

Summer 2021



Through the Window

A newsletter for our friends and supporters.

From the Director's Desk Herb Carpenter

Some of you may know that I grew up in the neighborhood of one of our current houses. In fact, it was right in our backyard and we used to sled there in the winter, pick up chestnuts in the fall, walk on the granite wall in the spring and pick rhubarb about this time a year. Mom still lives in the house there. Part of what we like to instill with our residents is that they need to get along with each other and be respectful neighbors. This is important when you are living on your own or in an apartment with others. Relationships with each other and instilling an atmosphere of harmony with the neighborhood are critical skills for being a member of the community. Sometimes we hear from neighbors about purported behaviors of residents that warrant our intervention. I remember when the building in my neighborhood first became occupied my father wrote some sort of note to the Executive Director at the time, Page Cannon. Of course this was long before my even becoming a member of the board, let alone the Executive Director. I don't recall exactly what it was about but when Page retired, she gave it to me as a memento. I was mortified. Generally, the neighbors are helpful by providing detailed information about a particular situation and it helps us resolve the issue pretty easily. We were able to help with the cigarette butt litter by supplying a can with sand in it. We were able to help with the beeping horn early in the morning by asking the resident to be ready to go without having their ride beep the horn incessantly at 5:30 in the morning. Other issues pose more of a challenge or remain unsolved. Recently I received an inquiry regarding a neighbor's lawn constantly being dug up by the squirrels and they were coming under the fence separating our building and the inquirers' home. They had just installed a retaining wall and seeded this beautiful lawn and the squirrels were making a mess of it and burying peanuts. The neighbor asked if I could check with the residents and see if they were feeding peanuts to the squirrels and if so to ask them to please stop as they were ruining their lawn. I did check. However, I knew that I didn't need to. Remember how I told you I grew up in the neighborhood of the house and that my Mom still lived there? Meet Charlie, my Mom's friend and pet squirrel. I bet you can't guess what she feeds him. I may be willing to take on issues that our residents cause and teach them about being a good neighbor but I learned a long time ago not to take on my Mom!



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Plans are underway for a Fall Film and Panel Discussion at the Red River Theater. Together with NAMI-NH we plan on featuring the film Ernie & Joe: Crisis Cops. The film follows two officers with the San Antonio Police Department mental health unit who are diverting people away from jail and into mental health treatment—one 911 call at a time. Stay tuned for more information as plans unfold for the Fall.



Asking for help isn't giving up, its refusing to give up.

-The Horse

Thank you to all of our donors during the NH Gives Campaign. This was a record year of giving for Fellowship Housing Opportunities as well as for the statewide NH Gives campaign. Please keep us in mind for the 2022 campaign.

-Herb



Every day at 4:00PM the steeple bell is rung at South Congregational Church, UCC on Pleasant Street. FHO has recently become a member of the elite team, The Ding-a-lings, and we assist with the ringing of the bell. One of our Group Home residents usually accompanies us and acts as the Official Bell Ringer.

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