



Fall 2011

## Community Caregivers Volunteer News & Notes

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### Volunteer Meet & Greets

After attending all four volunteer receptions in September, Executive Director, Tom Tipple reported back his most striking finding: “I have finally had my fill of cider donuts.”

As good as the donuts and cider were, the real purpose of these “meet and greet” sessions held in Delmar, Altamont, Voorheesville, and Berne during September, was to get Tom, who has served as ED only since April, out and about to meet volunteers--and to give volunteers a chance to meet him. The Board’s Volunteer Recruitment, Education & Recognition or VRER Committee planned and also attended these fun events. Tom and Committee members heard what is working well from the volunteers’ perspective, as well as areas for improvement.

We appreciate all of you who attended and hope that those who did not will join us the next time we get together. Volunteers, who may know each other only as a voice over the telephone, also enjoyed the chance to meet in person and share a few stories.

If you were not able to come in person, but would like to share your ideas about your volunteer experience with Tom, please email him [tom@communitycaregivers.org](mailto:tom@communitycaregivers.org) or give him a call on weekdays, 456-2898.



### Caregivers’ Hours Expanding-Now We Need You to Make It Work!

You may have heard from Tom or read it in our newsletter “Helping Hands” but for those of you who do **not** know, Community Caregivers is expanding service hours to Wednesday evenings, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and to Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you work during the week, this gives a new opportunity for you to help out your neighbors.

We believe that expanded hours will fill a need beyond transportation, including respite for family caregivers and shopping assistance. If you are interested in being contacted about volunteering on Wednesday evenings or on Saturdays, please let us know by calling the office at 456-2898. Also, if you know someone who wants to volunteer during these hours, please let us know that as well!



## **Pardon me, it's time I introduced myself!**

My name is Linda Miller and I am very pleased (thrilled, actually) to be serving at Community Caregivers through the Americorps in Eldercare Settings (ACES) national service program.

Although most Americorps participants are recent college grads, the emphasis in ACES is on graduate students in the field of social work and Baby Boomers. I am in the latter category, which you will note as you read on.

I have lived (and volunteered) in the Town of Bethlehem since 1990. My household is a full one with three teenaged children, an ever-changing menagerie of pets, and a very patient husband. My degree is in Public Administration; and, since 2005, I have worked with older adults as a HIICAP (Medicare, etc.) benefits counselor and educator.

My title at Community Caregivers is Volunteer Coordinator; that role includes activities to recruit new volunteers and to keep the valued ones we have. I look forward to working with all of you and would love to hear what information and assistance you would like from me.



## **So what is *Community Caregivers Volunteer News & Notes*?**

**News & Notes** is an informal way for the CC community to stay in touch. We can send these notes electronically to all of you without the cost and staff time required of a printed newsletter.

From our recent conversations with you, we realize that some of you, over time, might feel less connected to Caregivers, whether it is because you have been on a leave of absence or we are experiencing a mismatch of client needs and volunteers in your area.

So, let's keep up the conversation that we started at the "meet & greets."

- If you are an experienced volunteer, would you share your best tip with me for sharing with others?
- Do you have something else relevant to contribute (like helpful practices from other places you volunteer that we might replicate)?

- How can we in the office help you be more effective?
- Do we have all of your contact information correct-if you have received this through an old, but still working account and have a new, preferred email address; we would like to know that!

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### Announcing Volunteer of the Month



*Sally Lovering has been chosen as Volunteer of the Month for September and Petra Malitz has been chosen for October! We sincerely appreciate their service & dedication to Community Caregivers. Congratulations, Sally and Petra!!*

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### Welcome to our New Volunteers:

Anita Behn, Myrna Bernstein, Helen Thomas-- Albany  
 Annette Kramer, Debra Trottier--Altamont  
 Stacey McArdle --Delanson  
 Arthur Copeland, Jesse Krischer--Delmar  
 Lori West--Guilderland  
 Jodi Fox, Neil Patel, Amanda Pyskadlo, Jan Weston--Schenectady  
 Deborah Cassidy, Anne deNoronha--Slingerlands  
 Kay Peavey—Voorheesville

#### Community Supports Navigator Volunteers:

Stella Bess, Shirley Bradley, Thelma Marie Coleman, Katie Jones, Tom Spagnoletti,  
 Joyce Wethers, Barbara Williams--Albany  
 John Moriarity--Castleton  
 Judy Baum--Guilderland  
 Karen Billman, Kathy Schoolcraft—Niskayuna

***We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.***  
**Sir Winston Churchill**

*Thank you for reading and I hope you enjoy the beautiful foliage while it lasts!*

*Linda Miller*

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