

# JOURNEYS

*in home health and  
compassionate care*

A publication for friends and supporters of Home Health Foundation



June 2018 - Vol. 10

*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.*

## Honoring a Legacy of Leading

Each year, our Legacy of Leading celebrates and pays tribute to special individuals who are personally and professionally invested in the health and well-being of the Greater Merrimack Valley, and committed to the mission of the agencies of Home Health Foundation. On May 24th, we honored Mark Cochran, President & CEO of Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union and Gerard Foley, Senior Vice President & President, Post-Acute Care for Covenant Health.

In recognition of their exemplary support and leadership, the honorees were presented with a commemorative mirror, featuring a photograph of the Basiliere Bridge spanning the Merrimack River in Haverhill. The imagery of the Merrimack, and the bridges that cross it, are a fitting analogy for our agencies. The river winds its way through many of the communities in the Merrimack Valley. And the bridges that span the river help to connect those communities in a manner similar to the agencies of Home Health Foundation – supporting and connecting patients to valuable community resources in over 110 cities and towns.

The 250 guests in attendance at this fundraising dinner included sponsors, family and friends of the honorees and individual supporters of our agencies. Lead Sponsor, the Fazioli Charitable Foundation, Benefactor Sponsors: Byram Healthcare, Enterprise Bank, Long Term Pharmacy Solutions, Lupoli Companies, Pentucket Bank, TD Bank, Trinity EMS, Wellforce, and Ambassador Sponsors: Demoulas Foundation, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, Haverhill Bank, Lawrence General Hospital, Linwood Cemetery and Crematory, Northern Essex Community College, North Shore Bank and Rogers Spring Hill Farm, along with other supporters and patrons, helped to raise over \$80,000. The generosity of all who participated in the event will enable us to continue to provide care and support to patients and families throughout the communities we serve.



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York, ME 03909



Home Health VNA  
Merrimack Valley Hospice  
HomeCare, Inc.

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The Leaders in Home Health and Hospice Care

## THANK YOU!

With the kindness and generosity of people like you, we are able to offer the scope of services and quality of care that every patient needs and deserves. For over 123 years, charitable support has provided us the ability to serve all patients. It enables us to bring the most effective treatments and offer the highest level of training to properly tend to the unique needs of our most complex patients. We strive to be Exceptional People delivering Exceptional Care, every day.

### Flowers and Friends Raise Funds for Merrimack Valley Hospice

Unseasonably chilly weather did not stop the Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice and their guests from gathering for the annual spring fundraiser brunch on Sunday, April 15th, featuring a special floral arranging demonstration by Stephen Janavicus of Flowers by Steve.

The 5th Annual Spring Has Sprung event drew over 300 guests who enjoyed brunch, exciting raffle prizes and the opportunity to purchase plants and flowers, raising more than \$38,000 in support of High Pointe House, the hospice and palliative care residence of Merrimack Valley Hospice.

The group announced their annual gift commitment for 2018 as a renovation and refresh of the Children's Play Area at High Pointe House. Much like the other common areas throughout High Pointe House, the playroom offers a place of comfort and relaxation for young visitors. Children cope with illness and loss differently than adults, and benefit from having a special place for diversion while spending time with family and friends at the House. The updates to the Children's Play Area will include a television, video library, new activities, games and much more.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors, Flowers by Steve, Clive and Suzanne Fazioli Charitable Foundation, Pentucket Bank, Mosaic Technology and Tripoli Bakery, for their continued support of Merrimack Valley Hospice and High Pointe House.

*Mark your calendar! Our 6th Annual Spring Has Sprung fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Atkinson Country Club. We hope to see you there!*



## Training to Build a Stronger Workforce

Paraprofessional services, a rapidly growing and rewarding field, includes home health aides, homemakers and certified nursing assistants. These paraprofessionals play a critical role in the delivery of non-medical, supportive home care to patients of all ages. Within the next decade, the Bureau of Labor Statistics expects the profession to grow by 70 percent. However, there is currently a significant labor vacancy in the field, due to increased demand colliding with a lack of affordable training programs.

HomeCare, Inc. is one of the largest providers of supportive services in this region. Currently, the requests for services exceed our ability to attract and retain workers. In response to this shortage, HomeCare, Inc. applied for and received a \$25,000 grant from the George C. Wadleigh Foundation to develop and offer a training program, free of charge, to qualified applicants. The program will target low income women and single women with children who are interested in a career in this growing field, but do not have the means to pay for training.

The new program will be located in a specially designed training area at our Lawrence office and teach the skills necessary to provide supportive services to patients throughout the community. A registered nurse instructor will coordinate all training activities and design, implement and monitor evaluations. Upon successful completion of the program, all participants will be offered employment at HomeCare, Inc. A unique feature of this training will be the development of a set of workforce standards designed to assist and support adult learners who may need teaching assistance to succeed.



## New Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Bernice Burkarth, MD, HMD, FAAHPM, has recently joined our Executive Management Committee as Chief Medical Officer for Home Health Foundation.

In this new role, Dr. Burkarth will provide medical oversight and clinical direction to Merrimack Valley Hospice and the Palliative Care Program. In addition, she will participate in the strategic development, implementation and growth of innovative clinical programs that demonstrate the full value inherent in the Home Health Foundation Care Continuum through collaboration with both internal and external partners and referral sources.

Dr. Burkarth brings more than 25 years of hospice, palliative care and geriatric experience to Home Health Foundation. She earned her medical degree at Temple University School of Medicine in Pennsylvania and completed her residency in Neurosurgery at Albany Medical Center in New York. She also obtained certification as a Hospice Medical Director and fellowship status at the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Prior to joining Home Health Foundation, Dr. Burkarth was Senior Medical Director of Palliative Services at Treasure Health Hospice in Florida.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Burkarth to the agencies of Home Health Foundation!

## Treasured Memories

Having recently celebrated the remarkable milestone of his 100th birthday, Charlie Downing reflects fondly on his beloved wife, Irene, a patient of York Hospital Hospice who passed away in January. "She was in that chair with her eyes closed, just peaceful," said Charlie, pointing to a comfortable easy chair in their expansive living room. "I was holding her hand and her breathing just slowed, slowed, and then stopped. My daughter called York Hospital Hospice and the nurse arrived in what seemed like a minute and confirmed that Irene was gone. She wanted to die in this house that I built myself overlooking the bay, where we raised our four children. We had so many memories here. It's where I want to spend my last days as well."



On this beautiful spring day, Charlie sits with social worker Julie Weiss, reminiscing while he turns the pages of meticulously organized scrapbooks containing the treasures of the life he shared with Irene - her report card from high school, her dance card with Charlie's name on every line, and pictures of their children. Although his own health is failing, Charlie takes comfort in knowing that, with the care and support of York Hospital Hospice, he too will be able to spend his last days at home, surrounded by memories, and all the things he holds dear.



 **York Hospital Hospice**

in partnership with Merrimack Valley Hospice

## From the Heart

**We would like to share some personal messages of gratitude from patients and families who have been helped by your generous support of Home Health VNA, Merrimack Valley Hospice and HomeCare, Inc.**

"I am extending special praise to my home care nurse, Julie, whose services were extraordinary. She was very knowledgeable, super professional, courteous, respectful, supportive and caring. Julie always arrived with a positive attitude and a smile, attending to my medical needs to promote my recovery and comfort. You should be proud to have Julie on your staff and I feel grateful to have her as my primary nurse."

*Dennis*

"With your emotional support for the family and medical knowledge, we were able to grant my husband's wish to be home for his final days. For that we are most grateful. Everyone at York Hospital Hospice played a very important role during a very difficult time. Words cannot express how much we appreciate your support and contributions to a pain free and comfortable journey's end for my husband."

*Holly and Family*

"I would like to recognize some very important people who nursed me back to health after surgery. My Home Health VNA nurse, and physical and occupational therapists were so quick to start my road to recovery and they stuck with me for 3 months. They were funny, helpful, caring, and made me feel important, as well as comfortable. Each one of them deserves a GOLD star! I am forever thankful and grateful."

*Gina*

"High Pointe House is filled with "angels on earth". From the minute we entered the front door to the day my husband, Ed, passed away, we were treated with the highest level of respect and compassion, allowing me to spend time with Ed as his wife while the nurses and aides cared for his medical needs. We are so grateful for sharing Ed's last days in a "home" full of love."

*Chris*

## Help our Giving Tree Grow

Caring, commitment, quality and compassion – these are the roots of our mission to provide expert home and hospice care to patients of all ages, regardless of their ability to pay.

Arbor Society members support our roots and the care provided in the homes of thousands of patients each day. Through the dedicated generosity of our Arbor Society members, we are able to ensure critical care to patients, provide comfort and support to families and offer guidance and strength to those facing the challenges of advanced illness or end of life.

Donors who make cumulative contributions totaling \$2,500 or more in one year, or have consecutively given financial support of \$1,000 annually over three years or more, are among our most loyal supporters and are recognized with an inscribed leaf on the Giving Tree displayed at High Pointe House.

*There are many ways to support our mission. For more information on all our options for giving, please contact Lauren Brousseau at 978-552-4927.*



## Painting with a Purpose

Supporters of the Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice gathered on Thursday, May 3rd for a special Painting with a Purpose evening at Painting with a Twist in North Andover, MA to benefit High Pointe House, the hospice and palliative care residence of Merrimack Valley Hospice.

Guests created beautiful paintings of Forget Me Not floral bouquets, while enjoying the company of friends and neighbors. "It was a wonderful evening for an amazing cause," said organizer Deborah Jones, a Friends group member. "We were thrilled to not only give back to Hospice, but also to bring awareness to the need for specialized care in our community." Proceeds from the event will support the patients and families cared for at High Pointe House.

*Do you have an idea for a third party fundraiser? Consider hosting an event to benefit the agencies of Home Health Foundation! Supporters throughout our community plan bake sales, golf tournaments, home parties, gala dinners, and neighborhood yard sales, all to support the patients and families who benefit from the services provided by our organization. For information on hosting a third party event to benefit the agencies of Home Health Foundation, contact Lauren Brousseau at 978-552-4927.*



## Special Events Calendar

Please join us at an upcoming event!

### 37th Annual All Vehicle Show

Hosted by East Coast Camaro Club  
to benefit Merrimack Valley Hospice  
Summer 2018  
EastCoastCamaroClub.com

### Viva, Vintage, Vegas Annual Food, Wine, Beer Pairing & Silent Auction

Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
5:30 – 8:30PM  
Black Swan Country Club, Georgetown, MA  
MerrimackValleyHospice.org/Silent-Auction

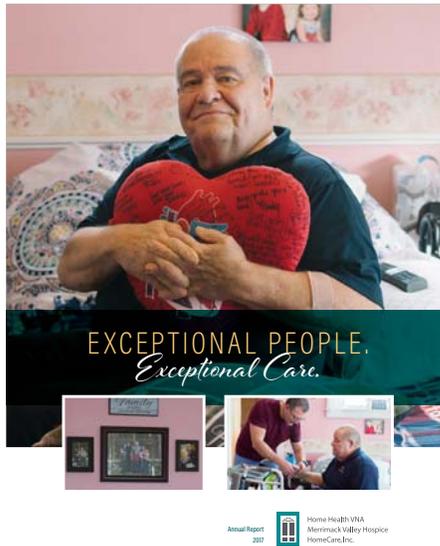
### Candles of Remembrance

Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
5:45 – 8:00PM  
Renaissance Golf Club, Haverhill, MA  
MerrimackValleyHospice.org/Haverhill-  
Candles

### Spring has Sprung! Brunch and Flower Show

Hosted by Friends of  
Merrimack Valley Hospice  
to benefit Merrimack Valley Hospice  
Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Atkinson Country Club, Atkinson, NH  
MerrimackValleyHospice.org/Friends

*For additional details on the events listed, please  
visit [Homehealthfoundation.org/events](http://Homehealthfoundation.org/events) or  
contact Erin Masterson at 978-552-4188*



## With gratitude to our generous donors!

Our Annual Report showcases the accomplishments and successes of our agencies made possible by the continued philanthropic support of our donors. The Annual Report includes a list of our 2017 supporters as well as those remembered though memorial or tribute gifts.

A copy of the 2017 Annual Report is available online at [www.homehealthfoundation.org/annual-reports/](http://www.homehealthfoundation.org/annual-reports/)



Welcome to fabulous Las Vegas, Nevada -- Entertainment Capital of the World!

Merrimack Valley Hospice will host its annual Food, Wine, Beer Pairing and Silent Auction – **Viva Vintage Vegas, on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** at the **Black Swan Country Club in Georgetown, MA.**

At the largest fundraiser to benefit Merrimack Valley Hospice, guests will experience the high stakes and high energy of the famous Vegas strip, enjoying food, beverages, games and entertainment while bidding on silent auction prizes.

Mark your calendar to attend this exciting evening or consider supporting with a donation of a gift certificate, product or service for our silent auction. Participate in whatever way you can and help us “hit the jackpot” for Merrimack Valley Hospice.

If you have questions or would like to support this event, contact Erin Masterson at 978-552-4188 or visit [MerrimackValleyHospice.org/silent-auction](http://MerrimackValleyHospice.org/silent-auction).

## Board of Trustees

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Charitable support allows us to provide bereavement programs open to anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one, even those not under the care of our agencies. Support groups are offered, free of charge, and are tailored to address the needs of varying age groups and types of loss – to help people cope and move forward.

### Grief Support for Loss of Spouse/Partner (Age 55 and over)

High Pointe House, Haverhill, MA  
Wednesdays, 10:30AM – Noon  
July 11th – Dec 19th

### Grief Support for Loss of Spouse/Partner

High Pointe House, Haverhill, MA  
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:30PM  
July 12th – Aug 23rd

### Grief Support for Loss of Spouse/Partner Second Steps – for those grieving 2+ years

High Pointe House, Haverhill, MA  
2nd Tuesday of the Month, 10:30AM – Noon  
Beginning July 10th

### Grief Support for Loss of Adult Child

High Pointe House, Haverhill, MA  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 2:00 – 3:30PM  
July 17th – Dec 18th

### Grief Support through Creative Expression - 3 workshops

High Pointe House, 360 North Ave, Haverhill, MA  
Tuesdays, 5:00 – 7:00PM

July 17th – Mandalas

August 21st – Therapeutic Journals

September 18th – Collage

Pre-registration is required. For info or to register, call 978-552-4510

General bereavement groups are also held in communities throughout the Merrimack Valley. For a full listing of local support groups and workshops, visit [MerrimackValleyHospice.org](http://MerrimackValleyHospice.org)

Published by: Office of External Relations and Development

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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](mailto:info@HomeHealthFoundation.org) with your contact information.

[HomeHealthFoundation.org](http://HomeHealthFoundation.org)

