If you are familiar with Home Health VNA, Merrimack Valley Hospice, or HomeCare, Inc., you know the agencies of Home Health Foundation. Together, these three not-for-profit health and home care providers are a family of agencies, committed to caring for those of all ages, in the many places they call home.

Merrimack Valley Hospice and Merrimack Valley Hospice House. Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice provides support by raising awareness and funds — helping to support things like charitable care at the Hospice House, bereavement support programs, and other services that add to quality of life for patients and their families moving forward.

Just becoming a member will help!

An annual membership donation gets you started — your contribution goes to helping others and you’ll be connected to events and happenings that support Merrimack Valley Hospice. You can also share ideas, your time, or your talent as you wish — start a bake sale, a yard sale, or something else, if you’d like!

Become a Friend of Merrimack Valley Hospice

As the Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice moves into their second year, we welcome back our returning members and invite those interested in becoming a new member in 2015.

The Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice is an all-volunteer organization that was formed in April 2014 by passionate individuals who were touched by the work of Merrimack Valley Hospice and Merrimack Valley Hospice House. Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice provides support by raising awareness and funds — helping to support things like charitable care at the Hospice House, bereavement support programs, and other services that add to quality of life for patients and their families moving forward.

We were founded to provide care to families who worked in the local textile mills. Since then, we have grown to more than 110 towns. Technology now connects and coordinates care to more than 400 field clinicians, patients, their physicians and others who provide care. Advanced treatment now brings hope to those with stroke, difficult to heal wounds, and other complex medical needs. While a lot has changed, our compassion and commitment to bringing healthcare to the door has not, and will never, change.

Thank you for being part of our long history of caring.

Celebrating 120 Years of Caring for Your Community

Since 1895, our family of home health and hospice agencies has delivered quality and compassionate care to people in the places they call home. And with the help of charitable giving, we have been able to stay true to our mission of providing this care to all — regardless of their ability to pay — for 120 years!

You help to ensure that we can be relied upon well into the future. With the support of our community, we continue to bring expertise and innovations in healthcare to the doors of thousands of people each day. We are a trusted partner to keep patients connected to the many physicians and specialists they need.
2014 Candles of Remembrance Tribute Book Online

The 2014 Candles of Remembrance memorial tribute books are now available to view online. You and your family and friends may browse the pages, find the name of your loved one, and even print specific pages anytime. The online books may be found on our website MerrimackValleyHospice.org under the Ways to Give section and at MerrimackValleyHospice.org/York for the York Hospital Hospice edition.

For more information, or to inquire about the upcoming 2015 Candles of Remembrance held in Haverhill, MA or York, ME, please contact Lauren Brousseau at (978) 552-4927 or LBrousseau@HomeHealthFoundation.org.

Spring Has Sprung

More than 150 guests joined the Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice at their second annual event, Spring Has Sprung brunch fundraiser, on March 22nd at DiBurro’s Function Facility in Haverhill. Guests enjoyed a special floral arranging demonstration by Steve Janavicus of Flowers by Steve and also supported through raffles and plant sales which raised more than $15,000 to benefit Merrimack Valley Hospice House and the services of Merrimack Valley Hospice.

This year, the group has established a fundraising goal that will allow for replacement of the reclining chairs to the 14 original patient suites at Merrimack Valley Hospice House. Additional funds will support patient care assistance for those in need.

For more information on how you may get involved or for future Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice events, please contact Lauren Brousseau at 978-552-4927 or friendsmvh@homehealthfoundation.org.

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We can offer the scope of services and quality of care that every patient needs and deserves because of YOU! Charitable support allows us to deliver care for basic as well as complex medical conditions for all patients in need. In fact, in 2014, we provided more than $2 million in charitable care.

You are a true partner in caring – for patients, your community, and our agencies. It is because of you that we can provide quality home health and hospice care to this community, regardless of someone’s ability to pay. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.
York Hospital Hospice provides medical support, bereavement, and dedicated volunteers to the York, Maine community. Since its affiliation with Merrimack Valley Hospice in 2013, it has brought a professional level of advanced medical care and breadth of resources to this region and has impacted hundreds of families.

The support of the greater York community has been tremendous, and allows us to continue to enhance the offerings available year-round with regular community events, bereavement programs and support groups, and a growing volunteer network that cares deeply for its neighbors with their time and talent.

Decisions about end-of-life care are deeply personal and based on individual values and beliefs. However, advance care planning can be an invaluable gift for those you love.

In Massachusetts, a newly implemented regulation requires that all licensed hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities provide information about advance care planning, palliative care, hospice care, and other end-of-life care options to adults with serious illness. Wherever you live, starting conversations now will help make your wishes clearly known.

For a copy of the guide from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health called Know Your Choices: A Guide for Patients with Serious Advancing Illness, which contains important information about a variety of healthcare choices, please go to HomeHealthFoundation.org/patients-resources or call 978-552-4188 to receive a copy by mail.

Beginning the Conversation

Decisions about end-of-life care are deeply personal and based on individual values and beliefs. However, advance care planning can be an invaluable gift for those you love.

Taking the time to talk with your family, close friends and your healthcare providers while you are in good health are important steps to create an advance care plan for the future.

Growing the Reach of Caring

For 40 years, Stephen Janavicus of Flowers by Steve, has delivered the gift of natural beauty with the unique artistry of his floral design, touching countless lives throughout our community.

What may be less known is that Steve has touched equally as many, if not more, lives through his quiet and tireless support for local charities and community organizations, including Merrimack Valley Hospice. For years, Steve and his flower shop have made Merrimack Valley Hospice and Merrimack Valley Hospice House their charity of choice and he is one of our biggest advocates in the community.

This April, Steve asked his friends and family to mark his 60th birthday with a donation to Merrimack Valley Hospice instead of gifts to him for this milestone. In doing so, he helped to share his passion for the work of hospice and the Hospice House, as well as raised funds to support it.

These type of events, held by others to benefit our organization, make a big difference in terms of donations and awareness of the resources we provide to our community. Third-party fundraisers can be as simple as a lemonade stand, a yard sale, or bike-a-thon, or something as big as the East Coast Camaro Club’s annual car show.

We are grateful to the many people who choose to help raise funds with these kinds of events. For information to help you plan a third party fundraiser, visit HomeHealthFoundation.org and click on the Support Us tab at the top of the page.

“Thanks to York Hospital Hospice, the last nine days of my mom’s life were such an amazing experience for me, and one that I will never forget. I actually loved every minute of the time we had together in her own home in York, with no anxiety and no fear. I thank my mom’s hospice aide, Elizabeth, for all she did. Her loving care of washing, grooming, and making my mom feel good was beyond belief. With her observations, she communicated with the hospice nursing team and advised me on the medications my mom needed to stay comfortable. With her helpful guidance, we were able to care for Mom as well as plan for the days ahead. There are so many things that Elizabeth told me to help care for my mom in between her visits and it made such a difference.”

- Her grateful daughter
Legacy of Leading Makes an Impact

Each April, the Legacy of Leading fundraising dinner celebrates several individuals who have created a lasting impact on our community while demonstrating a commitment to the mission of the agencies of Home Health Foundation. In 2015, the event recognized David LaFlamme, CEO of North Shore Bank, and Clive and Suzanne Fazioli, trustees of the Fazioli Charitable Foundation. We applaud our honorees for their efforts to ensure quality, compassionate care for all in the community through their past and present endeavors.

The 250 guests in attendance included sponsors, family and friends of the honorees, and individual supporters of our agencies. Lead sponsors, North Shore Bank and Fazioli Charitable Foundation, and Benefactor Sponsors Byram HealthCare, Eastern Bank, Fred C. Church Insurance, Pentucket Bank, Pentucket Medical Associates, and TD Bank, and other supporters and patrons helped to raise over $86,000 which will enable Home Health VNA, Merrimack Valley Hospice, and HomeCare, Inc. to continue meeting the needs of the patients in more than 110 communities.

Roll with us at the “River Ride” Bike-A-Thon!

Do you want to help raise money for Merrimack Valley Hospice and Home Health VNA?

On Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015, Greater Lowell Community Foundation is hosting a “River Ride” Bike-A-Thon that allows people to raise money for their favorite local charity.

Join our “Home” Team!

Register as a team rider of our “Home” Team and then you can begin to collect donations of support – 100% of which come to the agencies of Home Health Foundation.

The ride begins at the Lowell First Church of the Nazarene at 1195 Varnum Ave., Lowell and follows a 15-mile loop along the Merrimack River through Tyngsboro and Lowell. A 5-mile family fun ride is also available.

8:00 AM Registration
9:00 AM River Ride Opening Ceremonies
11:00 AM Rider Recognition

Go to HomeHealthFoundation.com/bikeathon for details and to sign up.

Donate your used vehicle today!

You don’t need to be a magician to turn a car into cash. You just need to make a call!

Through our vehicle donation program you can recycle your car, truck, van, boat with trailer, RV or motorcycle, in any condition. We receive the value of it as your donation, and you get a tax deduction!

Vehicle donations provide a different way to donate to Home Health VNA, Merrimack Valley Hospice or HomeCare, Inc. Your generous support in any form greatly impacts the care we provide to patients and families each and every day.

It’s easy! Go to DonateToCharity.com or call 866-392-4483 to arrange a pick-up anywhere nationwide. Let them know you would specifically like your donation to go to the agency of your choice.
Special Events Calendar

We’d love to see you at these upcoming events!

**East Coast Camaro Club’s All-Vehicle Show**
**Sunday, August 23, 2015**
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Alvirne Hills House
211 Derry Road, Hudson, NH

**Shop for a Cause**
**Saturday, August 29, 2015**
All day at your local Macy’s

**Game On! Food, Wine and Beer Pairing**
**Silent Auction**
**Thursday, September 24, 2015**
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Black Swan Country Club
258 Andover Street, Georgetown, MA

**Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice Annual Meeting**
**Wednesday, October 14, 2015**
5:30 PM
Indian Ridge Country Club
73 Lovejoy Road, Andover, MA

**Candles of Remembrance - York**
**Fall 2015**
More details to follow

**Candles of Remembrance - Haverhill**
**Thursday, November 19, 2015**
5:30 PM
Renaissance Golf Club
377 Kenoza Street, Haverhill, MA

For more information on any of the events listed on our calendar, visit HomeHealthFoundation.org/events or call 978-552-4927.

**Honor Roll Giving**

We are so grateful for the generosity of each and every person that supports our agencies with charitable giving. The impact of a single gift can be life-changing. Honor Roll donors – long-standing supporters of our agencies, those whose gifts reach naming levels, and those who have notified us of bequests – join together each spring at our Evening of Appreciation. It is a chance to personally connect with them, show the impact of their philanthropic support, and share our gratitude.

For more information about Honor Roll level giving, please call 978-552-4525.

**East Coast Camaro Club Hosts Benefit Car Show!**

Don’t miss this annual fundraiser to benefit Merrimack Valley Hospice. Check out cars and more at the East Coast Camaro Club’s annual All-Vehicle Show on Sunday, August 23rd (rain or shine) in Hudson, NH. For details see the Special Events Calendar or visit EastCoastCamaroClub.com for more information about this family-friendly outdoor event!

**Shop for a Cause**

Like to shop? Want to save money? You can do both and make a difference!

Make a $5 donation to Home Health VNA or Merrimack Valley Hospice and receive a Macy’s Shop for a Cause savings pass that gives you 25% off all your purchases at any Macy’s nationwide on Saturday, August 29th.

Get your passes online today at HomeHealthVNA.org/shop or MerrimackValleyHospice.org/shop
Your Support Helps Others Through Difficult Times

Charitable support to Merrimack Valley Hospice allows us to provide a wide variety of bereavement support programs to anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one, regardless if they have had our services. All are offered free of charge, in a variety of communities, for various age groups and types of loss – to help people cope and move forward. For a full list of support groups and workshops visit MerrimackValleyHospice.org or call 978-552-4537.

Learning to Live With Loss
Merrimack Valley Hospice
360 Merrimack Street, Building 9, Lawrence, MA
2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month 5:00 - 6:30 pm
For information and to register call 978-552-4537
York Hospital, Ellis Room, York, ME
Wednesday evenings 6:30 - 8:00 PM
For information and to register call 207-337-7333

The Grief Journey
Holy Family Hospital at Merrimack Valley
140 Lincoln Street, Haverhill, MA
Monday afternoons 1:30 - 3:00 PM
For information and to register call 978-552-4128

St. George’s Church
407 York Street, Route 1A, York, ME
Tuesday mornings 10:30 - 11:30 AM
For information and to register call 207-337-7333

General Bereavement
Billerica Senior Center
25 Concord Road, Billerica, MA
2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
No meetings in July & August
For information and to register call 978-552-4200

Widow/Widowers Group ~ for Seniors
Cosponsored with H.L. Farmer & Sons Aftercare
Merrimack Valley Hospice House
360 North Avenue, Haverhill, MA
Tuesday afternoons 1:30 - 3:00 PM Ongoing
For information and to register call 978-552-4528 or 978-374-9257