A Day In The Life….
Grace Cottage’s Emergency Department Saves Lives

“There is no such thing as a ‘normal’ day in Grace Cottage’s ER,” said Dr. George Terwilliger, Chief Medical Officer and Emergency Department Director. “In a small, rural ER, you have to be prepared to see and deal with everything and anything. The depth and breadth of issues can be enormous, but our ER medical providers, all of whom are phenomenal at what they do, have seen it all. We and our patients are so fortunate to have them here.”

A few recent examples of patients who have been treated in the Grace Cottage Emergency Department include:

• A teenage girl who skied into a tree and was experiencing pain in her side came in via Stratton ambulance. A CT scan showed that her spleen had ruptured so further treatment was required, and she was sent by ambulance to Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC). She has fully recovered and is back on the slopes.

• A patient dislocated her shoulder when she fell off a snowmobile. She came to Grace Cottage, where two providers injected her joint and massaged her shoulder until the muscles relaxed sufficiently that they could pop the joint back into place.

• An infant in respiratory distress was brought to the ER by her parents. She was airlifted by helicopter to DHMC and, a few days later, returned home.

• A man was quickly diagnosed with sepsis, treated with antibiotics and fluids, and recovered completely after a short stay at Grace Cottage.

Convenient Care at Grace Cottage Family Health

When you’re not feeling well and you think it’s time to seek the help of a medical professional, Grace Cottage Family Health is here for you, whether it’s your first visit or you’re a familiar face. Call us at 802-365-4331, and we’ll do our very best to schedule a same-day appointment on any weekday. We want to make it as easy and as quick as possible for you to be seen and to get you on the road to recovery. Do you have a friend or relative who has brought a bug along with them on a visit to Vermont? We’re here to help, just give us a call!

A grateful patient writes:

“When I came to Grace Cottage’s ER, I was greeted and given help right away. The staff were all friendly and professional and they listened, treating me with compassion and respect all throughout my visit. I can’t think of anything that could have been improved.

— John Dunham, East Dummerston, VT
Vermont hospital finances are in the spotlight these days, and for good reason. During 2019, Springfield (VT) Hospital made the headlines, filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and reorganization. 2020 began with an explosion of headlines in Vermont regarding the Brattleboro Retreat Board’s announcement that they asked their leadership team to explore the possibility of closing, selling, or scaling back mental health services because of financial issues.

Many of Vermont’s smaller hospitals are showing operating losses. Why do small hospitals lose money on operations? The answer is simple. Medicaid, a Federal program administered through each state, provides needed health insurance coverage for people with limited income and assets. In Vermont, the average Medicaid reimbursement is about half (or even less) of what it costs to provide care. We care for every patient, regardless of their ability to pay, and always have; not only is this required as part of our status as a non-profit hospital, but it’s also woven into our culture, our morals, and our values; we are always here for our community.

Lucas Farrell
Lucas and his wife own and operate Big Picture Farm, a hillside goat dairy farm in Townshend, known for its award-winning farmstead caramels and cheeses, which are sold in stores across the country. Lucas earned his BA in Environmental Studies and English from Middlebury College, as well as an MFA in Poetry from the University of Montana. His book, The Many Woods of Grief, published by the University of Massachusetts Press, was awarded the Juniper Prize in Poetry and his writing has appeared in various national publications. Prior to moving to Townshend in 2010, he taught creative writing at Middlebury College. Lately, Lucas and his wife have been enjoying doing their farm chores alongside their 3-year-old daughter.

Thomas Kalchthaler, DO
Dr. Kalchthaler is a graduate of the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. After completing a residency in Internal Medicine at the Mount Sinai City Hospital Center at Elmhurst Queens, NY, he became the second physician nationwide to be trained in Geriatric Medicine. He was subsequently inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Physicians. A lifelong avid skier and cyclist, Dr. Kalchthaler spent many weekends and vacations at Stratton Mountain. After retiring from an active medical practice that involved teaching and patient care, Dr. Kalchthaler and his wife Mary Lynne purchased a home in Jamaica to better enjoy the seasons of Vermont with their children and grandchildren.

The Grace Cottage Foundation Board unanimously approved the appointment of Tracy Sloan to the Board at their August meeting. Born and raised in Fort Pierce, FL, Sloan graduated summa cum laude from Western New England College with a B.S. in Business Administration. She previously worked for Coopers & Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) and Vermont National Bank (now People’s United Bank). Sloan has a tax practice in Brattleboro, working with individuals and small businesses. She resides in Guilford, VT, with her partner, Leslie Olcott.

A grateful patient writes:
“I was a patient at Grace Cottage for about a week recently, recovering from pneumonia. It was an excellent experience in every way; nothing could have been improved upon. Everyone is so friendly, warm, professional, and helpful. It’s really a fantastic place – what more can I say!!” — Don Lawrence, Grafton, VT
Giving Tuesday, the national day of charitable giving that follows on the heels of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, is always like Christmas at Grace Cottage, as donations pour in. This year was no exception: 94 donors generously responded to our appeal for $28,000 for the purchase of 7 vital signs monitors for the hospital, with donations ranging in size from $20 to $5,000. Becker’s Hospital News, a nationwide publication, evidently thought that this goal was so ambitious for a small, rural hospital that they mentioned it in their Giving Tuesday synopsis! We knew that, because of your generosity, we could do this for our patients, and we did! THANK YOU!

Wishes Granted…

• An anonymous donor made a gift for the purchase of a commercial shake maker for the Dietary Department.
• Lynnette Hamilton and Lisa Eaton made donations towards the purchase of a storage shed for use by the Dietary Department.
• Jean Danilow made a donation for the purchase of dietary equipment.
• The Vermont Community Foundation made a donation in honor of dietary department employee Amber Ahearn.
• Janet Kierys & Barbara Willenbrock donated funds toward the purchase of a medical-grade, temperature-controlled refrigerator for the storage of vaccines in Grace Cottage Family Health.
• Shirley Sanders made a donation to the Endowment, in memory of her husband, Henry “Hank” Sanders.
• The Brattleboro Women’s Golf Association made a donation for Grace Cottage’s Hospice Suite, with funds raised at the Brattleboro Country Club 2019 Women’s Invitational Golf Tournament.
• Two anonymous donors made gifts for the purchase of heavy-duty folding chairs for use by visitors in hospital patient rooms.
• John & Susan Eastwood donated the funds for the purchase of new septic tanks, which will be installed in the spring.
• The Pollio Family Foundation made generous donations towards the purchase of a generator for Grace Cottage Family Health and for a CPR machine for the Emergency Department.
• Dr. Alice & Richard Thall donated the funds for a vital signs monitor, in memory of Warren Eginton.
• Lisa’s Love Charitable Association made a generous donation in memory of Lisa Young Noble for items needed for the Patient Activities Cart.
• Linda Gay made a donation for new privacy curtains in patient rooms and a 3D Pro-Fitter Cross Trainer for the Rehabilitation Department.
• Mary Moberly, Victoria Kohler, Jim & Laureen Palmer, Tom & Catherine Nemchek and Mary Meyer Stuffed Toys, Inc. donated the funds for the installation of an instant door-locking system for the hospital and clinic buildings.
• Millie Austin donated the funds for the purchase of a splint pattern manual for the Rehab Department, in memory of William & Florence Rounds, Wilfred & Edie Rounds, and Dave Austin.
• Thanks to donations made from the sale of plants and flowers at Camperama in Townsend throughout the summer, the campground donated the funds to purchase new hospital bed mattresses and an electrical stimulation/ultrasound machine for Rehab patients.
• The Vermont Department of Buildings & General Services awarded a grant towards the installation of a hospital air-handling system.
• Peter & Nina Klein and the Richard & Barbara Whitcomb Foundation made a donation towards the purchase of a Glidescope for airway passage management in the Emergency Department.
• Ellen Hardy and David Chapin made gifts for Emergency Department equipment in memory of their father, Maurice Chapin.
• Aline Shipp made a donation for an ultra-light vacuum cleaner for the Housekeeping Department.
• Anonymous donors made a gift for the purchase of a Lea Numbers 1 visual acuity meter for the Rehab Department.

Wishes Made…

• The Rehab Department needs two AliMed adjustable shoe lifts for use with patients. $135 each.
• An Axis Scientific women’s pelvic model is needed by the Rehab Department. $150.
• The Dietary Department needs a new set of colorful, durable Fiesta plates for patient meals. $257 for two cases. They can also use a 16 qt. heavy-duty Vollrath stock pot. $158.
• The Housekeeping Department needs a Severin vacuum. $196.
• Grace Cottage Family Health medical providers need three additional pulse oximeters (a total of $123) and two temporal thermometers (a total of $636).
• IV “Smart” Stack poles are needed for the hospital. $3,150.
• Grace Cottage Family Heath needs another exam table. $5,530.
• The laboratory needs a freezer for plasma storage. $7,000.
• An additional inpatient bed is needed in the hospital. $8,000.

Grace Cottage’s Wish List is updated monthly on our website, at www.gracecottage.org, or call 802-365-9109 for more information.
11th Annual Tee It Up for Health Golf Tournament
Saturday, June 13, Shotgun Start at Noon • Brattleboro Country Club

We'll be in a new venue this year or, at least, new to us! There's a lot of enthusiasm for the new location; the Brattleboro Country Club is a little (or a lot!) less hilly than our prior locations. The Richards Group is the Event Sponsor, and it's always a fun event, with many of our golfers returning year after year to support Grace Cottage and have fun at the same time. LeaderBoard Air Cannon will be featured again this year, since it was such a hit in 2019.

DATE: Saturday, June 13, 2020
TIME: 12:00 pm, Shotgun Start
LOCATION: Brattleboro Country Club
58 Senator Gannett Drive
Brattleboro, VT 05301

REGISTRATION: $150 per golfer / $600 per team includes greens fees, several contests, cart, golf balls, box lunch, and awards dinner.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:
• Flag Sponsor ($125, includes embroidered flag with your name or business name, displayed at Grace Cottage and then at the event)
• Bronze Sponsor ($250, includes flag and publicity)
• Hole Sponsor ($500, includes flag, hole sign, and publicity)
• Silver Sponsor ($1,000, includes flag, hole sign, one free golfer, lunch and dinner, logo wear, publicity)
• Gold Sponsor ($2,000, includes flag, hole sign, two free golfers, lunch and dinner, logo wear, publicity)
• Platinum Sponsor ($2,500, includes flag, hole sign, four golfers, lunch and dinner, logo wear, publicity)

Sponsorship publicity includes a Letter to the Editor thanking all sponsors in the Brattleboro Reformer and Deerfield Valley News. All sponsors are mentioned in our hospital newsletter, Cottage Door, which is mailed to more than 7,000 households, mostly in New England.

For more information, visit our website at www.gracecottage.org; call 802-365-9109; or e-mail info@gracecottage.org.

Spring Into Health 5K
What better way for the family to spend time together on Mother's Day weekend than by walking, running, or sprinting to the finish line? The 10th Annual Spring into Health 5K, sponsored by People's United Bank, will be held on Saturday, May 9, at 8:30 am, beginning and ending on the Townshend Common. The race is open to one and all, on a relatively flat, paved course, and professionally timed for competitors. Awards and door prizes will be handed out by our own Dr. Moss Linder.

Register online at www.gracecottage.org/events. The first 100 registrants will receive a free performance t-shirt. This year, for the first time ever, all students age 18 and under will be free of charge, another reason to bring the whole family! For all others, it's $15 in advance and $20 on the day of the event. For more information, call 802-365-9109 or send an e-mail to info@gracecottage.org.

A grateful patient writes:

“Grace Cottage is awesome and the staff support is amazing. After the Halloween storm this year, I was trying to pull a fallen tree out of the middle of the road and the branch snapped, so I tumbled down the hill and broke all kinds of bones. My boyfriend brought me to Grace Cottage, I was taken to Dartmouth’s Trauma Bay, and then I came back to Grace Cottage four days later. I’ve never had such a good time after being hurt! The rehab therapists and nurses are the best; the schedule is aggressive, but considerate; and the meals are great too!”

— Kathy McLeod, Wardsboro, VT
15th Annual Tour de Grace
Saturday, June 27, 2020

Registration is now open for our annual Tour de Grace, a 19-mile bicycle ride from the top of Stratton Mountain down beautiful backroads, through a covered bridge, and on wooded trails to Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend.

Riders always say that the 90-minute cruise on their bicycles is an absolute joy. Set out any time between 8-10 am on Saturday, June 27, stopping at four designated rest stops with refreshments and take advantage of a bus ride back up the mountain, or reserve an early spot on a bus from Grace Cottage to the starting point.

The first 100 riders get a Tour de Grace performance t-shirt. Helmets required, mountain bikes recommended (rather than road bikes); bike rentals available.

Visit www.gracecottage.org/events or call (802) 365-9109 to register. Pre-registration is $30 per rider (or $40 after June 25th) and on the day of the event.

70th Annual Hospital Fair Day
Saturday, August 1, 2020

Townshend Common, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

We rely on our Annual Hospital Fair Day to raise crucial funds for needed items at Grace Cottage. 2018 Fair Day funds were used for a new efficient and effective heating and air-conditioning system in the hospital, and 2019 funds helped to purchase a generator for Grace Cottage Family Health so that patients can continue to see medical providers even during power outages.

In addition to volunteers’ generous donations of time and energy, the success of Hospital Fair Day depends on the donation of items. Do you have any of the following to share?

- Books: fiction or non-fiction in good condition; hardcover, paperback, or CD. No textbooks or encyclopedias.
- Cars/Trucks/Motorcycles/Boats/Snowmobiles: these always bring a lot of interest and money for the hospital.
- Furniture: large and small, in good condition for the Auction. Chairs, tables, bookcases, armoires, desks, bed frames, etc. No mattresses or upholstered furniture.
- White Elephant Items: dishes, bric-a-brac, decorative items, kitchen goods, glassware, Christmas decorations.
- Jewelry: fine or costume, necklaces, rings, watches, bracelets; also hats, purses, scarves, wallets.
- Toys and Sporting Goods: in good condition.
- Plants: annuals and perennials.

For more information about Fair Day items, where to deliver them, or to arrange for pickup, call Eileen Fahey at 802-365-4030 or e-mail thequeenoftownshend@gmail.com.

Are you able to help?

Volunteers of all shapes, sizes, and ages are needed, for any amount of time that you might be able to donate between now and Hospital Fair Day. Sorting of jewelry, toys, White Elephant items, and books begins soon. Setting up of the Townshend Common begins during the last week of July. On Friday, July 31, it’s lots of fun to bake pies in the Grace Cottage cafeteria, or unload and sort Auction items. We can always put you right to work anytime, before, during and the day after Fair Day. Call Eileen Fahey at 802-365-4030 or e-mail thequeenoftownshend@gmail.com. You’ll receive endless gratitude, and the satisfaction of knowing that you’re helping to raise money for your local community hospital!
The Gift of Giving

Grace Cottage has been notified that Elizabeth “Betsey” Herrmann of Sleepy Hollow, NY, left a specific bequest to Grace Cottage in her will. Betsey, who died in August, 2019, was pre-deceased in 2012 by her husband, Lacy, who founded the Aquila Group of Funds and was as active with his alma mater, Brown University, as Betsey was with her college, Wheaton. The couple and their now-grown children, Diana and Conrad, have owned a place at Stratton since the early 1960’s and enjoy skiing in their free time, always appreciating the fact that Grace Cottage is nearby when, or if, they ever need our services.

Betsey & Lacy Herrmann

Priscilla Kay Smith of Dummerston, VT, left a specific bequest to Grace Cottage, which was received shortly after Priscilla’s death on October 22, 2019. A graduate of Quincy, MA, high school and Simmons College, Priscilla served in the WAVES program in the Coast Guard during WWII. She moved to Brattleboro in 1946, where she met her husband, Lewis, who pre-deceased her. A bank teller and then bank auditor in Brattleboro and for the town of Dummerston, Priscilla was a member of the Wilmington and Dummerston Granges, Order of the Eastern Star, and Dummerston Historical Society.

Goldie & Lewis Smith

Grace Cottage Welcomes Charma Bonanno

In early January, Charma Bonanno joined Grace Cottage as Associate Director of Development, Marketing, and Community Relations. Bonanno will be working closely with Andrea Seaton and C.J. King in the Grace Cottage Foundation office to help conduct fundraising activities and coordinate events.

“Planning for the future is always wise,” said Andrea Seaton, Director of Development, Marketing and Community Relations, and it’s very clear to me that Charma is exactly the right person for this job.”

Bonanno was the Director of Development at Weston Playhouse Theatre Company from 2014-2019, where she increased Annual Giving, oversaw a $12.5 million Capital Campaign, and was involved in strategic planning. Prior to moving to Vermont, she worked for 9 years as the Financial Manager for Lexolution Holdings, a legal staffing agency in New York City.

Bonanno has a BFA from the University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music and a Certificate in Fundraising Management from Indiana University’s Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. She lives in Weston, VT, with her husband, actor David Bonanno, and their teenage son. During her free time, Bonanno enjoys theatre and concerts, as well as spending time in the great outdoors of Vermont.

“I feel so fortunate to be here at Grace Cottage,” says Bonanno. “It has a stellar reputation and from the moment you enter, you can sense that this is a very special place. I’m honored to be a part of it.”

A grateful patient writes:

“Dr. Moss Linder saved my life and I’ll never forget it. When we were living in southeastern Vermont, I found a lump on my breast and got a clean mammogram, but Dr. Linder insisted that I go back for a second mammogram because breast cancer runs in my family. He called, wrote a letter, and hounded me (in a sweet, doctor-like way) until I did it. The follow-up showed that the lump was cancerous and the prior mammogram just missed it. I had a mastectomy at Dartmouth Hitchcock, and chemo at Brattleboro Memorial because I had a pre-engaged lymph node and I didn’t have much more time before it would have spread. Eight years later, and cancer-free, I totally give credit for my being alive to Dr. Linder.”

– Lisa Dufresne, Deerfield, NH

Cottage Door

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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.

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, at (802) 365-9109.
Memorial Gifts

Donations were recently received in honor of:

- Amber Ahearn
- Andrea Anker
- Dan & Peg Arguimbau
- Dr. Robert Backus
- Claire Bemis
- Emila Bruce
- Doug DiVello
- Marion Dowling
- Dr. Maurice Geurts
- Stephen Goldberg
- Grace Cottage ER Staff
- Grace Cottage Housekeeping Department
- Grace Cottage Nurses
- Grace Cottage Staff
- Grace Cottage Volunteers
- C.J. King
- Rev. James Kowalski
- Dr. Elizabeth Linder
- Dr. Moss Linder
- Messenger Valley Pharmacy Staff
- Carol Parker
- David Plants
- Andrea Seaton
- Dr. Timothy Shafer
- Dr. Ron Vallario
- Abbey Welch

When memorial gifts are received by Grace Cottage, the donor is thanked, and the next of kin is notified of the gift. (The amount given is never divulged.)
This year's Cabin Fever Online Auction is gearing up for an exciting kick-off on February 14 at 6 am, running through 9 pm on Monday, February 24. You won’t want to miss the opportunity to bid on more than 70 items that have been donated by generous businesses and individuals. There are auction items for everyone, including gift certificates for area restaurants and inns, theatre tickets, your name in Archer Mayor’s next book, a glassblowing lesson with Robert DuGrenier, and much more! All proceeds benefit Grace Cottage’s Patient Care Fund, so you’ll feel doubly good about your winning bid. Preview the auction at www.32auctions.com/gracecottage2020 (more items are being added daily!) and mark your calendar to start bidding on Valentine’s Day.

Great news! The AT&T cell tower behind the post office in Townshend has been activated, and the temporary tower behind the hospital has been removed. Townshend now has five bars (of the cell kind, not saloons!).

“I liked being a patient at Grace Cottage. Everyone who works there goes out of their way to think of things that you might need, and you don’t find that anywhere else. There’s an upbeat feeling at this warm, wonderful place. Keep up the good work.” – Deborah Richardson, Putney, VT

It’s official – Vermont has been ranked the nation’s healthiest state, according to the United Health Foundation’s America’s Health Rankings annual report, moving up from fourth place in 2018. According to the report, Vermont has one of the lowest rates of violent crime, and progress is being made in reducing the rate of smoking and adult obesity. Grace Cottage will continue to work to keep the population that we serve as healthy as possible.

“A grateful patient writes:

“Grace Cottage is worth a trip from anywhere! When we moved closer to Rutland several years ago, I knew that I wanted to continue to come to Grace Cottage. The providers have all been great, taking the time to listen to me. Other clinics that I have tried have only served to remind me that there is no other place like Grace Cottage. I know that I am in the care of knowledgeable and caring providers.”

– Sharon Nickels, Shrewsbury, VT