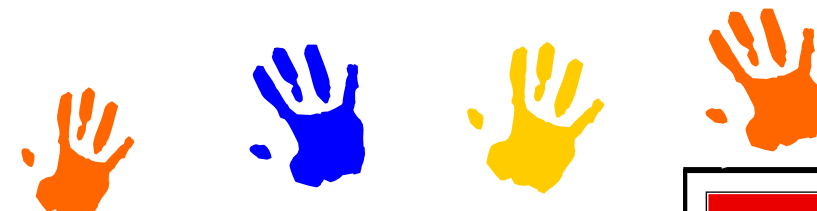
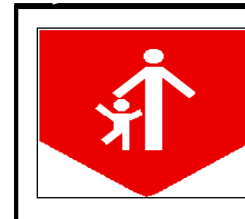




**Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program**  
6 Court Street  
Rutland, VT 05701



**FGP News!**



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## Meet Betty Woodard

Betty was born in Center Rutland, VT and lived in Rutland all her life.

She met her husband when he was home on leave from the Navy in front of the bus terminal in Rutland. He struck up a conversation with her and they were married two years later.

Her father was a lumberjack and her mother did house cleaning for people.

Betty was an only child.

Betty & Roland have four children. Two in Vermont, one in New York and the second oldest son passed away three years ago.

They have nine grandchildren who range in age from 18 to 30.

Two great grandchildren (boys) round out their family.

Betty has a seven year old male Pomeranian named

Smoke (after a race driver) and a seventeen year old female cat named Ellie.

Betty volunteers as a foster grandparent at Northeast School in Mrs. Churchill's first grade class because she loves children. Her favorite things about being a grandparent are that they make her feel young again, they keep her going and she gets lots of hugs.

The birth of her first great grandson was a life changing event for Betty because he was born prematurely and was in the hospital for a month, but now he is a big strapping ten year old boy. He was hooked up to a lot of tubes at the time and she was afraid they were going to lose him.

Betty is most proud of working with



Betty Woodard

youth and caring for her parents when they were aging. She is obviously a great caretaker.

Betty says she has no regrets in her life and nothing she would do differently. "I have a good husband and we have been married over 50 years."

Betty dreamed of being a chef when she was a child. She has a love of cooking, and she and her Mom used to cook together. "Now I

**"The game of life is a lot like football. You have to tackle your problems, block your fears, and score your points when you get the opportunities."  
Lewis Grizzard**

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Our Sponsor:



We also receive funding from:



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.

## Betty Woodard (continued from page 1)

am a chef for my husband. My favorite thing to make is pasta dishes," she grins.

Her parents were the most influential people in her life. They taught her good values and to be nice to people. "I've always had a lot of friends, so that means something," she says.

Her favorite toy as a child was an elephant bank, which her parents used to teach her to save money.

Her favorite teacher as a child was her second grade teacher at St. Peter's School, Sr. Justine. "She was a sweet person and was good to everyone," Betty smiles.

Being kind to others and helping others has always been foremost in Betty's life. She says that her parents were like that and she continued that tradition by teaching her own children to do the same.

"If people want to feel younger and want to be a help to children, they should become a Foster Grandparent," Betty notes. We love having you be a grandparent and are so glad that you enjoy giving of your time and talents at Northeast School Betty!



**Hobbies:** jewelry, braided rugs, racing enthusiast

**Favorite Music:** Country, George Strait

**Favorite Movie/Actor/Actress:** Patch Adams with Robin Williams

**Favorite Book/Author:** Danielle Steele

**Likes:** Being with Great Grandkids

**Dislikes:** People who talk over me



## 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



## Our Foster Grandparents at Work & Play



Dennis Loomis discusses a book with a 6th Grade student at Grace Christian School in Bennington.



Donna Belluzzi has lunch with one of the preschool students at Sacred Heart School in Bennington.



Pat Tyree and a preschool student at Grace Preschool work on an art project together.



Preschool students at Sacred Heart School in Bennington wanted Deb to sit and have lunch with them.

## Our Foster Grandparents at Work & Play



Lois Jaworski works with two 3rd grade students at the Rutland Intermediate School.



Sherman Mason helps a 2nd grade student complete her work at the Northeast School.



Jeanne Polli sits at snack time with the Kindergarten students at Christ the King School.



Virginia Loomis helps a First Grade student with numbers at Grace Christian School in Bennington.

Linda Libbey listens while a 2nd Grade student reads to her at Grace Christian School in Bennington.



## Notes from Nan



April 23rd to the 29th is National Volunteer Week and so I always like to take this opportunity, on behalf of Deb, Lynn and myself, to offer our deepest appreciation for your incredible devotion to the youth of our communities. You give so unselfishly and lovingly to the children you serve and the impact you have on them is priceless. Although much of what you do is beyond measure, we do have a set of metrics that we now utilize to clearly see on an annual basis how crucial and measureable your volunteer efforts truly are. A huge thanks to the staff at the sites you serve at for tracking this and completing these assessments for us each year. Of course just as crucial are the not so obvious, often subtle difference you make in the lives of the youth you serve. You are role models and "grandparents" to these children and that interaction and connection may be subtle, but it is no less precious and meaningful. You are part of a very select and unique group who are willing to provide the level of time and effort that you offer for the betterment of our communities. It is my honor and privilege to know and work with each of you. I truly treasure my role with FGP.

It is also worth noting that the staff at the sites kindly and carefully prepare volunteer evaluations for each of you. These are meant to help you sharpen your volunteer skills and provide constructive ways to improve your service. Please encourage your teachers/staff members to personally review them with you. And by all means ask questions and discuss!

One of the wonderful aspects of this time of year is that the temperatures begin to climb and the blooms begin to shoot up out of the ground, sending us welcome signs of spring. So, take advantage of what will hopefully be a beautiful spring, by getting outside in our stunning state. Our summers in Vermont may not be long but they are lovely. Take a walk, garden, sit by a brook or lake, enjoy the fresh air and smile as you think of the warm days and nights to come.—Nan

## Tom Estill "The NASA Guy"



At our March in-service we had a treat—one of our own Foster Grandparents was the guest speaker! Tom Estill, who is a former Science teacher and NASA guru gave wonderful presentation to grandparents on NASA and the space program and all the things that are available for teachers to educate students about the space program and exploration. Tom brought along lots of free items for grandparents to take back to their classrooms and showed grandparents online sites that allow students to see live pictures of space stations, Mars and other fun things. We thank you, Tom, for a great presentation. Tom also volunteered to go to any classroom to speak to students for free!

# Our Foster Grandparents at Work & Play



Lorraine Sweeney works on an art project with the Kindergarten class at Castleton Elementary.



"Mrs. B" Bowen watches a first grade student coloring at Fair Haven Elementary.



Jeri LaDuc gives a preschooler some watermelon at the Proctor Children's Center.



Jane Stadelman gets hugs and kudos from the 5th Grade Students at Lothrop Elementary School.



# Our Foster Grandparents at Work & Play



Donna Crichton uses Playdoh with the preschooler at the Rutland County Parent Child Center in Brandon.



Pat Tyree shows "surprise" at a preschool student's artwork at Grace Preschool.



Julie Austin works on spelling words with one of the 2nd graders at Castleton Elementary School.



Shirley Badgley sings with the preschool students at Grace Preschool.

