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—Contributor.....Helen Neswald
—Contributor email.....lucretius@vermontel.net
—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Saxtons River
—Article Number:.....42547

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

A solution to troubled nursing homes

####END HED####

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TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

The recent reporting from *VTDigger* about the inadequacy of the state's private nursing homes [["Problems followed some of Vermont's largest and most troubled nursing homes after state approved new ownership," VTDigger](#), Oct. 28] reminded me of a very different mode of caring for our infirm elderly that seems especially appropriate to a state with underutilized homes and capable nursing providers — the group home.

12 More than two decades ago, when my parents were
13 slowly declining, I was invited by my sisters to join them in
14 investigating such homes in the Columbia, Maryland area.

15 Together, we easily gained access to a complete listing,
16 and visited many of those by appointment. Although neither I nor
17 my surviving sister remember the legitimization process for these,
18 the one we chose was closely attended by a registered nurse,
19 whose home it was. It was presumably subject to inspections
20 and/or evaluations.

21 There were approximately six needy residents, in a
22 pleasant and attractive large home, with rooms for all (my parents
23 sharing one) — an arrangement that was much more stimulating
24 than the standard institutional residences, partly due to there
25 being two young children in the home.

26 When special care needs asserted themselves, there were
27 no bureaucratic delays. Rather, the resident was brought to the
28 hospital or other specialized facility. Such transfers were in place
29 when each of our parents died, separately.

30 There were, of course, fees attached to these
31 arrangements, but unlike the neglect and sometimes lack of
32 compassion of private institutions, our parents were always
33 attended by caring and competent professionals.

34 Vermont seems to me ideally suited for such an
35 arrangement, one that may give peace of mind to our aged needy
36 and rewarding employment to trained staff.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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