



# FOLKS AT HOME

141 University Avenue • Sewanee, TN 37375 • (931) 598-0303 • folksathome.org

SPRING 2022

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



This year marks Folks at Home's 13th year serving the extended Sewanee community. By comparison to the last three years, the first 10 years seem almost prosaic. Staff and volunteers pitched in to make possible "remaining in place" — that "place" being the home lived in and loved over the years. Now, the worst of the COVID pandemic seems over. Social distancing and masking are optional, or as some are saying, "masking is welcome here." Still we begin each day hoping that the next variant somehow will not arrive, or if it does, it will not disrupt our path to a new "normal." It remains to be seen just what that "new normal" will be. As the pandemic manifested itself through really scary periods and

maybe-it's-almost-over-periods, one thing that emerged was the need for member transportation. Our new normal seems certain to see members continuing to rely on F@H for getting to essential appointments—not only in the immediate Sewanee-Monteagle area, but also further afield: Chattanooga, Murfreesboro, and Nashville.

Pre-pandemic, volunteer drivers were able to meet member needs. During the pandemic, safety demanded that neither member nor volunteer could share the closed space of a vehicle. Now, meeting these transportation needs means vehicles and drivers. More volunteers are needed! Volunteering at F@H can be a truly rewarding way to help neighbors

to live at home with dignity in the community they love. Please, give the Folks at Home office a call to say you are able and willing!

Resumption of Folks at Home's wellness programs continues to be postponed (an abundance of precaution). With improving weather and the ending of the current academic semester, however, Walk-with-Ease at Fowler once again can be part of our routine.

While I write this as the current President of Folks at Home, Carol and I also are going on eight years as members. I want to take this opportunity to give a great THANK YOU to Kathleen and to Sarah and to Wall for their contributions to our community.

—Craig Stubblebine

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



As promised in our last newsletter, the Folks at Home Board of Directors, Sarah, and I have continued to focus our discussions on the topic of transportation for our members.

Our little Village closed 2021 with over 8,830 miles invested in 99 medical transports—an average of eight per month and a 40% increase over pre-pandemic 2019 medical transportation. In cooperation with Compassionate Care and with generous support from the South Cumberland Community Fund, we accommodated every request for medical transport received, including 30

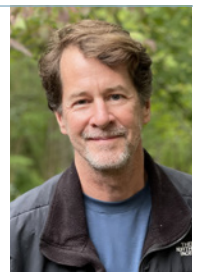
trips to Nashville, 10 to Murfreesboro, 12 to Manchester and 10 to Winchester to name a few. During COVID, we were *even* able to extend help beyond our Folks at Home membership.

The increased demand required us to focus our attention on a long-term and sustainable transportation solution. The Board of Directors approved my request to purchase a dedicated Folks at Home vehicle and to allocate funds for a paid position to help with rising medical transportation demand. This is a big step for Folks at Home, and I am very excited about our unified commit-

ment to such a crucial service. This initiative is made possible by a generous donation from David and Debra Humphreys, long-time supporters of our Folks at Home Village.

I'd like to echo our Board President's call for volunteer support. As Folks at Home looks forward to running programs again, consider co-leading a walking group, starting a reading group, sharing an interest with others, offering a lift to a neighbor. It will continue to take a village to sustain our little Village.

—Wall Wofford



## Call Data + 2021

1,222 Total Service Calls	67 Vaccination Assistance
230 Pro Bono Calls	63 Flu Shots
432 Phone Check-ins	100 Information
32 Home Visits ( <i>Safely</i> )	10 Vendor Referral
88 DME Checkouts	19 Glass Recycling
38 Tech Support	22 Caregiver Coordination
31 Shopping/Errands	43 Home/Yard Assistance
99 Medical Transports	108 Meal Delivery
9 Non-Medical Transports	61 Pet Walking

## MADELINE RUMINGAN'S FAREWELL

I will be graduating this May with a bachelor's degree in neuroscience and a minor in biology on the pre-medical track. It has been an honor and a pleasure working with Folks at Home and getting to know you all. I have especially loved

the close connections that I have made with my team and the Folks at Home members. I will be attending medical school next year in hopes of becoming a pediatrician, so wish me luck!



*Thanks to these sponsors and volunteers for their support!*



SEWANEE

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## Folks at Home MISSION STATEMENT

*Empowering folks to remain in their homes with dignity in the community they love.*

## LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

Over the last couple of years, Folks at Home worked through the Pandemic and found itself on financially stable ground. This was largely due to the kindness and generosity of our Friends and Patrons coupled with Payroll Protection Loan forgiveness. We were also recipients of generous medical transportation funding from the South Cumberland Community Fund. We had one particular generous donation in 2021, which will be directed toward solving our transportation challenges.

In 2021 Folks at Home saw a steep increase in transportation requests, including an unprecedented number of trips to doctor offices in Nashville, Murfreesboro, and Chattanooga. Our transportation costs exceeded our normal budget by over \$7,900. Our solution is to take

the aforementioned generous gift and apply it to the purchase of a dedicated Folks at Home vehicle. We also have approved the hire of a new part-time position to help with transportation and programs. This expansion in capacity will elevate Folks at Home to a new level of service. We will be better equipped to handle the increase in demand and better able to expand our transportation offerings. Folks at Home's commitment to expanding transportation will incur additional expenses, but we feel that this initiative will serve our mission, benefit our members, and be lauded by our friends and supporters. With your continued support, we will continue to be successful in the fulfillment of our mission to members of our community.

—Woody Deutsch



*Madeline Rumingan, Canale volunteer, giving a Valentine's Day basket to Folk at Home member.*



*Folks at Home community volunteer power at work, Michelle Thibodeaux replacing our steps.*