



**Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program**  
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**Green Mountain FGP**

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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.



**FGP News!**



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## Meet Sandra Bisson-Krawczyk

Sandra was born and raised in N. Adams, MA, and attended St. Joseph's School through out her education, graduating in 1961.

She grew up the middle child of three children and was actually a twin, but her twin did not survive at birth. Both of her parents worked for Sprague Electric in MA, and her father made a part for Apollo 11 and the part is still on the moon!

She has an older brother, Dick, who is an electrician, and a younger brother, David who owned May Jon Glass in Bennington. The family lived close to her mother's parents when they were growing up. "They were little French people who raised 18 children!" Sandra says. Sandra married Richard Bisson in May, 1962. They have four children, Richard Jr., who owns an excavating business in Pownal, a daughter, Jane, who is a nurse in Bennington, daughter Becky who is the Administrative Assistant at Grace Christian School and a daughter, Suzanne, who works for a car dealership in Queensbury, NY. The couple has 10

grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, with 3 more on the way!

She and Dick were married for 45 years when he discovered he had Stage 4 Cancer. He lived 10 months before he passed. For the next 3 years, Sandra's grandson, Tyler, visited her every day to make sure she was okay.

She got asked out to dinner by Jerry Krawczyk, and the couple ended up marrying. Jerry works for Togg Machine Company in N. Adams, MA. Sandra now has three step-children and five more grandchildren! She also inherited a 19 lb. cat, Goldie, who is long-haired and "not a favorite" for that reason!

Jerry also has a Harley motorcycle, and at age 68, Sandra took her first ride and has enjoyed riding for the past 6 years. "My son-in-law, Michael, literally fell to the ground laughing when he saw me riding down their driveway!" she laughs.

Sandra worked in many different places and at several different types of jobs. She worked in the office at Tsubo



Sandra Bisson-Krawczyk

Message for 10 years, worked as a laborer, caring for the elderly, and private care for a Cancer patient. She was also a manager at a Level 4 community care home. When that home closed, she brought home an 84 year old man who had nowhere to go. They bought him a hound dog for companionship and took the man to Bingo twice a week as he loved to gamble! He became a big part of their family. In later years Sandra owned and operated a children's clothing store called "Teddy Bears" until she was 50 and had emergency open heart surgery, at which time she was forced to close. She has many wonderful memories

"If you don't have the time to read, you don't have the time or the tools to write."

—Stephen King

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## Sandra Bisson-Krawczyk (continued from page 1)

of that store. Her worse job was working for women in private care who were often demanding and "no one could work fast enough for those ladies!" according to Sandra.

The death of her first husband forever changed Sandra, but she is proud to have been his wife and a mother to their children and grandmother to the grandkids.

When Sandra was 15, she and a girlfriend took a ride from MA to Pownal, VT in her mother's car—with no license! "There were big consequences from our parents for that—not like today!" she notes.

**Funny story:** When Sandra's grandson, Zachary, was around 3 or 4 he was visiting them and noticed their wedding photo on the wall for the first time. He said, "Grandma was that you when you had your other face?" She still laughs over that one!

When Sandra was a child, she wanted to be a hair dresser. She never did become one, but has given many perms and haircuts over the years. She says she had to love dolls and playing with them growing up because her mother bought her one every year until she got married!

Her mother was her best friend in life and her favorite teacher. "She always had so much wisdom and she loved God." She passed 4 years ago at age 90—complication from a fall. Sandra still misses her every day.

Sandra began volunteering as a volunteer grandparent on 9-3-2013 at Grace Christian School because she was bored after 3 weeks of retirement. She is in Micki Perry's Kindergarten class. "I love every child I have contact with. So many hugs and smiling faces! This volunteer works brings self-worth to me everyday. There is always so much positivity from students and staff."

Sandra says she has learned not to take life for granted, that every moment is a precious gift and a blessing. We love having you as a Volunteer Grandparent Sandy and we know you are a real blessing to us, the children, Mrs. Perry, and the staff at Grace Christian School!

**Hobbies:** Planning parties, flowers, crafts

**Likes:** Food! (Which she wishes she didn't like so much!)

**Dislikes:** Society today—no rules, no church, no respect for country. Heartaches for family & friends.

**Favorite Movies:** The Notebook, Pretty Woman

**Favorite Author:** Nicholas Sparks



## 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.

**Otter Creek Child Center—Middlebury,** Infant and Toddler rooms need a grandparent

**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.



## 51st Annual Recognition Event



Teacher Aundra Fairbanks, Grandparent Pat Tyree, and Director Liz Yadow from Grace Preschool



Teacher Jennifer Pew & Grandparent Chris Gray NE School



Teacher Nancy Webster & Grandparent Marlene Quinn NE School



Grandparent Julie Austin & Teacher Jodie Perry Castleton Elementary



Aundra Fairbanks, Shirley Badgley & Justine Ligon from Grace Preschool



Carol Marold, John Kim and Sr. Shirley Davis enjoy each other's company



# 51st Annual Recognition Event



Principal Sarah Merrill, Teacher Marie Coombs & Grandparent Marj Eaton from West Rutland School



Grandparent Betty Laframboise, Former Teacher Jackie Hempl, Grandparent Donna Crichton & Staff Joella Conway from RCPCC in Brandon



Sr. Shirley Davis & Jen Datolli, Sheldon Academy



Stephanie Cassineri & Amy Worcester, NE School



Wilma Corey & Stephanie Abatiell, VAC



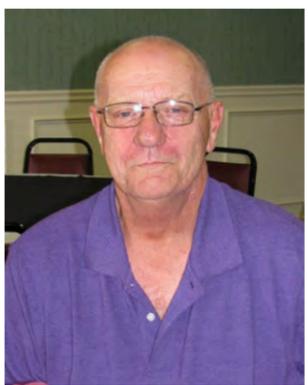
Lois Jaworski



Andrea Williamson



Sherman Mason



Steve Manfredi

# Notes from Nan



Deb and I are still basking in the delight of the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner held recently. Without a doubt, it is my favorite event of the year. Our own Deb Roy does all of the planning and work. Throughout the summer and fall she works to put together a great event and once again this year it was memorable! As always, the food and fellowship were amazing. I continue to be impressed by the staff of the sites who make it their business to attend and share in the celebration. We appreciate their attendance so much. Of course, my favorite part are the stories everyone tells. Some are funny, some are sweet, and all are touching! Thanks to everyone who helped to make this a great evening of

gratitude!

I would like to ask ALL OF YOU, staff and volunteers alike, to continue those stories to the public. We are in dire need of additional volunteers and are also in need of ensuring that there are placements within the various organizations for all of these wonderful folks to serve in. You are and always have been, our best recruiters! Please share your successes with other community members, friends, staff and the principals and/or directors of the organizations you work/volunteer at. Deb is more than willing to come out to talk with anyone who needs persuading as to the amazing value of becoming a volunteer and/or having an FG in their classroom!

As fall finally settles in and your activities ramp up, remember that the first priority is to take care of yourself! Various vaccinations (from flu to pneumonia to shingles) are available so check with your physicians to see if you need any. Also, remember to stay hydrated throughout your day. As we age, our sense of thirst diminishes but our need for water does not! Drink lots of it all day, even when you are not thirsty. Lastly, be sure to dress for the crazy fall weather we are experiencing. Layering may be the best bet since it often starts out cold and then warms up as the day progresses.

Finally, if anyone has any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions, our door is always open and I invite you to come and visit us anytime! Take care. —Nan

# New Grandparents



John Kim

John Kim hails from South Korea originally and has been in VT for several years. He was a former teacher in Brattleboro at the Community College and has worked with children from Kindergarten age to college. John began his tenure as a Volunteer Grandparent at the Rutland Intermediate School in Jean Mee's 3rd grade classroom. Aida Laureano hails from the Bronx in NY and worked for the Board of Education there. She is a certified reading specialist and is multi-lingual speaking Spanish, Italian, French, & German. She will be in the Kindergarten class at Sacred Heart School in Bennington with Mr. Bersaw. Welcome John & Aida!



Aida Laureano

# Sally Deinzer, Shrewsbury Co-op Pierce's Store

The guest speaker at our first in-service this year in September was Sally Deinzer, from Pierce's Store and Co-op in Shrewsbury. Sally talked to the group about how the Co-op started up and the financial struggles they went through to get up and running. Sally brought photos of the store from over the years and the grandparents enjoyed thumbing through those after she finished speaking. Thank you Sally!



Cousins, Jeanne Powell and Pat Tyree enjoy the Recognition Dinner



Sisters, Chris Gray and Marge Lindgren both volunteer at N.E. School



Friends, Betty Laframboise and Jackie Hempl join in a laugh



Former volunteers at VAC, Jeri LaDuc & Wilma Corey now volunteer at different sites



Mother, Marion Jones, and daughter, Heather Kent are always all smiles!



Housemates at Linden Terrace, Susan Harding & Sandra Galarneau try to behave!



# 51st Annual Recognition Event



Aline Casey (Christ the King School), Chris Gray (Northeast School) & Andrea Williamson (Rutland County Parent Child Center -Teen Program) were all honored for 5 years of service. Congratulations ladies!



Carol Marold (Northwest School) was honored for 10 years of service



Vivian West & Susan Mintner hold door prizes from Cabot Creamery



Roger & Lori Coons enjoy the yummy dinner served!



Neighbors, Marge Lindgren (Northeast School) & Tom Estill (Christ the King School) volunteer 7 hours a day at their sites!

