



Grace Cottage's new Emergency Dept. Trauma Room.



A 128-slice CT scanner was installed in April.

Technology Upgrades at Grace Cottage

Although the primary focus at Grace Cottage during the past 15 months has been caring for our patients, our community, and our employees throughout the pandemic, we have also been making some important equipment and infrastructure updates:

Emergency Department Trauma Room – We hope that you and your loved ones never need to receive care in our new ED Trauma Room, but it's here if you do. Completely renovated and updated this winter, ED Room #1 was redesigned to facilitate the most rapid, efficient, and effective care possible.

CT Scanner – This spring, the 10-year-old CT scanner in our Diagnostic Imaging Department was replaced with a new 128-slice Philips Incisive CT. This scanner is used for cardiac, pulmonary, trauma, and pediatric imaging.

Ventilators – In January, Grace Cottage received three advanced Hamilton T-1 ventilators that provide non-invasive ventilation and high-flow oxygen therapy to our patients in our Emergency Department. "We've had occasion to use one of these ventilators in the ER, and we are incredibly impressed and pleased," said Chief Medical Officer, Dr. George Terwilliger. "It's a highly sophisticated piece of equipment that is very easy to use."



Three new ventilators were donated to Grace Cottage from the U.S. Government's National Stockpile.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The mood among those being vaccinated at Grace Cottage has been euphoric. One man said about our vaccination process: "I haven't gotten this much attention since I was arrested!" (we hope he was kidding). The almost-unanimous sentiments expressed by community members immediately after receiving their literal shot in the arm were: "I didn't feel a thing" or "That was a piece of cake!"

We began administering vaccines to healthcare workers, police, and emergency responders in December, and continued this process through February. For the past few months, we have been vaccinating about 400 people per week in the Heins Building/Community Wellness Center Vaccination Clinic, following the State of Vermont's guidelines and vaccinating everyone who had registered here through the Vermont Department of Health.

To date, we have administered more than 5,500 doses (first and second).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Vermont is now first in the nation in its COVID-19 vaccination rate. As of this writing, 71% of Vermont's population have received at least one dose, and 53% have received two doses. We at Grace Cottage are very proud to be part of this mobilization, and we plan to continue to vaccinate as many people as want the vaccine in Vermont....which we hope will be 100%.

Julie Wolf, RN, administers Moderna vaccine to WW Building Supply co-owner Ed Druke, Jr.



A grateful parent writes:

"My husband and I wanted to write to you to say how grateful we are for the kind and attentive care of our daughter in Grace Cottage's Emergency Department early last year. We were visiting from the UK for my brother's wedding in Grafton when our infant daughter developed a very high temperature.

We were overwhelmed by the kindness and professionalism of everyone whom we encountered at your hospital; they seemed to be doing everything they possibly could to assess and help our daughter, and to put her (and us!) at ease. It was a uniquely positive experience of healthcare that we will never forget. We have immense gratitude for all that your team did for us. Our daughter recovered well after some additional treatment in Boston and is extremely healthy and happy!"

– Sarah Tebbit, Oxford, England

The View From Grace Cottage

As more people are vaccinated and we gradually return to life as we knew it pre-COVID-19, it's a good time to reflect on what's changed, what's stayed the same, and what our strengths and weaknesses were during the pandemic, and what may lie ahead as we come out of it. Here at Grace Cottage, it was a huge advantage to us and to our community that our size makes us flexible and agile. The fact that Grace Cottage is so small means that we don't have a deep bench when it comes to adding extra responsibilities to job descriptions, but our employees are excellent at prioritizing and multitasking, willing to be trained to pitch in whenever and wherever needed. In March 2020, we job-shared screening of patients and employees at all of our entrances, a practice that continues 15 months later. Our Facilities Department did a great job of making renovations to our buildings to adapt to the changes required in order for everyone to stay safe. Our COVID-19 Task Force met weekly to assess the rapidly-changing situation and to revamp policies and procedures as needed. When vaccines became available in December, we quickly responded to the State of Vermont Department of Health's rollout, and created a vaccination clinic, ensuring that as many people as possible could receive their shots here.

This was our first pandemic, but it may not be the only one we face during our lifetimes. Our rural community hospital was a key (indeed, I would argue, essential) player in the battle against COVID-19, and we are well prepared for the future. But it's discouraging to read that, just when they're needed the most, a record number of rural hospitals were forced to close during 2020 for financial reasons. COVID-19 was certainly a factor in these closures, but was not the only one. Rural hospitals like Grace Cottage are also contending with an aging population, aging buildings, high rates of charity care and bad debt, a smaller labor pool from which to recruit within a certain geographic area, and computer fraud/hacking/security concerns and costs. In our rural community, Grace Cottage is a significant employer, supporting families and other businesses in this area.

The answer? Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements must be increased to cover the costs of keeping rural hospitals open and thriving for the communities they serve. We continue to lobby our Federal and State Congressmen and Senators to let them know that if reimbursements don't come closer to matching the cost of providing care, more rural hospitals will close in 2021 and beyond, even after the pandemic is in our rear-view mirror. We hope that you will join us in advocating for changes in legislation and, meanwhile, please know that your support makes all the difference for Grace Cottage.

– Doug DiVello, President & CEO



Employee Milestones

40 YEARS

Teresa Pagach, *Family Health*

25 YEARS

Roxane Carlson, *Business Office*

Dawn Franceschetti, *Rehabilitation*

20 YEARS

Suzanne Petronic, *Finance*

Diane Smith, *Family Health*

15 YEARS

Teresa Bernard, *Information Technology*

Crystal Durocher, *Human Resources*

Crystal Mansfield, *Administration*

Wendy Stone, *Rehabilitation*

10 YEARS

Chantae Samuels, *Foodservice*

Andrew Semegram, *ER Dept./Hospitalist*

5 YEARS

Kristina Barker, *Family Health*

Abigail Bell, *Quality*

Claire Bemis, *Family Health*

Deborah Brown, *Family Health*

Jennifer Matheson, *Business Office*

Lisa May, *Nursing*

Kathleen Mills, *Nursing*

Gregory Raines, *Emergency Dept.*

Melinda Roy, *Rehabilitation*

Elizah Temple, *Family Health*

Benjamin Wright, *Family Health*

2021 Community Health Needs Assessment

Grace Cottage Family Health and Hospital conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years, in partnership with Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and The Brattleboro Retreat. Over 1,600 surveys have been completed by members of the community, and the information is being collated and reviewed now. The 2021 CHNA will be available on Grace Cottage's website in September; meanwhile you can take a look at the 2018 CHNA, currently linked on the bottom of the home page of our website www.gracecottage.org. In 2018, the Level One Priorities for Grace Cottage were Diabetes/Obesity/Weight Management; Mental Health Issues (Stress, Anxiety, Depression); and Substance Abuse.



Grateful patients write:

"Grace Cottage is the best. We are so lucky to have you folks so close. Every one of you is so nice and so helpful."

– Helen Holt, Townshend, VT

"Everyone at Grace Cottage was quite friendly. I enjoyed my stay at your 'home'. I think that Grace Cottage is a wonderful place and I recommend it to everyone."

– Bea Allen, Chester, VT



Wishes Granted...

- Zach Spruchman donated a set of brand new chef's knives for the dietary department in memory of his mother, Celia West, who died in palliative care here at Grace Cottage in 2015.
- Ann Newsmith made a donation for chef's knives for the Dietary Department.
- Lynne Carey and Mike Gardner made a donation for a wide variety of Rehab and Dietary equipment, in honor of Kayla Carey.
- Dick & Peg Bilda made a donation for a new wheelchair and a wall-mounted diagnostic unit.
- An anonymous donor made a gift for knives for the Dietary Department.
- Toby Barclay made a donation for wheelchairs and cushions in memory of Jeffrey Barclay.
- Charlotte Choleva made a donation for the purchase of a wet/dry vacuum for the Dietary Department, in honor of her daughter, Denise Choleva.
- Bryan, Natalie, Bryan, Jr. and Moo Donovan made a donation for the purchase of Fiesta plates for the Dietary Department.
- Tink & June Severance donated the funds for the purchase of transparent mugs for the Dietary Department.
- Reverend Marcia Dorey made a generous gift for the purchase of wheelchairs and wheelchair cushions.
- Gary & Nancy Kurz made a donation for the purchase of transparent mugs for the Dietary Department.
- Bob & Carlotta Garthwait made a donation for a wall-mounted diagnostic unit for Grace Cottage Family Health.
- Andrea Lassoff-Donahue donated the funds for the purchase of a new examination table.
- John Leonard made a gift for three pulse oximeters for Grace Cottage Family Health, in memory of Betty Ann Leonard.
- Victoria Kohler made a donation for the purchase of an exam table for Grace Cottage Family Health and Smart Stack IV poles for the hospital.
- John & Lucille Mongeau made a gift for Alimed Shoe Lifts for use by patients receiving physical therapy.
- Kathleen Klimoski donated the funds for the purchase of Rehab supplies.
- Debby Crafts made a donation for the purchase of a bird feeder for the Hospice Garden in memory of her mother, Nancy Crafts.
- Bock & Kim Yeo donated the funds for a wide variety of instruments and books for Inpatient and Outpatient Rehab use.
- Pat Smith of Newfane made a donation towards Grace Cottage's Strong Bones program (currently held on Zoom).
- John & Susan Eastwood made a gift towards the purchase of a new generator for the hospital.



Wishes Made...

- The Rehab Department needs a Jamar Hydraulic Hand Dynamometer. \$191.
- The Housekeeping Department needs a heavy-duty steam cleaner, \$140, and a Shark vacuum. \$210.
- The Dietary Department is in need of new 4-pocket bib aprons. \$360 for 24 commercial-grade aprons.
- "Smart Stack" IV poles are needed for the hospital. \$1,260 or \$315 each.
- Inflatable Exercise Lifting Cushions are needed for use by Rehab outpatients. \$1,600.
- The Rehab Department needs a Recumbent Cross Trainer with a wide seat. \$6,345.
- A total body trainer with a wheelchair platform is needed for outpatient Rehab. \$4,815.

Grace Cottage's Wish List is updated monthly on our website, at www.gracecottage.org, or call 802-365-9109 for more information.

Congratulations, Dr. Lee Morissette

Grace Cottage's Emergency Department provider Lee Morissette was recently awarded a Doctor of Medical Science degree, with an emphasis on Clinical Leadership, from the University of Lynchburg. Dr. Morissette is a retired US Navy Master Chief Hospital Corpsman/Command Master Chief with 25 years of active-duty service; he received his Master's Degree from the University of New England PA Program and the University of West Virginia Emergency Medicine Program. He lives in Springfield, VT, with his wife, Sabina.



A Tribute To Dr. Moss Linder & Dr. Elizabeth Linder



The time has come to bid farewell to Drs. Moss & Elizabeth Linder, who joined Grace Cottage in 1997. The couple met when they were working towards their medical degrees at the University of Vermont. They moved to Portland, OR, where Dr. Moss completed his family practice residency, and then to Albuquerque, NM, where Dr. Elizabeth completed her residency in pediatrics and Dr. Moss worked at the Acoma Canoncito Laguna Hospital. After the arrival of their first daughter, Elkanah, they came to Vermont and had daughters Maris and Cara. "When we started here, we agreed that when our daughters were grown, we'd set off on another adventure," said Dr. Moss. "We're about to get on our bicycles and set off across the U.S. and to decide what we'll do and where we'll settle next."

Both Linders will leave an extremely strong legacy of devoted patients and co-workers at Grace Cottage and among community members who worked with them on the Townshend Food Shelf, and within the Brattleboro Area Jewish Community and the Brattleboro Outing Club. They will be greatly missed, but we wish them the very best.

Spring into Health 5K

In light of the pandemic, we had a “hybrid” *Spring into Health* 5K this year, with some people participating virtually and some in person. At the live event, participants started at staggered times so as to maintain social distancing. After the event, while cooling down, participants wore masks, as did the volunteers and event coordinators.

As Vermont continues to move forward through these challenging times, it was a real treat to observe people together, socially distanced, chatting, smiling and just being with other people before and after the event. In-person participants ranged from age four to 80, and the winning time was an impressive 19:15.

We thank all of our generous 5K sponsors including People’s United Bank, Great Eastern Radio, Drew’s Organics, Cota & Cota, and River Bend Farm Market. In addition, the ongoing support of the Vermont State Police and Rescue Inc. is greatly appreciated.



12th Annual Tee It Up For Health Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 12
Brattleboro Country Club

We may be able to add one or two more teams to our tournament this year, so call 802-365-9109 if you’re interested in joining us and 120 other golfers, in support of Grace Cottage Hospital’s Patient Care Fund. Out of an abundance of caution, we will again have staggered start times this year, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Thank you to our Sponsors to date, including:

EVENT SPONSOR: The Richards Group; Brattleboro Country Club

HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSOR: Brattleboro Subaru

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

GOLD SPONSOR: People’s United Bank

SILVER SPONSORS: Andy & Linda Barber; Brattleboro Memorial Hospital; Community Bank

HOLE SPONSORS: Against The Grain Gourmet Foods; Allard Lumber; Brattleboro Savings & Loan; Chroma Technology; Farnum Insulators; Howard Printing, Inc.; Lawence & Lober Electric; Northeast Delta Dental; Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer; Tracy J. Sloan, CPA; Southern Vermont Podiatry; West River Family Dental; The Windham Foundation; WW Building Supply & Home Center

BRONZE SPONSORS: Baker Newman Noyes; Blue Cross and Blue Shield of VT; Bradford Machine Company; Lawton Floor Design; Leader Beverage

FLAG SPONSORS: Deerfield Valley News; Five Maples; W&B Management

Please call 802-365-9109 or e-mail info@gracecottage.org if you’d like to join the sponsors of this tournament; your sponsorship is tax-deductible and is a vote of support for this small, independent, rural hospital.

16th Annual Tour de Grace Bicycle Ride

Saturday, June 26



Please plan to join us for Grace Cottage’s family-friendly 2021 *Tour de Grace* bicycle rally on Saturday, June 26.

To keep all of our riders and volunteers safe, we will replicate the same route we provided last year, starting and finishing at Grace Cottage. The approximately 16-mile loop goes up Route 30 to River Road in Jamaica and back, meandering along wooded trails in some locations. Cota & Cota will be providing water along the route, and Three Mountain Inn will serve their famous cinnamon knots at the turn-around point in Jamaica. Custom performance t-shirts will be available to the first 125 riders who register. Registration is open online now, at www.gracecottage.org, for \$30 per rider until June 24, and then \$40 per rider on June 25 and 26. Riders begin at Grace Cottage anytime between 8-10 a.m. Helmets are required; all ages are encouraged to participate.

We thank our Tour de Grace sponsors: Cota & Cota, Equipe Sport, Howard Printing, People’s United Bank, Solstice Trailside at Stratton, Three Mountain Inn, and West River Provisions.

VIRTUAL FAIR DAY

AUGUST 1-8

Thanks to your generosity last year, we were able to purchase six new Stryker beds for the hospital with funds raised at the 2020 Grace Cottage Hospital Virtual Fair Day. And while the world is starting to open up again, we want to keep everyone as safe as possible. In an abundance of caution, we have decided to have a mostly-virtual Hospital Fair Day again this year. We have already collected some wonderful and unique items for our online auction, which will run August 1 through August 8 at www.32auctions.com/GraceCottageFairDay.

If you have good quality items to donate, contact info@gracecottage.org or call (802) 365-9109. We have limited space online, so we’re being very selective about what we accept and are grateful for your support. My porch sale last year was a big hit, and I will again sell items on my porch across from Grace Cottage during the month of July. Come take a look and say hello – I miss seeing you all! Although everyone on the Fair Day Committee is disappointed that we can’t have a full in-person Fair, we are pleased that we have an alternative to raise much-needed money for the hospital. And if the state restrictions continue to loosen, we probably will have a little music and maybe food and a few things for sale on the Townshend Common on August 7, so stay tuned! Our website, at www.gracecottage.org, will have the latest information.

– Eileen Fahey, Hospital Fair Day Chairperson

A grateful patient writes:

"There is no single part of our experience in the Grace Cottage Emergency Department that stands out above any other because it was all great. The staff kept the mood light and got to know us personally in a way that made us feel they were our friends. The entire experience was as much of a pleasure as the ER after a traffic accident can be – a 10 out of 10!"

– John & Johanna Thrower, Williamsville, VT

Cottage Door

is published by Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital
185 Grafton Rd. (Route 35) Townshend, VT 05353
(802) 365-7357 info@gracecottage.org gracecottage.org

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.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we share the news that David Parmelee, longtime Grace Cottage Foundation Board member and Treasurer (2007-2019), passed away peacefully at home, age 78, on April 20, 2021. David and his wife, Arlene, owned a second home in the Houghtonville section of Grafton for many decades, with their primary residence in West Hartford, CT. A graduate of Bates College with an MBA from Boston University, David served as a Lt. (j.g.) in the U.S. Navy, after which he had a long and distinguished career in banking in Connecticut. He was a kind, compassionate, wise man, who had a profound impact on so many organizations and he will be greatly missed.



Recognition of Additional 2020 Donors

Due to a software glitch, we neglected to list the names of the following generous donors in our 2020 Donor Recognition Report:

Tom & Ann Ely ♦ Robert & Susan Hallenbeck ♦ Kennard & Janis Hirsch ♦ Irving & Janice Katz
Robert & Elizabeth Kirkpatrick ♦ Norman & Carol Pacun

We sincerely apologize for the error and wish to thank them here, along with the 1,902 other donors who so generously support Grace Cottage. If you wish to receive a copy, contact info@gracecottage.org.

Donations Were Recently Received In Honor Of:

Maureen Bell ♦ Denise Choleva ♦ Grace Cottage Employees ♦ Grace Cottage Volunteers ♦ Patricia Lassoiff
Dr. Elizabeth Linder ♦ Dr. Moss Linder ♦ Andrea Seaton ♦ Andrew Semegram ♦ Dr. George Terwilliger

Memorial Gifts

Donations have been received between January 16 and May 7 in memory of the following individuals:

Phyllis Anderson ♦ Kendall Bailey ♦ Jeffrey Barclay ♦ Cecil Bills ♦ Melbourne & Mabel Bills ♦ Jim Bogdany, Sr. ♦ Susan Bristol
Gladys Brown ♦ Thomas Buzby ♦ Virginia Carruthers ♦ Charlotte Clayton ♦ Bill Cobb ♦ Chris Coleman ♦ Phil Coleman
Lewis Corse ♦ Neva Corse ♦ Wendell Covey ♦ Nancy Crafts ♦ David D'Agostino ♦ Sandy Dargi ♦ Karl Decker ♦ Martha Desrochers
Don Elliott ♦ Brian A. Evans ♦ Nat & Irene Fillow ♦ John & Dorothy Fornuto ♦ Roland Gould ♦ Alexander "Sandy" Hadden
Bernice Hall ♦ Joyce Hamilton ♦ Carolyn "Bunny" Hazelton ♦ Naomi Higgins ♦ Julia Holland ♦ Stan Holt ♦ Cookie Hopkins
Madelyn Howard ♦ Edward Hurley ♦ Joel Johnson ♦ Jack Lambert ♦ Richard Lapan ♦ Don Leigh ♦ Barbara Litchfield ♦ Ona Lyman
Katherine Dutton Maloney ♦ Jeanne Marion ♦ Mary Meyer ♦ Walter Meyer ♦ Mary Moberly ♦ Francis Momaney Sr. ♦ Guy Nido
David Parmelee ♦ Mildred Danielski Petelle ♦ Bob Phelps ♦ Irene Phelps ♦ Hilary Williams Pike ♦ Sam ♦ Hank Sanders ♦ Lilian Slover
Aaron Snell ♦ Carl Steiner ♦ Dr. Houston Stevens ♦ Jakov & Iva Sucic ♦ Leona Tabell ♦ Walter Tarbell ♦ Ruth Teeke ♦ Scott Velsor
Reginald Vessey ♦ Bill Walters ♦ Larry & Mary Weir ♦ Mary Western ♦ Karl & Elvina White ♦ Emmons "Gus" Williams
Herman Wondrofski ♦ Anne Woods ♦ Pauline Wright

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.)
It is because of the generosity of many individuals, businesses, and organizations that Grace Cottage continues to thrive.

A grateful patient writes:

"We have had exceptional experiences (several) at Grace Cottage's Emergency Department. Each and every time we are treated with utmost concern, courtesy, and care. The personnel are exceptional in their efforts. Not one thing could be improved upon!"

– Betsy Beardsley,
West Brattleboro, VT



 **GraceCottage**
FAMILY HEALTH & HOSPITAL
P.O. Box 216
Townshend, VT 05353-0216

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PUTNEY, VT
PERMIT NO. 1



Top Ten Reasons To Get Vaccinated Against Covid

By Dr. George Terwilliger



1. **You want to live.** More than 3 million people have died of COVID in the past 18 months. Your death can be prevented, just by the simple act of getting vaccinated.
2. **You want to stay as healthy as possible.** Many people who had COVID and survived are suffering from symptoms that won't go away. This "Long Haul Covid" can involve exhaustion, headaches, muscle aches, brain fog, and other debilitating conditions. At this point, we don't know how long these continuing symptoms will last. Why would you take the risk that you might get COVID and then have symptoms for the rest of your life, when there's an easy way to prevent this?
3. **You want to keep those you love alive and healthy.** Without the vaccine, you are a potential spreader of COVID. Do you want to be responsible for harm done to your loved ones?
4. **The vaccines WORK!** The three vaccines authorized for use in the US are remarkably effective.
5. **The vaccines are safe.** The technology used was in the works for many years and, with almost unlimited emergency funding and resources, they were created quickly and safely without cutting corners.
6. **The vaccines are free.** There's not even a co-pay to worry about.
7. **Getting a vaccine is convenient.** There are many ways to get the vaccine. Go to your state's Department of Health website, where you can find the most updated information or schedule an appointment for a vaccine.
8. **We all need to be vaccinated.** The only way we'll beat this virus without hundreds of thousands more dying is if enough people get vaccinated.
9. **The shot doesn't hurt.** Almost everyone I've spoken with has said that they didn't even feel the shot being given. Yes, there are often after-effects, such as a sore arm and sometimes fever, headache, muscle aches, chills, but they disappear in about 24 hours; certainly preferable to getting the virus.
10. **Getting back to normal.** Just imagine: No more masks. No more social distancing. No more missing your grandparents, sporting events, concerts, school, theatre, parties – the list goes on and on.

To borrow Nike's slogan, please "JUST DO IT." I guarantee that you'll be quoting Staples' slogan: "THAT WAS EASY!"