette Hamilton – pet visits |
| Peter and Marion Abell, musicians | Rupa Cousins – spiritual chanting | Agape Chorus – gospel concert |
| Marilyn Allen – art instructor | Trudy Crites – art teacher | Pete Harrison – musician |
| John and Joy Amidon – gospel sing-a-longs | Alan Dann – organist | Huntley Hashagen – dog visits |
| June Anderson, seamstress | Richard Davis, James Pentland – musicians | Connie Healey – group activities volunteer |
| Jack Arensmeyer – musician | Janice Durfrey – musicians | Ken and Cal Heile – musicians |
| Linda Bailey – horticulture | Carol Eddy – baker, story sharing | Bill Holiday – history classes |
| Kayla Bailey – art class volunteer | Caryn King – gallery exhibit | Eris Howe – musician |
| Tony Barrand – musician | David and Shirley Emery – motorcycle cruise in | Community Bible Chapel – Sunday programs |
| Margaret Dale Barrand – Guilford School visits | | Sylvia and Paul Jones – Art in Motion program |
| Rita Lashway – van driver | | |
| Steve Rowell – van driver | | |
| Gussie Bartlett – poetry recitation | | |
| Margaret Bemis – bridge volunteer | | |
| Sheila Groeger – secretarial work | | |
| Barb Fitts – bridge volunteer | | |
| Ginny Fisher – bridge volunteer | | |
| Simi Berman – musician | | |
| Bob Hancock – musician | | |
| Shayne Berry – group activity volunteer | | |
| Alan Bills – musician | | |
| Becky Graber – musician | | |

continued on next page



Do You Know?

continued from page 3

Dawn Kersala – baby parades
from BMH
Linda Kosiba – class from Putney
Grammar School
Jim Kurty – music programs
Andy Davis – music programs
Scott Hazelton, Marcia Chalonne –
fishing trips
Judy Lefevre – animal visits
Kathy Leo – Hallowell singers
Grace Lewis – secretarial
Michelle Lichten – musician
Sabine Rhyne – musician
Alex Ogel – musician
Peggy Spencer – musician
Fran Lynngardd Hansen –
van driver, rabbit visits, public
relations
Mark Malloy – horticulture, animal
visits
Paul and Mary Miller –
travel adventures
Blanche Mills – musician
Anna and Larry Newton –
gospel musicians
St. Michael's Episcopal Church –
worship
George Nye – worship
Wally White – worship
Bill Steele – worship
Lise Sparrow – worship
Suzanne Griffen – worship
Jason and Katie O'Brian – dog
visits, parade volunteer
George Pond – bingo games
Lucy Porter – worship
St. Michael's Catholic Church –
worship
Kai Ming Pu – musician



Leonard Ragouzeos – gallery exhibit
coordinator
Deb Reed Savory, Austine School –
sing language, dog visit
Bess and Charlie Richardson –
handiwork club, Sugar on Snow
Richard Sainsbury – musician
Leslie and Arlene Sherman –
activity volunteer
Sid and Eva Sherman – exhibitors,
Sugar on Snow
Beth Sherman – bingo game
Julie and Gunnar Shonbeck –
activity volunteer, dog visits
Dan Sicken – musician
Avenue Grocery – special dessert
activities
Chuck Ranney – Now and Then
car club
Doris Stephens – flea market
connection
Dick Stewart – poker club
Stockwell Familly – singers
Martha Stretton – organist
Robin Stronk – Art in Motion
program
Bernice Sullivan – activity volunteer
Nina and John Trumper – musician
and chatter
Joanne Ulbrandt – exhibitor, van
ride volunteer
Jeanne Walker – librarian
Jim Waters – activity volunteer
Doreen and Alex Wonderlick –
calendar typist, dog visits
Monime Stanclift – activity
volunteer
Cheryl LaBarge and Family –
game day volunteer
Meredith MacDonald –
patio volunteer
Leslie Markey – River Spinners
Bob Kane – goat volunteer
Betty Tyler – Spofford Lake visits,
activity volunteer
Jerome Spooner – family visits,
fishing trip
Brittany Sanville – family visits,
fishing trip
Kaylin Spooner – family visits,
fishing trip