

# Heartbeet Lifesharing

- A Camphill Community -

## Newsletter

[www.heartbeet.org](http://www.heartbeet.org)

SPRING 2017 • Heartbeet Lifesharing • A Camphill Community • 218 Town Farm Rd • Hardwick, VT 05843

### ~Foundations for the Future~

Dear Friends of Heartbeet,

This is the hardest letter I have ever written in the history of Heartbeet. I have deliberated and struggled over how to bring the breadth and depth of our community's experience of the last few weeks. I am heartbroken to share that our colleague, dear friend, chosen family and true community member Jared Shaffer passed away suddenly on April 18th. How can words express the profound feelings that accompany this loss?

Jared joined Heartbeet eight years ago, sharing his love of life with all he knew, and celebrating the seasons through the rhythm of farming and the work of large machinery. He had an overarching understanding of community, family and friendship. Jared loved and engaged in life with gentleness and humor. He was cheeky, silly and always interested. Jared brought to the farm an enthusiasm for land work, diving into farming with a love that was infectious, bringing joy to even the most monotonous jobs. He always knew when the town snow plow, excavator, and builders with their trucks were coming, and was the first to let the community know when it was time to get the hay-wagons ready. He was a true friend to all those who took the time to get to know him, and he offered his warmth and humor in abundance. In the few weeks since his passing letters filled with appreciation and care have poured into Heartbeet from all over the world, written by people who loved Jared. Jared's impact on Heartbeet is unmistakable-- he helped us build concepts of inclusion around land work and animal care. In honor of Jared's love and dedication to the farm we will be dedicating the Heartbeet barn to Jared during our Friends and Family Day on June 17th.

In the heart of this long winter, Heartbeet said farewell to Mandy as her life took her back to her home town—she was a joy to have in the community with her consistent sense of humor. Many friendships were established that I am sure will be fruitful into the future! We also sent off our dear family Onat and David in January, and wished them best of luck on their next adventures. They have moved to the Hudson Valley and Camphill Ghent. A highlight was Onat's goodbye birthday where the whole community gathered to share appreciation, gifts and cheesecake--what a fabulous night to remember! We also said goodbye to Emily, Joseph, Isaac, and Thomas Papas as their life path took them adventuring to new horizons.

With all the goodbyes, we have also been welcoming in new faces—Marissa Huppe joined our administrative team and has been a perfect fit, even arriving to work with a beautiful new calf on the front seat of her car to surprise the farm team! We already can't imagine how we functioned without her!

It is with spring joy that I get to announce the arrival of Asher Morel Morse, our newest community member, born on April 7, 2017. What a sweet addition to the Morse family! The McCarthy family is also expecting a new baby in September—babies, babies and more babies—new life at every turn!

We are also excited to announce that we will be welcoming in Ben and Brooke Jenkins and their two boys, Solomon and Cale. They will be joining us on July 1st to run White Pine House. In order to welcome this new family, we need your support to give this house the attention



Jared, a beloved friend who will always be remembered



Ann, Britt, Connor, and Rachel celebrate St. Patrick's Day



Marcianna, Dan, and Linden with our newest community member Asher

and renovation it needs to bring it up to snuff with the rest of our buildings at Heartbeet! We also have other important community projects that we are hoping to take on this year, including the renovating and upgrading of the Yurt and the Caliburn Pool House. You will find more about these important projects in this newsletter. Each of these endeavors supports us in caring for buildings we have already invested in, and will allow us to make the best use of all our community spaces. Before we turn to our next lifesharing home we need to strengthen what we already have, and be sure that these structures will serve us well for a long time to come!

These last six months have had an element of chaos to them with all the changes, and we are learning to find the fruitfulness that can arise from the unpredictable. Each community member seems to be moving with grace through these challenging times, and together we are looking ahead with enthusiasm for what is to come. Join us this year in honoring White Pine, our first home, and caring for buildings that will be used to support our mission into the future!

I end this letter with my deepest respect and love for Jared Shaffer, his family and all his friends—we are with you in our sorrow and we celebrate Jared's beautiful gift to this world!

With warmth of heart,

Hannah Schwartz  
Executive Director



Josiah graduates from high school June 16th!



The McCarthy family plus one in October!

## Life in the Community



Welcome our newest coworkers, Jakob and Rachel!



Warren & Jonathan enjoying the Passover Seder



Andy and Max take a break by the farm truck



Anna, Lindsey, and Dave at the Cottage



Amber Rose House at the Capitol



Sequoya and the farm crew give the cows love



## The Hall in Action!

As we emerge from winter, the Heartbeet Community Center continues to blossom into its potential. Adding this beautiful space means we are integrating the care and maintenance of the building into our community rhythms. With this, new teams, including a kitchen crew and hall-upkeep crew, have been developed to support the Hall's place in the community.

Additionally, the Community Center flex space has given us a new, beautiful home for the felting studio. Even from a few doors down laughter and conversation can be heard coming from the crew of artists.

The library is bringing to Heartbeet more than we could have ever imagined as it is filled with books, curiosity, and comfort. It offers a place for quiet retreat as well as a calm and inclusive meeting space.

We are overjoyed that the larger community has embraced the Heartbeet Community Center as a gathering place to enjoy educational opportunities and exciting events, including showcases by Bread & Puppet Theater, Hazen Union High School's "Stand Up for Social Justice", and Bald Mountain Theater. It has also hosted two internationally recognized artists, a Heartbeet conference, a Super Bowl party, a Passover Seder, as well as many other cultural and celebratory events, local artists, and festival evenings. We have also enjoyed the leadership of Larry Gordon of Village Harmony, who leads singing on Friday afternoons.

We look forward to sharing many more inclusive events with our local community—take a look below to see what's next at Heartbeet!

**For more information about how to book the Heartbeet Community Center, contact the Heartbeet office at (802)472-3285 or [hallevents@heartbeet.org](mailto:hallevents@heartbeet.org).**



Kei and Sara in the office



Lelia and Annie V. at the Bread and Puppet performance



Chris, Brielle, and Britt hang out in the Hall



Suzannah, Ann B., Connor, Ceilidh, and Sequoya brainstorming at the Hall



Laura and Ver leading the kitchen crew



Larry Gordon of Village Harmony leads singing in the Hall

## What's next for the Heartbeet Community Center?

Join us for  
Friends & Family Day  
Heartbeet Lifesharing  
-A Camphill Community-  
Saturday, June 17th 3:00pm  
Tours – Live Music –  
Silent Auction

Temple Grandin  
"Different Minds:  
Supporting a Sustainable Earth"  
June 20th - 7:00pm

Heartbeet  
Youth Conference  
"Time to Rise:  
Social Threefolding  
for the Current Times"  
September 21st-23rd

## ~ Help Heartbeet Invest

The past few years have been a time of enormous growth for our community. With the arrival of the Heartbeet Community Center and the addition of Caliburn House, Heartbeet has experienced an exciting time of rapid expansion. As Heartbeet celebrates our 17th year, we are turning our attention to strengthening the infrastructure needed to carry the community forward. Your support will help us in sustaining Heartbeet into the future!



Parker, Sequoya, Kei, Annie, Ver and Nora landscaping the Cottage



White Pine House, at heart of the community

### White Pine– \$75,000

The original farmhouse has stood on the property for the better part of a century. It was the house that started it all! Over the years, many families have made their homes within these walls. For White Pine to continue to be an integral part of the Heartbeet community, there is some work to be done:

- Drain and driveway
- Heating
- Interior renovation



White Pine dining room

### Ways You Can Support!

- **Online**  
[www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org)  
[www.gofundme.com/communityatheart](http://www.gofundme.com/communityatheart)
- **By Mail**  
Attn: Development  
218 Town Farm Road  
Hardwick, VT 05843
- **Material Donations**  
We welcome material donations of equipment or supplies!  
Contact our office at (802) 472-3285



# Invest in Infrastructure ~

## Aster—The Heartbeet Yurt—\$25,000

Our yurt is such a wonderful space for small gatherings! However, updates are needed to make this a space that is useable in all four seasons. Previously, the yurt has been a guest house, community center, festival hub, dedicated childcare space, and quiet retreat for the Heartbeet community. To continue its contribution to the community, it will need a bathroom, running water, and improvements to the heating and cooling system.



Aster

## The Pool House at Heartbeet Hill—\$40,000

The Heartbeet Hill property has been an amazing addition to the community! The Pool House, an outbuilding at Heartbeet Hill, has a small kitchen, living room, and two upper bedrooms, one of which is finished and one that is not. It has the potential to provide flexible accommodations for friends, family, coworkers, and guests. Renovations are needed to make this rustic space a comfortable option for all seasons.



The Heartbeet Hill Pool House



Fun times at the pool!

- New roof
- Insulation
- Replace doors and windows
- Flooring throughout
- Bathroom renovation



The new bulldozer, made possible by the generosity of Susan Gilberg, mother of Jared Shaffer, and his brothers Matthew and Ben

## Farm & Garden Wish List

Heartbeet farmers are the true stewards of our land. The following items will help to replenish the earth as it has provided to us its bounty.

- Bulldozer - **RECEIVED**
- Brush hog- \$2,500
- Bucket grapple- \$2,100
- Garden processing structure- \$5,000
- Soil and crop improvement- \$5,400 total
  - Broadcast seeder
  - Cover crop seed
  - Hay crop seed
  - Soil tests
  - Soil amendments

## Meeting the Governor by Annie Jackson

On February 8th, I had the opportunity to go along with Hannah, Patrick, Leigh, and fellow board member Mateo Kehler to the State House in Montpelier. We met with Vermont's new Governor, Phil Scott, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Al Gobeille. I was really excited to be part of this group, and to be part of the Governor's experience in learning about Heartbeet. Walking into the room to meet the Governor felt like entering a whole different world! This was my first time meeting Governor Scott, and I got the impression from him that he was someone who knows his stuff, and really was listening to what we had to say. Seeing him and Secretary Gobeille sitting there as two people who were interested in making a difference for Vermonters was really encouraging to me. I was happy to be part of broadening the horizons in the State House, and I wanted to share with them my experience at Heartbeet. At Heartbeet and across the state of Vermont people who are living with special needs have a unique perspective. It is very important for us to share this viewpoint and make our voices heard. Living at Heartbeet and being a board member has been transformative, and visiting the Governor and Secretary Gobeille is part of this inclusion. It made me feel like I really have a voice in those rooms. Taking a picture with the Governor also was really important, it is worth a thousand words. I want to thank Governor Scott and Secretary Gobeille for their interest, and taking the time to listen to my story. I invite them to come visit us to learn more about Heartbeet!



Anne J. with Governor Phil Scott

## Welcome Jenkins Family!



Ben, Calem, Solomon, and Brooke Jenkins



Chris and Ben hang out in the Hall

The Jenkins family is thrilled to be joining the Heartbeet community! Ben, Brooke, Solomon (15) and Calem (13) will be moving to White Pine House from Montpelier in July. Ben has been an active member and employee of Heartbeet for a year, providing direct support and helping lead the woodshop. Brooke is the Executive Director of the Good Samaritan Haven homeless shelter and a recent graduate of Vermont Law School. Solomon and Calem are active teenagers and both attended Orchard Valley Waldorf School.



Brooke, Ben and Sam visit a local sugarhouse

The Jenkins decided to move to Heartbeet for many reasons: to build strong community and friendships, spend more time together as a family, model the values of compassion and service for their children, build on existing life experience, develop new skills and self-knowledge, and support a healthy lifestyle. The list could go on, but the Jenkins family is honored to join the vibrant Heartbeet community!



## My Time at Heartbeet - David Schwartz



Onat and David on a summer afternoon



Onat, Sequoya and David



Onat and Kei in the kitchen

Leigh invited me to write a short article about my experiences in Heartbeet. I told her I would be happy to do that. Best of all, she has given me the opportunity to thank Heartbeet for the chance of living and working in the community for three and a half wonderful years. Some might say, "naturally," your daughter (Hannah), son-in-law and grandchildren live there. But my experience in Heartbeet is more than about my family.

Heartbeet was my fourth Camphill community to live in over the last forty-three years. Previously, I lived in Camphill Village Kimberton Hills, Camphill Special School and Camphill Communities California. However, Heartbeet is the only truly rural community setting that I have ever lived in. I am so glad to have had the experience of the extraordinary beauty of the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. I tell people that if you want to go back in time to feel what a rural setting felt like fifty or a hundred years ago, then go to Heartbeet. One of the most precious experiences I had at Heartbeet was through the nature there. I was reunited with my nine-year-old self who spent summers in Yuba City, California on my grandparents' orchard. I also told my friends that at Heartbeet you can walk out and breathe in the air and it feels like a meal.

Readers may not know that my husband, Onat, and I were the first teachers from Beaver Run (Camphill Special School in Pennsylvania) to take a seniors' group to Heartbeet. The first visit was in the summer of 2002. Jonathan set up a wonderful, big (really big!) tent on the White Pine lawn that served as our dining hall. There was a stove, a kitchen sink and countertops all set up, and two or three picnic tables. Also, he set up an outdoor shower near White Pine. We all slept in tents on the lawn. That first group included Sean, Connor and Thomas!

One of my highlights of living in Heartbeet is that I was able to be part of the planning of and preparations for the new Community Center. What an honor. Also, I was able to install a garden and orchard between the Cottage and Amber Rose. Leaving gardens behind me is always one of my favorite Camphill things. By the way, up on the hillside above the Cottage and Amber Rose, I am still going to finish sculpting out of cement a gnome statue. You can see the foundation that I poured last summer; it is near the bench.

Lastly, I made so many good friends in Heartbeet, some of whom hopefully will come and visit Onat and me in our new home in northern New York, near the four Camphill places in Columbia County, close to Albany. Our door will always be open.

What is one regret? I hoped to see the woods next to the Cottage that go down to the creek become a park. I hope this still happens!

## Welcome - Marissa Huppe!

Marissa Huppe is the newest member of the Heartbeet office. She moved to Hardwick from New Hampshire in September of 2015. Before coming to Heartbeet, Marissa worked for a Vermont-based animal feed and nutrition company doing data management on dairy farms in the northeast. She has a degree in Integrated Agriculture Management and has held jobs on various vegetable and dairy farms, as well as customer service positions. While not at Heartbeet, Marissa enjoys working with her team of oxen, hiking the White Mountains, and spending time with her many nieces and nephews. She is happy to be part of the diverse and inclusive community that is Heartbeet! She has complemented our team tremendously and we are delighted to have her here.



Marissa and Connor having a laugh in the office

## Eva's Reflection

From my first day at Heartbeet I felt restored in a way I had not for several years, surrounded by warmth, sharing the load for nourishing and restoring one another, tending to the space we call home, laughing at the improbable situations. All around me were children, animals, a gorgeous landscape, and the diverse skills, wisdom, and needs of my household and my community, which gave and demanded more from me than any other place ever had. Heartbeet will take nothing less than every ounce of strength, resourcefulness, and self-awareness that you have to give, but along the way comes self-discovery and a recognition of your unquestionable value—you are needed, wanted, and worth loving here.

One of the toughest decisions of my life was whether to stay at Heartbeet for longer (perhaps for life), or move on to some future thing. After a long reflection, I accepted that the same threads which wove me into Heartbeet's story were weaving me away from it, at least as a coworker, at least for now. However, the place gifted me with a vocation—to support and advocate for those with different abilities and ways of expressing themselves as they seek their own destinies in the world. I am grateful to consider the folks at Heartbeet admirable colleagues, oft-visited neighbors, and dear friends, and I am proud to represent the work done there to the wider world.



Eva celebrates Valentine's Day with Konig House

## Staying in Community

-by Ver Rogers

When I first came to Heartbeet, it was for a ten-day internship. In that time, I fell in love with Heartbeet and knew I wanted to come back with my family of three (myself, Derek, and our dog, Kelly) for good! There are so many things I love about living at Heartbeet, such as the interdependent community style, as well as a willingness to reach out and be part of the larger communities in Hardwick and Craftsbury. I have never lived in a place like this, and it feels truly inclusive and nourishing.

While at Heartbeet, I have learned two life-changing lessons—one is the importance of loving people for how they want to be loved. Before coming here, I had an idea of how love was supposed to look, but now I realize the way someone needs to be loved is learned, and once learned a friendship can be built. Secondly, I now realize that prior to coming to Heartbeet, there was a disconnect between myself and those with developmental disabilities; it was just a community I hadn't been involved with. Of course, I will never feel that disconnect again!

Derek and I have decided to stay at Heartbeet for another year for so many reasons! We have built beautiful relationships with coworkers, friends, our work on the land, and in the community kitchen! There is a great opportunity for me to continue building skills and to work therapeutically with people, something I have always been interested in. I love how intentional and interwoven everything is at Heartbeet.

As we continue living at Heartbeet, I look forward to furthering my consciousness of homemaking, scheduling, and every other aspect of our community!



Ver and Derek with Hannah, Brielle, and Chris in the snow!

### Mission:

Heartbeet is a vibrant lifesharing community that includes adults with developmental disabilities and interweaves the social and agricultural realms for the healing and renewing of our society and the earth. Community members live and work together, in beautiful extended family households, forming a mutually supportive environment that enables each individual to discover and develop his or her unique abilities and potential.

### Donations:

Heartbeet Lifesharing – 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick, VT 05843

Email: [info@heartbeet.org](mailto:info@heartbeet.org) – Phone: (802) 472-3285 – Website: [www.heartbeet.org](http://www.heartbeet.org)

### Creative Donations:

Corporate Donations can be supported through business matching grants. If you are giving a donation to Heartbeet, check with your business or corporation to see if they would be willing to match it. If you are thinking of giving money but would like to give it over time, we can organize a pledge donation.

*Heartbeet Lifesharing is an equal opportunity employer and provider. Heartbeet is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and its primary purpose is serving individuals with developmental disabilities. We are a youthful organization with significant capital expenses, so your support is greatly appreciated.*



Ann B., Parker, and Jan