

USDA GRANT FOR TELEMEDICINE



GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL is one of 41 rural medical centers in Vermont and New Hampshire that will share in almost \$1 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service. Grace Cottage's share of these funds, which will come through the Center for Telehealth at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, will be used to expand Grace Cottage's technology infrastructure in the Emergency Room, and to purchase telemedical carts.

"Telemedicine is a critical piece of the sustainable health system Dartmouth-Hitchcock is working to create," said Dartmouth-Hitchcock CEO and President Dr. James N. Weinstein. "To really serve the people of our region, we need to get health care to them where they live. In emergency situations, access to our specialists has been shown to save lives. For more routine care and monitoring, telemedicine allows us to partner with providers in the community to assure the highest quality care with convenience and lower cost."

ALLBEE & FORTIER AT THE HELM

ON APRIL 20, Interim CEO Roger Allbee agreed to the Board of Trustees' request to remove the word "Interim" from his title, and judging by the reaction from employees and patients, this was a very welcome step.

The Board of Trustees also announced that Jeanne Fortier has been appointed the Chief Operating Officer at Grace Cottage Hospital; she had been serving as Interim COO. Fortier received a BSN degree from Russell Sage College in Troy, NY and an MBA from Boston University's Graduate School of Management, with a concentration in health care management. Prior to coming to Grace Cottage in 2008 as Chief Nursing Officer, Fortier worked at Mount Desert Island Hospital in Bar Harbor, Maine, where she was Vice President of Patient Care Services.

"As Grace Cottage's employees will attest, Jeanne is an excellent Chief Operating Officer," said Allbee. "We are in very good hands, and I will be able to focus my efforts, with the help of many others, on our long-term vision and strategic planning."



DR. SCHMIDT NAMED ER DIRECTOR



AN EMPLOYEE OF GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL since January, 2013, Dr. Christopher Schmidt has been named Grace Cottage Hospital's Emergency Department director. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, he began his medical career in 1982 in partnership with Dr. Robert Orr in Brattleboro. In 1990, Dr. Schmidt joined the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital Emergency Department staff and became ER director there in 2007. Dr. Schmidt also served as EMS Medical Director for Rescue Inc. from 2001-2012.

"We are fortunate to have Dr. Schmidt, with his wealth of experience as an ER physician and director, agree to lead our ER," says Dr. Richard Meyer, Chief Medical Officer. "He's a great asset to Grace Cottage Hospital."

A WORD FROM THE CEO

WE ARE TRULY BLESSED that there are so very many people who are extremely devoted to this small community hospital. Patients, volunteers, employees, community members, area businesses, and individual donors dedicate their donations of time, energy, funds, in-kind gifts, and expertise to Grace Cottage.

Those who give their support convey the message, loud and clear, that Grace Cottage's culture, mission, and vision are unique, and depend on this small hospital remaining independent (at least for the foreseeable future) while we continue our medical relationships with other health care institutions. A joint press release from our Board of Trustees with the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital Board of Directors announced that the two hospitals will remain independent, separate entities, while continuing to explore ways to more efficiently deliver health care to the patients of Windham County and beyond.

Meanwhile, Grace Cottage Hospital staff, board members, and members of the community have been working long and hard to evaluate and update Grace Cottage's strategic plan to help ensure that the hospital has a long and vibrant future. With the current emphasis in the health care world on the things that Grace Cottage does best — primary care, wellness programs, home-health models, and keeping people out of hospitals — we know that rural community hospitals such as Grace Cottage are critical to the health and well-being of the communities that we serve. On behalf of our patients, thank you for your support, which you express in so many ways. I very much welcome any input you may have; call me at (802)365-7920 x108 or e-mail rallbee@gracecottage.org.

Roger Allbee, CEO

A grateful patient writes:

“Your hospital has been a life saver for me in the past, and if I have to be hospitalized again it will be at Grace Cottage. Your hospitality and your staff were like an oasis in a bleak wilderness for me both times I was there.”

-Lyle Frink
VERNON, VT



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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.

WELLNESS INITIATIVE AWARD



GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL has received the 2014 Gold Level Award from the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. One of 91 Vermont businesses considered for this award, Grace Cottage was recognized for its success in promoting physical fitness and healthy work-life balance for its employees. Last year, Grace Cottage received the Bronze Level Award. Grace Cottage's Wellness Director Crystal Mansfield traveled to Burlington at the end of March to accept the Gold Level Award.

Grace Cottage Hospital Wellness Director Crystal Mansfield accepts a Gold Level Workplace Wellness Initiative Award from (left) Vermont Health Commissioner Harry Chen and (right) Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin.



WISHES GRANTED...

- ♥ Elizabeth Walker made a donation for the purchase of hanging flower baskets and annuals for the gardens at Grace Cottage in memory of Joan McConnel.
- ♥ Dr. Richard & Alice Thall donated the funds for the purchase of a helicopter landing kit for the DHART helicopter transfers in Onyon field.
- ♥ Denis & Charlotte Choleva made a donation for the purchase of a new microwave for the Dietary Department, in honor of Denise Choleva.
- ♥ Gary & Julie Lavorgna made a gift in honor of Sandy Westcott and Eloise Winot for the purchase of a laundry cart.
- ♥ Catherine Dauchy of Jamaica donated the funds to purchase a positioning wedge for the Diagnostic Imaging Department's patients.

WISHES MADE...

- ♥ The outpatient Rehab Department needs a standing push cart to teach pediatric patients to walk again after an accident or operation. \$199.
- ♥ The Diagnostic Imaging Department is in need of a multi-function task chair, suited to the various types of treatment being provided. \$135.
- ♥ Patients in the hospital would benefit from stainless steel baskets mounted on walkers, for carrying items when they go to the cafeteria or garden. \$50 each.
- ♥ The outpatient Rehab therapists would very much like to have a small trampoline so that they can work on specific strengthening exercises for patients. \$840.
- ♥ The Dietary Department needs a case of large serving utensils. \$120.

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

35 years	Kathi Chase	Dietary
30 years	Ruth Daigneault	Laboratory
30 years	Monica Lightfoot	Pharmacy
30 years	Dr. Timothy Shafer	Family Health
25 years	Stephen Brown	Finance
25 years	Darlene Clark	Nursing
20 years	Pam Coburn	Rehabilitation
15 years	Alice Baker	Family Health
15 years	Denise Choleva	Dietary
15 years	Jane Cyr	Pharmacy
15 years	Christine Gleason	Housekeeping
15 years	Marcie Jones	Laboratory
15 years	Melody Lively	Family Health
15 years	Tanya Noyes	Laboratory
10 years	Mari-Jean Andersen	Family Health
10 years	Diane DiVenere	Rehabilitation
10 years	Dr. Maurice Geurts	Family Health
10 years	Don Jackson	ER
10 years	Dana West	Purchasing
5 years	Amber Ayers	Dietary
5 years	Dewey Barry	Pharmacy
5 years	Eddie Benoit	Maintenance
5 years	Jason Chambers	Radiology
5 Years	Gerry Curtin	Business Office
5 years	Meghan Curtin	Radiology
5 years	Robin Ekstrom	Nursing
5 years	Cindy Kenyon	Rehabilitation
5 years	Catherine Nemchek	Administration
5 years	Marina Potter	Housekeeping
5 years	Bill Roohan	Rehabilitation
5 years	Janice Sheppard	Nursing
5 years	Linda Smith	Family Health
5 years	Mariann Zajchowski	Nursing

EMPLOYEES PAY TRIBUTE TO THEIR EMPLOYEE-MOMS

DIANE "LULU" SMITH (LPN/Dr. Amalia Lee's Nurse) and



HOLLY DOMANSKI (RN, BS/Dr. Timothy Shafer's Nurse). When Holly was asked what it was that made her mother special, she answered, "She is dedicated to her family. Family is everything. She has pride in her family, community and work. She has taught me love of people."

GAIL COLEMAN (LPN/Dr. Robert Backus's nurse) and her daughter, **DEBORAH PARKER** (Controller/Finance Department). When asked for words of praise for her mom, Deb humorously said, "I've learned from my mom that what goes around comes around. Now that I have daughters, I see what she went through raising four girls. She's very caring and giving and supportive, and she's a hard worker. She also taught me about unconditional love."



ELOISE WINOT (Director of Housekeeping and Laundry) and her son, **DOUG WINOT** (Maintenance Engineer/Technician). When asked what was special about his mother, Doug simply stated, "Everything's good about my mom. She brought us up well. If anything needs to be done, she's always there to help."

To see other employee-mom tributes, go to Grace Cottage Hospitals's Facebook page.

FIFTH ANNUAL TEE IT UP FOR HEALTH

GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL'S fifth annual *Tee It Up for Health* is taking place just about the time you're reading this issue of *Cottage Door*. As of press time, we had 27 teams signed up to play on



Saturday, June 21, at The Hermitage Club at Haystack Mountain in Wilmington, VT, and we thank all of our generous sponsors who are so supportive of Grace Cottage Hospital:

EVENT: The Richards Group, The Hermitage Club at Haystack Mountain

GOLD: Elizabeth Walker

SILVER: Andy & Linda Barber, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Lawrence & Lober Electric Services, Multiview Corporation, People's United Bank, Physicians Toxicology Labs

HOLE: Dead River Company, Durand Motors, Five Maples (Mailrite), Gordon Hickey Alignment, Howard Printing, Northeast Delta Dental, Putney General Store & Pharmacy, Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer, Southern Vermont Podiatry, West River Valley Dental, Windham Foundation

BRONZE SPONSORS: Advance Notice Advertising, Lawton Floor Design

BUSINESS SPONSOR: Patriot Insurance

HOLE-IN-ONE CAR: 2014 Ford Escape, Brattleboro Ford/Subaru

ONLINE AUCTION

IF YOU'VE RECEIVED this newsletter prior to the close of bidding 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 28, check out Grace Cottage Hospital's *Tee It Up for Health* Online Auction at gch.dojiggy.com and bid on an African safari, Mount Snow season pass, trips to the Caribbean, jewelry, art, tickets to sporting events, and an annual golf and ski pass to The Hermitage Club at Haystack Mountain. All proceeds benefit Grace Cottage Hospital's Patient Care Fund.



Ready, Set, GO! Grace Cottage Hospital's *Spring into Health 5K* on Saturday, May 10, was a great success.

SPRING INTO HEALTH

OVER 105 RUNNERS, walkers, and strollers joined Grace Cottage's 5th annual *Spring into Health 5K* on Saturday, May 10. Despite the grey skies at the start, and the few (some said very welcome) sprinkles during the 5K, the sun came out along with the smiles of all who finished (everyone!). Congratulations to winner Matt Guild of Bellows Falls, and to Grace Cottage's physician assistant Danny Ballentine, who came in second (preceded by his son, Cyprus, in a stroller). Our thanks to all who support this great event, especially to our own Dr. Moss Linder who is the mastermind of Spring into Health, and to Kelsey Hescocock of Leland & Gray, who was this year's winner of the shirt design contest. The Fun Run for the under 8-year-old set was a great addition this year. Save the date for next year: May 9, 2015.

GARDENING AT GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL



Grace Cottage's CEO Roger Allbee (Vermont's former Secretary of Agriculture) wasn't reluctant to get his hands dirty when Denise Choleva, dietary manager, asked for help planting Grace Cottage's herbs and vegetables in four-raised bed gardens this spring. (l. to r.) C.J. King, Catherine Nemchek, Margaret Devens, Amber Ayers, and Kathi Chase lent helping hands as well.

GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL FAIR DAY

WITH FAIR DAY just over one month away, Auxiliary preparations are shifting into high gear.

The Art Show, held in the Townshend Church, is back! Volunteers Lois Phoenix and Priscilla Lyman are busy contacting artists throughout the area to show their work. A demonstration by a local artist will also be included, for the first time ever.

Books, Books, Books: Hundreds of books were moved into a large sorting area generously donated by Elaine and Walter Meyer. Laura Smith and helpers are weeding through the books to find the best and most recent titles for book lovers.

A large trailer donated by Donald Gould and Sons has been moved to a convenient location and stands ready to safely store donated furniture until the Fair Day Auction.

The Dennison House across from the hospital already holds many White Elephant booth treasures. Kathy Coleman and her helpers are sorting continually and ready to receive more of your donations.

The phone rings constantly with messages from people who want to support Grace Cottage with donations of household goods to be picked up now, for storage until the Fair. A small fleet of volunteers are on the move with their trucks to answer your calls.

All these volunteers are only a small portion of the people who are already preparing in some way to make the 64th Hospital Fair Day the best one ever.

COME BE PART OF THE ACTION! Contact me at 365-4455 for more information on how you can become involved with this great group of people, whether it's for one hour, one day, one week, or one month!

Stan Holt, Fair Day Chair



Blue sky is always a welcome guest at Fair Day.



Book Booth Chair Laura Smith and fellow volunteer Lise Moran say that, as avid bibliophiles, they are very excited about sorting and organizing all of the books that have already been donated for Fair Day.

WHAT, WHEN & WHERE?

Hospital Fair Day is Saturday, August 2, from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. on the Townshend Common, junction Routes 30 & 35. Free admission, free parking. All-day Auction, 22 Bargain Booths (toys, plants, books, white elephant, jewelry, lemonade, fried dough, baked goods, and much, much more), Bingo, Baby Parade for those born at Grace Cottage, pony rides, face painting, games, entertainment, chicken barbeque dinner, Bills Band concert (and that's just a small overview!). Go to www.gracecottage.org/events or call (802) 365-4455 for more information.



TOUR DE GRACE



The Frinton family of LaGrange, NY, looks unruffled with only two miles left to the finish of *Tour de Grace*.

GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL'S 9th annual family-friendly *Tour de Grace* will take place on Saturday, July 12. This 17.5 mostly-downhill very scenic bicycle ride from Stratton Mountain to Grace Cottage Hospital includes refreshments along the way and, for the first time this year, a raffle for a 24-speed Trek Bike. Registration is \$25 per rider at www.gracecottage.org/ or \$30 per rider on the day of the event, between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. at Stratton Mountain. Helmets are required, and mountain bikes are strongly recommended for the ride, which is mostly on dirt roads. Transportation is provided for riders and bikes back up to Stratton. Visit www.gracecottage.org/events for more information.

A grateful patient writes:

“Thank you so very much for the care and concern from all departments while I was a patient there. You all are so very special.”

—Ruby Cushman
BELLOWS FALLS, VT



Purchasing Director Patrick Lapan and Social Worker & Discharge Planner Carol Vandertuin are the first Grace Cottage employees to consistently use public transportation to ride back and forth to work. The bus picks them up in Brattleboro at 6:15 a.m. and at Grace Cottage at 4:15 p.m. It's a long day, but they enjoy the ride! “We save so much money on gas and we get caught up on our reading. It's really relaxing,” said Patrick.



Grace Cottage employees Karen Bratton, Deb Record, and Patti Winter created this beautiful fruit and vegetable quilt which hangs behind the salad bar in the Grace Cottage Hospital dining room.



Save the Date! The third annual Wellness in Windham Health Festival will be **11 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 20** on the front lawn of the Brattleboro Retreat. A collaboration between Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, The Brattleboro Retreat, and Grace Cottage Hospital, the Health Festival is a fun, informative, and free family-friendly event. Visit www.WellnessinWindham.org for more information.

THE GIFT OF GIVING

GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL employees give where they work: over 75 of our employees donated a total of almost \$8,000 to the hospital via payroll deductions during 2013, which is greatly appreciated. With some employees also making contributions to the hospital via cash, check, or credit card, the annual total is close to \$10,000. Many hospitals strive to reach the goal of having 30% of their employees participate in annual giving; at Grace Cottage, the total is now over 60% of all employees.

Time is an even more precious resource than money, and you will find Grace Cottage employees enthusiastically volunteering their time at all Grace Cottage events, especially at Hospital Fair Day in August. Many of the booths are run by hospital staffers and their friends and family members.

Finally, and most significantly, Grace Cottage employees give generously of themselves when they go above and beyond for patients every day.

WANT TO SMILE MORE?

COUNTLESS STUDIES HAVE SHOWN that people who donate their dollars to charities get an instant boost in happiness and, in general, are more content than those who are not as philanthropic. Want to give it a try? Operators are standing by (Andrea and C.J.!) to accept your donation. Call (802) 365-9109, go to www.gracecottage.org, or e-mail info@gracecottage.org to arrange a monthly, quarterly, or one-time



donation. \$10 or \$20 a month adds up quickly, and helps this independent, rural hospital to continue to provide personal, professional healthcare to every patient who needs our help. Let us know if you'd like to make this gift in memory or in honor of a family member, friend, neighbor, or one of our employees who has gone above and beyond for you. We'll notify this person (never revealing the amount) that you have commemorated them in this way. It's a win-win: they'll be very touched and you'll be happy!

❖ MEMORIAL GIFTS ❖

Donations have been received between January 16th and May 16th in memory of the following individuals:

Jessie Allbee ❖ Frances Baldvins ❖ Harold & Florence Barber ❖ Cecil Bills Stanley & Margaret Bills ❖ Edwin Bristol ❖ Susan Bristol ❖ Clarence Brown, Jr. Gladys Brown ❖ Gladys Bruce ❖ Francis Capen ❖ Arthur Chapin Elaine Chapin ❖ David & Josephine Chase ❖ Chris Coleman ❖ Phil Coleman Wendell Covey ❖ A. Luke Crispe ❖ Ruth Crowley ❖ Dauchey family members Claire Ann Dehler ❖ Herbert & Ida Dutton ❖ John Easton ❖ Marjorie Eginton Don Elliott ❖ Jim Faas ❖ Nelson Fontaine ❖ Sandy Hadden ❖ Luetta Holden Julia Holland ❖ Edward Hurley ❖ Betty Karg ❖ Carlton "Pug" Kenyon William & Gertrude Knight ❖ Ruth Lamprey ❖ Richard Lapan ❖ Carl Larson Don Leigh ❖ Barbara Litchfield ❖ Howard & Heidi Mansfield ❖ Joan McConnel Verne Moberly ❖ Kim Perry ❖ Irene Phelps ❖ Hilary Williams Pike Dick Raymo ❖ Irene Reagan ❖ Doc & Iva Roberts ❖ Joyce Scheuerman George Shumlin ❖ Ragna Somme ❖ Ruth Teeke ❖ Mary Torrey ❖ Maria Walsh Dr. Richey Waugh ❖ Gus Williams ❖ Margaret Woodruff ❖ Lou Zopf

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.)

GIFTS WERE RECENTLY RECEIVED IN HONOR OF:

Dewey Barry ❖ Denise Choleva ❖ Vance Hosford
Dawn Leigh ❖ Louise McDevitt ❖ Sandy Westcott ❖ Eloise Winot

A grateful patient writes:

"We hope that Grace Cottage Hospital never gets swept up in a 'big' hospital's muddle and lose its 'grace'. That's what makes it so special. Hope you all can preserve its specialness for a long time to come."

*-Anita Collins & Chris Wilson
BOYLSTON, MA*

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.

JOIN US FOR FAIR DAY —
SATURDAY, AUGUST 2
TOWNSHEND COMMON



OPT OUT

WAIT! PLEASE... if you're throwing this newsletter into the recycling bin without breaking the seal to read it, would you let us know so that we can remove you from our mailing list? Or, if you'd like to receive this publication via e-mail instead, let us know. Call (802) 365-9109 and leave a message, or e-mail info@gracecottage.org. The money saved on printing and postage costs will be used for patient care!



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TO GRACE COTTAGE HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES:

"I WISH I WERE A MORE GIFTED WRITER because then I would be able to more adequately express my feelings about Grace Cottage and how truly fortunate we are to have what I have come to know as the 'gift next door.'

I recently had the misfortune to experience a rather painful injury which resulted in multiple fractures.

From the moment that I stepped through the ER door, my life changed dramatically. Unlike any other ER that I have ever been in, I was greeted enthusiastically and treated with such care and compassion. The ER staff patiently listened to my complaints and concerns and then validated each one. I spent a total of 12 days in the inpatient rehabilitation program, and some of these days were quite difficult because of the pain and immobility. I cannot express how extraordinary the staff at Grace Cottage, at every level, were to me. The care, compassion, kindness and personal attention that I received were far beyond that which I could ever have imagined. I have been a psychologist in the health care field for the past 40 years and I have never encountered a more competent, dedicated, and caring group of people. Grace Cottage truly sets the benchmark for optimal standards in a healthcare facility, and perhaps you should take your model on the road to assist other facilities to strive towards this level of excellence.

"The care, compassion, kindness and personal attention that I received were far beyond that which I could ever have imagined."

Each day I had the feeling that everyone I encountered truly loved their job, their co-workers, and being a part of the Grace Cottage team. Although everyone was very busy, I never waited more than a moment if I summoned assistance. Another amazing attribute of the staff that I observed was the personal and individual attention they gave to everyone. When a nurse or any other staff member was with me, I felt that they were mine exclusively and I was the most important person in the world, no matter how many other bells were ringing or duties were pressing. Needless to say, because of the superior care that I received, the progress I made was amazing.

In speaking with some of the other patients who were there, I learned that they all felt exactly the same way. Thank you for all that you do."

*-Bill Quaine, Grafton, VT
March 12, 2014*