



SSSF

Steuben Senior Services Fund, Inc.

Building a Resource for Aging in Place



DECEMBER 2016

SEASONS GREETINGS

Happy holidays to each of our supporters of aging in place in Steuben County. As another year ends, we are delighted to report that thanks to your generosity our rural aging in place projects in Towns of Cameron, Jasper, Troupsburg and Woodhull and in the Towns of Pulteney, Urbana and Wayne are all doing well. In addition, our Full Circle America (FCA) project is in full swing. After a year of planning and organizational work, referrals for a home visit to explain how FCA can help you age in place are now being accepted by Coordinator Kate Paterson. May your holidays be merry and bright and your New Year the best one ever!



SUPPORT FOR FULL CIRCLE AMERICA IS

GROWING

Bethesda Foundation, Steuben Trust Company and the Corning Foundation have given their support to the Full Circle America (FCA) project in Steuben County. Thanks to these three great organizations, our coordinator's position has been secured for all of 2017 and funds are now available to help lower income seniors with the cost of the technology needed for FCA in their homes. Coordinator Kate Paterson is now busy doing intakes for this cutting-edge program that allows seniors to age more successfully in their own homes. For more information, please contact Kate at 607-664-2298.

QUILTS OF LOVE



Bath RSVP volunteer Lucille Hess helped to sell raffle tickets for a quilt that was made by Donna McIntire and donated to SSSF by the Threads of Love group of the Bath Centenary United Methodist Church. The raffle made nearly \$500 for SSSF.

Lucille is also a quilter and was inspired to make her own quilt as a donation to SSSF. A raffle for this quilt will be held in early 2017. Tickets for the raffle will go on sale after the

first of the New Year!



ADULT CHILDREN EMPOWERING SENIORS

Sue Gruber, local aging in place enthusiast, recently organized a series of workshops to assist adult children empower the seniors they love to achieve dignity, safety, independence and financial security as they age in place. Called Adult Children Empowering Seniors or ACES, the first series of workshops covered several topics including effective communication with people who have dementia, long term care planning, modifying homes for aging in place, and gaining access to needed services and resources and were held during October and November. Additional workshops are planned for March and April and will include information on Full Circle America, Faith in Action, pooled trusts and dementia.

In addition, Sue is offering the Certified Aging in Place and Universal Design courses locally in February. Local contractors and health professionals can earn CEU's for attending. For more information, check out Sue's website at www.forwardthinkinghomesolutions.com under the "Events and NAHB Courses" tab.

THE LEGACY OF BARB STEWART

The aging community in Steuben County lost a dear friend when Barb Stewart, age 94, passed away in September. Barb and her husband of 58 years, Jim, were active community members for their entire lives. Besides their strong association with the Kanona Methodist Church, both were active with the Office for the Aging/RSVP serving as ProAction Home Delivered Meals volunteers and Project CARE volunteers for many years. Barb made her mark as a member of the Advisory Council of the Office for the Aging where she served as chairperson.



Due to her expertise in the field of aging, Barb was eventually chosen to serve as a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging for the State of New York, a well-deserved honor. In 1995 Barb and Jim were chosen as the Office for the Aging's Senior Citizens of the Year and were honored at the 5th annual Senior Citizen Prom.

Barb was an amazingly forward-thinking person even well into her nineties. Her belief in the aging in place movement led to a generous donation to SSSF. This donation enabled us to begin the Town of Urbana's Aging in Place project which is still active today and which has been replicated in many other rural townships in Steuben County.

In addition to her work in the field of aging, Barb graduated from Cornell University, taught home economics at Savona and Haverling schools and worked for Cornell Cooperative Extension in Ithaca and in Steuben County. She was also a member of AAUW, and the Steuben County Historical Society.

Always active, in her retirement Barb helped with the operation of a bed and breakfast at their home, Brooklea Farms. She also enjoyed cooking, gardening, her cats and reading. As Barb and Jim aged, their lives of investing in others came back to them as they began to receive community services including Project Care visits, in particular from a young Haverling student Chelsea (Kolz) Boes. Chelsea sent me the following tribute to Barb and Jim:

"I started visiting Barb and Jim Stewart as a high schooler involved with Project Care. I was the last in a long line of the Stewart's "adopted children". My mom would drop me off at their house after school and we would sit together in the living room of their huge white farmhouse talking. No one could not love Jim and Barb. How can you not love someone who loves you first? They loved me just for showing up. Jim was this kind and gentle guy, by then confined to a wheelchair with a prosthetic leg, and Barb loved him with all her heart. Barb! What a brainy, kind, and opinionated lady she was! She made for such good company."

"Later, after I was in college and Jim had died, I spent a summer helping care for Barb in the big white house. I remember telling her about my boy problems and her saying I should stop worrying about boys and instead go get a bunch of college degrees and fill my head with books. I'm a writer, and I did a lot of writing that summer because Barb and her love for Jim made such great material. Now that I'm married and starting to raise my own family, I truly aspire to sustaining a long-term love like theirs. And I hope I can be in the business of "adopting" like them -- not formally adopting, but just making whoever comes in the front door part of the family".

Barb will truly be missed, but has left a great legacy for the citizens of Steuben County, in particular our older community members. This issue of SSSF's newsletter is dedicated to her memory.

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