

SASHNEWS

Support and Services at Home

January
2018

SASH is a caring partnership among Vermont [Nonprofit Housing Providers](#) | [Area Agencies on Aging Home Health Providers](#) | [Mental Health Providers](#) | [Vermont Hospitals](#) & Primary Care Providers



Polly Thibault smiles at her mother, Irene Montgomery, who got her dangerously high blood pressure under control within a month of moving to a SASH housing host in Milton and getting involved in the program.

SASH Partners Launch Mental Health Pilot

An innovative pilot program to enhance mental health and substance-use treatment services is underway at two Cathedral Square housing communities in the Burlington area. A collaborative effort with one of our core SASH partners, the [Howard Center](#), the program integrates a Howard Center clinician into the existing SASH team, with the goals of providing timely care and avoiding unnecessary hospital visits. The initiative is funded by [OneCare Vermont](#). [Learn More](#)



Partner Kudos

Just before the holidays, the **Southwestern Vermont Medical Center**, a SASH partner organization, hosted a celebration for the SASH partnership there, where the work of the **Community Care Team** has led to a 44% decrease in emergency-room visits. [Learn More](#)

The **Windham & Windsor Housing Trust**, a SASH housing host, has received a \$125,000 grant from the TD Charitable Foundation that will help the trust complete its Great River Terrace supportive-housing project. [Learn more](#)

The Vermont Blueprint "Hub & Spoke," Vermont's system

of medication-assisted treatment for people recovering from opioid addiction, was among the "innovative programs making a difference" highlighted on NPR's Jan. 8 "Fresh Air" broadcast. You can listen to the program, "[Could Prescription Heroin and Safe Injection Sites Slow the Opioid Crisis?](#)," [here](#).



Regional HUD Administrator Sees SASH at Work

HUD Regional Administrator David Tilley recently got a firsthand look at SASH, touring the operation at Cathedral Square Senior Living in Burlington and sitting in on a telehealth demonstration. Following his visit, he wrote that he was "impressed with [the] Support and Services at Home program," adding, "The SASH model clearly improves the quality of health outcomes for our seniors. The demonstration, which highlights a new approach to health care visits while saving patients and providers time and money, was also inspiring." *Pictured from left: David Tille, HUD regional administrator; Kim Fitzgerald, Cathedral Square CEO; Mike McNamara, director of HUD's Vermont field office*



Gerontology Symposium Adds Caregiver Focus

New in 2018, Vermont's annual Gerontology Symposium is designed for both family and professional caregivers -- and it will be held only in Burlington (unlike past years, there will be no Rutland session).

Titled "Caregiving for Persons Living with Dementia: Families & Professionals Working Together, it takes place Monday, March 26, at the Burlington Hilton. [Learn More](#)



Professional Development Opportunities

Visit the [SASH Calendar](#) for details about these and other opportunities:

- January 25: Highlights from Home: **Innovative Approaches to Enhance Care Transitions & Med Safety** (New England Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization), webinar
- February 13: **Integrating Music Therapy into Palliative & Hospice Care**, Alleviating Distress and Improving Comfort (UVM Integrative Health), Burlington
- March 6: Culinary Medicine: **Mediterranean Diet in Clinical Medicine** (UVM Integrative Health), Burlington

- March 14: Stepping Forward Together: The Conversation Continues - **Working with Community Providers, First Responders & Educators to Advance Equity & Cultural Competency** (Vermont Care Partners), Burlington
- March 26: **2018 Gerontology Symposium: Caregiving for Persons Living with Dementia: Families & Professionals Working Together** (UVM Center on Aging), Burlington

SASH Online Resources

SASH Website: For the current contact list and referral forms, visit sashVT.org.

SASH Forum: For training information, staff tools and resources, visit the [SASH Forum](#).

SASH Job Opportunities: Learn about [available positions](#) statewide.



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