



FGP News!



Volume 19, Issue 4

Meet Daphne Leahemmer

Born Daphne Jean Lea to Canadian parents, in upstate NY. She has three sisters and a brother. She is second to the youngest. Her father was an exploration geologist, who worked all over the world including Argentina, Peru, and Africa. He discovered zinc mines. Before Daphne was born, the family was living 12,000 feet up in the Andes Mountains and her mother was pregnant and had to come down from the mountains to Buenos Aires to have the baby in an ore bucket! Her mother was a stay-at-home Mom with five children!

Daphne has moved 24 times (as both a child and adult) before settling in Shrewsbury, VT in 1983. She raised two children there beside the Long Trail, with her husband, Ed. Ed was a Business Administrator at Albany State and retired from Killington. Their son, Alex and his wife, live in Albany, NY and their daughter, Roberta, is a veterinarian in Vergennes.

Daphne and Ed currently live in Shrewsbury with their 10 year old

chocolate lab named Celia, and Goldie, their new Humane Society yellow cat.

Daphne attended the University of Colorado and is a Health Sciences graduate. She has worked for forty years as a Registered Nurse in emergency & maternal-child, and public health and education in homes, schools and clinics. With an MSN (Masters in Nursing), she was also an adjunct faculty for Vermont State College nursing programs and an instructor of allied health sciences for community college, the hospital, and St Joseph college.

Daphne's favorite job was with the Shrewsbury Outing Club teaching swimming and water safety to neighborhood kids at Spring Lake every summer when her children were young.

Daphne is a volunteer at the Paramount Theater as an usher and at a local town library as staff.

The craziest thing she has ever done: sledging down a quarter-mile, driveway-on-a-



Daphne Leahemmer

hill onto a travelled lane, past home, through a corner and finally into a snow bank!

Daphne is a new Foster Grandparent in grades K-2 at the Shrewsbury Mountain School two days a week with teacher Erin Rice. She says she became a foster grandparent because they have no grandchildren of their own and she loves children.

Daphne's favorite teacher was Mrs. McGriffin in sixth grade Geography. "She acknowledged that I had good observation skills and we were drawing maps—my interest in art helped there!"

October 2022

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”

—Harriet Tubman

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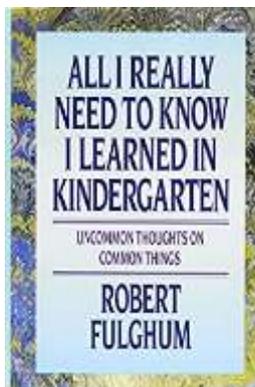
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Leahemmer (cont. from page 1)

Daphne's favorite thing to do as a child was singing! She says she still loves to sing today. Someone who had a big influence on Daphne was a nurse practitioner when Daphne was 17 who told her that things would happen when they were meant to. "It gave me a sense of empowerment," says Daphne.

Her one regret in life has been moving from the Southwest. "I just love the sun and warmth and I miss it. I visit there often and will be going again soon. Plus my extended family is in Colorado."

Life lesson? "Everything I need to know, I learned in Kindergarten. And I'm still learning!"



Hobbies: Water activities, yoga and biking, art

Likes: Sunshine and warmth of desert, white chocolate spider webs on pretzel sticks, with tootsie roll spiders, laughter, outdoor physical activity

Dislikes: Okra, winter

Favorite Singer: No particular one

Favorite Music: Praise Song

Favorite Author: Medical Thrillers

Favorite Book: Bible

Favorite Movie: Sound of Music



Volunteer Possibilities

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—Rutland site needs active grandparent 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.

Other: Other openings possible dependent on school needs.



Notes from Maryesa



Happy fall everyone! With the leaves changing that means wintry weather is right around the corner. I hope everyone has had a good start to the school year.

As many of you know we have to vacate our offices at the beginning of December. We hope to have an official location of our new offices very soon. As soon as we know our new address, we will let everyone know. We are in the process of changing our office phone to cell phones as well. Deb Roy's new number is 802-774-8711 and mine (Maryesa) is 802-468-7056. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us as we work through this process.

I also hope you enjoyed your last in-service at the Chaffee. Deb told me everyone had a wonderful time. With that being said, I just want to remind everyone that in-services are mandatory. This is a federal requirement to keep us compliant. Please be on the lookout for where our next in-service will be held.

With entering flu season doctors recommend that everyone gets a flu shot. They are also recommending that individuals 65 years or older get a higher dose flu vaccine. As many of you know, there is an uptick of Covid in our community again. Doctors are still recommending that you stay up to date on your booster shots when it comes to COVID-19. If you become sick or are not feeling well, please get tested and follow your schools' guidelines when you are sick. This is the best defense when it comes to keeping everyone safe.

As some of you know, we were selected for a monitoring audit by the Feds. It has been a lengthy process and I want to thank the individuals that were selected to be part of this evaluation. This was definitely quite the process and you stuck by our side through the whole thing. Thank you!

I would like to welcome all the new volunteers. We are excited for you to join our team. I would like to thank all of our volunteers for your hard work and dedication. Everyone on this team is helping shape the youth in our communities where we serve. If you have a friend or know someone that would like to become a Foster Grandparent, please send them our way.

I am excited to hear your stories over the course of the school year. If you have pictures that you would like to share from your work with your students, please send them our way. I wish you a happy fall/spooky season with your family and students. Try not to eat too much candy and sweets with all the kiddos. Have fun! Best wishes and thank you for all you do! —Maryesa

We are Moving!

We really are! It has taken months to jump through all the hoops state-wise and locally, but we are soooo close! Just waiting for the final paperwork to go through with the state lawyer and we will let you know. We have been cleaning out and packing up our stuff since August and we are all looking forward to settling into our new space. We will let you know where we will be as soon as everything is "official." Hint: The new space is here in Rutland in the north part of town! Stay tuned...

Miscellaneous News

Attention:

Our Rutland office numbers are changing:
We have new numbers as of November 30th

Maryesa White (Director)
802-468-7056

Deb Roy
(Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator)
802-774-8711

Tammy Brown
(Rsvp Office Coordinator & One-2-One Program)
Coordinator)
802-774-8179

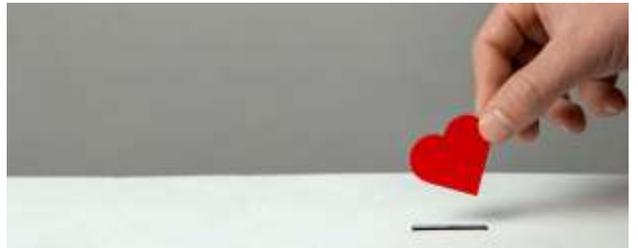
Pat Facey
Rsvp Bone Builders Coordinator
802-774-8680



We received a donation of \$500 from Neat Repeats Resale Shop in Middlebury to provide funds to purchase educational materials for Foster Grandparents and children's books to enhance literacy for the classrooms they serve.

Neat Repeats provides quality second hand merchandise for resale to needy individuals. They accept, (in saleable condition), clothing, shoes, jewelry, linens, and small kitchen utensils and other miscellaneous items. They are looking for volunteers who enjoy people and have an eye for quality merchandise.

A big thank you to Neat Repeats for their generous donation to support the Foster Grandparent Program



Daphne Leahemmer shared photos of Erin Rice's second grade students at Shrewsbury Mountain School with us. Shrewsbury Mountain School is a rural, remote school that utilizes outdoor activities to enhance their student's educational experiences. Since Daphne is a great lover of the outdoors, she fits right in with the school and their philosophy!

Shrewsbury Mountain School



New Grandparents!



Winnie Levine



Daphne Leahemmer



Jody Liebhaber

A big welcome to our three new grandparents—Winnie Levine, Daphne Leahemmer and Jody Liebhaber! We are so excited to have you join us after not having any new grandparents during COVID! Winnie will be at Rutland Intermediate School with Dennis McNichol's 5th grade; Daphne is at Shrewsbury Mountain School with Erin Rice's 4th & 5th graders; and Jody will be at Lothrop Elementary School with 1st & 2nd graders. It was lovely meeting you at the September in-service—have a great year!

September In-Service at Chaffee Art Center

Our first in-service this year (in person!) was at the Chaffee Art Gallery in Rutland. This wonderful historic building was built in the 1890's and the parquet floors, molded woodwork, five fireplaces and grand staircase are truly beautiful and we all know homes are not made like this any longer! Director Sherri Birkheimer-Rooker gave us a lovely history of the building and pointed out various things to notice in the building. We felt very welcomed there and the atmosphere was great for encouraging casual comradery with everyone.

Grandparents shared their positive experiences of their first 3 weeks of school and how much they valued being a Volunteer Grandparent. We then played the M & M game where whatever color M&M was picked by each grandparent gave them a specific question to answer from a list, such as "What food would you never want to eat again?" or "What is your favorite TV show or movie?" And a favorite "If your house was burning, what 3 items would you take with you?"

A hot minestrone soup and sandwiches, chips and cookies were served for lunch. Our next in-service will be October 26th. Site to be announced!



Julie Austin and Carol Marold



Grandparents enjoying their lunch to-





AmeriCorps
Seniors

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



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Seniors

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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 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.