

# JOURNEYS

*in home health and  
compassionate care*

A publication for friends and supporters of Home Health Foundation



June 2017 - Vol. 8

*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.*

## Hospice House... New Name. Same Exceptional Care.

The agencies of Home Health Foundation are pleased to announce the renaming of Merrimack Valley Hospice House in recognition of a most generous donor gift. The House will now be known as High Pointe House, the hospice and palliative care residence of Merrimack Valley Hospice. Reflecting the beauty and serenity of the setting, High Pointe House also represents our commitment to provide compassionate care and dignity to patients and families along the journey to life's end.

"We are humbled to have received this generous transformative gift and so appreciative of the impact it will have on patients and families, said Donna Deveau, Vice President of External Relations for Home Health Foundation. "The name reflects our peaceful surroundings and sets the tone for our compassionate hospice philosophy of care."

Located in Haverhill, MA, High Pointe House is a state-of-the-art, 21-suite, licensed hospice residence providing exceptional palliative and end-of-life care in a comfortable, home-like setting. The House provides compassionate, specialized medical care and support to patients and grief and bereavement services to families and loved ones.

To learn more about High Pointe House, please visit [MerrimackValleyHospice.org/HighPointeHouse](http://MerrimackValleyHospice.org/HighPointeHouse).



## Welcome, Karen!

Have you heard? Karen Gomes, RN, MS, CPHQ, formerly Vice President of Clinical Services for Home Health VNA and Chief Clinical Officer of Home Health Foundation has accepted a new role as President and CEO of the agencies of Home Health Foundation.

"I am honored to be selected by the Board of Trustees to continue to advance home health and hospice services to benefit patients and families in this region," said Gomes. I look forward to working with the Board of Trustees, Executive Management Committee and our committed staff to continue our legacy and stellar reputation as a leader in the industry."

Gomes received a Bachelor of Science degree from Regents College and a Master of Science degree from University of Massachusetts. She has more than 18 years of experience in home health and hospice care. Prior to joining Home Health VNA, Gomes was Executive Director of Home Health Services at Northeast Senior Health where she was responsible for the start-up, growth and development of their Medicare certified home health care agency.

Please join us in welcoming Karen to her new role at the agencies of Home Health Foundation!

**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**

## Grazie Volunteers!



Each spring we celebrate and recognize the many volunteers who generously give their time to Merrimack Valley Hospice and the agencies of Home Health Foundation. On May 4th, more than 120 volunteers gathered at Roma Restaurant in Haverhill, MA for an Italian feast honoring each for the time and talent they so willingly give to continue our mission of compassion and caring. Volunteers and their guests enjoyed delicious food, fun raffle baskets created by staff, and an evening of celebration.

“Tonight we honor our volunteers, who unselfishly give their time, talent and energy to support our patients and families,” said John Albert, past President and CEO. “The services our volunteers provide are invaluable, and each one is truly a critical member of our care team.”

In 2016, over 10,000 hours were contributed by volunteers who spent time visiting with patients, helping with bereavement programs, working at fundraising events, making phone calls and supporting patients and their families in so many ways.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit [HomeHealthFoundation.org/volunteers](http://HomeHealthFoundation.org/volunteers) or email [VolunteerManager@HomeHealthFoundation.org](mailto:VolunteerManager@HomeHealthFoundation.org)

## Spring has Sprung!

The Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice hosted their 4th Annual Spring has Sprung fundraiser on April 2nd and generous hearts were truly abloom as the event raised \$33,000 to benefit High Pointe House and the services of Merrimack Valley Hospice. Guests enjoyed a delicious brunch along with a floral design demonstration by Stephen Janavicus of Flowers by Steve, raffles of gift baskets and flower arrangements as well as fresh flowers available for purchase.

Event proceeds will support the purchase of replacement mattresses for pull out couches in patient suites to ensure the comfort of patients and family members alike. Additional funds raised throughout the year will support charitable care for those facing financial hardship, so that they may receive the quality, end-of-life care they deserve and need.

Mark your calendar! Our 5th Annual Spring Has Sprung fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, April 15, 2018 at Atkinson Country Club. We hope to see you there!



## A Legacy of Leading

On May 11th, more than 250 guests gathered in support of the agencies of Home Health Foundation, and to honor several leaders in the community at the 6th Annual Legacy of Leading recognition dinner. Honored were Stephen and Joan Clark, community philanthropists, and Dianne Anderson, President and CEO of Lawrence General Hospital. Stephen and Joan were recognized for their commitment to quality healthcare and their ongoing support of Merrimack Valley Hospice. Dianne Anderson was acknowledged for transforming Lawrence General Hospital from a local community hospital to a regional medical center.

As friends and partners in our work, Stephen and Joan Clark and Dianne Anderson enable our organization to better serve patients and families with the quality care they deserve. Both shared stories of how they were touched by the agencies of Home Health Foundation which deepened their commitment to the critical work that we do.

The event raised more than \$80,000 in support of programs dedicated to assisting the patients and families served by Home Health VNA, Merrimack Valley Hospice and HomeCare, Inc. We are so appreciative of the generous sponsors and supporters who contributed to the success of this event. Sponsors of this special night include Fazioli Charitable Foundation, Lupoli Companies, Pentucket Bank, Enterprise Bank, Trinity EMS and TD Bank.



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## Completing the Journey



As a personal challenge of completing the Appalachian Trail, tied to the goal of raising funds designated to providing hospice care to those in need, Hal Curtis established the Lillian P. Margolis Charitable Care Fund in tribute to his mother. On April 25th, Hal completed his journey along the 2,200 miles of trail.

Through the generosity of family, friends and the wider community, funds raised surpassed the \$100,000 goal to reach an impressive \$107,000. “Thanks to each and every one of you,” said Hal, “What started out as an homage to my mother became something else. It’s hard to put into words, but everything is different now. In a way, I feel mom’s hand in all of this. I can almost hear her chuckle and say, ‘Well dear, what’s next?’”

The Lillian P. Margolis Charitable Care Fund will serve to provide hospice care to those in need, either in their own homes or when home is not possible, at High Pointe House which Lillian helped to build with her generosity and advocacy in 2009.

While Hal has completed the trail, you may recount his journey through numerous blog posts and photos at [hlctakesahike.com](http://hlctakesahike.com). If you would like to learn more about the fund or how you can help, please contact Lauren Brousseau at 978-552-4927.



## A Special Visit

York Hospital Hospice, along with Rotary clubs surrounding the York, ME region, welcomed healthcare workers from Uganda who traveled to learn more about elder care, oncology and hospice care in the United States.

Each of the guests accompanied a York Hospital Hospice staff member to visit a patient's home. "While the guests from Uganda came to learn about our healthcare practices, our own patients benefitted as well," said Mary Stuart of York Hospital Hospice. "Patients and their families were thrilled, and shared how they would remember the experience forever."

We extend a special thank you to our patients and their families who so graciously welcomed our guests into their homes.

## The Gift of Time and Talent

Volunteers are important to our work and help extend the range of support throughout the greater community. Merrimack Valley Hospice and York Hospital Hospice have opportunities to volunteer in many ways – spending time with hospice patients and their families, assisting in the administrative offices or at fundraising events, sewing keepsake memories for someone who has lost a loved one, or checking in with patients by phone.

We welcome all types of volunteers to support patients and families, but often have a particular need for:

- Veterans
- Bilingual (English/Spanish)
- Licensed massage therapists (in MA, NH and ME)
- Weekend volunteers at High Pointe House, including the kitchen
- People who live in Lawrence, Greater Lowell or the Berwick, ME area
- Volunteers for the Pediatric Palliative Care team in the Lowell area
- Sewing enthusiasts to make teddy bears for the Keepsake Program

We offer training and ongoing education to all volunteers, as they are critical members of our team of supporters and care providers.

If you are able to share the gift of your time or talent, please call 978-552-4522 or email: [VolunteerManager@homehealthfoundation.org](mailto:VolunteerManager@homehealthfoundation.org)



Friends of  
Merrimack Valley Hospice



## Become a Friend!

The Friends of Merrimack Valley Hospice is an all-volunteer service organization formed by a group of passionate individuals, many of whom have been touched by the services of hospice. The group works to support hospice patients and their families by raising awareness and funds through yearly activities.

Annual dues are \$40 for an individual, \$60 for a household and \$100 for a business membership. Lifetime memberships are also available. New members are always welcome! For more information, visit [MerrimackValleyHospice.org/friends](http://MerrimackValleyHospice.org/friends) or call 978-552-4927.

## Special Events Calendar

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

### 36th Annual All Vehicle Show

Hosted by East Coast Camaro Club  
to benefit Merrimack Valley Hospice  
Saturday, August 19, 2017  
8:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Greater Lawrence Technical School  
Andover, MA  
[EastCoastCamaroClub.com](http://EastCoastCamaroClub.com)

### Flappers, Feathers, & Fedoras

Annual Food, Wine, Beer Pairing  
& Silent Auction  
Thursday, September 28, 2017  
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
Black Swan Country Club  
Georgetown, MA  
[MerrimackValleyHospice.org/Silent-Auction](http://MerrimackValleyHospice.org/Silent-Auction)

### Candles of Remembrance

Wednesday, December 6, 2017  
5:45 pm – 7:45 pm  
Renaissance Golf Club  
Haverhill, MA  
[MerrimackValleyHospice.org/Haverhill-Candles](http://MerrimackValleyHospice.org/Haverhill-Candles)

### Spring has Sprung

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](http://MerrimackValleyHospice.org/Friends)

*For more information on any of the events listed on our calendar, visit [HomeHealthFoundation.org/events](http://HomeHealthFoundation.org/events) or call Erin Masterson at 978-552-4188.*



## See all the great things you've helped accomplish!

Each year we create an Annual Report to showcase the work of our agencies that is possible through the financial generosity of people like you! The annual report also includes a list of our supporters in calendar year 2016 as well as those for whom memorial or tribute gifts were made.

You may find a copy of the report online at [HomeHealthFoundation.org/annual-report-2016](http://HomeHealthFoundation.org/annual-report-2016)

## Flappers, Feathers, & Fedoras

Mark your calendars for the event of the season! Join Merrimack Valley Hospice for Flappers, Feathers & Fedoras, our 2017 Food, Wine, Beer Pairing & Silent Auction. This annual event will be held on Thursday, September 28th at the Black Swan Country Club in Georgetown, MA.

At this year's largest fundraiser to benefit Merrimack Valley Hospice, guests will experience a "Roaring Twenties" theme, enjoying food, beverages and entertainment while bidding on auction prizes. We hope you will join in the excitement this year!

By donating to our silent auction or joining the Auction Committee, volunteering during the event or attending as a guest, you can contribute to the fun and energy of the evening, all in support of Merrimack Valley Hospice.

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



2017  
FOOD, WINE, BEER PAIRING  
& SILENT AUCTION

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## Do you know someone who would be a great addition to our team?

Home Health VNA, Merrimack Valley Hospice and HomeCare, Inc. employs some of the most experienced, talented clinicians and para-professionals to deliver quality and compassionate care in the homes of those we serve every day.

To see positions currently available, please visit [HomeHealthFoundation.org/Careers](http://HomeHealthFoundation.org/Careers)

## Would you like your donation to last all year?

Sign up for monthly donations and your support will last all year! Our sustaining donors find monthly payments easier to budget and they feel good about helping the agencies to receive support all year long.

**Learn more online at [HomeHealthFoundation.org/monthly-giving](http://HomeHealthFoundation.org/monthly-giving) 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](mailto:info@HomeHealthFoundation.org) with your contact information.

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

