

New Emergency Department Addition is Open!

More than 60 community members and employees attended the ribbon cutting ceremony held on July 26th for the newly-expanded Emergency Department at Grace Cottage Hospital. A long-held dream, the 17' x 42' expansion includes a new waiting room, triage room, provider space, a private registration area, and separate covered entrances for patients entering on foot and for those coming in on an ambulance stretcher.



(l.-r.) Physician Assistant Phil Schafer, Chief Nursing Officer Lisa Eaton, Nurse Practitioner Benjamin Woodard, Registered Nurse Lisa May, CEO Doug DiVello, and Dr. Jennifer Zweig helped cut the ribbon.

Funded by donations received from over 250 individuals, family foundations, organizations, and several Grace Cottage events during 2022 and 2023, the addition opened on July 31st. Feedback from the community has been extremely positive, regarding increased privacy and comfort, and improved patient flow. "The new addition looks as if it's always been there," said President & CEO Doug DiVello. "We're very pleased with the way it turned out, and the timing couldn't be better; visits to our Emergency Department are 40% more than anticipated this year. I want to thank all of our employees and patients for their patience during this process, especially to those who enabled us to keep the Emergency Department open throughout the entire construction process."

New Primary Care Clinic Building

As Grace Cottage awaits notification from the Green Mountain Care Board (Vermont's healthcare regulatory agency) about our Certificate of Need application for our proposed new primary care clinic building, we are spreading the word within the community about the project. With 13 medical providers and more than 31,000 patient visits annually in two houses that were built in the 1840s, the need for additional well-designed, efficient space is urgent. We've held public informational forums about the new clinic in Townshend, Grafton, and Newfane, and we'll be scheduling others in Wardsboro and Jamaica this fall. Stay tuned and for more information or go to gracecottage.org/future



Architectural rendering of the proposed new clinic building, attached to the north end of the hospital building.

A grateful patient writes:

"Having spent several days as an inpatient at Grace Cottage Hospital recently, I'm grateful for the superb care that I received from everyone there, particularly the fine doctors and nurses. It is a tremendous benefit to our community to have such wonderful medical care right here."

— *David Stettler, Townshend, VT*

A Wedding Celebration...in the Hospital



"When my wonderful husband, Jack, went into end-of-life care at Grace Cottage this spring, we knew that he wouldn't live long enough to attend our granddaughter's wedding this summer. So, with the help of Grace Cottage's staff, we organized a mock wedding, along with a celebration of Jack, in his hospital room on May 10th. Our granddaughter, Greta Larson, and her prospective groom, Andrew, joined us in their wedding attire, and there were flowers, refreshments, hugs, tears, and fun for family, friends, and the Grace Cottage employees who joined us. Jack rallied, was so excited, and gave the toast that he had planned to give at their wedding reception; he passed away, peacefully, two days later, with a smile in his heart.

Our family is so thankful for this gift that you have given us. The kindness, caring, and compassion that you showed to Jack and our family during his five weeks in end-of-life care will never be forgotten. We are so grateful to all of you for making Jack's death and dying experience a dignified and peaceful one. To everyone who works at Grace Cottage, you make it a very special place and you are forever in our hearts." — *Sherry Greene, Townshend, VT*

Community health a priority at Grace Cottage Hospital

by Bob Audette, Brattleboro Reformer (Reprinted with permission)

From its humble origin in 1938 as the office of country doctor Carlos G. Otis, Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend has succeeded by building a team of care providers who are invested in the community they serve because it's the community they live in.

"It's old-fashioned health care provided with high technology tools, combining the best of both worlds," said Andrea Seaton, senior director of development and marketing.

The mission of Grace Cottage Hospital's 200 employees is to provide compassionate, high-quality healthcare services to its community.

"Everyone at Grace Cottage is caring, professional, kind and personable," said Gloria Hall, of Oxford, Conn. "The people are so kind and thoughtful. It's the best hospital I have ever been in."

While Grace Cottage is small compared to other hospitals around the state and country, its size makes possible the warm, individualized, and professional care upon which it has built its well-deserved reputation.

"Everyone there is so nice and knowledgeable," said Donna Rice, of Grafton, about the care she received. "They'd do anything for you, and it's nice because it's small. Everyone I've come into contact with at Grace Cottage loves working there, and it shows."

This year, Grace Cottage was named by Vermont Business Magazine, the Vermont State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management, and the Vermont Department of Commerce and Community Development and Workforce Research Group as one of Vermont's Best Places To Work.

It was the only hospital in the state to receive that award in 2023.

And in 2022, Grace Cottage earned an "LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Top Performer" designation in the national Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Healthcare Equality Index. Only two Vermont hospitals, Grace Cottage and the Veterans Administration Medical Center in White River Junction, earned "Top Performer" status with scores of 95 out of 100.

Dr. Otis opened Grace Cottage Hospital in 1949 with a bequest from Dr. Abel Grout, and is named after Grout's wife, Grace. From the beginning, the community was quick to respond with donations and fund drives, a spirit that continues to this day.

"It's thanks to our very generous community that we're able to raise about \$2 million a year to help fund our operations," said Seaton. Without that community support, she said, Grace Cottage couldn't fulfill its mission of delivering comprehensive medical care in a kind and compassionate manner and couldn't continue to attract quality care providers who want to both connect with the people they serve and to enjoy the quality of life offered by rural Vermont.



CEO Doug DiVello stands in front of Grace Cottage Family Health Clinic in Townshend, Vt.
Photo by Kristopher Radder, Brattleboro Reformer



The new 17'x 42' Emergency Department Addition is complete and open for patients.

When Grace Cottage developed plans to renovate its Emergency Department, the community rallied in support, raising the necessary funds. With the project nearing completion Grace Cottage is setting its sights on building a new Rural Health Clinic to serve its expanding customer base.

In 2018, Grace Cottage recorded 20,000 patient visits. That number increased to 31,000 this past year.

"I came to Grace Cottage five years ago because I have a passion for community health," said CEO and President Doug DiVello. "I think the reason for our hospital's increasing success is our commitment to providing increased access to primary care. We have 13 medical professionals in our Grace Cottage Family Health Clinic who are providing over 31,000 patient visits per year, up from 20,000 just five years ago. We are firing on all cylinders, with increased demand in our Emergency Department and our outpatient physical and occupational therapy departments as well. We wouldn't be able to provide all of this excellent care for our community if it weren't for our loyal, skilled, and dedicated employees, who all work hard every day, sustaining and building upon our deep and abiding culture of

compassionate and professional care for the communities we serve."

Grace Cottage Hospital's focus is on improving the overall health and wellness of the community it serves by offering preventive care, educational and wellness programs, mental health care, outpatient rehabilitation and a retail pharmacy.

Grace Cottage recognizes the importance of teamwork and collaboration among its staff members and actively fosters an environment where healthcare professionals work together effectively to provide the best care possible.

A Word From the CEO

This issue of Cottage Door is so full of good news that I will keep my message short. Our mission is to keep our community as healthy as possible, and we're doing that in a variety of ways. Our newly-expanded Emergency Department, updated after 25 years of constant use, was funded by many supporters and we thank them for making this possible. The hospital continues to be busy, as we help those who need inpatient care. The retail pharmacy, one of only two remaining independent pharmacies in Windham County, is a crucial resource for this area. The proposed new clinic (see page 1) is a transformative and necessary progression and with the rapid growth we are seeing in the number of patient visits to our medical providers, it's clear that the time for this new building is now.

"What's going on at Grace Cottage? Everyone's talking about you, and in such a positive way!" I hear this everywhere I go in the community these days. It's true – we're receiving a lot of positive feedback as the small, independent healthcare facility with the

big heart. But we can't do it without financial support from our community and, for the past 74 years, the community has always been here for Grace Cottage. Reimbursements from Medicaid and Medicare continue to fall short of the cost of providing care, which is why donations have always made up the difference. For as long as you're willing and able to continue this partnership, you can count on Grace Cottage to be here, to serve you, your loved ones, and your community!

If you aren't yet receiving my Message to the Community electronically and you would like to be added to this monthly newsletter, e-mail info@gracecottage.org and ask us to include you. The message is currently e-mailed to more than 2,500 households, and the list keeps growing.

– Doug DiVello, President & CEO



Wishes Granted...

- Bob & Connie Barrieau donated the funds to purchase a Sleep Number bed and pillows for the Diagnostic Imaging overnight on-call room.
- Scott McDonough made a donation for the purchase of a Sleep Number bed and pillows for the Emergency Department overnight on-call room.
- Jim & Pat Gonet made a donation for seven exam stools for Grace Cottage Family Health.
- Kathy Klimoski donated the funds for purchase of food storage containers for the Dietary Department.
- C.J. King also donated the funds for food storage containers for the Dietary Department.
- An annual donation from the Harry Wolff Trust and a gift from the Irwin & Dorothy Nessel Foundation were used for much-needed renovations to the hospital nurses' station.



Wishes Made...

- The Dietary Department would benefit from a new 30" x 36" stainless steel table for food prep. \$800.
- Can you imagine enjoying Belgian waffles with Vermont maple syrup while recovering in the hospital? The Dietary Department and patients would benefit from a Waring heavy-duty double-vertical Belgian waffle maker, \$776. If you think hospital food should be more basic, an upgrade to our conveyor toaster for \$379 would be appreciated.
- Two additional ReTurns, sit-to-stand transfer aids to help patients get in and out of bed and wheelchairs would be helpful so that we have more available for use in the inpatient area. \$710 each.
- The Rehab Department would like a heat gun for custom splinting for Occupational Therapy. \$176.
- The Housekeeping Department always keeps the entire facility sparkling, but they can use an additional commercial-grade Windsor Floor Burnisher. \$2,035.
- Inpatient Rehab can use an additional Optiflex 3 Continuous Passive Motion machine to help the increasing number of patients who need knee rehabilitation. \$2,280.

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

Last Mile Food Project

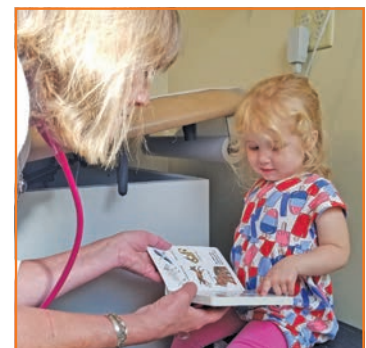
Thanks in part to two Grace Cottage employees, there is a new food project in Windham County. An initiative of the West River Valley Mutual Aid (WRVMA) program, Last Mile was created to provide weekly deliveries of easy-to-prepare meals and groceries to West River Valley residents who don't have transportation. Fresh vegetables are also delivered to these folks from the Vermont Food Bank's VeggieVanGo program, sponsored monthly in Newfane by Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital.

Family Nurse Practitioner Juliette Carr, who has been employed at Grace Cottage since 2021, is a co-founder of Last Mile and the program coordinator is Ilana Newton, a Registered Nurse in Grace Cottage's ER and inpatient unit since 2020. "Many factors influence physical and mental health," said Carr, "and many of our neighbors are isolated, elderly, and with very low income. Lack of transportation is one of the biggest influences on health in rural areas because people can't get food." Newton agrees: "There is a great deal of food insecurity in Vermont."

The program has been funded by a Community Impact Grant from United Way of Windham County and the Townshend Community Food Shelf is a partner in distribution of the food.

"Reach Out & Read" A Success!

Just over one year ago, Grace Cottage became an active "Reach Out & Read" site, enabling children ages 6 months to 5 years old to receive a free book during every well-child visit. Reach Out & Read provided the initial supply of books for distribution, and The Stratton Foundation awarded a grant to fund at least two additional years of the program. During the past year, more than 300 books have been given out at Grace Cottage.



Grace Cottage Hospital's 2023 Tee It Up For Health: The Best Yet!



30 teams, 49 sponsors, and 16 volunteers participated in Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital's 14th Annual Tee It Up For Health golf tournament on Saturday, June 10, at Haystack Golf Course in Wilmington.

The weather was beautiful, the course was in excellent condition, golfers had a great time, and \$57,000 was raised, thanks to golfers, generous sponsors, and volunteers. Net proceeds from the event benefited Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital's Emergency Department expansion.

2023 Golfer Results:

Winners (scored 59): Adam Palmiter, Dan Blake, Jerry Theberge, Joe Hoyer

2nd place: John Gregory, Sr., John Gregory, Jr., John Grant, Greg Patch

Contest Winners:

Hole #4 – Closest to the Pin (Women)—Marilyn Scholl (12'7")

Hole #4 – Closest to the Pin (Men)—Jared Rediske (8'3")

Hole #5 – Long Drive (Women)—Barb Knapp

Hole #9 – Long Drive (Men)—Pat Mulcahy

Hole #7 – Closest to the Pin (Men)—Kyle Helbig (12'11")

Hole #7 – Closest to the Pin (Women)—Leslie Brodie (15'8")

Hole #13 – Closest to the Pin (Men)—Matt Fassino (10')

Hole #13 – Closest to the Pin (Women)—Tracy Sloan (10'6")

2023 Sponsors:

Event Sponsors: Haystack Golf Club, The Richards Group, Elizabeth Walker

Hole-in-One Sponsor: Brattleboro Subaru

Platinum Sponsors: Coverys, M&T Bank, Pajcic & Pajcic

Silver Sponsors: 802 Credit Union, Andy & Linda Barber, Linda Bastian, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Brook Field Service, Costello Valente & Gentry, Lavallee Brensinger Architects, Lawrence & Lober Electric, West River Family Dental

Hole Sponsors: Allard Lumber, Brattleboro Savings & Loan, Brunelle & Son Construction, The Cersosimo Companies, Chroma Technology, Community Bank, Edward Jones Investment, First Choice Communications, Howard Printing, Irving Energy, J. Evans Construction, Members First Credit Union, Multiview Corporation, Northeast Delta Dental, Perkins Home Center, Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer, The Royal Group, Ski Country Legal, Southern Vermont Podiatry, David & April Sprague and Family, WW Building Supply

Bronze Sponsors: Baker Newman Noyes, Blue Cross Blue Shield Vermont, Lawton Flooring, Leader Beverage, VSP Vision

Flag Sponsors: Deerfield Valley News, June Dibble in memory of Phil Dibble, Doug & Cathy DiVello, Equipe Sport, Five Maples, Grace Cottage in memory of Jim Heal, Grace Cottage in memory of Eileen Ranslow, LaMay Family in memory of Dorothy & Robert LaMay, W&B Management in memory of Effie Chamberlin, W&B Management in memory of Wally & Eleanor Lowe

Save the date for Grace Cottage's 15th Annual Tee It Up for Health benefit at Haystack Golf Club, on June 8, 2024.

Spring Into Health 5K

The 14th Annual Spring into Health 5K on May 13th featured spectacular weather, with 75 runners, walkers, and even a participant on rollerblades with a dog! Rescue, Inc. was on hand to help keep participants safe along the route.

Thank you to Event Sponsor M&T Bank and other generous sponsors Linda Bastian, Big Picture Farm, Blake Hill Preserves, Cota & Cota, Riverbend Farm Market, Smith Family Maple Syrup, and WEEI 93.7 Sports Radio.

Congratulations to Al Claussen, who was the fastest runner at 19:27, and to Kelsey Taddei, the fastest female runner at 22:24. Special recognition goes to Helen Eddy, our "most experienced" participant. And a shout out to the kids who joined us, particularly the Girls on the Run participants who were using this event as practice for their big event.

The event was coordinated by Grace Cottage employees Stephen Kapral, Dr. Moss Linder, Phil Schafer, and Ben Wright.

Mark your calendar for next year's event: Saturday, May 11, 2024.



Save the Date for a New Grace Cottage Event

The beauty and joy of wintertime in Vermont will be celebrated with the introduction of a new Grace Cottage event, to be held on Saturday, March 2, 2024! Grace Cottage will host the first annual Snowshoe/Cross-Country Ski event at the Nordic Center at Stratton Resort. Participants will be able to choose whether they'd like to snowshoe or cross-country ski on the Nordic Center's beautifully groomed trails, and will be able to enjoy treats by the fire afterward. Rental equipment will be available by advance registration. It's sure to be a fun day for the whole family! Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

Hospital Fair Day – Saturday, August 5, 2023

Poignant. That's the word that many people used to describe the spirit of this year's Hospital Fair Day. Here are just a few of the touching stories that evolved from that day:

1940 Chevy Truck Back Home:

The antique truck didn't sell when it was offered at the Fair Day Auction; however, within the next hour, three people made offers, and the one that was accepted was \$25,000 from Michael McAssey, the son of the man who had donated the truck. "Donating the truck to Grace Cottage on May 10 was the last paperwork that Mike signed before he died in hospice care at home on May 30," said Jody McAssey. "I came to Fair Day from Rhode Island to watch my father's truck being auctioned," said Michael McAssey. "I started to drive back to Rhode Island after the auction, but I turned around in Newfane and came back to make an offer so that it would stay in our family. I know that this would make my father very happy. He wanted to help Grace Cottage and now I'm following in his footsteps, giving to Grace Cottage." Michael and his son, Dylan, (pictured here) drove the Chevy truck back to the family home in Newfane.



Oil Painting Back Home: Brothers Chris and Mike Meyer were walking past the Pictures & Frames booth when they stopped in front of an oil painting of a black iron bridge over a river during foliage season. "THAT'S IT! That's the painting that our parents (Walter & Elaine Meyer of Mary Meyer Stuffed Toys) and their friends (Harrisons, Kearneys, McCarthys, Nivens, Sorrentinos, Swans, Tagariellos, Tweedys, and Wenkers) used to regift as a joke on their birthdays!" They bought it at the Fair and presented it to Elaine Meyer that evening and it's now, once again, hanging on her wall where it reminds her of dear friends, many now gone.



Chris Meyer

Stepping Up: When Auctioneer Brian Tebo of Heart Felt Antiques and Auctions had a family emergency during the early morning hours of Fair Day, it looked as if the Fair Day Auction might not happen. Knowing the vital importance of the funds raised by the auction, retired auctioneer Kit Martin graciously agreed to help out so that the many Grace Cottage medical providers at Fair Day (Dr. Kimona Alin, Dr. Robert Backus, Natalie Harding, Dr. Moss Linder, Dr. Jeremy Morrison, Phil Schafer, Dr. Tim Shafer, Dr. George Terwilliger, and Ben Wright) wouldn't have to try out auctioneering at the last minute. However, knowing that Grace Cottage needed his help, Brian drove from his home near Bennington to conduct the auction after all, with Kit stepping in to give him breaks. We are grateful for their expertise and dedication to Grace Cottage!



Doctor Robert Backus and Candy Sheldon.

Socializing: The hugs, handshakes, claps on the back, smiles, and laughs seen and heard all around the Townshend Common heralded a return to the "olden days." People came out of the hills to volunteer, to buy, to gather, and to glory in being together again. Everyone older, perhaps wiser, and certainly not taking for granted the joy of being together!



The Farrell family of Townshend and clown Stephen Sterns.

Supporting a Small Community Hospital: This was the second highest-grossing Fair Day in history, raising over \$80,000 for Grace Cottage Family Health. Hundreds of people played a part in raising this impressive total, with donations of time, talent, expertise, energy, and dollars. On behalf of the patients that Grace Cottage serves, thank you all so very much.

The 73rd Annual Hospital Fair Day was the best Fair Day I can remember!

First: a gigantic THANK YOU to our volunteers. Each and every one of you gave 110%. I also need to express our appreciation to all our extremely generous donors who provided us with wonderful items to sell.

Extra special gratitude to Brian Tebo of Heart Felt Antiques and Auction House, our volunteer auctioneer, who came and did an excellent job in the midst of a serious family medical emergency in Florida. Few people have that kind of courage during a crisis. And gratitude to longtime volunteer auctioneer Kit Martin, who stepped in to give Brian much-needed breaks during the 5-hour auction.

The day was perfect. The crowd was fabulous! The food was delicious. And the sales were wonderful. Thank you to all the fairgoers: you made Hospital Fair Day the success that it was.

Looking ahead, a wise man once told me: "Go out when you are on top." It's time for me to take his advice: 2023 was my last year as Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day Chairperson. I will miss everyone with whom I worked on the Fair, but I am VERY happy to announce that I am turning the reins over to Connie and Helen Holt. Many of you remember longtime Fair Day Chair Stan Holt; Connie is his daughter and Helen his niece. I can assure you that Hospital Fair Day 2024 is in excellent hands!

With sincere gratitude for the privilege of having served as Fair Day Chairperson for the past five years,

— Eileen F. Fahey

Grateful patients write:

"During my recent stay at Grace Cottage, I learned that the work I've done over the years to support the hospital was all worth it! Everyone was kind and attentive, the physical therapy is great, and the food is five-star!"

— Sarah Messenger, Townshend, VT



"Your Emergency Department is quick and efficient. I felt calmer knowing everyone was very knowledgeable, and they knew exactly what to do when I had a heart issue."

— John Fusto, Massapequa, NY

Grace Cottage Earns 2nd in Red Sox IMPACT Awards

TOWNSHEND—Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital has been awarded second place in the Red Sox IMPACT 2023 Awards competition.

The IMPACT Awards, presented by the Red Sox Foundation and the Ruderman Family Foundation, support organizations raising awareness and improving outcomes surrounding mental health.

In its award announcement, Red Sox Foundation Development & Partnerships Manager Matt McCarthy congratulated Grace Cottage, saying, "The work you all undertake on a daily basis is incredible."

Grace Cottage will use its \$3,000 IMPACT award to expand the safety net of mental health services that it provides in its primary care clinic, Suboxone clinic, and Emergency Department.

"Grace Cottage works hard to integrate mental health care with primary care. Our primary care providers work side-by-side with our three mental health care providers, so that when a primary care provider sees a patient for physical issues and determines that mental health is also impacted, arrangements can be made quickly for the patient to see a Grace Cottage mental health provider. Mental health is as important as physical health, and a variety of issues can be treated in our clinic," says Grace Cottage CEO Doug DiVello.

Access to mental health care can be a big hurdle for patients.

Grace Cottage's mental health providers help with a variety of issues, including anxiety, depression, PTSD, social isolation, and stress.

The primary care clinic includes a Suboxone Clinic, which helps patients from a wide geographic area, combining behavioral therapy and medication to treat opioid addiction. Grace Cottage is also treating an increasing number of mental health patients in its Emergency Department.

The IMPACT Awards give Red Sox fans the opportunity to nominate their favorite non-profits to receive support and funding.

Eligible organizations with the most online votes from fans are the designated winners, with three non-profit winners selected from each New England state. Funded with a \$125,000 grant from the Ruderman Family Foundation, the Red Sox IMPACT awards provide the winning non-profits with either a first-place \$10,000 grant, second-place \$3,000 grant, or a third-place \$2,000 grant.



A grateful patient writes:

"I came to your Emergency Department frightened, anxious, and in pain, with little knowledge of the source of my pain, but fearing the worst. Your team displayed a collective ability to understand the complexities of providing medical care and to translate that understanding, mixing the right portions of keen observation, sound judgement, and kind words to deliver precisely what I needed during my care. They steadfastly worked as a team in a manner that recognized our shared humanity, supported my dignity, and built trust. It is this grace and compassion combined with the multitude of acts of thoughtfulness and kindness that reverberated throughout the process that has left me with a permanent sense of gratitude. Your team exemplified the very best care for which any patient could ask."

— John Harrington, Dummerston, VT

SAVE THE DATE
#GIVINGTUESDAY
NOVEMBER 28, 2023

This year, Giving Tuesday donations will go toward the Grace Cottage Family Health Clinic.

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.

The Gift of Giving

The Gift of a House

In thanks for the care he received at Grace Cottage, psychologist David Price designated the hospital as the beneficiary of the sale of his primary home, located in Westminster West, VT.

"When David told me he wanted to gift his house to Grace Cottage," said Andrea Seaton, Senior Director of Development, "he'd long been suffering with a chronic illness which was becoming terminal. He'd already decided that he was going to take advantage of the End-of-Life Choice Law, enacted by the Vermont Legislature in 2013. He'd picked the date in April, 2023, and chose to die peacefully in his own home, which is exactly what happened."

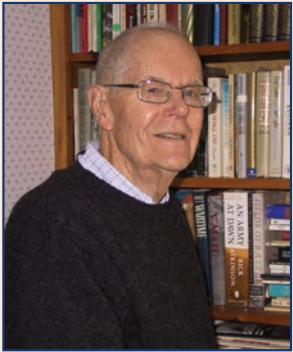
After Price's death, the house and 13 acres were sold, with proceeds distributed to Grace Cottage by Price's attorney in Brattleboro. Per Price's request, the Trauma Room in Grace Cottage's Emergency Department has been named in his memory in exchange for his gift, and a bronze plaque has been mounted just outside the room; as he instructed, the proceeds of his generous gift will be used to fund the new clinic building at Grace Cottage.



Grace Cottage benefactor David Price.

Photo credit: Kristopher Radder, Brattleboro Reformer

The Gift of a Charitable Annuity



*Dick Jackson
of Townshend, VT.*

Thanks to a recent change in U.S. law (the Secure 2.0 Act of 2022), donors aged 70.5 years and older are permitted to make a one-time donation of up to \$50,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) directly to a Charitable Gift Annuity. This is a simple and beneficial way to help Grace Cottage, while creating revenue during your lifetime. A Charitable Gift Annuity can help lessen the tax burden of an IRA's required minimum distribution, while simultaneously generating income for you for life, often at a better interest rate than you can find otherwise (currently 6% for age 71, and up to 9.7% for those in their nineties).

To find out more about a Charitable Gift Annuity at Grace Cottage, call Andrea or Charma at 802-365-9109 or email info@gracecottage.org.

"I am so happy with Grace Cottage's Charitable Annuities that I have two of them!" said Dick Jackson of Townshend. "I receive quarterly payouts that are deposited directly into my bank account. It couldn't be simpler to open a Charitable Annuity – I signed a one-page document, transferred the funds, and it was done."

Donations Were Recently Received In Honor Of:

Grace Cottage Volunteers ♦ Patricia Howell ♦ Jake Spring ♦ Elizabeth Walker

Memorial Gifts

Donations have been received between May 9th and August 22 in memory of the following individuals:

Clarence & Eunice Aither ♦ Stuart Archambault ♦ Chris & Priscilla Ballou ♦ Russ Barber ♦ Edwin Bentley ♦ Susan Bristol
Elizabeth Brown ♦ Gladys Brown ♦ Adrienne Carroll ♦ Shirley Ciesla ♦ Chris Coleman ♦ Phil Coleman ♦ Mary Cota
David D'Agostino ♦ David DeBlois ♦ Phil Dibble ♦ Bill Eckhardt ♦ Nat & Irene Fillow ♦ Bill & Nora Fletcher
John Kenneth & Catherine Atwater Galbraith ♦ Jack Greene ♦ Frank & Frances Grout ♦ Marjorie Klimoski
Robert & Dorothy LaMay ♦ Richard Lapan ♦ Paulene Lawrence ♦ Don Leigh ♦ Jeanne Marion ♦ Larry Martin
Wanita Mae Martin ♦ Patricia Goldman McGalliard ♦ Mary Jane Merenda ♦ Gloria Moore ♦ Bob Phelps ♦ Jack Plants
David Price ♦ Victor Rabinowitch ♦ Eileen Ranslow ♦ Elaine Robinson ♦ Emmons & Ruby Robinson ♦ Frederick Robinson
Oscar Robinson ♦ Charles & Lillian Slover ♦ Elizabeth Spencer ♦ Clayton Stowell ♦ George & Della Stowell ♦ Janet Stowell
♦ Roy Stowell ♦ Bill & Leona Tabell ♦ Porter & Lillian Thayer ♦ George Vallas ♦ 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.)

A grateful patient writes:

"Our visit to the ER was superb. The staff was wonderful and professional. Everyone showed compassion and genuine caring in a very scary situation."

— *Abigail Dillon*, Townshend, VT



FAMILY HEALTH & HOSPITAL

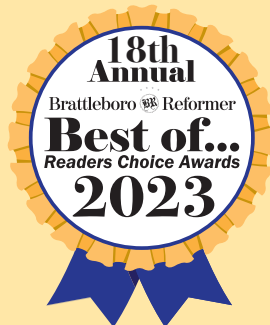
P.O. Box 216

Townshend, VT 05353-0216

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

Grace Cottage Wins "Best of Windham County" in Seven Categories....Again!

For the seventh 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 2023 Readers Choice Awards. For the fifth year in a row, Grace Cottage was also named "Best Hospital," "Best Emergency Care," "Best Doctor" (Dr. Timothy Shafer and Dr. Moss Linder), and "Best Pharmacy." Cynthia Howes and Dr. Elizabeth Linder were named "Best Pediatricians" (Howes is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Dr. Elizabeth Linder is seeing patients of all ages in our same-day clinic). Congratulations to all of our employees who make these awards possible, and we're so pleased that our community feels this way about Grace Cottage.



- **BEST PLACE TO WORK**
- **BEST HOSPITAL**
- **BEST EMERGENCY CARE**
- **BEST PHYSICAL THERAPY**
- **BEST DOCTOR: DR. TIM SHAFER & DR. MOSS LINDER**
- **BEST PEDIATRICIANS: CYNTHIA HOWES & DR. ELIZABETH LINDER**
- **BEST PHARMACY: MESSENGER VALLEY PHARMACY**

Grateful patients write:

"We have sometimes contemplated moving elsewhere to be closer to family or more services, but whenever we start talking about it, we realize that we can't stand the idea of going anywhere but Grace Cottage for our primary and ER care. We both know that there is no place like Grace Cottage when it comes to receiving the personal, professional health care that we've enjoyed there for so many years."

— *Marion Dowling & Sidney Johnson*
Newfane, VT



"I would like to thank everyone at Grace Cottage for the wonderful care I received when I came into the Emergency Department in June and spent the night. Everyone involved in my care was fantastic, and Doug and Jim in the kitchen even made me a breakfast sandwich! We are so blessed to have this hospital in the Valley."

— *Maureen Holden*, Newfane, VT



"The Emergency Department staff were kind, personable, courteous, and on time!"

— *Roy Coburn*, Windham, VT