



Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program  
6 Court Street  
Rutland, VT 05701



FGP News!



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## Meet Julie Austin

Julie was born in Rutland, VT and grew up in Fair Haven, VT. She had two brothers and one sister, all who were quite a bit older than her. Julie's Mom was a stay at home mother and her Dad worked in the slate business. Julie graduated from Fair Haven High School and after high school she worked at CVPS before starting her family.

She met her husband, Butch, (a former Foster Grandparent at Head Start), when square dancing and they married in 1962. They are celebrating their 56th anniversary this year. Julie and Butch have four children. Dennis, their eldest, is a builder in Hampton, NY. He has three children and five grandchildren, all in line and she lives

in Hampton also, and is a Supervisor/Manager at Melanven, VT. She has two sons. Eileen has two sons. Ann is their third child. She is a secretary with two sons and Brian, their youngest, lives in Stockbridge, VT. He has two daughters and works as a civil engineer for the Federal Government's Department of Agriculture in Rutland.

After 13 years at home raising her children, Julie went to work at Poultney High School as an Administrative Assistant for the next 15 years and then became Executive Director of Fair Haven Concerned, a private, non-profit organization that helps needy families. She retired in 2013. "Both jobs were rewarding and I enjoyed each in its own right," says Julie.



Julie Austin

Julie has a mixed breed 4 year old dog named Silas who was a rescue dog. "He thinks he is a person!" Julie laughs.

Julie enjoys books about Ireland, where she has been twice and she says she would love to go there again.

Julie has been a Volunteer Foster Grandparent at Castleton Elementary School since January 2014. Her teacher, Jodie Perry, says she would be lost without Julie and she loves having her in the classroom.

"Don't just look for the good in others, try to find it in yourself as well."

Dr. Mardy Goethe

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Green Mountain FGP



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Our Sponsor:



Green Mountain Foster Grandparents are people age 55 or over who provide one to one and group assistance with children. Grandparents serve as mentors, tutors and role models to youth. Foster Grandparents provide 15–40 hours of volunteer service each week. They receive a modest stipend and other benefits. Foster Grandparents provide services in a variety of settings. These include daycare, elementary schools, high schools, Head Start Programs, libraries, after school programs and recreation centers. This program serves Rutland, Addison and Bennington Counties. It is the goal of the program to enable limited income persons 55 and over to remain physically and mentally active and to enhance their self-esteem through continued participation in needed community service. In addition, this will enable children to achieve improved physical, mental and social development, as well as assistance with their educational needs. The Foster Grandparent program is funded through the Corporation for National & Community Service and the United Way of Rutland County.



## Julie Austin (cont. from page 1)

"I like being with people. My teacher is fun to work with, but the best part is the children—they are so much fun!" Julie smiles. Julie is a very caring person and her work at Fair Haven Concerned put her in touch with many community people who all valued Julie's abilities to help others. Her patience and kindness are evident in her every day interactions with the children she serves. We are very happy that she joined the Foster Grandparent Program!

Hobbies: Quilting, knitting, reading

Likes: Grandchildren, warm weather, Shopping at the Christmas Tree Shop

Dislikes: Lima beans, grocery shopping

Favorite Movie: Gone With the Wind

Favorite Authors: Maeve Binchy



## FGP Openings

Tapestry—After School Programs West Rutland 3:00 to 5:30 & Proctor Elementary 2:15 to 5:15

Castleton Elementary School—Library position to include shelving books, helping children find books, computer assistance.

Sacred Heart School—Bennington, positions available in classrooms. Must complete safe environment protocol and background checks through the school.

Grace Christian School—Bennington, Combined 3rd/4th Grade classroom needs grandparent to work with students

West Rutland School — West Rutland Kindergarten class needs active grandparent for fast-paced classroom of 5 year olds.



## Notes from Nan



This being the month devoted to luck, let me wish you all the best of luck, our amazing volunteers! As I move through this last year as your Director, I find myself often reflecting on my very good fortune of meeting, getting to know, and working with each of you.

I want to share with you a couple of additional opportunities that I am hoping some of you may consider. As you know, we offer an option to each of you to participate in some independent in-service opportunities of your choice which you then record and receive stipend for. We are expanding that to 20 hours from the 16 we offered previously. That means anyone who has already turned the

booklet form in can do 4 additional hours between now and June 30<sup>th</sup>. Also, I would highly encourage anyone who has not done so, to participate in this option. That means if you have not done so, please ask Deb to send you the form, and get started on this option!

Our program has additional funding we must expend through our stipend or we will not only lose it for this year, but our funding is at risk if we do not meet the funding requirements we are bound by. In that same vein, we would like to encourage you to consider serving MORE HOURS per week if your site staff person is able to utilize your skills for a longer time per week. Again, this would be extremely helpful to us in not only meeting our required hours for this year but will also be significant in the continuation of our program.

Funding for our program is secure for the remainder of this year, but is fragile for the future as our number of volunteers continues to decrease. I cannot encourage you enough to share your experiences with other eligible folks in your community who might be interested in FGP. You are our best recruiters! So hand out your FGP business cards, talk to your friends and neighbors and encourage them to give FGP a try! —Nan

## Irish Tidbits

—The Irish consume in average 131.1 liters of beer per year - the 2nd highest per-capita consumption after the Czech Republic.

—Many Irish family names start with "Mac" or "O'...", which means respectively "son of ..." and "grandson of ..." in Gaelic

—Ireland is a snake-free island. Due to its isolation from the European mainland, Ireland lacks several species common elsewhere in Europe, such as moles, weasels, polecats or roe deer

—It is considered bad luck to put shoes on a table or chair, place a bed facing the door, bring lilac into the house, cut your fingernails on Sunday, give a knife as a gift, or wear green - except for a bit of Shamrock or ribbon on St. Patrick's Day

—The Irish alphabet has only 18 letters? J, K, Q, V, W, X, Y and Z are not used

—Irish women received the right to vote before American women

—Swallowing a live frog was an old Irish cure for a stomach ache! (Blech!)

