Dear Friends of Heartbeet,

There is so much to share, it is hard to find the beginning point. This winter and spring have been filled to the brim with manifestation and change. The Community Center has continued to emerge and we started our work of finding additional housing off site. The last newsletter left you with the new Community Center well on its way to creation. All winter, we watched teams of dedicated workers pour concrete, frame walls and pound nails; roofers, dry-wallers, painters and crew leaders steadily manifested a beautiful building that is now almost finished. All winter we were gifted with magical weather that seemed to coordinate itself with the construction. This was a low-snow winter for Vermont, not great for the snowboarders and skiers, but for a ‘winter build’ it could not have been better! Today we look out the windows of our houses or walk the loop as the landscapers carefully lay out the paths and flower beds, redistribute top soil, and bring order to the chaos of our construction site. Inside, our dedicated painter Cindy is hard at work finishing the final coats—for those of us who had the task of picking the color, seeing the results is truly rewarding. We are now in the last month, with the detail work of finishes and final touches. All of us at Heartbeet and way beyond are filled with gratitude for all the people that have made this building a reality. As we walk through its hallways and rooms, in its almost finished condition, there is no doubt that this building will serve its mission as a safe, inclusive space for all people to experience the arts, to dance and celebrate culture, education and interfaith activities. We look forward to welcoming you to the Grand Opening on October 21, a moment to acknowledge with abundant enthusiasm the power of collective intention.
This winter we said goodbye to our dear and beloved Tidblom-Gonzalez family after seven and a half amazing, lifesharing years, foundational years for Heartbeet as a community. Their dedication, insight and wisdom will forever be woven into the fabric of what Heartbeet stands for. One cannot walk past the farm without feeling Eric’s formative force—the renovation of the barn and its beautiful porch overhang that provides the cows with shelter all winter, came out of his vision and hard work. In meetings when conversation is heightened, we always try to channel Seneca and her natural ability to synthesize the issue and speak the straightforward truth needed for resolution. They are deeply loved by all and profoundly missed already!! We sent them off with warmth of heart and trust that this is just a new step on the path of further connection.

Last but certainly not least we have exciting news regarding our vision of expanding the lifesharing element of Heartbeet into the surrounding community. Last September a team was identified to search for potential off site homes. We were looking within a 10 mile radius from Heartbeet. With an unidentified time frame we started imagining what kind of property would work best. Well, it was not long before the group found the Fuller property, a beautiful home, barn, and two other outbuildings at the top of a rolling hill. As all of our faithful supporters were making the Community Center happen, we did not know how to find the resources needed. With uncanny providence a small group of three anonymous supporters of Heartbeet came forward to make this new home a reality! Heartbeet is now the proud owner of new 58-acre property in Craftsbury. Through this expansion we are able to welcome three new Friends, a new family and three new coworkers into the Heartbeet community. In this newsletter you can read about these new people who will be celebrating life together with all of us already here at Heartbeet. There are many connections that already form a bridge to Craftsbury: Sterling College, Pete’s Greens, The Art House, the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, and many others are still emerging. We look forward to intentionally expanding our integration.

With the landscape in full bloom we just welcomed Patrick and Kaylin’s new baby girl, Amelie Finch, and all of us at Heartbeet are expanding our hearts and growing into the reality which has manifested through all the generosity, hard work and intention over the last months.

What we need from all of our amazing extended community members is the support to fill the new Community Center with the internal organs of what this building needs—we are calling it Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FFE)! This means tables and chairs, stage curtains, pots, pans and kitchen gear….see the full details in the next few pages! Pick any of the items that you feel called to support—and fill the center with life! We are truly grateful to all of you who have participated in this essential moment in the history of Heartbeet’s unfolding.

With sincere thanks,

Hannah Schwartz
Executive Director
Community Life

Rachel and Alden out for a walk

John and Lindsey out in the canoe

Mandy and Patrick out for a walk

Sam painting

Ann B. and Annie J. visit the State House

Eva, John, Odile, and Connor on a Valentine’s Day outing

Kei and Brittany in Felting

Max and Onat

Suzannah and Linden

Max and Annie J. in the greenhouse

Sean enjoying the warm weather

Anna, Dave, and Kei in the greenhouse

Jan and Josiah making S’mores

Samantha and Lyla at Fasching

Chime Choir after a performance with VT Vaudeville

Parker and Dan
Introducing Brielle Gamble!
by Sarah and Jamie Gamble

Brielle Gamble is enthusiastic about joining the Heartbeet community. Although Brielle hails from Granby, CT – she has deep roots in the Hardwick/Greensboro area. Brielle’s great, great grandmother bought property on Caspian Lake so that her great-grandmother as well as all the generations since have spent as much time as possible in this neck of the woods. Brielle’s cousin and her family live close to Heartbeet and her great aunt and uncle live in Craftsbury.

Brielle graduated from a boarding school for students with special needs in 2014. She recently completed two years of Getting Ready for the Outside World (GROW) – a postsecondary vocational and independent living skills program on Cape Cod.

Brielle’s family includes her dad Jamie, mom Sarah, and stepdad, Ron. She has an adult stepbrother (Ricky and his wife Amy) and stepsister (Jacquie) along with her older brother, Seth and younger sister, Shelby. Some of Brielle’s favorite family members are canine (Primo & Pepto) and feline (Kitkat). She was sold on Heartbeet after meeting the animals – especially Apollo!

Brielle shares her time in Connecticut between her Mom and Dad’s homes in Granby, always engaged in taking care of the animals, and keeping track of the health and well being of all the pets and farm animals in the neighborhood. She enjoys taking walks on the rail trail, taking the dogs into the woods to soak in local brooks, and singing songs on the swings. We are all so grateful and excited about Brielle’s new home at Heartbeet.

Lelia is Moving to Heartbeet!
by Annie Volmer and Josh Carpenter

Lelia Volmer has lived in three states in her nineteen years. She was born in Moscow, Idaho on her mom’s birthday. When she was almost two, she moved to Sitka, Alaska. She spent her toddlerhood climbing mountains in the backpack and playing in the sand on wild Alaskan beaches. Her favorite foods were halibut cheeks, shrimp and crab from her dad’s crab pots.

When Lelia was five, she and her family moved back to their home in Vermont to be closer to relatives. Family is very important to Lelia. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins are a big part of her life, and her sister Abbey is her best friend and champion.

Lelia leads an active, busy life. She swims year-round, and competes in Special Olympics. Her favorite stroke is freestyle, although a gold medal in the backstroke took her to the National Games in 2014. She also competes in alpine ski racing – she loves seeing her friends at Sugarbush every Sunday in the winter. Nordic skiing in Craftsbury, and working at the Buffalo Mountain Coop in Hardwick also keep her busy. Lelia also loves all kinds of music, dance and films. She is a watercolor artist, and has a strong interest in helping people. She has a great sense of humor and an authentic belly laugh.

In June, Lelia graduated from Craftsbury Academy with friends she has grown up with. She is excited to begin her adult life at Heartbeet this summer. Lelia has many friends at Heartbeet and is well acquainted with the rhythms of the life that awaits her. We feel deeply blessed that this amazing community grew up in our backyard, and that Lelia has found her home there.
Meet April Bond!

by April Bond and Leigh Holliday

Heartbeet welcomed April Bond to the community on April 27th. April spent 16 years living in Dummerston, during which she and her mother planted many fruit and nut trees, as well as a quarter acre garden! April’s mother Anna was a great source of inspiration and encouragement; she started and drove the process for April to live at Heartbeet. Anna passed away in 2015, before April’s admission. Those of us who were fortunate enough to have met Anna during the process of April’s admission consider it a joy and a privilege. April’s father Luc lives in Massachusetts, and regularly visits with April.

April is excited about living at Heartbeet because of the opportunity she will have to spend time in Heartbeet’s own gardens, and also dedicate herself to another of her interests: cooking! April has a keen interest in the culinary arts; her favorite dish to concoct is curried rice noodles with tempeh. We are sure April will be a coveted dinner guest around the community!

April is also a talented actress; she has been involved in the New England Youth Theater’s Theater Adventure Program, and recently participated in a play at the West Village Meeting Place in West Brattleboro. April says one of her favorite aspects of theater is the costuming, the last play she was in had many costume changes, which she enjoyed immensely. April also practices Aikido, and has honed her craft over seven years. Other interests include pottery, which she learned from her teacher Bonnie Stearns. April also enjoys contra dancing!

Join us in extending our warmest Heartbeet welcome to April!

Welcome Emilie, Joseph, Isaac, and Thomas Papas!

Emilie and Joseph are thrilled to be joining Heartbeet this Summer.

Emilie, who was born in Alaska, grew up in Northeast Alabama and spent her teenage years playing the cello and helping her family start a dairy farm near Ithaca, New York. Joseph grew up in the suburbs of Rochester, New York. After studying classical guitar, musicology, Ancient Greek and baking Joseph joined Camphill Village in Copake, New York. He was looking for a place where money did not need to stand in the way of warm and lasting relationships. Soon after, Emilie arrived in Camphill Village looking for training in Biodynamic agriculture and a lifestyle that would require her to search for the higher being of the those around her on a daily basis.

Joseph and Emilie met at Camphill Village and began to study Anthroposophy and play music together. They celebrated a wonderful community wedding. They have been in Camphill Village for ten years. During that time Joseph has been workmaster in the bakery, working alongside a large crew to produce delicious naturally leavened breads for the Village as well as local CSAs and stores. Emilie has worked in the dairy, Healing Plant Garden and as a homemaker. Together they have lived and worked with many Friends and brought beauty and care to the three homes they have lived in. They are blessed with two sons: Isaac, who is 5 and doesn't miss much of all that is going on around him, and Thomas, who is 2 and aspires to be as mischievous as his brother some day soon.

Joseph and Emilie first came to Heartbeet to participate in the Youth Conferences many years ago and have maintained friendships in the community ever since. They feel very grateful that their search this past winter for a new step for their family coincided so fortuitously with the need for householders in Heartbeet.

They are looking forward to raising their children in such a beautiful environment and to the supportive relationships of a small community. They feel honored to be able to offer their artistic gifts and knowledge of Camphill to the ensouling of the Community Center at Heartbeet and to the future of such a vibrant community.
What a year it has been!

The Heartbeet Community Center stands as a representation of all the dedication, commitment, and hard work put in by innumerable individuals over the course of this building’s journey into being. We extend our deepest gratitude to all who have taken this journey with us—we can see a light at the end of the tunnel! Heartbeet is now only $58,000 away from officially opening the doors to our Community Center! As summer comes to Heartbeet we turn our attention to Fixtures, Furniture, and Equipment – Check out our wishlist, and help us furnish this beautiful building we have built together!
Community Center
Built with Hand and Heart

Join us in celebration of this accomplishment on October 21st, 2016 at 3:00pm for our Grand Opening Celebration!

Dan, Lindsey and Sequoya - A great team!

The planing & staining crew! [From left] Thomas, Sam, Chris, Andy, Parker, Connor, Nora & Lindsey

Heartbeet’s Community Center Wish List:

- Food Processing Equipment
- Bread Mixer
- Cutlery
- Utensils
- Restaurant Quality Plates, Cups, Bowls
- Stainless Steel Rolling Carts
- Mixing Bowls
- Cuisinart
- Stage Curtain

- Tables and Chairs
- Office Furniture, including:
  - Desks
  - Chairs
  - Shelving

…and more! Your support continues to make Heartbeet’s dream a reality!
Step Inside the Heartbeet Community Center!

Upon stepping inside the foyer of the new Community Center the warmth and light from the day outside streams down from the half moon window high above. The bulk of construction is complete, and the Community Center is now being filled with the accoutrements that make a house a home, and that likewise will make this building the cultural heart of Heartbeet. There is still work to be done! Though we are seeing wooden trim adorning each enclave and doorway and the walls are being painted in beautiful colors, the Hall is still very much a work in progress, which, thanks to your generous support, is moving closer to our goal of opening the doors every day!
A New Home for Heartbeet on Heartbeet Hill!

In May of 2016 an incredibly generous anonymous donation was made to Heartbeet Lifesharing, which allowed the purchase of a home with 58 acres of land in Craftsbury, Vermont. This home is becoming Heartbeet’s first satellite campus! Located approximately five miles down Route 14, the property sits atop a lovely rolling hill, and includes a woodshop, pool, and a stable with four box stalls! The warming process has already begun, as Annie J., Chris, Hannah, Jonathan, Lyla, Jasper, and Josiah begin to make it their home, and new Friend Brielle will also help make the space her own when she moves in later this summer! We are all excited about joining the wonderful community of Craftsbury, and we look forward to opportunities for new friendships and collaboration!

Left: The new Heartbeet Lifesharing home from above – we can’t wait to see how beautiful this property will look in the spring and fall!

Below left: A view into the kitchen and dining room of the new house—a warm space that will soon be full of light and laughter!

Below right: One of the main living spaces – big windows for lots of sunlight and warmth throughout the year.
Love, Light, and Laughter - Victoria O’Keefe

My inspiration to move to Heartbeet Lifesharing was my daughter Seneca and her family. When they first moved to Heartbeet I visited yearly. Over the course of these visits I made many friends and knew my destiny would be to live here at some point. That day arrived on August 25, 2013, one day before my 59th birthday. Imagine moving from California to Vermont in early fall after never experiencing a real winter! It was very exciting. Knowing I had eleven family members waiting to greet me as I stepped into my new life softened my heart before I even arrived. My skill set was in homemaking so there was plenty of opportunity for me to shine. My first year living in Karl Konig House, with all the 1st year co-worker responsibilities was filled with much love, light and laughter. The love was in everyone, and the light was everywhere; from the candles, stars, snow, sun and the biggest moons I had ever seen! Laughter followed the smile that I awoke with each morning. At this point I began leading the granola workshop, working in the weavery, and spending much time in the garden.

When I moved into Kaspar House during the Holy Nights of my second year living at Heartbeet, singing around the tree each evening was a beautiful way to bond with my new family. I was given the opportunity to live with my niece, grandniece, and nephews. I am heartened by the honesty and integrity I experienced living at Kaspar House.

In my last year at Heartbeet I moved to White Pine to join my daughter’s family. Being part of my grandsons’ daily lives has been a gift that I am so grateful for. My heart is full, my ability to love is strong--wherever I am and whoever I am with will be loved deeply, thanks to everyone at Heartbeet pouring their hearts out to me.

A Shared Journey – Byron Barrett and Samantha Stanley

Samantha Stanley and Byron Barrett departed from Heartbeet this spring, moving ahead to new adventures! After leaving Heartbeet Byron and Samantha will be heading to Pennsylvania to gather supplies before departing from El Campo, California to hike the Pacific Crest Trail! The following from Samantha:

It has been a very fulfilling two years at Heartbeet Lifesharing! I feel that I have stretched, grown, and learned more about myself in that time than in the past 27 years. It has been rewarding also as an individual to have a partner in that experience. I have learned many things throughout my time at Heartbeet. I feel that I am better able to recognize the longing for human connection in myself and others, and to act toward others with compassion and empathy. When I walk down the street I feel a desire to make eye contact, reach out and meet people where they are, rather than looking down at my feet. The impact of that simple gesture, and taking the time to have an interest in the other is something I will carry with me wherever I go. To those at Heartbeet, whether you know it or not you will all be on the trail with us! Our journey together doesn’t end here, we are thankful for the impact you have all had on our lives.
Reflections..

Standing on the Threshold - Seneca, Eric, Wilde, and Kai

Our Family is on a threshold you might humorously call, “The Final Countdown”-- just weeks away from physically moving out of the Heartbeet Lifesharing community. What a mixed bag of thoughts and feelings it is, sometimes sad beyond words, other times overwhelmingly exciting, and in other moments, total denial sets in. In June we would have been in Heartbeet for eight years, eight growth-stimulating, soul-nourishing, life-challenging, beautiful years. There is a mysterious play with time that happens in a community like Heartbeet. On one hand our community is so very rhythmical, one knows what to expect every Monday, every Tuesday, and so on, week after week, but because we are forty five very individual people sharing place and time we can pack a lot into one week, and accomplish in days, weeks, or months what might otherwise take years to accomplish.

What has been packed into our eight years at Heartbeet? It feels like a lifetime of doing, learning, hardships, loving and being loved. We have each been mirrored and all of our highest and lowest qualities laid out like clothes drying in the sun, warmed for all to see. That is how it works in community – an individual is reflected, and reflects others. Because of community we have learned to notice and lovingly accept this reflection, to make changes as needed, and to not be afraid of this reflection of ourselves. We are thankful for it all, every single person, every hard interaction and loving gesture, all of the animals that have nourished our bodies and souls and this beautiful land that so generously supports all the activity. We are so grateful! We move through this threshold with love in our hearts and courage in our step because of our community.

With love and blessings
Eric, Seneca, Wilde, Kai

Seneca, Eric, Wilde, Kai, and Victoria will be moving to Austin Texas to life-share with Eric’s family after spending almost 8 years as pillars of the Heartbeet community. They plan on continuing their work with Biodynamic farming and other socially renewing activities. We are deeply grateful to have shared the years they spent at Heartbeet, and with much love we wish them well on their journey!!!
Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Heartbeet Events!

International Camphill Leadership Conference

Cultivating Warmth and Light in Creative Community: Tools for the Future

September 17-21, 2016
For more information, or to register contact Annie: annie@heartbeet.org or (802) 472-3285

GRAND OPENING!
October 21st, 2016
3:00pm
Join us as we officially open the doors to our Community Center!
Hall tours, food, and music from Me2 and the Heartbeet Chime Choir!

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: Hannah@heartbeet.org – Phone: (802) 472-3285 – Website: 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 and can be directed towards the following areas of need: General Operations or Community Center.