

## The View From Grace Cottage

The dramatic, unprecedented changes in our world this year have dramatically impacted nearly every phase of our lives – work, school, social events, travel, and healthcare, to name just some of the activities that have been redesigned and reimagined because of the pandemic.

Here in Vermont, we have been very fortunate, as this August 26th graph of cases per 100,000, ranked by state, illustrates.



We are proud and thankful to be at the very bottom of this graph, and there are a number of theories about why Vermont is doing so well in the battle against coronavirus. We're used to socially and physically distancing in Vermont, where the entire population of our state, 625,000, is roughly equivalent to the size of many cities in our nation. Governor Phil Scott and Vermont Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine have been lauded by many for their steady, calm approach to coping with the pandemic in Vermont, but the Governor credits the people of Vermont who, by and large, wore masks for months before they were mandated in the state.

As a result of our low population density and low rate of coronavirus, many second homeowners in our area are starting to consider Vermont their primary home, at least for the foreseeable future. In addition, according to Zillow, there have been over 400 home/property sales in Windham County since this past March, and local realtors say that there are many more in the pipeline. Any long-term effects of this migration remain to be seen, but the short-term effect is an increase in volume at many area businesses, including Grace Cottage.

Our doors are fully open, and the hospital has been busy with inpatients, none of whom (to date) have had Covid. In the clinic, we continue to keep a separate entrance for respiratory cases, out of an abundance of caution, and we practice enhanced screening and disinfecting procedures. With our new pediatric nurse practitioner Cynthia Howes and Pediatrician Elizabeth Linder, we are seeing more pediatric patients, while we continue to focus on the health and well-being of patients of all ages.

Having swept the *Brattleboro Reformer's* Readers' Choice Awards in the Healthcare category (see page 6) and Best Place to Work, and with more people moving to this area, Grace Cottage is experiencing a growth in volume for which we are well-prepared, thanks to our dedicated and experienced employees. We are proud that we had no furloughs or layoffs due to the coronavirus, and that we have kept our employees and our patients safe. We work hard every day to ensure that this will continue to be the case, as we navigate this new reality together and, we hope, come out of it stronger. The support we have received from our community during this challenging time has been unprecedented, and we are greatly humbled and appreciative.

– Doug DiVello, President & CEO

# Grace Cottage Welcomes Cynthia Howes



Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Cynthia Howes has joined Grace Cottage Family Health. Most recently employed at Just So Pediatrics in Brattleboro, Howes began seeing patients (babies through age 21) at Grace Cottage in August. With Howes and Dr. Elizabeth Linder on staff, appointments for pediatric patients will now be available five days a week at Grace Cottage.

Howes is a 1983 graduate of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program at State University of New York in Syracuse. She received her Registered Nurse (RN) degree from New England Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in Boston in 1980, and her Associate's Degree in Nursing Science from Pine Manor Junior College in Newton, MA.

"I am excited to join the team at Grace Cottage, where their focus is on promoting a healthy community," said Howes. "I love providing parents with the tools they need to feel confident raising their child, and guiding children and adolescents as they become healthy adults, physically and emotionally."

Howes and her husband, Jim Guerra, live in Chester, VT; they have four grown children and three grandchildren. They enjoy bicycling, kayaking, gardening, skiing, and designing stained glass.

For the past few years, Grace Cottage has sponsored a once-a-month Vermont Foodbank Veggie Van Go distribution of free food outside the hospital. When we began drive-up Covid testing (by appointment) in the same location as Veggie Van Go, the food distribution was moved to Leland & Gray, but still staffed by Grace Cottage employees. Veggie Van Go is now doing two drive-up food distributions per month in Townshend, and the number of recipients is increasing, with as many as 200 families receiving food each time. It's heartwarming to see so many families being helped, but the rapid pace of the growing need is sobering. The next distribution will be September 24, from noon-1 p.m. at Leland & Gray.



## Emerging Leaders of Southern Vermont

We are proud to announce that four young professionals at Grace Cottage have been recognized as Emerging Leaders of Southern Vermont in 2020. This recognition has been given by the Southern Vermont Young Professionals and the Shires Young Professionals, celebrating young people from Windham County and Bennington County, based on their work as community leaders and volunteers, and for their professional accomplishments and commitment to serving the region. The Grace Cottage employees honored are:

**John Kim, Director of Pharmacy:** A resident of Brattleboro, John has been employed at Grace Cottage since 2014. John notes that his greatest career accomplishment has been "being able to grow and learn with a great group of people at Grace Cottage Hospital," and he thanks "every provider, nurse and GCH employee who will go out of their way to take extra care of our patients."

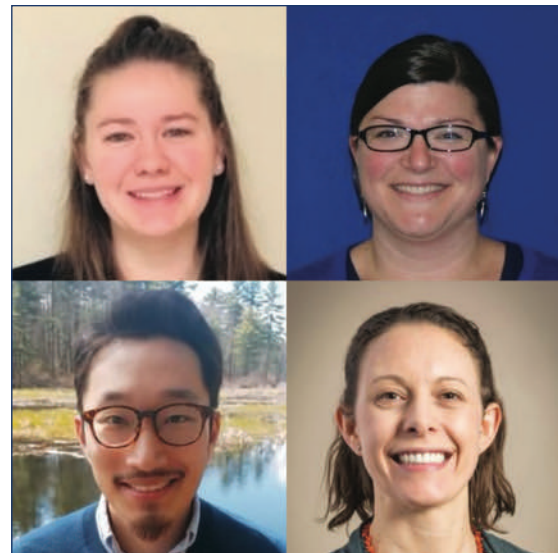
**Rebecca Lapointe, Nurse Manager and Director of Emergency Preparedness:** Employed at Grace Cottage since 2017, Becca is a resident of Townshend and a native of Vermont. She appreciates "the opportunity to lead an incredible group of healthcare professionals in the hospital and in the Emergency Department; it's easy to feel successful in this environment."

**Elizah Temple, Nursing Supervisor, Grace Cottage Family Health:** Born and raised in southern Vermont and employed at Grace Cottage since 2015, Elizah became a Registered Nurse in 2017. She enjoys "being part of a hospital team that provides excellent care to a rural community."

**Melissa Walker, Physical Therapist:** A resident of Stratton, Melissa has been a Physical Therapist at Grace Cottage since 2012. A native of Vermont, Melissa says, "I work in a supportive environment where we bounce ideas and problems off of each other. I have learned so much."

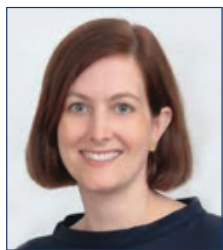
"We are proud to recognize these individuals and the leadership that they bring to Grace Cottage and our community, and look forward to celebrating their accomplishments as they take on new and exciting duties at our organization in the future," said Doug DiVello, Grace Cottage President and CEO.

A highlight reel featuring all 31 Emerging Leaders from Southern Vermont can be viewed at [www.sovermontzone.com/emerging-leaders](http://www.sovermontzone.com/emerging-leaders)



*Clockwise from top left: Elizah Temple, Rebecca Lapointe, Melissa Walker, and John Kim*

## Caroline Kronley Joins Grace Cottage Foundation Board



Caroline Boyd Kronley has been appointed to the Grace Cottage Foundation Board. A native of Byfield, MA, Kronley graduated from Haverford College and received her MBA from the Yale University School

of Management. She worked for a number of years in Mexico, and became Managing Director for Strategy at the Rockefeller Foundation until she was named the President of the Tinker Foundation, which concentrates its philanthropy in Latin America. Along with their two young children, Kronley and her husband, Neal, divide their time between Brooklyn, NY and South Newfane, VT. Kronley represents the third generation of the Julius & Catherine Stratton family to be involved at Grace Cottage; her aunt, Cay Stratton recently retired as a valued member of the Grace Cottage Foundation Board after ten years of volunteer service.

## Wishes Granted... Wishes Made...

- When the volunteers at Londonderry Rescue read in the summer issue of *Cottage Door* that Grace Cottage needed a Stryker transfer stretcher, they called to offer to donate one of theirs, and we quickly and gratefully accepted.
- Ken & Ellie Lemire donated stockings for use by patients with lymphedema.
- Elaine Lambert & John Klein contributed the funds for the purchase of a nasal cannula device for the Emergency Department.
- Jeff Karlin & Sheila Scheuerman donated the funds to purchase a Therapy Trainer mini-exercise bike for patients being treated by Rehab therapists.
- Dr. Richard & Alice Thall made a donation for the purchase of a heavy-duty wheelchair and cushion in memory of Mary Van Iderstine.
- Peter & Nina Klein donated the funds towards one of the updated defibrillators needed in the Emergency Department.

- The Dietary Department is in need of a dish/tray caddy, \$870; a Cambro wall shelf, \$180; a set of SaftGrip cutting boards, \$180; and an infrared thermometer, \$85.
- The Housekeeping Department needs a Numatic wet-dry vacuum, \$420.
- Grace Cottage Family Health needs three additional pulse oximeters, totaling \$123, and a temporal thermometer, \$318.
- The Rehab Department is in need of an Alimed adjustable shoe lift, \$270.
- Wheelchairs are needed for the hospital, to replace existing chairs that are reaching the end of their functional use, \$750 each.

*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.*

### SAVE THE DATE

# #GI<sup>♥</sup>INGTUESDAY

DECEMBER 1, 2020

This year's Giving Tuesday campaign will be for an updated defibrillator in the Emergency Department. See [www.gracecottage.org](http://www.gracecottage.org) for more information.

### A grateful patient writes:

"I can't think of a single bad thing I could say about my wonderful stay at Grace Cottage. Everyone is so nice, so helpful, and the food is delicious. I told my son to make sure that, if I ever need a hospital again, it has to be Grace Cottage!"

– Sandy Harris, Putney, VT

## Tour De Grace a Rousing Success!

93 riders joined us for the socially-distanced, altered-route-for-safety 15th annual *Tour de Grace*, and a good time was had by all. Riders ranged from three to 75 years old, and thanks to participants, sponsors, and a group of virtual riders who rode 15 miles at a time and location of their choice, over \$7,000 was raised for Grace Cottage Hospital. The route this year started and ended at Grace Cottage, so that there were no buses involved, and those who weren't in family groups stayed 6 feet apart at all times. As Sarah K., age 8, from South Newfane, VT, observed, "This ride is AWESOME!"

Special thanks go to our many wonderful volunteers and *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.



*Two of the families who joined us for this year's Tour de Grace, from South Newfane, VT*

"This year's *Tour de Grace* was a fantastic event! I liked the trails so much that the next day I went back with our daughter, Cara. I guess one bright side of the pandemic is that I have 'discovered' so many fun things to do outside, right in my own backyard. Also, so many volunteers with great enthusiasm. We really had fun, and enjoyed the dill pickles at the finish line!"

– Dr. Moss Linder, Townshend, VT



"I wanted to thank everyone involved with organizing the *Tour de Grace* bicycle rally. We had a great time riding, as always. You folks did a splendid job, especially in light of the current pandemic. The alternate route was fine; we were glad that you could, and did, conduct the ride at all when so many other events have been cancelled. We'll see you next year!"

– Tad Downing, Bennington, VT

# VIRTUAL FAIR DAY

"THE SHOW MUST GO ON!" and it did. Thanks to those who supported the virtual 70th Annual Hospital Fair Day in so many ways, the hospital exceeded its goal and can purchase more Stryker S3 hospital beds than originally hoped. As of this writing, Fair Day raised \$64,000: \$25,000 from the Online Auction and over \$35,000 from online and mailed-in donations and from sales of t-shirts, hats, pies, books, and other items. We are hoping to reach \$70,000 by September 30.

We made it up as we went along, frankly, knowing an in-person Fair would be irresponsible. With Fair Day Chairperson Eileen Fahey's front-porch Fair Day booth, a bake sale for employees, plants and art collected for the Online Auction, we tried to include traditional Fair Day elements. Virtual Fair Day t-shirts and hats are still for sale online at [www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events) and at Messenger Valley Pharmacy. To see the virtual Baby Parade, and to reminisce online, visit [www.gracecottage.org/events](http://www.gracecottage.org/events) and click on Fair Day. You can still submit a Fair Day photo from years gone by to [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org)

We hope never to have to hold a *virtual* Fair Day again – we MISSED you. But thanks for making this one so successful!

## Thank you from the Hospital Fair Day Chairperson

Well, you (volunteers, bidders, and donors) did it! Virtual Fair Day was wonderfully successful. We exceeded our \$40,000 goal, and with expenses less than usual, more funds go to the hospital.

I want to say thank you for the extraordinary efforts of Dr. Robert Backus and Charma Bonanno, C.J. King, and Andrea Seaton of the Grace Cottage Foundation staff. Without their dedication, this event could not have happened. We also had incredible help from a dozen other volunteers who gave 110%: Art Booth Chair Lauri Miner; Baked Goods Co-Chairs Jodi and Sarah Perkins; Book Booth Chair Ann Allbee; Gourmet Booth Chair Jeanne McIntyre; Plant Booth Chair Pat Howell and co-chairs Lynne Barrett and Priscilla Cotton; T-shirt/Hat Chair Barb Barber, and Scott Hitchcock, Brian Robinson, and Doug Winot of the Grace Cottage Facilities staff.

I'm looking forward to Hospital Fair Day 2021 when hopefully we'll be together for another spectacular event!

With my deepest gratitude, Eileen F. Fahey, Chairperson Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day 2020

## Tee It Up For Health - Saturday, October 3, 2020

This year's physically-distanced *Tee It Up for Health* golf tournament is on Saturday, October 3 at the Brattleboro Country Club. Leaderboard of Boston's Air Cannon will be at the 18th Hole, and Brattleboro Subaru will sponsor a hole-in-one-contest for a 2020 Subaru. Sponsorship opportunities are still available, but due to physical-distancing requirements, we are at our limit with 25 golf teams; call if you'd like to be added to our waiting list.



**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; West River Family Dental

**HOLE SPONSORS:** Baker Newman Noyes; Farnum Insulators;  
Howard Printing; Irving Energy; Lawrence & Lober; Northeast Delta Dental;  
Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer; David & April Sprague and Family;  
The Windham Foundation; WW Building Supply & Home Center

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

*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!*

# The Gift of Giving

When this banner was created by a Newfane resident and displayed at Grace Cottage this spring, we were deeply touched. Then donations of face shields, homemade masks, gowns and headbands, goggles, gift certificates and food for employees began pouring in. A Vermont National Guard flyover, homemade cards of encouragement from people all over the country, and handmade socks for every employee are just a few other examples of incredible support. Many individuals, corporations, and foundations made generous financial donations ranging from \$10 to \$100,000 to Grace Cottage's Covid-19 fund. Community support such as this, which is given in so very many ways, is the reason that this small hospital with the big heart can continue to provide such personal and professional care. On behalf of all of the patients that we serve and the employees who provide this care, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



## 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.

### A grateful patient writes:

"I always choose Grace Cottage when I need to go to the ER because of the patient care. I was informed of what was happening and everyone was so helpful and courteous – it felt like they genuinely cared. Nothing could have been improved – going to the ER there was a terrific experience!"

– Beth McLean, Dummerston, VT



## Donations Were Recently Received In Honor Of:

Dr. Robert Backus ♦ Erwin (Sonny) Brown ♦ Kerry Capponcelli ♦ Grace Cottage Employees ♦ Grace Cottage Volunteers  
Dr. Moss Linder ♦ Greg Raines ♦ Dr. Timothy Shafer

## Memorial Gifts

*Donations have been received between May 22 and August 29 in memory of the following individuals:*

Clarence & Eunice Aither ♦ Beulah Bailey ♦ Alice Baker ♦ Dr. Larry & Pat Ballou ♦ Phil Bartlett ♦ Rex Bartlett ♦ Kevin Behan  
Bill Berry ♦ Cecil Bills ♦ Susan Bristol ♦ Anne Brown ♦ Elizabeth Brown ♦ Gladys Brown ♦ Wally Brown ♦ Tom Cannon  
Effie Chamberlin ♦ Bradley & Betty Cohn ♦ Chris Coleman ♦ Phil Coleman ♦ Lewis & Neva Corse ♦ Wendell Covey  
Margaret DeMatteo ♦ Dorothea DePalo ♦ Lilian Ebeling ♦ Don Elliott ♦ Dick Fay ♦ Nora Fletcher ♦ John & Dorothy Fornuto  
Frank & Frances Grout ♦ Eloine Holmquist ♦ Stan Holt ♦ Cameron Howard ♦ Dr. Luke Howe ♦ Craig Harris Karnal  
Joe & Rose Keller ♦ Richard & Barbara Lamprey ♦ Richard Lang ♦ Richard Lapan ♦ Don Leigh ♦ Barbara Litchfield ♦ Howard Lott  
Junellen Lott ♦ Norman Lott ♦ Steve Lott ♦ Eleanor Lowe ♦ Jeanne Marion ♦ Bill McCarty ♦ Carole Melis ♦ Mary Meyer  
Walter Meyer ♦ Art Monette ♦ Florence Moore ♦ Dr. Carlos & Ruth Otis ♦ Nancy Palmer ♦ Jeremy Paulus ♦ Neil & Ruth Pelsue  
Virginia Pennock ♦ Irene Phelps ♦ Victor Rabinowitch ♦ Elaine Robinson ♦ Emmons & Ruby Robinson ♦ Frederick Robinson  
Oscar Robinson ♦ William & Florence Rounds ♦ Shirley Sanders ♦ Edith Serke ♦ Aaron Snell ♦ Elizabeth Spencer ♦ Carl Steiner  
Dr. Houston Stevens ♦ George & Della Stowell ♦ Janet Stowell ♦ Roy Stowell ♦ Jakov & Iva Sucic ♦ Leona Tabell  
Porter & Lillian ♦ Thayer Mary Van Iderstine ♦ Irene Victoria ♦ Christian Walsh ♦ Michalina Wasung  
Wayne White ♦ Merton & Hazel Wilson

*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.)*

### Grace Cottage Updates

Want to be “in the know” about what’s going on at Grace Cottage? Our CEO sent weekly e-messages out this spring and summer and the response was so overwhelmingly positive that we may start this up again. If you didn’t receive these timely updates from Doug DiVello, e-mail [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org) and we’ll add you to the list!



FAMILY HEALTH & HOSPITAL

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## Grace Cottage Wins “Best of Windham County” in Seven Categories!

For the fourth year in a row, Grace Cottage has been named “Best Place to Work” in Windham County and “Best Physical Therapy” in the Brattleboro Reformer’s 2020 Readers’ Choice Awards. For the second year in a row, Grace Cottage was also named “Best Hospital,” “Best Emergency Care,” and “Best Pediatrician.” Dr. Moss Linder was named “Best Physician,” and Grace Cottage’s Messenger Valley Pharmacy was voted “Best Pharmacy.” We’re so proud of our employees, all of whom are essential!



- **BEST PLACE TO WORK**
- **BEST HOSPITAL**
- **BEST EMERGENCY CARE**
- **BEST PHYSICAL THERAPY**
- **BEST DOCTOR: DR. MOSS LINDER**
- **BEST PEDIATRICIAN: DR. ELIZABETH LINDER**
- **BEST PHARMACY:  
MESSENGER VALLEY PHARMACY**

“From the day of its founding, Grace Cottage Hospital has served as a beacon of healing. It is open day and night, serving all comers with respect, compassion, efficiency, professionalism, and wonderful food.

Along the way, Grace Cottage has put in alliances with other hospitals, integrating care for serious emergent illnesses.

On the morning of June 13, 2020, they welcomed, cared for and, with clinical acumen, diagnosed a life-threatening illness. They stabilized the patient and prepared her for helicopter transport to the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, where the vascular, surgical, and medical teams cared for her. They controlled her blood pressure and stopped the progression of her aortic dissection with medications rather than surgery (which she would not have survived).

Twelve days later, they sent her home to continue her miraculous recovery. The life saved by this integrated health network was that of my wonderful wife, Caroline Bishop Backus.”

– Dr. Robert Backus, Wardsboro, VT