

## Wish list

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our ongoing requests for items on our wish list. Your donations help ensure that Hope Lodge truly is a home away from home, and each gift is appreciated by all who stay here.

- Canned and dry food
- Digital camera (for guest use)
- DVD/Blu-ray movies
- Gift cards: Hannaford, Bed Bath & Beyond
- Ivory queen sheet sets
- Rubber bath mats
- Silverware (forks and spoons)
- White twin and queen duvet covers
- Umbrellas

We also have an active registry at [bedbathandbeyond.com](http://bedbathandbeyond.com). To access our account, enter first name: Hope and last name: Lodge. The Hope Lodge continues to grow because of your generous donations. Thank you!

## Hope Lodge team raises funds at Relay For Life



Friends of Hope Lodge raised \$4,200 for the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Chittenden County. The 10-member Hope Lodge team, led by captain Susan Wear, with support from their families, walked through the night with more than 1,000 Relayers who attended the June 22-23 event at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction to celebrate cancer survivors, remember those lost, and fight back against the disease. To make a contribution, visit the team page at [relayforlife.org/chittendenvt](http://relayforlife.org/chittendenvt).

## Dance the Night Away at the Vermont Cattle Baron's Ball

Howdy! The fine folks at People's United Bank are fixin' to host the 2nd Annual Vermont Cattle Baron's Ball benefiting the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge on Friday, September 14, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. at The Barn at Lang Farm, and y'all are invited to join the fun. We'll have a rootin' tootin' good time dancin' the night away to the sounds of The Starline Rhythm Boys. Enjoy dinner, hayrides, a mechanical bull, photo booth, and a few more surprises. If you have a hankering for a party, reserve your tickets lickety split, \$90 per person or \$175 per couple, by calling staff partner Amy Deavitt at 802-872-6316.



Allison Knoth (left), event co-chair, with husband Jim Fogler and guests Michael and Michele Lash attend the 2011 Cattle Baron's Ball.

## Lake cruise to support Hope Lodge

Enjoy a dinner cruise across Lake Champlain on Sunday, September 2, to support the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge and other area charities. Master of Ceremonies George Malloy, the news anchor from WPTZ-TV, promises an entertaining evening featuring the music of Stephen Blair. Tickets are \$75 per person. For more information, call the Hope Lodge at 802.658.0649.

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Summer 2012

# Hope Lodge News

Burlington, Vermont

*A home away from home for families facing cancer*

## Celebrating a special woman on a special day

This year, Bee Tabakin, one of the key forces behind the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, Lois McClure-Bee Tabakin Building, is celebrating her 90th birthday. As the official sponsor of birthdays, the Society fights every cancer in every community so people like Bee, a two-time breast cancer survivor and recently diagnosed cancer patient, have cause to celebrate.

"Cancer is bad," said Bee, who lost her daughter Ruth Ann in 1990 after a two-year battle with lung cancer. "But I believe we have to live day by day, appreciate all the good things we have in life and be there to help other people."

It's this philosophy which drove Bee to dedicate seven years to the campaign to secure the funding and support to build a new facility in Burlington for cancer patients who must travel far from home for life-saving treatment. With help from her childhood friend, Lois McClure, who shares the loss of a daughter to cancer, the capital campaign raised \$5 million, allowing construction on the 17,000-square-foot Lodge to begin in 2006.

"I used to go up a lot and watch them putting in bricks and marvel at the view," said Bee of those years the Lodge was under construction. "I just knew it was going to be a wonderful place - and of course it is. It is a privilege and honor to share the name of Hope Lodge with my dear friend Lois," Bee added.

Bee is currently receiving chemotherapy treatment to shrink five recently detected tumors; she says the treatment seems to be working. Her thoughts don't linger long on her own condition before her focus shifts to helping others. Following treatment, Bee intends to return to her volunteer roles, driving cancer patients to and from treatment and sharing her hope by visiting with newly diagnosed breast cancer patients.

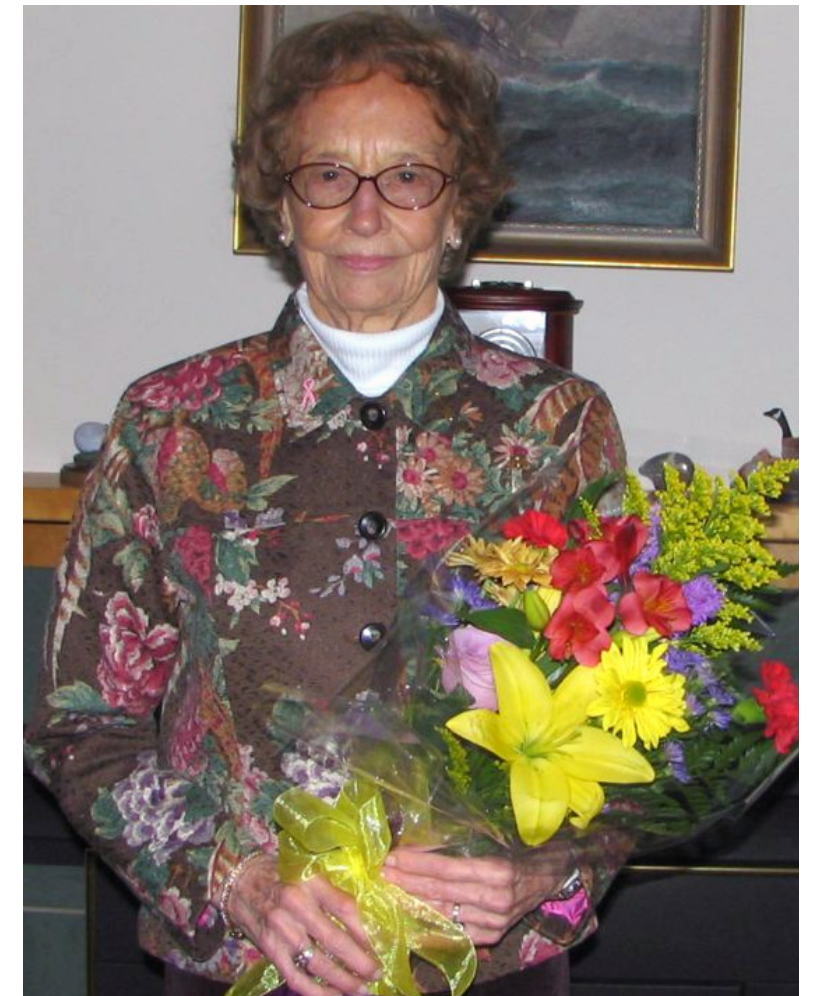
"It's where my heart is," Bee confided. "Helping others who are going through a hard time makes me very happy. I feel so blessed I'm able to help in some small way; it's my calling."

As far back as the 1960s, when Bee knocked on neighborhood doors collecting donations to support cancer research, the American Cancer Society has had a loyal volunteer, donor, advocate, and friend.

"I'm still out there raising money because we have to do everything we can to keep up the good care for Hope Lodge guests," Bee stated.

Society Distinguished Giving Executive Amy Deavitt said, "Bee is a remarkable woman - strong and passionate in her public and personal fight against cancer. Her work on behalf of the American Cancer Society has comforted and saved countless lives. We wish her good health and more birthdays."

"I want to thank all my dear family and many friends for their support and love during my cancer illness," said Bee, grandmother to 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. "I'm very blessed."



Bee Tabakin, who celebrates her 90th birthday this year, has been a dedicated support of the American Cancer Society and Hope Lodge.

## From the desk of Angela

We recently implemented a bell-ringing tradition at Hope Lodge. The Bell of Hope sits in our entryway, underneath the smiling faces of Lois and Bee. It's there for any of our guests to ring to celebrate a milestone in their treatment plan.

We knew that the bell would be a powerful symbol to the person ringing it, whether they had stayed here for several nights or several weeks, but we underestimated how powerful the bell would be to everyone within earshot of it. I wish I could share the feeling that sound evokes. The person ringing it looks so proud and so happy, and the guests who come out of their rooms when they hear it look equally so, offering hugs and words of encouragement. I can feel the strength of their friendships, but I can also see in their faces that they think they can do it now, too.

It is important for people to know that there is hope. That is something this Lodge has always had -- and now we can embrace it in the beautiful sound of the Bell of Hope.

Angela Putnam  
Manager, Hope Lodge



Barbara Dayton rang the Bell of Hope to celebrate her last radiation treatment.

## Baking to comfort cancer patients



Susan (right) and Jaime Iverson, during Jaime's treatment at Vermont Children's Hospital.

The smell of fresh-baked cookies is the calling card of Susan Iverson. Once a month, Hope Lodge guests are lured into the kitchen for a homemade treat prepared by this 55-year-old mother of a cancer survivor. Baking is Sue's tribute to her daughter and a measure to momentarily distract patients and caregivers from the daily trials of cancer.

Ten years ago at the age of 18, Susan's eldest daughter, Jaime, was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma during her senior year in high school. On each of those stressful hospital visits during Jaime's treatment phase, Susan brought along fresh-baked cookies for the staff, finding it helped lighten the mood at the hospital.

"At the time, cookies were my small way of thanking the doctors and nurses who cared for Jaime, and for a brief moment, changing the subject from medicine to favorite cookies," said Susan, a self-employed Shelburne resident.

Today, Jaime is cancer free.

"We still check in and have that in our lives," Susan said of cancer. "It means I don't forget the challenges that our family had or Jamie had. It makes me think about what other families are going through."

Since the doors of the American Cancer Society Lois McClure-Bee Tabakin Building opened in 2008, Susan has been serving as a volunteer baker, specializing in molasses, oatmeal chocolate chip, and almond cookies. She mixes up the dough and tackles the bulk of the baking from home, saving the last batches for the Hope Lodge oven so those irresistible sugary-sweet smells can flood the building. "That's how I get my customers," Susan teased.

"What Susan does for our guests is a testimony to who she is," declared Hope Lodge Manager Angela Putnam. "She's warm and friendly and able to offer encouragement through her shared experiences. And nothing comforts like home-baked cookies."

"It's my way of honoring Jaime's courage and strength and all those who face cancer," said Susan. "The Hope Lodge provides cancer patients a home as well as a community. I want to stay connected to the good that they're doing here."

**Cancer patients and their caregivers stayed more than 249,000 nights in the 31 American Cancer Society Hope Lodge facilities, saving those guests more than \$23 million in lodging expenses. Combined, the 31 Hope Lodge facilities have 970 rooms and operate at near full capacity.**

## All for one and one for all



Barb Spear, Bob Belida, and Janey Murcury became fast friends during their stay at the Lodge.

Janey Murcury of Chateaugay, New York, arrived at Hope Lodge in early May for six weeks of chemotherapy and radiation treatment to fight pancreatic cancer. A seamstress and doll maker, she didn't want to burden her family, so she set out on her cancer journey solo. Immediately upon arriving at the Lodge, she discovered she wasn't alone.

"This place is wonderful," Janey said. "We all care about each other."

Jay Peak, Vermont, resident Bob Belida, a retired father and grandfather, is counting down the remaining days and hours of his eight weeks of radiation treatment for prostate cancer. Leaving Becky, his wife of 36 years, behind to work at her job as a senior tech at the local medical facility proved difficult. But Bob quickly joined forces with fellow cancer patients to help combat the loneliness.

"We're all in the same boat," said Bob, who found it easy to strike up friendships during his stay at Hope Lodge. "As soon as you step on the premises, there's a feeling. There's a bond between us."

Barb Spear, who arrived at the Lodge on the same day as Janey, faced radiation for lung cancer. The widowed Bristol, Vermont, resident was surprised to encounter such cheerful company.

"All we did was laugh," said Barb. "My stomach, my chest, my back hurt so much. It's just wonderful to have that around you when you're down and out."

Known affectionately around the halls of the Lodge as the Three Musketeers, Janey, Bob, and Barb, who enjoyed televised ball games, card playing, and board games, readily admit they were likely to "raise Cain." They say laughter, smiles, and friendships went a long way toward passing the time and healing. The evening ice cream social was a highlight of the day.

Hope Lodge Evening Manager Paul Thabault shared, "Guests enjoy the camaraderie of dining together at the popular family meals, so the evening ice cream social was a spontaneous extension of that to allow a before-bedtime chat session. It has become a highly anticipated part of the day where the guests can get away from the constant stress of dealing with cancer and just sit back and enjoy each other's company." He added, "The musketeers certainly livened things up."

"The Hope Lodge really feels like a home," said Janey, acknowledging she'll miss the people at the Lodge when she returns to her home but intends to keep contact. "I pick and choose my friends. These friends you'll stay with forever. I could never have done it without this place, these people."

"We've only known each other four to six weeks," Bob commented, "but it doesn't matter. These friendships are going to be life-lasting."

Barb, the first to complete cancer treatment in July and go home, said through tears, "I'm glad to come home, yet I'm going to miss my buddies. I had a wonderful time for what we were all up there going through. I never thought there were still this many good people in the world."

## Tee up for Hope

Scott Randall established the Gail Randall Memorial Golf Tournament in memory of his mother, Gail Randall, a former Hope Lodge guest who lost her battle with pancreatic cancer five years ago. Proceeds from the four-person scramble tournament at the Lake Placid Club Mountain Course in Lake Placid, New York, on Saturday, August 11, will benefit the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, Lois McClure-Bee Tabakin Building in Burlington. The event begins with a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m.

Prizes will be awarded for the top finishers at an awards ceremony at Wise Guys Sports Bar in Lake Placid following the event. Registration is \$60 per person or \$240 per team, which includes cart, greens fees, raffle ticket, food at the awards ceremony, and a gift from the Randall family.

"Hope Lodge is a place my mother called home for many months," said Scott. "Let's all get together and give this great charity a great gift."

To register or make a contribution, contact Scott Randall at 518-524-7491.

