



# FGP News!



Volume 18, Issue 3

## Meet Tom Anoe

Tom was born and raised in Rutland, VT and never strayed from here.

Somewhat dating himself, Tom was born in the "old" Rutland Hospital on Nichols Street here in Rutland.

He attended Mount Saint Joseph Academy ("MSJ") and took business courses which served him well through his working life. He has his typing and shorthand teacher, Sister William Marie, who in later years became Sister Gertrude, to thank for that. Tom did not attend college, but did take a couple of accounting courses through what was, at that time,

Castleton State College.

Tom was fortunate and worked his whole life in an office setting. His

first position, (he actually started a week before he graduated from MSJ), was a clerk-typist at Brandon Training School. Tom met a lot of wonderful people in that job and he is actually still friends with one gentleman who was a social worker there at

the time. He was at Brandon Training School from 1964 to 1968. One thing that is interesting is that while Tom was at Brandon Training School, they hired a woman named Carolyn Whitlock,

who Tom believes may have started the Foster Grandparent Program in Vermont.

At the end of 1968, Tom heard about a position at a law office in Rutland. At that time he didn't think he would qualify, but he was actually hired at his interview and began working at Ryan Smith & Carbine on January 6, 1969 as a legal secretary for the managing attorney of the firm John D. Carbine. A few years later he was made the office manager. Tom worked with Mr. Carbine until his retirement, when Tom was fortunate to be assigned to Mr. Carbine's successor, Thomas Dowling. According to Tom, Mr. Dowling was a "Prince of a Man" (not to say Mr. Carbine was less) and he worked very closely with him until Tom retired on December 31, 2012 after 44

years with the law firm. In 2014 Tom was contacted and asked if he would be interested in covering a couple of attorneys, as their legal assistant had moved out of the country. Tom shared the duties with another retired legal assistant and this turned into a long-term assignment. Subsequent to that he was called upon



Tom Anoe

to cover the switchboard for lunch hour and vacations of the receptionist.

Tom's father was initially a meat cutter at two stores and after several years in those positions he became a sales/driver for H. P. Hood. That was a long-time position, but as he got older, handling the cold ice cream really affected arthritis in his hands. He retired from H. P. Hood and until his actual retirement he worked as a driver/delivery person for Foley Distributing. Tom's mother was a housewife until his younger sister got into high school and then had a job that he thinks was her favorite, she worked at Riverside Women's Reformatory. Mom loved her "girls" and was broken hearted when

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**"I hope I can be the autumn leaf, who looked at the sky and lived. And when it was time to leave, gracefully it knew life was a gift."**

—Dodinsky

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## Tom Anoe (cont. from page 1)

the Reformatory was closed (Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility stands in its place today). When she left the Reformatory she went to work as cook for the Sisters of St. Joseph at the Convent on Convent Avenue. She loved this position and he believes she was loved by the Sisters also.

Tom comes from a family of four - one older sister, Judy who lives on Maple Street (just down the street from him) and is retired. She worked at Rutland Mental Health on the phone/switchboard, and she also had her own shop where she sold sewing material and notions. Tom came next (second). His brother, David, was third. For many years Dave and his wife also lived on Maple Street. Dave spent his whole life selling and delivering propane gas. Dave had to retire early due to health problems and he passed away in 2011. Finally, Tom's youngest ("baby") sister, Mary used to live on Maple Street in his Dad's old homestead. At that time Tom and all three of his siblings lived within a distance of 6 houses. Mary was a beautician during her working career. She is now retired and she and her husband live in West Rutland. Tom says he is NOT an active person and never has been. He enjoys reading and tries to read a lot. His talents are mainly work-related such as typing and computer. In the past Tom has been involved with both St. Peter Church in Rutland and St. Bridget Church in West Rutland and was on the Parish Council and was reader and Eucharistic Minister at Mass and bringing communion to folks at home.

Why did Tom become a Foster Grandparent? "This goes back to the fact that my Dad was a Foster Grandparent and really enjoyed his association with the program. I thought about the program but it wasn't until I saw the ad looking for Foster Grandparents in The Herald that I got moving on contacting Deb and the rest is history. My favorite thing about being a grandparent is when I realize the student(s) I'm working with know and trust me and work with me on our assigned tasks. It makes my heart swell with pride," says Tom. (cont. on page 5)

Hobbies: Reading

Likes: Broadway, theatre, books and most pies!

Dislikes: Road rage people, political arguments, robo-calls and, yes, rude people.

Favorite Singer: Abba, Vera Lynn, Nilsson

Favorite Music: **Broadway Cast Albums**, particularly "Chess"

Favorite Author: David Sedaris

Favorite Movie: Resurrection with Ellen Burstyn

## FGP Openings

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

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

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

VAC — Red Room (2 year olds). Very active children need loving, consistent grandparent as role models and mentors. Patience, kindness and tolerance a plus.

RCPC—Brandon and Rutland sites need active grandparents willing to volunteer with pre-school, 2-3 year olds and younger children. Lots of play, action & up & down abilities involved! Patience and flexibility a plus.



## Notes from Maryesa

Welcome Fall....My name is Maryesa White, and I am currently the Interim Director of RSVP, FGP and One-2-One Programs for both Addison and Rutland County. I hope you all had a nice Summer and are still enjoying the warm weather this Fall. I know I am looking forward to getting outside and enjoying the beautiful foliage before Winter.



It has been a long two years dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. You have all faced different obstacles when it comes to your sites and navigating the virtual world. We want to thank you for sticking with us through these challenging times. We were all excited to get together for our last in-service but, unfortunately, because of COVID-19 we will have to go back to having virtual in-services through zoom. Please be on the lookout for information about our next zoom in-service scheduled for November.

It is exciting to hear that Vermont has started giving the COVID-19 booster shots in our community for individuals that received the Pfizer vaccine. Please visit the Vermont Department of Health website for more information ([www.healthvermont.gov](http://www.healthvermont.gov)). For the Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines they are still working on a booster shot. Hopefully, they will have more information soon.

We hope by Spring we will be back in person and be able to hold our postponed recognition event. This way we can celebrate in person all the amazing work you have provided and continue to provide to all the children in our community. Please know that I am sorry we were not able to hold our recognition event this Fall. I would like to thank you all for your time and dedication that you provide to this amazing program.

I look forward to zooming with all of you in November. I cannot wait until we are able to visit with everyone in person again. Keep your heads up, we will all get through this together. Enjoy the fall season and I will see everyone soon!

All the best, Maryesa

## New Foster Grandparent



Patsy Noble is our newest Volunteer Foster Grandparent. She is volunteering at Northeast School with teacher Sherry Kamyk in first grade.

Some of you may remember Roland Chabot, who volunteered at Rutland Intermediate School. He was Patsy's father. And her husband, Steve Noble, was also a Foster Grandparent at RIS in the Gym. So Patsy is following a family tradition!

Patsy has two daughters, Tammy and Kandi, and two grandchildren. She loves to cook and loves dance. She was always very involved with her two daughters who took dance when they were growing up.

Patsy retired from RMHS two years ago, where she worked in the Records Department and as a transcriptionist. Welcome Patsy!



# September In-service

Our grandparents were "Back in the Saddle Again" for the first time since March 2020 when COVID changed everyone's lives. We were so pleased to see everyone in person (and yes, we were distanced, had masks and hand sanitizer available). We had lots of reminders to go over since it had been so long that grandparents had to fill out time-sheets and be in classroom settings. Below are a few photos of the "gang" who made it that day. Welcome back everyone!



Pat Tyree, Chris Gray, Amy Worcester & Rhea Cayia



Lori Coons, Deb Suttle, Maggie Holden



Pam Brown, Bea Bowen, MJ Perkins



Naomi Drummond, Glenna Densman, Barb Fleming



Sherman Mason



Loraine Sweeney



Donna Crichton



Donna Belluzzi, Carol O'Dell



Marion Jones

## Tom Anoe (cont. from page 2)

Tom has had pets in the past but has none at the current time. His last two pets were both English Sheep Dogs. The first was a mixed breed with a lab and Tom says you couldn't ask for a better dog. "We were fortunate to have her for several years. When we got her we couldn't think of a good name for her. My Mom mentioned this at the Convent and when Fr. Lavalley found out she was an English Sheep Dog, he said. 'You should name her "Nana" - like from Peter Pan.' We loved the name and since my Mom was called "Nana" by her grandchildren she especially loved it. A few years after Nana passed a neighbor and co-worker at the law office and his wife were going to have their first baby. They had a full-blooded English Sheep Dog and were concerned how she would react with the baby. Tom was asked if he would want to take "Chelsea" and though he had no problems with her Tom could see there might have been a problem with a baby. He had Chelsea for a two years before she passed due to cancer.

The one accomplishment in his life for which Tom is most proud makes sense to him but may be strange to a lot of people. Over fifteen years ago Tom started sending letters to a youngster who is incarcerated for life. He doesn't know what prompted him to do that. Originally he was sending a letter every day and then they got down to about once a week. Eventually he got access to a computer so he and Tom were able to email. Tom still sends him letters too, because he feels someone who is confined likes to receive letters. They are still corresponding and he makes sure to let Tom know frequently that he appreciates hearing from him so often. The event that changed Tom's life goes along with the accomplishment. Through the years they have corresponded, Tom has noticed a change and a growth in his friend. "He was not going to take his GED but we talked back and forth and he changed his mind. A prize possession I have is his copy of his GED Certificate (he doesn't really have a place to keep it and no family on the outside that would care). I often refer to him as 'my special son' and he sometimes calls me his 'father,'" says Tom.

As for any regrets, Tom says he sometimes wonders if he might have traveled more and/or relocated if his life would have been different or better, but now, retired and seemingly happy with how things turned out, he doesn't spend a lot of time on those "regrets". The only thing Tom can think of is possibly relocating to New York City. "There is so much there I love - BUT would I be happy living there?" he asks.

Tom has a funny story about his life he would like to share. Originally when it happened it was an embarrassing moment but, over time, he now looks back at it with great humor. After he completed high school, he sent a "thank you" letter to another business teacher he had subsequent to Sister Gertrude. He won't mention this nun's name "to protect the innocent". He thought he was doing a very nice thing and thought Sister would appreciate his effort. Several days after he sent the letter, he received a letter from her. She had corrected his thank you letter with a red ink pen and sent it back to him - no comment nor a thank you for the letter!

Most influential person? "I think I would have to say my Dad. He had a very hard life and was a prisoner of war in the Battle of the Bulge but talked very little about the bad things and a lot about the good people and beauty of the countries where he was. He was a medic. My Dad always had such a respect for living. When he was diagnosed with cancer he still fought to keep on going right up to the end," Tom notes.

Some of the most important lessons Tom has learned in his life, (most came to him from either his Mom or Dad): Do unto others as you would have them do to you, always be honest, if you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything. Tom learned on his own (with probable influence from his parents) that if you are nice to people, even if they seem distant, you might find a new best friend.

Favorite teacher: In grammar school it was Tom's first grade teacher, Sister Imelda. She was soft spoken and always seemed to treat everyone with respect. She really was great for a first grade teacher to send them off to life with such "quiet" good advice. In high school it was Sister William Marie (Sister Gertrude). To be honest he thinks he might have been "teacher's pet." He did very well in her business education classes and was always nice to her.

Tom's favorite toy as a child (when he was a very young child) was a teddy bear. His Mom had a fur coat that had seen better days and a friend of hers made it into a teddy bear that he kept for years.

One quote from George Eliot that Tom says is his FAVORITE is: "It's never too late to be what you might have been." We are sooo glad you chose to be a Foster Grandparent, Tom!



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Seniors

**Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program**  
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**AmeriCorps**  
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Community Care Network  
**Rutland Community Programs**

**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 10–40 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.**