

## Cottage v. Covid

It's been almost three months since coronavirus completely captured the attention and actions of our nation. Here at Grace Cottage, we began preparing for this pandemic back in February, when it started to become clear that widespread transmission was likely. We formed an Incident Command Team, reviewed and revised policies and procedures as necessary to address the potential hazards, stepped up orders for personal protective equipment, and began specific coronavirus training for employees. In early March, we established patient isolation areas in the hospital and in the clinic, created drive-up testing, added screening procedures at entrances to the facility, and increased the frequency of sanitizing all areas of the facility. On March 17, we began sending out weekly messages to our community via e-mail, Facebook, and newspapers.

While continuing to conduct enhanced safety measures, we have opened up all of our services again, including our clinic, outpatient lab, diagnostic imaging, rehab services, and Messenger Valley Pharmacy (the hospital and Emergency Department have been continuously open). Patients are welcome to come in to see their providers, or may call to schedule a visit via phone or video chat. We are concerned about those who have avoided treatment for chronic, or even urgent, conditions, and want our patients to be assured that our medical professionals are here to provide our usual expert and compassionate care.



*Licensed Nurse Assistant Alyssa Shelley provides Covid-19 screening for a Dummerston patient coming in for lab work.*

## A grateful patient writes:

"When I was visiting my sister in Newfane, I cut my finger on a food processor blade and needed stitches. Coming from Bergen County, New Jersey, where every hospital is huge, I loved Grace Cottage's Emergency Department. Everyone was so friendly, professional, and courteous."

*– Regina Clark, Ridgewood, NJ*

## A Word From the CEO



It's truly astounding to think about how much the world has changed since our last *Cottage Door* newsletter in mid-February. Most people never fathomed that our planet could experience a situation like the 1918 Spanish

Flu. Yet, many healthcare professionals have warned that another global pandemic was inevitable. We are now facing an unseen enemy, and we don't know how long this battle will last, but there are encouraging signs on the horizon. Tremendous resources are being put into developing a coronavirus vaccine, and early clinical trials seem promising, a testament to human ingenuity and intellect, and a demonstration of what can be achieved with financial resources, razor-sharp focus, and determination.

We have been proud to play a part in flattening the curve in Vermont and we thank you for any part you have played in helping us to do this. Support has been overwhelming, in the form of homemade facemasks and gowns, comfort food, and other items showing "Covid kindnesses" to our employees, and crucial financial donations that helped us through a very vulnerable time as revenues declined, until Federal loans and grants arrived. I have always said that every employee at Grace Cottage is essential, and we did not furlough or lay-off employees due to the pandemic. Our employees have always been here for us, through thick and thin, and we know that many of them are the sole breadwinners for their households at this difficult economic time.

You may have heard this, but it bears repeating: "The curve is flattening, so we can start lifting restrictions now" is like saying "The parachute has slowed our rate of descent, so we can take it off now." I cannot stress enough that we CAN win this fight, as long as we wear our masks, wash our hands, don't touch our faces, and stay at least six feet away from everyone outside of our households.

Because we want to continue to keep our patients, our community, our volunteers, and our employees safe, we have had to make the extremely difficult, but necessary, decision to revise our 2020 summer events. Our 5K was held virtually, our golf benefit has been rescheduled from June to October 3, the *Tour de Grace* bicycle rally will be a loop ride from the hospital with no bus transportation, and the 70th Annual Hospital Fair Day will be held online. We hope you'll support our events just as you have in the past, as we're taking these actions to do all that we can to ensure that we'll see you at our live, in-person events in 2021.

*– Doug DiVello, President & CEO*

# Employee Milestones

## 35 YEARS

Kerry Capponcelli, Nursing

## 25 YEARS

Amie Leavitt, Social Services

## 20 YEARS

Elaine Swift, Family Health

## 10 YEARS

Diane Bousquet, Rehabilitation

Scott Hitchcock, Facilities

Susan Tweedy, Housekeeping

## 5 YEARS

Jesse Ardine, Information Technology

Christine DeVault, Nursing

Natalie Harding, Family Health

Travis Macie, Information Technology

Crystal Moore, Nursing

Christine Morris, Nursing

Dr. Linda Rimkunos, Emergency Dept.



## Wishes Granted...

- The Pollio Family Foundation made a donation for the purchase of an Automated Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Machine in the Emergency Department.
- Ada Pearson made a donation in memory of Red Pearson for a new patient exam table for Grace Cottage Family Health, and bib aprons and steam table pans for the Dietary Department.
- An anonymous donor made a donation for the purchase of two cases of Fiesta plates for the Dietary Department.
- A 16-qt. Vollrath Stock Pot for the Dietary Department was funded by Cary & Lew Boyd, in memory of Catherine N. Stratton.
- Dr. Renee Bergner donated the funds for a Pelvic Floor Model for the outpatient Rehabilitation Department.
- Funds for the purchase of a Foley Waterhog mat and hanging shelves for the Laundry were donated by Hoppy and Cookie Hopkins.
- Elizabeth Walker made a donation for the purchase of hanging baskets of annual flowers for public entrances at Grace Cottage in memory of Doug & Connie Wisse.
- Victoria Kohler made a donation for the purchase of stainless steel Vollrath sauce pans and an 11.5-qt. stock pot for the Dietary Department.
- Virginia Dittrich funded a Dandux 10-bushel laundry cart for the Housekeeping Department.
- Stanley Knapp funded the purchase of a Severin vacuum cleaner for Housekeeping.



## Wishes Made...

- A high-flow nasal canula device is needed in our Emergency Department. According to our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. George Terwilliger, "This is an especially important piece of equipment, in view of the latest findings in care of Covid patients; it's a way to avoid having to do an intubation on a patient in the Emergency Department." \$4,900.
- Grace Cottage is in need of a Stryker transfer stretcher, to help with the efficient and safe transfer of patients from the clinic or the hospital to the Emergency Department, when a wheelchair isn't appropriate. \$2,500.
- The Dietary Department is in need of a dish/tray caddy. \$870.
- A large wire cart is needed for the Housekeeping Department. \$390.
- Two single-valve, low-profile wheelchair cushions are needed to help prevent and treat hospital patients' pressure ulcers. \$370 each.
- Some patients in physical therapy would benefit from treatment using a Therapy Trainer mini-exercise bicycle. \$230.
- Specific stockings are needed for patients with lymphedema. \$55.

Grace Cottage's Wish List is updated monthly on our website, at [www.gracecottage.org](http://www.gracecottage.org), or call 802-365-9109 for more information.



Warren Patrick (age 109 on June 13, 2020 and an unofficial mayor of Jamaica, VT!), is back at West River Valley Assisted Living/ Valley Cares after a stay at Grace Cottage. "Grace Cottage is such a great place," said Warren. "Everyone there always takes very good care of me when I need to be in the hospital." If you know Warren (or even if you don't), he'd love a card!

### A grateful patient writes:

"I felt like I was guest in someone's home rather than a patient in an Emergency Room. Everyone was warm and welcoming. Thank you for making a bad situation (an injury) more bearable!"

– Jennifer Hoffman, Lido Beach, NY

## 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.

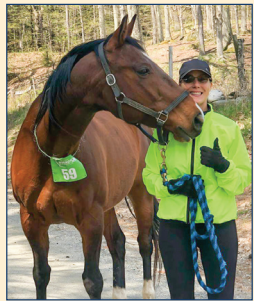
Donations to Grace Cottage Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Grace Cottage Foundation's Federal Tax ID # is: 03-0343282.

Donations may be made by cash, credit card, check, stocks, bonds, or other tangible assets.

Call Andrea Seaton or Charma Bonanno at (802) 365-9109.



# VIRTUAL Spring Into Health 5K Was A Record-Setter



Nancy Libby and Max  
in Brookline, VT

Our 11th annual *Spring Into Health* 5K was one for the record books, in so many ways. About one month prior to the scheduled date of May 9, we realized that it would have to be converted to a virtual event. We mailed bibs to registrants and asked them to take photos as they completed their 5K, whenever and wherever. We had 144 participants (plus one horse and many dogs), and raised more than \$5,600, an all-time *Spring Into Health* 5K record, thanks to registration fees and additional donations, and our generous Event Sponsor, People's United Bank.

We missed being together on the Townshend Common with Dr. Moss Linder and his bullhorn but, having said that, it was an unbelievably chilly 27 degrees and snowing in Townshend at 8:30 a.m. on May 9. Check out Facebook.com/GraceCottageHospital to see more than 50 great photos submitted by 5K participants.



The Ritchie Family  
in Atlanta, GA

## 11th Annual Tee It Up for Health Golf Tournament

The date for this year's *Tee It Up for Health* golf tournament has been moved from June to Saturday, October 3, 2020, tee-off time at noon, at the Brattleboro Country Club. Registration is open now, at [www.gracecottage.org](http://www.gracecottage.org); \$150 per golfer, \$600 per team, includes a box lunch, dinner, several contests, a canvas tote bag, golf balls, greens fees, and cart.



**DATE:** Saturday, October 3, 2020  
**TIME:** 12:00 pm, Shotgun Start  
**LOCATION:** Brattleboro Country Club  
58 Senator Gannett Drive  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Thank you to our Sponsors to date, including:

**EVENT SPONSORS:** The Richards Group; Brattleboro Country Club

**HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSOR:** Brattleboro Subaru

**PLATINUM SPONSORS:** Coverys; Elizabeth Walker & Eileen Ranslow

**GOLD SPONSOR:** People's United Bank

**SILVER SPONSORS:** Brattleboro Memorial Hospital;  
River Valley Credit Union

**HOLE SPONSORS:** Howard Printing; Lawrence & Lober;  
Northeast Delta Dental; Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer;  
The Windham Foundation; WW Building Supply & Home Center

**BRONZE SPONSORS:** Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont;  
Lawton Floor Design

**FLAG SPONSORS:** Philip & June Dibble; Five Maples

*Please call 802-365-9109 or e-mail [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org) if you'd like to sponsor Grace Cottage's tournament; your sponsorship is a vote of support for our small, independent hospital!*

### A grateful patient writes:

"I was painting our garage last fall when I fell 14 feet off the scaffolding. When I came to three hours later, I was looking at my wife in the ER at Grace Cottage. The Emergency Department staff made me feel relaxed and comfortable, as if I were the only one there. After I had a CT scan and an EKG to check for internal injuries (thankfully, there were none), they put 11 staples in the back of my head. My wife and I agreed that I was a better dentist (I'm retired now) than I am a painter!"

– Joe Prignano, Marlboro, VT

# Tour De Grace Is Gearing Up! Saturday, June 27, 2020

Join us for Grace Cottage's 2020 *Tour de Grace* on Saturday, June 27.

To keep all of our riders and volunteers safe, we have an alternate route this year, which will start and finish at Grace Cottage (we do hope to return to Stratton and the use of buses next year!) The approximately 15-mile loop (not too hilly) goes up Route 30, through the Scott Covered Bridge, over the Townshend Dam Bridge, and then north along trails and/or Route 30 to River Road in Jamaica, and back.



Three Mountain Inn's popular cinnamon knots will be served at the Townshend Dam Scenic Overlook, and Cota & Cota will be providing water in "downtown" West Townshend. Custom performance t-shirts are available for the first 100 riders who register. Registration is open online for \$30 per rider until June 25, \$40 on June 26 and 27. Riders may begin at Grace Cottage anytime between 8-10 a.m. (it's not a race, it's a beautiful, scenic, family, physically-distanced ride). Helmets are required; all ages are welcome to come out and support Grace Cottage. You may even see a bald eagle or two along this route! Go to [www.gracecottage.org](http://www.gracecottage.org) for more information or to register.

We thank our *Tour de Grace* Sponsors: Cota & Cota, D&K Jamaica Grocery, Equipe Sport, Howard Printing, People's United Bank, Solstice at Stratton, Stratton Resort, and Three Mountain Inn.

## 70th Annual Hospital Fair Day Goes Virtual

Even before Governor Phil Scott announced that all fairs and festivals in Vermont had to be canceled this summer, it had already become clear to us that Hospital Fair Day could not be held in the traditional way.

It was a tremendously difficult decision that has since been taken out of our hands. Fair Day is the highlight of the year for many friends of Grace Cottage, and the hospital relies on the \$50,000–\$60,000 raised on Fair Day to make needed infrastructure improvements and to update equipment. During the past two years, Fair Day funds have been used to buy and install a badly-needed generator for Grace Cottage Family Health to keep the clinic open during power outages, and for a new air-handling system for the hospital. We plan to use this year's Fair Day funds to purchase new state-of-the-art Stryker hospital beds to benefit patients and nurses.

The 70th Annual Hospital Fair Day WILL go on, but in a different form. We're moving it online, and we hope that you will go to Grace Cottage's website, [www.gracecottage.org](http://www.gracecottage.org), to make a donation.

In addition, we'll conduct the Fair Day Auction online at [www.32auctions.com/FairDay2020](http://www.32auctions.com/FairDay2020). New items will be added to this site regularly (which can also be accessed via the Grace Cottage website, [www.gracecottage.org](http://www.gracecottage.org)). You can register to bid at any time. The auction will run for one week, from Monday, July 27 until Monday, August 3. Jewelry, art, chainsaws, a brand new gazebo delivered within 50 miles of Townshend, cords of wood, gift certificates, and other exciting items will be sold to the highest online bidders. We know that it won't be the same as having Auctioneer-extraordinaire Kit Martin in the front of the tent, but it will keep us all safe.

We'll also be selling 70th Hospital Fair Day t-shirts and hats online, which we will mail to you. They'll also be available for purchase at Messenger Valley Pharmacy in July and August.

We hope that you'll help Grace Cottage by supporting the 70th Annual Fair Day online. And we'll look forward to seeing you in person on the Townshend Common next year, on August 7, 2021.

Eileen Fahey, *Fair Day Chairperson*

Andrea Seaton, *Grace Cottage Foundation*



### We want to reminisce with you.

Have photos or videos of yourself, your family and friends, from past Fair Days? We'll be posting videos and photos at [www.gracecottage.org](http://www.gracecottage.org). E-mail them to [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org), and we'll create an album on Grace Cottage's Facebook page where you can remember good times and look forward to next year, when we can all be together again. And, if you were born at Grace Cottage, send a current picture of yourself and tell us your birth year so that we can post a virtual Birthday Baby Parade with our beloved Stork (don't tell anyone, but it's Dr. Timothy Shafer!)





# The Gift of Giving

We are blessed by the tremendous number of people who have remembered Grace Cottage in their wills and other estate plans and we pay tribute, as we learn about these bequests, in *Cottage Door*.

Grace Cottage was recently notified that **Gundela Weindl** made a generous bequest to the hospital. The former owner, with her husband, Eric, of The Newfane Inn, Gundi died on January 11, 2020, eight years after Eric's death. Born in Lutterhausen, Germany, Gundi moved to the U.S. in 1963, where she met Eric, Chef at the Stratton Mountain Inn. They married in 1968 and, together, ran a restaurant at the Avalanche Lodge in Manchester, VT. In 1970, they became the proprietors of the Old Newfane Inn (then owned by Christoph Stumpe Castou), and they owned and operated the inn and restaurant from 1978-2011. Eric and Gundi were well-known to generations of families in this area and all over the world, and are greatly missed, but their generosity to Grace Cottage leaves an important legacy.



**Robert "Bob" Carroll** of West Hartford, CT and Chatham, MA passed away on February 12, 2020 at the age of 95. Bob notified Grace Cottage in 1994 that he had established a Charitable Remainder Unitrust in 1988, with the hospital as one of the remaindermen, and we are so grateful for his generosity. A 1948 graduate of Yale University following his military service in the Philippines, China, and Korea in the Naval Amphibious Forces (Lieutenant Commanding Officer of the USS LCI 689), Bob helped develop and market the product that became Locktite sealant, and traveled throughout Europe with Locktite. Bob and his wife, Anne, who were married for 68 years before her death in 2017, spent a great deal of time with their two children in Vermont, at the log cabin that Bob built just off Route 30 in Townshend.

## Donations Were Recently Received In Honor Of:

Dr. Robert Backus ♦ Maureen Bell ♦ Charma Bonanno ♦ Deborah Brown ♦ Emila Bruce ♦ Harold Coleman ♦ Nelson Coleman  
Patricia Coleman ♦ Susan Coleman ♦ Siobhan Eddy-Young ♦ Eileen Fahey ♦ Dr. Maurice Geurts ♦ Grace Cottage Employees  
Grace Cottage Rehabilitation Employees ♦ Grace Cottage Volunteers ♦ C.J. King ♦ The Family of Reg & Shelia Lowe  
Dr. Moss Linder ♦ Messenger Valley Pharmacy Employees ♦ Jari Priessman ♦ Susan Rand ♦ Andrea Seaton ♦ Andrew Semegram  
Dr. Timothy Shafer ♦ Abbey Welch

## Memorial Gifts

*Donations have been received between January 12 and May 22 in memory of the following individuals:*

Harlan & Jessie Allbee ♦ Bruce Anderson ♦ Beulah Bailey ♦ Jeanene Baker ♦ Lewis Baldvins ♦ Cecil Bills ♦ Susan Bristol  
Gladys Brooks ♦ Anne Brown ♦ Beryl Brown ♦ Gladys Brown ♦ David Brownell ♦ Francis Capen ♦ Robert Carroll ♦ Bill Cobb  
David & Josephine Chase ♦ Chris Coleman ♦ Phil Coleman ♦ Ralph Coleman ♦ Nancy Crafts ♦ Emily DeConinck ♦ Bonnie Denyou  
Martha Desrochers ♦ Warren Eginton ♦ Don Elliott ♦ Victor English ♦ Brian Evans ♦ Lodovico & Bianca Ferrarin ♦ Kay Gunther  
Alexander Hadden ♦ Lacy & Elizabeth Herrmann ♦ Ann & Lester Hohmann ♦ Julia Holland ♦ Eileen Houston ♦ Herbert Howard  
Edward Hurley ♦ Lois Jelasko ♦ Joel Johnson ♦ Wolf Kahn & Emily Mason ♦ Beatrice Taub Kleppner ♦ Warren Kronemeyer  
Jack Lambert ♦ Richard Lapan ♦ Gay Larson ♦ Barbara Litchfield ♦ David Lowe ♦ Reginald Lowe ♦ Wally Lowe ♦ Frances Lucier  
Ona Lyman ♦ Helen Dexter MacDonald ♦ Beatrice MacFarland ♦ Emil Mack ♦ Jeanne Marion ♦ Francis Momaney, Sr.  
Greg Montalbano ♦ Florence Moore ♦ Guy Nido ♦ Robert B. Northrop ♦ Red Pearson ♦ Virginia Pennock ♦ Irene Phelps  
Catherine Phillips ♦ Edwin Phoenix ♦ Marge & Eli Prouty ♦ Evette Saines ♦ "Sam" ♦ Hank Sanders ♦ Joanne Shepherd ♦ Charles Slover  
Alisa Smith ♦ Carl Steiner ♦ Catherine N. Stratton ♦ Katharine A. Torrey ♦ Mary Van Iderstine ♦ Maria Walsh ♦ Gundi Weindl  
Mary Weiner ♦ Leonard & Bernice Welch ♦ Mary Western ♦ Doug & Connie Wisse ♦ Helen Young

*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, the donor is thanked, and the next of kin is notified of the gift. (The amount given is never divulged.)*



### Is This Junk Mail?

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail or to be removed from our mailing list, please call us at 802-365-9109 or e-mail [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org). The money we save on printing and postage will be put toward health care for our patients instead. THANK YOU for your help!



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

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### A grateful patient writes:

"I was in Grace Cottage's Emergency Room after being in a car accident. I was very scared and in pain but the staff were so amazing. Everyone was wonderful and helped make me comfortable, and I could not be more thankful for them."

– *Andrea Schaffer*, Ravena, NY

*Occupational Therapist Wendy Stone works with Marcia DeBernardo on regaining independence with functional activities in the Grace Cottage garden.*



## Grace Cottage Events Update

Looking for something active and fun to do this summer and fall? We've restructured all of our events to keep our community and event participants as safe as possible:

### Tour de Grace Bicycle Rally

June 27: start and finish at Grace Cottage; or ride 15 miles on your own, as part of our virtual ride

### Hospital Fair Day

Virtual event: Monday July 27–Monday, August 3

### Tee It Up For Health Golf Benefit

October 3, at The Brattleboro Country Club

For up-to-the-minute updates, visit [gracecottage.com/events](http://gracecottage.com/events)

### A grateful patient writes:

"I wanted to publicly recognize the outstanding care that my nine-year-old son received at Grace Cottage Hospital after he suffered serious injuries from an unfortunate dog attack. The team at Grace Cottage, led by Dr. Kimona Alin, were amazing both in the quality of care and the empathy for the young patient (and his anxious father). We are familiar with modern day "Health Care Heroes" and I would suggest the Grace Cottage professionals are among the best we have encountered. We are fortunate and proud to have them as part of our community. I hope we do not have to visit the hospital too often but if we do, I know we will be in good hands. Thanks to their team and all of the health care professionals whose unwavering dedication is helping us get through these difficult times."

– *Chad Czapla*, South Londonderry, VT

