

## ALLBEE TAKES THE REINS

ROGER ALLBEE, who has served on the Grace Cottage Hospital Board of Trustees since 2003 and on the Grace Cottage Foundation Board for the past seven years, is the new Interim CEO at Grace Cottage Hospital, effective January 1st.



Roger was Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture, Food, and Markets from 2007 to 2011 under Governor Jim Douglas; prior to that, he was Vermont's Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency. He has served on the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture for then-Congressman Jim Jeffords, and he was a VP of Farm Credit Banks (Northeast). Currently an advisor to the president of Vermont Technical College on the creation of a Vermont Institute for Agriculture and Food Systems, he has a bachelor of science degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Vermont and a master of science degree from the University of Massachusetts.

Roger's association with Grace Cottage dates from his birth, when he and his brother, Ron, were the first set of twins delivered by Grace Cottage Hospital founder, Dr. Carlos Otis. Roger and his wife, Ann, live in Townshend and have three grown children and four granddaughters.

## GRACE COTTAGE COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAM IS HERE TO HELP

A VERY EXCITING new development at Grace Cottage this past year has been the Community Health Team, part of Vermont Blueprint for Health, a state-led initiative that transforms the way health care and health services are delivered. The Community Health Team at Grace Cottage, composed of skilled health care professionals, has already had over 500 visits with patients to help them develop plans to meet their personal health-care goals. Services are free of charge to Vermont residents, and help includes: chronic disease management, nutrition & exercise education, mental health/substance abuse assessment, connections to community & financial resources, diabetes education, health education, medication management, weight management, home visits, and a wide variety of educational programs. For more information, call (802) 365-4331.



Grace Cottage's Community Health Team works one-on-one with patients to help them reach their personal health goals. Clockwise from top right: Heather Chaudoir (MSW, Behavioral Health Specialist), Crystal Mansfield (Director, Community Wellness), Liz Harrison (Health Coach), and Melody Lively (RN, Care Coordinator). Houghton Smith (RN, Certified Diabetes Educator, not pictured) completes the team.

## SHARED SERVICES STUDY UPDATE

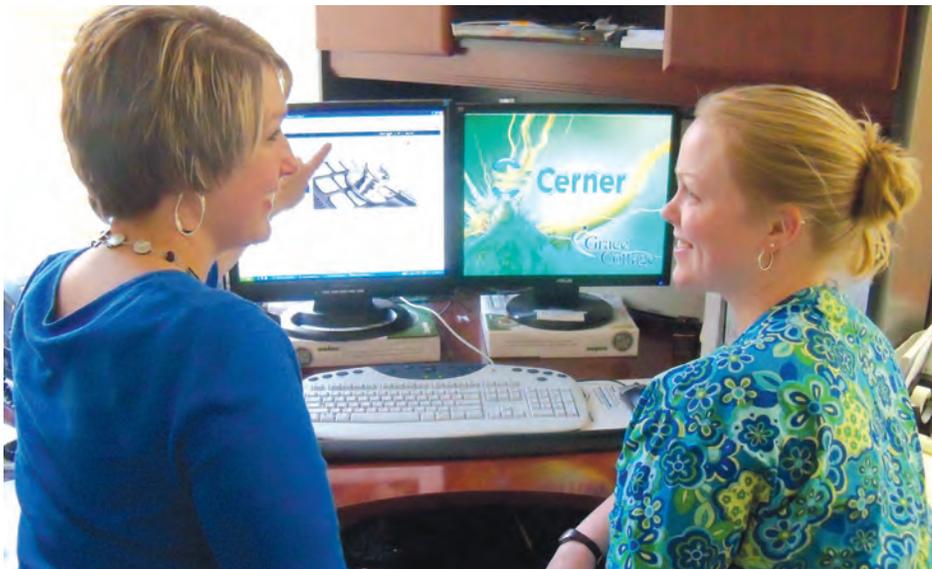
GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital (BMH), and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) continue to work on identifying and assessing opportunities for more efficient coordination and collaboration of services.

"Helms & Company of Concord, New Hampshire, has completed a Shared Services Study, and the results are being carefully evaluated," said Roger Allbee, Grace Cottage Interim CEO and board member. "Grace Cottage's relationship with both BMH and DHMC has been extremely strong and interactive for many decades, and we're all carefully assessing the needs of our patients and the communities we serve as we look ahead. Health care is moving entirely in the direction of what Grace Cottage provides: high-quality primary care with a focus on wellness and disease prevention, and on geriatric care. We plan to continue Grace Cottage's leading role in the delivery of this care to all of our patients."

# YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

**I**F YOU ARE A PATIENT of any of Grace Cottage Family Health's medical providers, you now have the option to request secure electronic access to your medical records via Grace Cottage Connections 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from any computer that has an Internet connection.

To sign up for Grace Cottage Connections, go to [www.gracecottage.org](http://www.gracecottage.org) and click on the Enrollment Form. Once you return the form and the information is entered, you will receive an invitation via e-mail to sign up, with step-by-step instructions. You create your own user name and password, not to be shared with anyone. You will then be able to view your medical records, look at any recent test results, renew prescriptions, and send messages to your doctor's office. (Mental Health services are excluded.) Grace Cottage Connections is fully compliant with state and federal laws regarding your privacy.



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The mission of Grace Cottage Hospital is to provide excellence in health care and well-being, putting people first. The vision for the future is to be the standard for patient care.

## A grateful patient writes:

“We were so very pleased with the exceptional professionalism of all those who helped us in your hospital. Keep up the GREAT work!”

*Janet Kirby*  
AGAWAM, MA

## SUE CLARK ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AS DR. BACKUS'S NURSE

**A** MEMBER OF THE GRACE COTTAGE staff for almost 46 years, Sue Clark has announced that she has decided to retire, although not completely... at least not yet. Sue is no longer Dr. Robert Backus's nurse, as she had been for over 30 years, but she will continue to work part time in the Grace Cottage Family Health Call Center.

Sue started at Grace Cottage Hospital as an RN in May 1968, after graduating from Elliot Community Hospital's School of Nursing in Keene, New Hampshire. With

the beloved Madeline Abbott as her supervisor, Sue first worked the night shift, eventually switching to evenings, and then to days, as she married and had children. In 1980 she became Dr. Backus's nurse.

“No family doctor can do his or her job well without the help of a good nurse,” said Dr. Backus. “Nurses for family doctors must, by design, have a hard shell, a soft heart, and know when to tuck in their necks. Sue has the full monty. She is an exceptionally bright, mature, sensible, very hard-working nurse, sensitive to patients' needs.



I was blessed and Grace Cottage is blessed to have her here.”

Gail Coleman, who has been at Grace Cottage for “only” 27 years, is now Dr. Backus's nurse—the transition has been seamless.

## WISHES GRANTED...

- ♥ Margaret Bernache donated funds to purchase a camera and printer for the Emergency Department, for the documentation of wounds and trauma.
- ♥ Merchants Bank funded a grant application for the purchase of laptop computers to teach patients how to access Grace Cottage Connections.
- ♥ Michael & Eileen Sweeney made a donation for the purchase of a portable pulse oximeter and a Doppler monitor attachment.
- ♥ Bock & Kim Yeo donated funds to purchase three lead aprons for the Diagnostic Imaging Department.
- ♥ Lisa's Love Charitable Association made a donation for the purchase of three new chairs for the Grace Cottage Family Health waiting room, in memory of Lisa Young Noble.
- ♥ Richard & Carol Steiner made a donation for the purchase of two reclining chairs for use by hospital patients and their visitors.
- ♥ Pete & Linda Hoag donated the funds for the purchase of TV remotes with pillow speakers for hospital patient use, and cassette covers for the Diagnostic Imaging Department.
- ♥ Two anonymous donors made donations to purchase a commercial mop bucket for Housekeeping, in honor of Eloise Winot.
- ♥ Price Chopper's Golub Foundation made a donation for the Diagnostic Imaging Department.

### A Visitor Says Thanks

“Every visit I have made to the Grace Cottage Hospital Emergency Room – and there have been a few over the years – confirms what a very special place it is.”

*Carol Pacun*  
GRAFTON, VT

- ♥ Mount Lebanon Order of the Eastern Star #89 donated the funds for the purchase of a walker basket for use by hospital patients.
- ♥ Norm & Carol Pacun donated funds for the purchase of a mirror box for Rehab patients.
- ♥ Ernie & Sheila Friedli donated funds to purchase a variety of equipment for hospital patient use for the Diagnostic Imaging Department and for the Dietary and Housekeeping Departments.
- ♥ Catherine Dauchy made a donation to fund the purchase of a foil and plastic wrap dispenser for the Dietary Department, in memory of Stuart Dauchy.
- ♥ Frank & Helen Short made a contribution towards patient wireless Internet access, in honor of Wayne Rowell.
- ♥ Bill & Dorothy Doyle made a gift for the purchase of a blood pressure cuff for use by the Rehab Department, in honor of Messenger Valley Pharmacist Greg Dean.
- ♥ John & Sue Eastwood made a donation for the purchase of a wide variety of equipment for hospital patient use, and for use by patients of the Diagnostic Imaging Department.
- ♥ Ted & Nan Danforth donated funds to purchase four bed alarms to warn the nursing staff when a patient is at risk of falling, in memory of John Newton.
- ♥ Dr. Marvin & Connie Wool made a gift for mental health services at Grace Cottage Hospital.
- ♥ Galen Pinkham made a donation for the purchase of beverage cups for the Dietary Department.
- ♥ An anonymous donor contributed funds to purchase a wide variety of Wish List items. Since we don't know who you are, we can thank you only via *Cottage Door!*

## WISHES MADE...

- ♥ Two TV remotes with pillow speakers are needed for the listening comfort of patients. \$95 each.
- ♥ Three heavy-duty baskets are needed for patient walkers so that patients can carry items to the cafeteria or porches. \$50 each.
- ♥ A transfer disc is needed to help patients as they move from bed to wheelchair. \$705.
- ♥ The Dietary Department needs stainless steel serving trays in assorted sizes and shapes. \$43.
- ♥ Housekeeping would very much like a compact poly utility cart. \$154. They also need a commercial top-loading washing machine so that they can clean personal laundry for patients as needed. \$575.

*To donate funds for any of the above items, or to review a more extensive Wish List, go to [www.gracecottage.org](http://www.gracecottage.org), or call Andrea or C.J. at (802) 365-9109.*

## REHABILITATION AT GRACE COTTAGE



Patient Janet Kierys of East Dover is all smiles with rehab therapist Teresa Castro, just one week after a double knee replacement performed by Dr. Elizabeth McClarney at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital.

## VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

*“Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”*

**T**HIS QUOTE certainly sums up how Grace Cottage employees and patients think of our many volunteers. Thanks to a flourishing volunteer program that includes: 1) Grace Greeters (one three-hour shift which begins or ends with a free lunch; the only time commitment is that you take one shift per week, month, or season, it's up to you!), 2) Couriers (drive with items from Townshend to Brattleboro and back in the middle of the day, doing your own personal errands along the way, if you wish), 3) Clerical help (on a project or as-needed basis, completely flexible hours), 4) Grace Gardeners (spring, summer, fall, to plant and/or weed, whatever hours and time suit you in the Garden of Grace and Hospice Garden); 5) Event volunteers (2014 events include the 5K on May 10, Tee Up for Health on June 21, Tour de Grace on July 12, Fair Day on August 2, and Community Health Festival on September 20). For more information about any of these opportunities, make an appointment with Volunteer Coordinator Liz Harrison (365-3738; eharrison@gracecottage.org). We'll treat you to lunch as we talk about what suits you and your schedule best.

### A volunteer writes:

“When I'm volunteering as a Grace Greeter I'm so busy that I never know what time it is,” said Elaine Murray (a former owner, with her husband, Charles, of the Three Mountain Inn in Jamaica, Vermont). “I'd like to continue as a Grace Greeter for the next 20 years, and I hear the same thing from just about all the Greeters!”

*Elaine Murray*  
WEST TOWNSHEND, VT

## SPRING INTO HEALTH 5K



Grace Cottage's fifth annual **Spring into Health 5K** will be held on Saturday, May 10, starting and ending on the Townshend Common. Registration begins one hour prior to the 8:30 a.m. start time. Runners, walkers, sprinters, and strollers are all welcome. \$15/adults, \$10/children (ages 13 and under) includes a race shirt for the first 150 registrants. Registration forms are available at [www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events). Last year's 158 participants ranged in age from two months to 102 years old!

## FIFTH ANNUAL TEE UP FOR HEALTH



Grace Cottage's fifth annual **Tee Up for Health** golf benefit will be on a different day of the week, date of the month, and at a new location this year. Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 21; tee-off time at 1 p.m. at The Hermitage Golf Club at Haystack Mountain in Wilmington, Vermont. Last year's event raised over \$25,000 for the Grace Cottage Patient Care Fund. Registration, which includes greens fees, cart, lunch, and dinner, is \$125 per golfer; an online auction will again be part of the fundraiser. Go to [www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events) for more information.

## TOUR DE GRACE



Ready to Ride!

The 9th Annual **Tour de Grace** bicycle ride (17.7 mostly downhill miles from Stratton to Grace Cottage Hospital) will be held on Saturday, July 12. Save the date; more information will follow in the June issue of *Cottage Door*, or go to [www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events) to learn more and to register. 85 riders of all ages participated in last summer's *Tour de Grace*—a great time was had by all.

## PLEASE JOIN US!

**H**ELD THE FIRST SATURDAY of August, Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day includes not only an all-day auction (see below), but also 22 bargain booths (collectibles, plants, books, jewelry, art, children's costumes, cotton candy, baked goods, homemade ice cream, lemonade, dunking booth, and more), plus free pony rides and entertainment all day. Free parking, free admission.

Inspired by the arrival of seed catalogs this month, the Grace Cottage Hospital Fair committee is beginning its planning for the 64th Fair on August 2nd. Ideas are germinating to make this another notable event. Returning after a few years' hiatus is the Art Show headed by several local artists. The show will again be held in the Townshend Church rooms where there is lots of space for display and browsing.

The Fair Committee welcomes two new members, Karen Emerson and Laura Smith. Laura will be heading up the book booth and will be looking for book-lovers to help with the sorting.

**NEEDED:** Auction items (furniture, collectibles, etc.) and Volunteers

**CONTACT:** Stan Holt at 365-4455 or spenholt@svcable.net

*Stan Holt, Auxiliary President*



Costume booth on Fair Day.



Fair Day auction action.

## AUXILIANS OF THE YEAR

**GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL** Auxiliary awarded the Ruth W. Pelsue Auxilian of the Year Award to two volunteers who are crucial to the success of Fair Day every year: H.K. "Kit" Martin and Art Monette.

Kit and Art are very well known locally; they've owned and operated the Townshend Auction Gallery for over 25 years. Kit started in the auction business at the tender age of eight, offering items for sale at his family's home in Newfane (with his parents' permission, one would hope!). Art's grandmother, Lelah Boomer, was a collector of old bottles, which inspired her grandson to be an early bird at auctions, estate, and tag sales.

Art and Kit donate their considerable talent and a great deal of time and energy to make the auction the focal point of Fair Day every year. The auction begins at 9:30 a.m. on the Townshend Common on Saturday, August 2, and runs until



Art and Kit with their Auxiliary Award and "helper," Maggie.

about 4:30 p.m., depending on the crowd. With sweat pouring down his brow, Kit uses his sharp wit to tease, berate, and cajole the audience into buying, with a lot of laughs throughout the day. It's great entertainment complete with the opportunity to purchase wonderful bargains which support a fabulous cause, so don't miss the auction this year.

## THANK YOU

**T**HE GRACE COTTAGE Hospital Auxiliary donated almost \$56,000 to Grace Cottage Hospital from Fair Day 2013 proceeds, thanks to fairgoers, those who donated items, and those who volunteered time, energy and expertise before, during, and after the Fair. This year's proceeds were used to purchase the following items: an EKG Machine (\$12,575), two new inpatient beds (\$16,000), a replacement nurse cart (\$5,000), laptops and docking stations (\$9,600), a sheetrock sander (\$300), and a telemedicine system (\$12,000).



Sylvia Gnazzo (right) with her brother, Almond Gnazzo, and sister, Alphonse King, in Williamsville, VT.

## THE GIFT OF GIVING

GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL recently received a bequest of \$10,000 from Sylvia Gnazzo, in thanks for the wonderful care she received from Dr. Timothy Shafer and Family Nurse Practitioner Louise McDevitt. Sylvia's niece, Polly Philbrook, provided the following description of Sylvia to share with *Cottage Door* readers:

Sylvia was born in 1915 in Plainville, Connecticut, where she lived for over 60 years until her retirement from TRW Corporation. Her interest in skiing prompted her to invest in a bond in Stratton Mountain and to buy a home in South Newfane, which she shared for many years with two of her six siblings and her mother. She was an avid golfer, tennis player, skier, and skater, and although she did not have children of her own, she enjoyed teaching these activities to her 12 nieces and nephews. Sylvia had a wonderful sense of humor and mischief, and all of her nieces and nephews would refer to her as "The Fun Aunt." She loved to sit in the sun, and did this until she became confined to bed; she died of natural causes in February 2013 at the age of 97.

Fortunately, Sylvia had let Grace Cottage know about this bequest over a decade ago, when she checked the box on her donation envelope that says, "Yes, I have remembered Grace Cottage in my will or other estate planning," so we were able to thank her for this gift while she was still alive.

If you would like to let us know that you have left a bequest to Grace Cottage Hospital, or would like to establish a charitable annuity or another planned gift, contact Andrea Seaton at (802) 365-9109 or [aseaton@gracecottage.org](mailto:aseaton@gracecottage.org).

## PAINTINGS INSPIRED BY GRACE COTTAGE VISITS

SUSAN POTTER SMITH, of West Wardsboro, died unexpectedly on Friday, October 4, the morning after she'd completed hanging an exhibit of her artwork at the Martha Canfield Library in Arlington, Vermont. Susan's husband, Fred, in expressing thanks from her family to all Grace Cottage employees for the incredible care delivered, arranged for her words below to be read aloud at her funeral.

"Wherever I go, wherever I am, I look for the next picture. A well-used canvas bag brimming with painting gear is packed and on the back seat, ready when the picture comes into view. I enjoy drawing and painting from the road; getting to know and appreciate the place. During the past



The Dennison House and barn across the street from Grace Cottage Hospital were the subject of this watercolor by Susan Potter Smith, created when her husband was in physical therapy. The Otis family donated these buildings to Grace Cottage Hospital last summer.

few years, these watercolors have evolved. Simply said, Grace Cottage Rehab has played a big role in my discovery. Fred and I travelled to the Rehab Center twice a week for several months. While Fred kept his appointments, I looked for pictures in the neighborhood. I found them in

every direction. These paintings have become my personal diary of these visits. They are stories of a busy yet quiet place solely devoted to the wellness of others."

Susan's family requested that donations in her memory be made to Grace Cottage Hospital and these gifts totalled over \$2,500.

## WE ARE HUMBLLED...

...GRATEFUL, AND OVERWHELMED by the donations that have been pouring in since the beginning of our fiscal year (October 1, 2013); more than 850 individual gifts totaling over \$360,000. We've called and written all of you to thank you for your contributions, but we want to take this additional opportunity to let you know how greatly these gifts are appreciated. Your donations enable this small, rural hospital to care for patients in a highly professional, and, as one patient said, "off-the-charts" personal way. On behalf of all employees (75% of whom donate to Grace Cottage Hospital annually, an extremely high percentage for any hospital) and the patients we serve, thank you.

## A grateful patient writes:

“We all have many roads we travel. Lately, mine has had a lot of stays in hospitals. I am pleased to say that of all the places I’ve been on my journey, Grace Cottage is without question the best!”

*Gary O’Neal*  
ASHUELOT, NH

## GIFTS WERE RECENTLY RECEIVED IN HONOR OF:

Dr. Robert Backus ♦ Dewey Barry  
Francis Capen ♦ Kerry Capponcelli  
Dr. Kenneth Chao ♦ Greg Dean  
Grace Cottage Doctors & Staff  
Dr. Maurice Geurts ♦ C.J. King  
Dr. Ronald Klinger ♦ Phyllis Krisher  
Dr. Moss Linder ♦ Dot Maggio  
Theresa Maggio ♦ Dr. Ajay Misra  
Messenger Valley Pharmacy Staff  
Tom & Catherine Nemchek  
Howard Osgood ♦ Pirie Family  
Wayne Rowell ♦ Dr. Tim Shafer  
Eloise Winot

Grace Cottage Hospital & Grace Cottage Foundation are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

The mission of Grace Cottage Foundation is to raise funds on behalf of Grace Cottage Hospital.

Donations to Grace Cottage Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Grace Cottage Foundation’s Federal Tax ID # is: 03-0343282.

Donations may be made by cash, credit card, check, stocks, bonds, or other tangible assets. Call Andrea Seaton, Executive Director, at (802) 365-9109.

An audit of Grace Cottage Hospital & Grace Cottage Foundation is available upon request.

## ♦ MEMORIAL GIFTS ♦

*Donations have been received between September 15th and January 15th in memory of the following individuals:*

Lester Allbee ♦ Alwin Ameden ♦ Gene & Marie Avenia ♦ Frances Baccile  
Chris Ballou ♦ Larry Ballou ♦ Russ Barber ♦ Bob & Ginna Barrett ♦ Mollie Beattie  
Raoul Bedard ♦ Jack & Shirley Benson ♦ Cecil Bills ♦ Stan & Margaret Bills  
Richard Brackner ♦ Edwin Bristol ♦ Herbert & Ilene Brooks ♦ Norm Brooks  
John & Ruth Broutsas ♦ Beryl Berry Brown ♦ Eugene Brown ♦ Gladys Brown  
Phyllis Brown ♦ Charlene Clayton Carey ♦ Nancy Chard ♦ Raymond Clayton  
Jean Clouse ♦ Bill Cobb ♦ Chris Coleman ♦ Phil Coleman ♦ Phyllis Coleman  
Harry Conklin ♦ Neva Corse ♦ Edward Coughlin ♦ Wendell Covey ♦ A. Luke Crispe  
Ruth Crowley ♦ Stuart Dauchy ♦ Dr. Forbes Delany ♦ Elsie Detjen ♦ Richard Dexter  
Lucina Dippel ♦ Ken & Stella Dowley ♦ Richard Dowley ♦ Ida Dutton ♦ Lorena Eaton  
Lilian Ebeling ♦ Marjorie Eginton ♦ Mary Eginton ♦ Blanche Berry Ekstrom  
Don Elliott ♦ Jennifer Ellis ♦ Brian Evans ♦ Bryan & Ruby Evans ♦ Doug & Alice Evans  
Jim Faas ♦ Ronald Feldman ♦ Bud Field ♦ Nat & Irene Fillow ♦ Debra Kay Fish-Diette  
Bea Fisher ♦ Jean Pratt Fisher ♦ Richard Flynn ♦ John C. Follett  
John & Dorothy Fornuto ♦ Mary Evans Fox ♦ Bertha Frothingham  
Catherine Atwater Galbraith ♦ Marilyn Gates ♦ Alexandra Giallella  
Sylvia Gnazzo ♦ Louise Godt ♦ Roland Gould ♦ Greenleaf family members  
Ellis Greenwood ♦ Louis Gross ♦ Richard Haas ♦ Alexander Hadden  
David Hamilton ♦ Jack Hill ♦ George & Thelma Holden ♦ George Holden, Jr.  
Helen Holmes ♦ Bert & Louise Howard ♦ Andrew Hudock ♦ Edward Hurley  
Silver Husky ♦ Ruth Jacobs ♦ Ann Johnson ♦ Joseph & Joan Keefe ♦ Eda Kent  
Melba Harlan King ♦ Dorothy Kingsley ♦ Don Kissel ♦ Otto & Beatrice Kleppner  
Charles & Ruth Knights ♦ Gerda Krajewski ♦ Warren Kronemeyer ♦ Norman Lake  
Jack Lambert ♦ Richard & Barbara Lamprey ♦ Bea Lander ♦ Richard Lapan  
Maurice Laselle ♦ Merrill Lawrence ♦ Don Leigh ♦ Barbara Litchfield  
Howard Lott ♦ David Lowe ♦ Eleanor Lowe ♦ Jack & Ruth Lyman  
Gertrude MacDougall ♦ Fannie Mantel ♦ Dr. Bill & Joan Martin ♦ Gary Martin  
Larry Martin ♦ Lucille Martin ♦ Lester Mayer ♦ Joan McConnel  
Jim & Barbara McMennamin ♦ Betty Merrill ♦ Mary Meyer ♦ Bessie Miles  
Elden Mills ♦ Carolyn Moon ♦ Florence Moore ♦ Kathy Moore ♦ Connie Nelson  
John Newton ♦ Thomas Nicholson, Sr. ♦ Lisa Young Noble ♦ Mavis Oliver  
Herbert & Evangeline Osborn ♦ Dr. Carlos & Ruth Otis ♦ Marion Parks  
Phyllis Patrick ♦ Jeremy Paulus ♦ Charles (Red) Pearson ♦ Neil & Ruth Pelsue  
James Perry ♦ Kim Perry ♦ Iver Peterson ♦ Oliver & Esther Peterson  
Irene Phelps ♦ Earl Pickering ♦ Oscar & Bernadette Plumley ♦ Richard Plunkett  
Elaine Prouty ♦ Janet Puglisi ♦ Jim Quillard ♦ Betty Radens ♦ Irene Reagan  
Carol Rees ♦ Lois Riley ♦ William & Florence Rounds ♦ Marguerite Ryan  
Hank Sanders ♦ Sandy Saunders ♦ Margaret Savanella ♦ Fred & Cicely Scherer  
Joyce Scheuerman ♦ Evan Schilling ♦ Beverly Scott ♦ Patricia Seaton  
Charles Slover ♦ Mildred Smith ♦ Susan Potter Smith ♦ Jean Sorrentino  
Eric & Gertrude Spafford ♦ Dr. Houston Stevens ♦ Della Stowell  
Soja Kruedener-Struve ♦ Jakov & Iva Sucic ♦ Ken & Joan Swan  
John Temple Swing ♦ George Tagariello ♦ Walter Tarbell ♦ Harry Trask  
Dr. Jim & Dr. Marjorie Trousdell ♦ Dr. Bill Wallace ♦ Euphemia Wallace  
Alan & Barbara Webster ♦ Alma Welker ♦ Wanda Welker ♦ Mona West  
Arlene P. White ♦ Harry & Phyllis Wolff ♦ Milton Wolinsky  
Margaret Woodruff ♦ Joan Zully

*We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of these loved ones, and our appreciation to those who have given in their memories. When memorial gifts are received by Grace Cottage Hospital, the donor is thanked, and the next of kin is notified of the gift. (The amount given is never divulged.)*

## ARE YOU READY TO GO DIGITAL?

Would you prefer to receive the *Cottage Door* newsletter via e-mail? We adore our Townshend postmistress, but we do like to both save money and get this publication to you “hot off the press!” If you’d prefer to receive *Cottage Door* in digital format, e-mail us at [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org), and we’ll change you to e-delivery for our newsletter, which is published in June, October, and February every year.



P.O. Box 216  
Townshend, VT 05353-0216

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### A grateful patient writes:

“Grace Cottage is a unique and remarkable institution, really part of the bedrock of our community.”

*Barclay Ward*  
BROOKLINE, VT

NOVEMBER 14, 2013

## To Grace Cottage’s CEO:

I JUST FINISHED FILLING OUT your standard assessment of my stay at Grace Cottage in October. I found that there was no way that this form could convey my appreciation for the wonderful treatment I had received, and wanted to add a more personal thank you.

First, I found that Grace Cottage was not at all a conventional hospital. I felt that I had been taken in by a very caring, talented family and friends.

I was heard; not just listened to. I was respected, but also held accountable for learning how to heal and avoid further injury. I was expected to thrive, and yet there was great genuine caution shown by the staff who feared that I would take on too much.

Because I was there primarily for Rehab after a fall, I developed a singular respect for your PT [Physical Therapy] and OT [Occupational Therapy] staff – for Bill, Wendy, Teresa, Diane, to name just a few. They trusted my motivation, schooled me in what I could do safely and corrected me gently when I failed to follow their instruction. They stepped back when necessary to allow me my independence, while setting reasonable goals for continued success.

*“I was heard; not just listened to. I was respected, but also held accountable for learning how to heal and avoid further injury.”*

However, this still fails to really convey my gratitude. Your staff are real people, who have real feelings. Real people who shared their real lives and were interested in mine. They made me as comfortable as was possible in my very uncomfortable position. They were constant in their professional care.

Overall, I realize that Grace Cottage does the impossible. It’s not a fancy place like many modern hospitals, and it certainly doesn’t put on airs, but it certainly does more with what it does have. It has incredible talented people who actually care. It has food that is delicious and healthy. It has a program that is intense and speeds healing. It even provided me with roommates who were friends – one was an old college classmate I hadn’t seen since 1959.

In short, thank you. I find that I can’t sing Grace Cottage Hospital’s praises loudly enough.

*–Jeremy Birch, Putney, VT*