

JOURNEYS

*in home health and
compassionate care*

A publication for friends and supporters of **Home Health Foundation**



October 2017 - Vol. 9

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.

Cheers to you for helping raise \$120,000 for Merrimack Valley Hospice!

Pop the cork and pour the bubbly! Thank you for making Flappers, Feathers & Fedoras, our annual Food, Wine, Beer Pairing and Silent Auction a roaring success!

More than 300 guests came out to support Merrimack Valley Hospice at this “Roaring Twenties” themed gathering at the Black Swan Country Club on September 28th. The evening included a wonderful selection of food and beverages, the sounds of a jazz quartet, exciting casino games and over 100 auction prizes that truly were the bee’s knees!

This year, with the generous support of our sponsors, including Premier Sponsor Fazioli Charitable Foundation, Grand Cru Sponsor Pentucket Bank, and Chateau Sponsor TD Bank, volunteers and donors raised more than \$120,000 that will help to provide patient care and much needed bereavement services for families.

For more information and a complete listing of the many sponsors who contributed to making this event such a success, please visit MerrimackValleyHospice.org/silent-auction.



Linwood Cemetery and Crematory donates generous gift to Merrimack Valley Hospice

Representatives from the Board of Trustees of Linwood Cemetery and Crematory in Haverhill, MA presented a generous gift to Merrimack Valley Hospice in recognition of the wonderful care provided to our community. “We are pleased to make this substantial donation to High Pointe House to assist the valuable services Merrimack Valley Hospice provides to patients and families in our community. They are a tremendous resource to our city and region,” said Gordon Stone, Trustee at Linwood.

“We are touched that the Board of Trustees of Linwood Cemetery and Crematory voted to designate these critical funds to Merrimack Valley Hospice,” said Karen Gomes, President and CEO of the agencies of Home Health Foundation. “It is an honor to be their charity of choice; many patients and their families will benefit from this special gift to support High Pointe House.”

Funds will be designated to support patients as they confront the challenges of advanced illness and end of life at High Pointe House, the hospice and palliative care residence of Merrimack Valley Hospice in Haverhill. To learn more about how you can support patient care at High Pointe House, contact the Development Office at 978-552-4927.



Main Office
360 Merrimack Street
Building 9
Lawrence, MA 01843

High Pointe House
360 North Avenue
Haverhill, MA 01830

York Hospital Hospice
127 Long Sands Road
Suite 12
York, ME 03909



Home Health VNA
Merrimack Valley Hospice
HomeCare, Inc.

The Leaders in Home Health and Hospice Care

New VPs Bring Experience and Expertise to Senior Management

Following the naming of Karen Gomes as President and CEO of Home Health Foundation, a search began for a new Vice President of Clinical Services/Chief Clinical Officer. After an extensive search, two candidates stood out as experienced and knowledgeable leaders and both individuals have recently been appointed as new senior administrators to the Executive Management Committee.

Julie Conway, RN, Esq., has accepted the position of Vice President of Clinical Services/Chief Clinical Officer for Home Health Foundation. She brings a broad range of experience in home health care, clinical operations and senior management to the role, most recently serving as Division Director for multi-site clinical operations at Bayada Home Health Care. With more than 30 years of clinical experience, Julie has led teams focused on growth, people, service, quality and financial performance metrics and brings a cultural understanding of our Pillars of Excellence to the role that will include the development of clinical services and the evaluation and implementation of clinical programs.

Patricia Buiocchi, RN, MBA, NHA, has joined Home Health Foundation as Vice President of Strategic Operations. Well known in the area, Patricia most recently served as Vice President of Development and Strategic Planning at Northeast Rehabilitation Hospital. An exceptional leader with 27 years of clinical and operational experience in a variety of settings, Patricia will work with staff throughout the organization to further the agency's mission by participating in strategy and direction setting, identifying and prioritizing areas for improvement, and encouraging good change management practices.

"Julie and Patricia are extremely talented and committed health care professionals, and I am excited to have them join our team," said Karen Gomes, President and CEO of Home Health Foundation. "I am confident in their ability to work with Senior Management, Leadership and our entire organization as we focus on initiatives to further our mission and enhance our reputation as a leader in home health and hospice care."

Please join us in welcoming Julie and Patricia to the agencies of Home Health Foundation!



Mary Immaculate Honors Merrimack Valley Hospice

Merrimack Valley Hospice is honored to have been selected as the recipient of the 2017 Pilgrimage of Love Award presented annually by Mary Immaculate Health/Care Services.

This prestigious award, named for MI founder, Saint Marguerite d'Youville, recognizes individuals or organizations "who lead the way in the journey of love and service" to the community.

The award was presented at the 17th Annual Pilgrimage of Love dinner held on October 12th. Karen Gomes, President and CEO, accepted the award from Stephen Janavicus, MI Guild member and President of the Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice. "I am very proud to participate in honoring Merrimack Valley Hospice and their efforts to bring quality and compassionate care to our community."

This award recognizes the staff and volunteers of Merrimack Valley Hospice, who embody the spirit of the award through their compassion and commitment to enhancing the dignity and quality of life of patients and their families. We are grateful to receive this honor and extend our congratulations to the entire Hospice team for the work they do each day.

Bereavement Support during the Holiday Season

During the upcoming holiday season, many patients and families face the uncertainty of life-limiting illness or are grieving the loss of a loved one. As a time when families traditionally gather in celebration, the holidays may bring about a renewed and more profound feeling of sadness and magnify grief, particularly in the first year following a loss.

Bereavement support groups help those who are grieving by teaching coping skills and provide an opportunity for people to share feelings with others who are experiencing a loss. Bereavement programs offered by Merrimack Valley Hospice are free of charge and open to all, whether their loved one was cared for by our hospice service or not.

For bereavement support specific to grief during the holiday season, we are offering the following meetings:

Coping with the Holidays – Four part workshop

St. Michael's Parish

196 Main Street, North Andover, MA

6:30-8:00pm

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of November and December
(11/7, 11/21, 12/5 and 12/19)

For information or to register, call 978-552-4510

Group meetings are held in locations throughout the Merrimack Valley as well as the York, ME area. A complete listing of support groups and workshops throughout the year is available at MerrimackValleyHospice.org.

Additionally, we host Candles of Remembrance in Haverhill, MA for anyone wishing to pay special tribute to a loved one. See the Special Events Calendar for details on this annual candlelight vigil and reception.



Honoring Dedicated Volunteers in York, ME

The York Harbor Inn was the setting for a very special dinner to celebrate the efforts of our volunteers at York Hospital Hospice. On the evening of September 19th, volunteers and their guests gathered to enjoy an Italian feast in recognition of their continued dedication to patients in the care of York Hospital Hospice.

“As a hospice volunteer, you are a valued member of the hospice team and critical to our mission. Your commitment to those in our care - and to York Hospital Hospice - is both heartwarming and inspiring,” said Karen Gomes, President and CEO. “All of the services you provide allow patients and families to experience quality time together - when time is so valuable, so precious.”

In the past year, hospice volunteers have contributed over 550 hours of their time, devoted to visiting patients, assisting with bereavement programs, making check-in phone calls and providing companionship and compassionate support to patients and their families.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit HomeHealthFoundation.org/volunteers or email VolunteerManager@HomeHealthFoundation.org

Time well spent

Hospice volunteers provide a wide range of services and support to patients and families dealing with life-limiting illnesses. They share compassion and a desire to make a difference by providing companionship, respite and support to hospice patients and families. Others donate time in our administrative offices, assist at fundraising events or share their creative talents by sewing keepsake memories for those who have lost a loved one.

“As a long-time supporter of Merrimack Valley Hospice, I found that becoming a volunteer at High Pointe House was so worthwhile,” said Susan Desmet, Hospice Volunteer. “Simply visiting with patients and reading, talking or just being there means so much to the patient and their family.”

Volunteers for Merrimack Valley Hospice and York Hospital Hospice are an essential part of our team of caregivers, and help to extend the range of support we provide within the communities we serve. All volunteers receive training and ongoing education as they are critical members of the hospice team.

We welcome all types of volunteers, but are particularly in need of:

- Licensed Massage Therapists
- Weekend volunteers at High Pointe House
- Veterans
- Volunteers in the Greater Lawrence, Greater Lowell, or Berwick, ME area
- Sewing enthusiasts to make teddy bears for the Keepsake Program
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) in all of our service areas

Put your compassion into action! To become a volunteer, call 978-552-4522 or email VolunteerManager@HomeHealthFoundation.org

Golf Tournament Raises funds for Hospice

Golfers took to the fairways under sunny skies at the Annual Patti's PLU Golf Tournament hosted at Bradford Country Club on Saturday, September 23rd. The event, started 21 years ago by the late Patti Mosher, was held this year in her memory and also honored her longtime friends, Joanie Shaw and Cindy Lonergan. All three women had been cared for by Merrimack Valley Hospice.

Prior to teeing off, the crowd gathered to release butterflies in remembrance of Patti and her friends, and event chairperson, Alison Rogers, presented a check in the amount of \$5,500 to Merrimack Valley Hospice. These funds will be used to support subsidized care at High Pointe House, the hospice and palliative care residence of Merrimack Valley Hospice.



For information on hosting a third party event to benefit the agencies of Home Health Foundation, contact Lauren Brousseau at 978-552-4927.

Giving Thanks

November is National Home Care and Hospice Month and, also, a time to give thanks. We extend a heartfelt “thank you” to our generous supporters and dedicated staff for the care and support each of you bring to so many in our community.

Whether you’re providing medical, personal, or end-of-life care, or donating funds to support the work of the agencies of Home Health Foundation, you uphold our promise of quality, compassionate care for all. Your dedication and generosity brings health and hope into the lives of people every day. On behalf of the patients and families that rely on us for care, thank you for your commitment, enthusiasm and kindness.

From Home Care to Home Plate

In 2016, second grader, Zachary, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and began treatment at Boston Children’s Hospital. There, on the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute floor, he met nurse Kelley, who would become a devoted friend.

Kelley had recently joined a Pan-Mass Challenge team riding to benefit The Jimmy Fund. When the Pan Mass Pedal Partners program asked Zachary if he would act as a Pedal Partner, he wouldn't hear of partnering with any team but Kelley's. Her team, the Dana Farber FLAMES, happily “adopted” Zachary and his family and began fundraising in his honor.

When his inpatient treatment ended, Zachary was able to return home and continued to receive care from Carol Sanborn, RN of Home Health VNA. “Receiving his IV chemotherapy treatment at home truly helps Zachary and his family. Instead of traveling to Boston weekly, we are able to treat him in the comfort of his own home, said Carol, “Receiving his IV chemotherapy at home changes the whole focus of his treatments. Zachary is able to attend school, participate in soccer, and still gets to be a kid.”

While at home, Zachary decided to start his very own team through the Pan-Mass Challenge Kids Ride. Together with his family, friends and classmates, Zachary formed team “Zachary is STRONG” which raised over \$13,000 to support The Jimmy Fund. “We were blown away by the number of people who rode with us,” said Zachary’s mother, Joanna. “Zachary felt empowered during a time when he wasn’t feeling strong very often and it gave us all something positive to focus on.”

On September 12th, more than 300 patients and their families were invited to join the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park to bring awareness to “Go Gold for Childhood Cancer.” Zachary’s nurse Carol gladly agreed to provide his IV chemotherapy treatment at home early so that he was feeling better in time to make the trip to Boston with his dad. Once on the field at Fenway Park, Zachary helped to make a giant gold ribbon on the field in front of the entire ballpark. “An experience like this one with the Red Sox is really a gem in our back pocket,” said Joanna. “It’s so helpful for Zachary to have special things to look forward to when he’s not feeling his best.”

The Jimmy Fund is a partner of the Maternal Child Health Program of Home Health VNA.



Candles of Remembrance

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

5:45pm - 7:30pm

Renaissance Golf Club

Haverhill, MA



Sharing Light in the Darkness of Grief

As the holiday season approaches, Merrimack Valley Hospice invites the community to join together to honor the memory of loved ones and participate in Candles of Remembrance. This candle lighting ceremony brings comfort and peace to those who may be struggling with loss or anticipating the challenges of holiday gatherings and celebrations without a loved one.

During the outdoor vigil, words of hope and healing are offered, followed by the lighting of a candle whose flame is passed from guest to guest as they remember those they have lost. All are invited to gather indoors for light refreshments and an opportunity to further reflect and remember or to view the Tribute Book – inscribed with the names of those honored with a special memorial donation. Members of Merrimack Valley Hospice’s bereavement services team are available to counsel those in need of grief support.

All members of the community are welcome to attend this complimentary ceremony and gathering on Wednesday, December 6th at Renaissance Golf Club in Haverhill, MA.

Whether you are able to join us in person or in spirit, you are welcome to make a memorial donation and include the name of your loved one in the Candles of Remembrance Tribute Book or purchase a special Tribute Package. For more information, or to make a reservation, please contact 978-552-4188.

All Gifts Make a Difference

We are most grateful for the kindness of the community in supporting our mission. While monetary gifts have the most impact on our ability to deliver quality care to those in need, there are other ways to give that provide financial support or bring comfort to the patients and families we serve. These are some of the goods we are able to accept:

Newly made quilts, afghans and prayer shawls – High Pointe House becomes home to those whose illness prevents them from remaining at home. With that in mind, the patient suites are furnished with beautiful quilts, afghans or prayer shawls donated by members of the community. If you would like to donate hand-made quilts, afghans or prayer shawls, please contact the Development Office at 978-552-4927.

Fresh flower arrangements – Donations of flower arrangements bring a touch of nature and beauty to the common areas at High Pointe House and may help lift the spirits of those visiting with us. Deliveries made directly to High Pointe House are accepted any day of the week. Please ask your florist or funeral home to provide your name and address so we may express our thanks.

Vehicle donation – Our vehicle donation partner can pick up your unwanted car, truck, boat or RV. You will receive a tax deduction of \$500 or more and our agency receives a check. For more information, visit HomeHealthFoundation.org/vehicle-donation-program or call 866-392-4483 to make arrangements and to specify which of our agencies you would like your donation to benefit.

Unfortunately, due to policies and restrictions, we cannot accept most other physical items or equipment, although we truly appreciate the intention to support our agencies. If you have questions regarding a donation, please call the Development Office at 978-552-4927.

Special Events Calendar

Join us at an upcoming event!

Candles of Remembrance

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

5:45 pm – 7:30 pm

Renaissance Golf Club, Haverhill, MA

MerrimackValleyHospice.org/

Haverhill-Candles

Spring has Sprung! Flower Show

Hosted by Friends of Merrimack Valley

Hospice to benefit Merrimack Valley Hospice

Sunday, April 15, 2018

10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Atkinson Country Club, Atkinson, NH

MerrimackValleyHospice.org/Friends

Legacy of Leading

Thursday, May 24, 2018

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Andover Country Club, Andover, MA

HomeHealthFoundation.org/Legacy

For more information on any of the events listed on our calendar, visit HomeHealthFoundation.org/events or call 978-552-4188

Board of Trustees

President and CEO

Karen E. Gomes

Officers

Mary Jane Thomas, *Chair*
Scott A. Collins, *Vice Chair*
Ron J. Pollina, *Treasurer*
Debra S. Grabowski, *Clerk*

Trustees

John P. Chemaly
Ila S. Cox
Atty. Daniel A. Hayes, Jr.
Dr. Joel B. Hellmann
David W. Nesbitt
Barbara B. Sager
Keith N. Soucie
Ellen K. Zappala

Spread More Holiday Cheer with AmazonSmile

Fulfill the wishes of everyone on your holiday shopping list and let AmazonSmile make a donation on your behalf to Merrimack Valley Hospice! It's simple. Just begin at www.smile.amazon.com and select Merrimack Valley Hospice as your charity of choice. You'll enjoy the same prices and selection and, while you're checking those gifts off your list, AmazonSmile will donate a percentage of every purchase to Merrimack Valley Hospice!



Make a difference in 2017!

As 2017 comes to a close, the patients and families cared for by the agencies of Home Health Foundation need your support. Staff and volunteers turn your generosity into compassionate care for the individuals we serve throughout the year, and every gift makes a difference.

Your donation is tax-deductible, and there has never been a better time to give. Learn more online at HomeHealthFoundation.org/donate or call 978-552-4171.



Published by: Office of External Relations and Development

Donna Deveau, Vice President External Relations & Development
Lauren Brousseau, Development Officer

Home Health VNA, Merrimack Valley Hospice, and HomeCare, Inc. serve more than 110 cities and towns in the Merrimack Valley, northeastern MA, southern NH; and the York, ME region as York Hospital Hospice.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call us at 978-552-4171 or email info@HomeHealthFoundation.org with your contact information.

