

**A Message From Retiring Director  
Kathy Urquhart**

**July 2016**

I was quite humbled reading last month's newsletter and so filled with joy. Joy for having had the privilege to have worked here at the Center with a wonderful staff, at being inspired by those we provide services for, those who participate in programs and classes at the Center, as well as families and the hundreds of volunteers who make it possible for us to provide such an array of programs and services.

When I came to Andover in 1984 to help start the Supportive Day Program, it was a new concept; Andover's was the fourth program established in the state. There were 3,621 residents age 60+. Today that number has grown to 6,447 and by 2030 it's projected that over 25% of Andover residents will have achieved "senior status". We as a community must be doing something right, but there is still much more that needs to be done.

I joke sometimes, that although the Senior Center in my town is only a little more than a mile from my house, I haven't been there. I expect that will change soon. I'm also willing to guess that many who are reading this newsletter haven't yet been to the Center at PUNCHARD, Andover's Senior Center. I urge you to stop in, see what's going on and get involved; if not to take a class, perhaps to volunteer. You'll meet some wonderful people, perhaps run into an old friend or make some new ones.

Since the word got out that I was retiring, so many people that I haven't seen in years have made a point to stop by and wish me well. I can't begin to express how touched I have been and how I've enjoyed reminiscing. As they say, it takes a village...my thanks to my coworkers (past and present), to the COA Board members (past and present), to the Town Manager (s), past and present, and to my predecessors, Jeanne Madden, Sharon Souza, Mary Byrne and Dottie Winn, all of whom set the groundwork for us to be where we are today. There have been so many who have advocated and volunteered, our Friends groups, the Senior Center Task Force and those who don't fit as easily under a label.

Lastly, to the community at large who have supported us and our budget, to my family who I hope are looking forward to seeing more of me and to those who have been my inspiration the "regulars" at the Center.

**Best Regards,  
Kathy Urquhart**

**"Choose a work that you love and you won't have to work another day." Confucius**