

## Clinic Project Moving Forward

We are very pleased to announce that, following an eight-month process, we received our Certificate of Need for the new clinic project from Vermont's Green Mountain Care Board in November. The next step is to prepare and submit an application to Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources for an Act 250 permit, which requires compliance in ten areas of potential environmental impact.



As soon as we receive an Act 250 permit, we will be working to raise the funds needed for this \$20M project that will be transformational for Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital and the patients and community that we serve. If you're interested

in learning more, visit [gracecottage.org/future](https://gracecottage.org/future), call 802-365-9109, or e-mail [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org).



*Thanks to generous gifts from the Harry Wolff Trust, the Irwin & Dorothy Nessel Foundation, and the West River Westies, the Grace Cottage Hospital nurses' station has recently been re-designed and renovated for greater efficiency and patient privacy.*

## Congratulations, Dr. Timothy Shafer!



The Board of the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians (VTAFP) chose Grace Cottage's Dr. Timothy Shafer to be the worthy recipient of their 2023 Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Shafer's nomination states that he "cares for his patients and community with unique generosity, dedication, integrity, optimism, and energy. On top of the care he provides, his focus on evidence-based medicine, improved access

to care and mentoring of medical students is the epitome of a family physician, and worthy of the VTAFP Distinguished Service Award."

The criteria for this award include: long-standing and dedicated career in family medicine; providing patients with compassionate, comprehensive, and caring family medicine on a continuing basis; directly and effectively involved in community affairs and activities that enhance the quality of the community; and providing a credible role model professionally and personally to the community, to other health professionals, residents, and medical students.

Dr. Shafer accepted the award in November in Stowe, VT, at a collaborative meeting of the Vermont Medical Society, Vermont Academy of Family Physicians, Vermont Psychiatric Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter.

## Patient-Centered Care

Grace Cottage Family Health has again received national recognition for providing effective and efficient patient-centered care. This recognition, called Patient-Centered Medical Home, is given by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).



*10 years and counting!*

NCQA defines Patient-Centered Medical Home as a model of care that puts patients at the forefront of care and affirms that Grace Cottage Family Health promotes partnerships between patients and their providers. Our team of doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and other professionals oversees care for each patient to help ensure that the patient's health needs are coordinated throughout the health care system.

In order to achieve this recognition, awarded annually, Grace Cottage Family Health met six key standards of the Patient-Centered Medical Home model, including access to care; using appropriate tools to identify patients and their information; planning and managing patient care; providing self-care tools; tracking and coordinating care; and using a system to measure and improve performance.

### A grateful patient writes:

"As a patient in the hospital for ten days and as an ER patient, I have had nothing but positive experiences at Grace Cottage. Everyone is so collegial and helpful. Your ER is efficient, quiet, and calm.

What a fantastic place!" — *Diane Abel*, Brattleboro, VT



**Save The Date:**  
**Saturday, March 2 at Stratton**  
See page 4 for more information!

# A Word From the CEO

When I joined Grace Cottage as President & CEO in February, 2018, I knew that this was where I wanted to stay for the rest of my career, and this is indeed the case. I will be 65 in early 2025, so I have decided to retire at the end of this fiscal year; my last day at Grace Cottage will be September 30, 2024.

This was a very difficult decision to make because I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Grace Cottage and my work here has been incredibly rewarding. My mission was to leave Grace Cottage in a better position than it was when I started here, and I think I've been successful. I am confident that Grace Cottage will continue to be a strong and compassionate organization well into the future.

I would like to sincerely thank you all, from the bottom of my heart, for being such a supportive community.

The Grace Cottage Board of Trustees is engaging the services of an executive search firm and I am confident that this position will attract superb candidates. I know that the increasingly-unique opportunity to lead a growing, independent healthcare organization with such strong employee engagement and community support will entice many in my profession.



— *Doug DiVello, President & CEO*

Grace Cottage CEO Doug DiVello e-mails an informative Message to the Community once a month. To receive this communication, send an e-mail to [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org) with the subject line "Add me to your Message to the Community."

## Grace Cottage Family Health Needs More Space to Fill Demand

by Deborah Lee Luskin



The Green Mountain Care Board has been conducting Community Conversations about "Vermont's healthcare system to support hospital transformation." I recently participated in the one scheduled for Grace Cottage Family Health and Hospital in Townshend. For two hours, residents of rural Windham

County testified to the extraordinary way medical services are delivered at Grace Cottage. It was a remarkable expression of gratitude and pride for an institution that delivers essential healthcare services to the rural community it serves. And for good reason.

People can access a lot of primary care in Townshend, including pediatrics, adult medicine, gerontology, hospice, mental health, and substance abuse treatment. Wrap-around services include laboratory, imaging, occupational and physical therapy, emergency care, in-patient care, social services, and end-of-life hospice care. There's a pharmacy where patients can pick up prescriptions without adding an extra 40 miles to fetch medicine at the cost of an hour's time and two gallons of gas. For many in our rural hill towns, transportation is a barrier to accessing health care.

I live in Newfane and have been going to Grace Cottage for primary care since 1984. I gave birth in the old hospital, brought my kids for casts, stitches, and wellness care, and I sat vigil for my father in the Hospice Suite, where he was able to die as he wished, with no heroic measures. Grace Cottage provides family medicine from cradle to grave.

For 16 years, I managed a private family practice in Townshend and learned first-hand how when primary care is accessible, welcoming and within the community it serves, it's a bargain compared to the cost of after-the-fact intervention,

not just financially, but also in quality of life. Healthcare is a service; it's financing healthcare that's become an industry.

By concentrating on delivering excellent primary care that attracts patients, practitioners and staff, Grace Cottage has outgrown its clinical space.

The hospital building and Emergency Department have been recently expanded to meet this increasing demand, but the clinics are in two 19th-century buildings that have been renovated so often that all that remains of the original structures are their uneven floors. When practitioners need to have one of medicine's difficult family conversations regarding a serious diagnosis with patients and family, they all cram into a small exam room others are waiting to use. The clinic needs more exam rooms, and a conference room as well.

Grace Cottage has 13 primary care providers — family physicians, nurse practitioners and physicians' assistants — who are shoehorned three to an office, where they dictate, make phone calls, do research, and concentrate all within earshot of one another and with a complete lack of privacy. One nurse practitioner does have her own office. The room has no window; in any other building, this would be called a closet.

Nevertheless — and despite a national shortage of family physicians — family doctors and advanced practitioners want to work at Grace Cottage Family Health, and patient demand continues to increase, but there is no space to accommodate them. The current clinic is inadequate and worn out.

While Grace Cottage is small by today's healthcare standards, its size and independence allow it to be nimble and resilient, as evidenced by its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It's a highly successful model for delivering healthcare in a rural area but Grace Cottage Family Health needs a new primary care building now.

*This Letter to the Editor by author Deborah Lee Luskin appeared in the Brattleboro Reformer on November 7, 2023.*



# #GIVINGTUESDAY

## Thanks to You, Giving Tuesday Made a Great Start!

Thanks to 72 generous supporters from 12 states, our GivingTuesday campaign on Tuesday, November 28 was a great success! Donations totaling \$32,716 will go toward the construction of a new Primary Care Clinic Building. We are so grateful for your support!

## Grace Cottage Hospital Earns National Recognition

Grace Cottage Hospital earned national recognition from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for its efforts to increase organ, eye, and tissue donor registrations through the DoNation Campaign.

DoNation is an initiative that unites HRSA and the organ donation community with workplaces across the nation in spreading the word about the importance of donation and increasing the number of registered organ, eye, and tissue donors.



## ♥ Wishes Granted...

- Helen Eddy donated the funds for a heat gun for splinting casts for the Rehab Department.
- Bock & Kim Yeo made a donation for a wide variety of assistive devices needed by the Outpatient Rehab Department.
- Richard & Carol Steiner made a donation for the purchase of an exam table and blood pressure monitors for Grace Cottage Family Health and a traction device for Inpatient Rehab.
- Lynne Carey and Michael Gardner donated the funds for the purchase of a continuous-passive-motion machine for use by inpatients who are working on rehabilitation of their knees.
- Barbara Willenbrock made a donation for the purchase of an infusion chair.
- An anonymous donor made a generous contribution for the Dietary Department.
- Richard & Jan Thomas donated funds for Emergency Department equipment.
- Dick & Peggy Bilda donated the funds for the purchase of a vacuum cleaner for the Housekeeping Department.
- Lisa's Love Charitable Organization made a donation in memory of Lisa Young Noble for the purchase of supplies for the Activities Cart for inpatient use.
- West River Westies made a donation for the renovation of the new nurses' station. These funds were raised at their 2023 gathering of Volkswagen bus owners at Bald Mountain Campground in Townshend.
- Andrew & Abbe Haber donated the funds to purchase a new IV cart for the Infusion Room.
- Don & Donna Jennison made a donation for the Outpatient Rehab Department.
- Many donors made pledges and gifts for the new clinic building; we still need many more!

## ♥ Wishes Made...

- Grace Cottage Family Health needs an EKG machine. \$16,102.
- Outpatient Rehab needs a Caretec IV unit, which provides electrical stimulation to the nerves or muscles via electrodes applied to the skin, \$87; and a transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator. \$75.
- The Dietary Department would benefit from an additional 30" x 36" stainless steel table, \$800; a heavy-duty conveyor toaster to help with the preparation of patient meals, \$379; and a case of 12 Fiesta soup bowls, \$138.
- An alternating-pressure air mattress is needed in the hospital. \$3,281.

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



### Shared with us on facebook

"A huge thank you to Cindy Kenyon, Physical Therapist, and Grace Cottage for hosting our drivers for an invaluable session on safe transfer techniques! Our Mountain Town Connector drivers learned best practices for safely assisting riders with limited mobility in and out of vehicles. Safety is always our highest priority, and this training was a golden opportunity for our drivers to enhance their skills."

**Neighborhood Connections, Londonderry, VT**



## Grateful patients write:

"I am so grateful that Grace Cottage is here for me and my family. Top-flight care and familiar faces. Bless you!"

— Ted Poler, East Dover, VT

"The care at Grace Cottage is excellent. I wouldn't go anywhere else. Everyone is so pleasant and helpful."

— Patricia Reardon, Brattleboro, VT

# The 1st Annual Make Tracks for Health on March 2, 2024

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, from 1 – 3 pm. Grace Cottage will host the first annual *Make Tracks for Health* 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! Find out more and register online at [gracecottage.org/events](https://gracecottage.org/events).



## 15th Annual Spring Into Health 5K – May 11, 2024

Springtime will be here before you know it, so please mark your calendar now for our 15th Annual *Spring Into Health* 5K on Saturday, May 11th on the Townshend Common. A group of Grace Cottage's runners and walkers, including the event founder, Dr. Moss Linder, will be on hand to ensure a fun and safe event.

Registration is \$20 per participant (children under the age of 18 are free with signed parent/guardian permission), and registration is open now, at [gracecottage.org/events](https://gracecottage.org/events).

You are welcome to run, walk, roll, or stroll your 5K with us at 8:30 am on the Townshend Common or, if you prefer, virtually at a time and place of your own choosing. The idea is to take charge of your own health and to get moving!

The 2023 *Spring Into Health* 5K was sponsored by M&T Bank, Linda Bastian, Big Picture Farm, Blake Hill Preserves, Cota & Cota, River Bend Farm Market, Smith Family Maple Syrup, and WEEI 93.5 FM Sports Radio.



2023 Spring Into Health Starting Line

## Tee It Up For Health Golf Tournament Saturday, June 8, 2024 - Haystack Golf Club in Wilmington

Many of our golfers return to this fun event year after year, and new golfers are always eagerly welcome! Funds raised at this 15th Annual *Tee It Up For Health* Golf Tournament will go toward Grace Cottage's new primary care clinic building.

**DATE:** Saturday, June 8, 2024; Noon Shotgun Start

**LOCATION:** Haystack Golf Club  
70 Spyglass Lane, Wilmington, VT 05363

**REGISTRATION:** \$175 per golfer / \$700 per team includes greens fees, several contests, cart, golf balls, box lunch, snacks, logo gift, and awards dinner.



2023 Tee It Up for Health at Haystack Golf Club

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Platinum Sponsor (\$3,000, includes flag, hole sign, four golfers, lunch & dinner, logo wear, publicity)
- Gold Sponsor (\$2,000, includes flag, hole sign, two free golfers, lunch & dinner, logo wear, publicity)
- Silver Sponsor (\$1,000, includes flag, hole sign, one free golfer, lunch & dinner, logo wear, publicity)
- Hole Sponsor (\$500, includes flag, hole sign, and publicity)
- Bronze Sponsor (\$300, includes flag and publicity)
- Flag Sponsor (\$150, includes embroidered flag with your name or business name, displayed at the event)

We're grateful to all of our 2023 sponsors, including the Event Sponsor, The Richards Group. Sponsorship publicity includes a press release in the *Brattleboro Reformer*, *The Commons*, and *The Deerfield Valley News*, and on the event page on our website throughout the year. All sponsors are mentioned in our hospital newsletter, *Cottage Door*, which is sent to more than 7,000 households.

For more information, visit our website at [gracecottage.org](https://gracecottage.org); call 802-365-9109; or e-mail [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org).  
Golfer registration is open online now!

### A grateful patient writes:

"I fell while skiing at Stratton over Thanksgiving weekend, and someone recommended that I go to Grace Cottage's ER. The provider was amazing! I am usually a very critical person and can always find something to point out needing improvement. Well, I am speechless, because there was nothing that could have been better! Everyone was welcoming, efficient, and professional....in the most adorable hospital ever! Congratulations!"

— Heidi Waddell, Hanson, MA



# 74<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FAIR DAY

Saturday, August 3, 2024

Townshend Common, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Free Admission | Free Parking | Free Entertainment

We can't wait for August 3rd, the date for the 74th Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day! This popular community event regularly attracts hundreds of enthusiastic fairgoers on the first Saturday of August. Last year's Fair Day was a picture-perfect day and included so many memorable moments with friends old and new. We can still taste the food and feel the community warmth!

This year, we're happy to welcome Hospital Fair Day co-chairs Connie Holt and Helen Holt. Connie and Helen are the daughter and niece of longtime Grace Cottage Auxiliary President Stan Holt, who helmed Fair Day for many years. We are grateful that they have welcomed the 'passed torch' and we know they will be superb leaders!

We rely on our annual Hospital Fair Day to raise crucial funds for Grace Cottage, and it 'takes a village' to be a success. Many volunteers are needed on Fair Day and both before and after. Whether you have a few hours, or a few days, we have a place for you!



And we depend on donations to fill our booths: Plants, Books, Art, Jewelry, Pictures and Frames, Toys and Games, as well as unique/household items for our White Elephant Booth. And items of value in good condition are needed for our auction tent. Do you have items to share? While we can't accept electronics, exercise equipment, or anything upholstered, other furniture is welcome, along with boats, cars, fine jewelry, and more.

The net proceeds of this year's Hospital Fair Day will go toward the construction of a new primary care clinic building on our campus. If you'd like to volunteer, or have something you'd like to donate, or have any questions, give Andrea, Charma, or C.J. a call at 802-365-9109 or email us at [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org). Thank you!

## Grateful patients write:

"Grace Cottage is a delight, and beyond exceptional. Friends of mine from Brattleboro who had been patients at Grace Cottage said that I shouldn't go anywhere else, and they were right, this is THE BEST place!" Everyone on the staff is so professional and very caring. You never, ever feel as if you're bothering them, and that means so much when you're healing."

— *Patricia Mayor,*  
Brattleboro, VT

"We were visiting our son over the holidays when my husband had a bronchial spasm. At 5 a.m., we drove through fog and deep mud from Wardsboro to get to Grace Cottage, and I can't say enough good things about our experience, which was excellent from start to finish. The provider and the nurse were so professional and caring. Thank you for being there when we needed you."

— *Rita Caspar,*  
West Chester, PA

"I needed to visit your ER when we were camping at the KOA in Dummerston in October, and the care I received couldn't have been better. I've been reading the testimonials in your newsletter for years, and now I know why so many people write to praise what the hospital does! Your new ER addition is marvelous and everyone who works there is superb."

— *Linda Magyar,*  
Torrington, CT



Grace Cottage's Director of Development, Marketing, and Community Relations, Charma Bonanno, is now a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE). She received this credential by meeting eligibility requirements and passing an extensive written exam. The CFRE credential shows accountability, service, and commitment to making a difference for good, and sets the standard for ethical practice in the fundraising sector. Bonanno has been employed at Grace Cottage for four years.



Grace Cottage's Grant Writer, C.J. King, is now a Certified Grant Professional. An employee of Grace Cottage for 16 years, King received this certification by meeting the eligibility requirements and passing the rigorous multiple-choice and timed-writing exam in September. The GPC credential certifies grant writers based on skills in grant research, organization development, program design, grant application construction and submission, grant management, ethics, professionalism, and funder relationships.

## New Hospital Board and Foundation Board Members

**Winthrop Pennock** has joined the Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital Board of Trustees.

Pennock has been a partner with Artisanal Cellars, a wine importation and distribution company in White River Junction, VT, since 2011.

Pennock's early professional experience was in the hospitality business. He started working in kitchens after graduating from Ithaca College, working first in Colorado, then after five years returning East and enrolling at New England Culinary Institute, where he received a degree in Restaurant Management. He has worked at the Three Mountain Inn in Jamaica, VT; at the Copper Beach Inn in Essex, CT; and was manager of Windham Wines in Brattleboro.

Pennock lives in Townshend with his wife, Alyssa McClenning.



**David Stettler** has joined the Grace Cottage Foundation Board of Directors.

A graduate of Wyoming Seminary in Kingston, PA, Stettler received his Bachelor's degree from Princeton University and his Master's in Education Leadership from Columbia University's Teachers College. He was Assistant Head of School at The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, NY until 2005; Head of School at Oak Meadow Montessori School in Littleton, MA until 2011 and Head of School at The Fessenden School in West Newton, MA, until his retirement in 2018.

Stettler and his wife, Rachel, divide their time between South Portland, ME, and Townshend. They enjoy hiking, bicycling, traveling, and learning Spanish (one of their two grown sons lives in Colombia).



## Gift of Giving

**Dick & Marjorie Miller**

In 2016, Richard "Dick" and Marjorie Miller of Sedona, AZ, notified Grace Cottage that they had named the hospital as a beneficiary of a trust created in 2012. Marj died in September 2021, and Dick passed away two months later. A distribution of \$5,277 was recently made to Grace Cottage; the proceeds will benefit the new primary care building fund.



**William "Bill" Tabell**

Bill & Leona Tabell were loyal and generous supporters of Grace Cottage; Leona died at age 69 at Grace Cottage after a short illness in 2012. Bill lived another 10 years without his beloved Leona, eventually moving from his home in the hills of Newfane to Valley Cares. Bill left a bequest of \$15,000 to Grace Cottage, which will be put towards construction of the new primary care clinic.



### A grateful patient writes:

"When I told my life partner that I wanted to write to you to praise the Grace Cottage ER staff for the care she received recently, she said 'Be sure to say that it was the kindness of the staff that mattered to me most. They treated me like I was a person and not just some medical problem to solve.'

Her care was not just kind, but professional and efficient. Within 30 minutes of our arrival, Nancie had had a CAT scan, an EKG, and blood work, which indicated a Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA). 30 minutes later in the ER, she participated in a telemedicine neurological exam with a neurologist at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Then, following protocol, she was admitted to Rutland Regional Medical Center for observation and additional diagnostic tests. She's home now, doing fine and, since that time, she's seen Dr. Moss Linder at Grace Cottage Family Health and says that she feels not only has she found a new doctor, but a new friend as well.

Grace Cottage is an invaluable asset to our community."

— Tom Young, Wilmington, VT

## Cottage Door

is published by Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital  
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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.



## Donations Were Recently Received In Honor Of:

Andrea Anker ♦ Dr. Robert Backus ♦ Ballou Family Members ♦ Charma Bonanno ♦ Jennifer, Hayden & Grayson Brooks ♦ Lisa Eaton  
Dr. Wyll Everett ♦ Carryn Francis ♦ Stephen Goldberg ♦ Charles & Anne Golec ♦ Grace Cottage Employees ♦ Grace Cottage Nurses  
Grace Cottage Volunteers ♦ Dr. Walter Griffiths ♦ Richard Hamilton ♦ Natalie Harding ♦ Lawrence, Eliza, Ryen & Jace Jatsek  
Joseph Keating ♦ Mitzi Kennedy ♦ Marion Lewis ♦ Dr. Moss & Dr. Elizabeth Linder ♦ Rose Lyman ♦ David & Nancy Martin  
Peter & Kathleen Martin ♦ Seth & Devona Martin ♦ Brian Mayher ♦ David McCormack ♦ Ann McDowell ♦ The Mary Meyer Family  
John Miller ♦ Kayla Mulready ♦ Judy Ratte ♦ Lisa Record ♦ Barbara Ritchie ♦ Josh Rosenblum ♦ Andrea Seaton  
Dr. Timothy Shafer ♦ Dr. Robert Tortolani

## Memorial Gifts

**Donations have been received between August 23-January 12 in memory of the following individuals:**

Harlan & Jessie Allbee ♦ Alwin & Joyce Ameden ♦ Kjell Anker ♦ Stuart Archambault ♦ David Austin ♦ Joseph & Grace Austin  
Gene & Marie Avenia ♦ Ken & Beulah Bailey ♦ Alan Baird ♦ Frances Baldvins ♦ Lew Baldvins ♦ Thomas Baldvins  
Larry and Pat Ballou ♦ Russ Barber ♦ Mollie Beattie ♦ Betty P. Benson ♦ Jack & Shirley Benson ♦ Dallas "Sandy" Bertram  
Beryl Berry Brown ♦ Burdette & Rosalee Bills ♦ Cecil Bills ♦ Janet Bills ♦ Leon & Marlene Bills ♦ Scott Bovat ♦ Yvonne Boyd  
Mitch Briskin ♦ Susan Wright Bristol ♦ Barbara Brooks ♦ Irene Brooks ♦ Roy & Margaret Brooks ♦ Brooks Family Members  
John Brosnan ♦ Eugene Brown ♦ Gladys Brown ♦ Joy Mayes Brown ♦ Kevin Brown ♦ Barbara Calabrese ♦ Chuck Call  
Russell Campbell ♦ Charlene Clayton Carey ♦ John Carroll, Jr. ♦ Noel Carroll ♦ Effie Chamberlin ♦ John & Nancy Chard  
Jimmy Chevalier ♦ Raymond & Charlotte Clayton ♦ Marie Clukey ♦ Leon & Isabel Cohen ♦ Chris Coleman ♦ Kathryn Coleman  
Phil Coleman ♦ Harry & Luella Conklin ♦ Gail Cooper ♦ Lewis Corse ♦ Neva Corse ♦ Mary Cota ♦ Dottie Coyle  
Mildred Danielski ♦ Gary Delius ♦ Lucille DeRosia ♦ Martha Desrochers ♦ Elsie Detjen ♦ Richard and Mary Dexter ♦ Phil Dibble  
Joel Doerfler ♦ Betty Druke ♦ William & Nancy Eckhardt ♦ Herb Eisenberg ♦ Don Elliott ♦ Young Eng ♦ Victor English  
Kathy Ernst ♦ Brian A. Evans ♦ Brian & Nancy Evans ♦ Bryan & Ruby Evans ♦ Doug & Alice Evans ♦ Father John Evans  
James Faas ♦ Maxene and Saul Feinberg ♦ Virginia Fisher ♦ Nora Fletcher ♦ William Fletcher ♦ Tim Flynn ♦ John & Dorothy Fornuto  
Mary Evans Fox ♦ Dawn Franceschetti ♦ Ernie and Sheila Friedli ♦ Sophie Fritz ♦ Shannon Furioni ♦ Gunther Garbe  
Louise Godt ♦ Roland Gould ♦ Grafton Community Church members and friends ♦ Jack Greene ♦ Ellis Greenwood  
Dr. Ruth Grobstein ♦ Val & Betty Guimond ♦ Alexander Hadden ♦ Orrin Hall ♦ Joyce Hamilton ♦ Gaywood Hartshorne  
Whitney Hartshorne ♦ Russ & Polly Hayes ♦ Bunny Hazelton ♦ Holly Hepner ♦ Lester & Ann Hohmann ♦ Julia Holland  
Stan Holt ♦ Vance Hosford ♦ Eris Howe ♦ Howe Family of E. Jamaica & W. Townshend ♦ Dr. Luke Howe ♦ Andrew Hudock  
Michael Hull ♦ Ursula Hull ♦ Dennis Hunt ♦ Silver S. Husky ♦ Ray Ingram ♦ Ruth Jacobs ♦ Joel Johnson ♦ Joseph & Joan Keefe  
Leon "Skeet" Kenyon ♦ Frankie Kershaw ♦ Leyeyo Kipamba ♦ Adam Kleppner ♦ Otto & Beatrice Kleppner ♦ Marjorie Klimoski  
Charles & Ruth Knights ♦ Warren Kronemeyer ♦ Doug LaBarr ♦ David Lady ♦ Jack Lambert ♦ Richard Lang, Jr. ♦ Richard Lapan  
Maurice Laselle ♦ Merrill Lawrence ♦ Paulene Lawrence ♦ Don Leigh ♦ Levesque Family members ♦ Laurie Linley ♦ David Lowe  
Herman & Lila Lowe ♦ Reginald Lowe ♦ George Lucas, Jr. ♦ Ellen Lyman ♦ Ona Lyman ♦ Richard Lyman ♦ Sprague Lyons  
Gertrude MacDougall ♦ Stanley Mack ♦ Katherine Dutton Maloney ♦ Warren & Irene Marcucci  
Jeanne Marion ♦ Dr. Bill & Joan Martin ♦ Lawrence Martin ♦ Catherine May, R.N. ♦ David & Pamela Mayer ♦ Frank McCarthy  
Elton McCausland ♦ Melissa McHenry ♦ Leonore McIntosh ♦ Larry McLaughlin ♦ Dorothy McNeary ♦ Frank & Betty Merrill  
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Sandra Reidy ♦ Thomas Reilly ♦ Charlie Robb ♦ Wilfred & Edie Rounds ♦ William & Florence Rounds  
Philip Rowley ♦ Rosemary Donelan Saylor ♦ Ruth Shiller ♦ Heidi Shine ♦ Lillian Slover ♦ Ailsa Smith ♦ Mildred Smith  
Philip Smith ♦ Magnor & Ragna Somme ♦ Jean Sorrentino ♦ Elizabeth Spencer ♦ Carl Steiner ♦ Catherine N. Stratton  
Stiven Sucic ♦ Mary Lou Sullivan ♦ Michael Sinclair Sutton ♦ William & Leona Tabell ♦ Abbott & Janet Taft ♦ Walter Tarbell  
Leon J. Thayer ♦ Porter & Lillian Thayer ♦ Ede Thomas ♦ Dr. Jim and Dr. Marjorie Trousdell ♦ Reginald Vessey ♦ Dr. Bill Wallace  
Euphemia Wallace ♦ Muriel Wallaert ♦ Henry Wallstein ♦ William "Bil" Walters ♦ Joan Ward ♦ Mary Weiner ♦ Garry West  
Mona West ♦ Linda Whidden ♦ Lois Whidden ♦ Barbara Whitcomb ♦ Dick Whitcomb ♦ Karl & Elvina White ♦ Jan Whitney  
David Williams ♦ Christine Wilson ♦ Merton & Hazel Wilson ♦ Robert Wolfe ♦ Douglas Wright ♦ Helen Young ♦ Joan Zully

*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:

I am a woman with strong opinions about health care, based on my many years as a recipient of medical services in eight states. Some of my experiences were good, most were average, and a few were awful. For the past 20 years, I have received services from Grace Cottage's clinic, ER, PT, lab, radiology, and pharmacy. I recommend that other hospitals study Grace Cottage, learn how they do what they do, and make that the standard for which all health care facilities should aspire. Grace Cottage is that good, and functions that well. I can think of nothing, not one thing, negative to say about Grace Cottage and the folks who work there. They deserve every accolade they receive."

— Mary McCoy, Windham, VT



Grace Cottage's Messenger Valley Pharmacy (MVP) received a facelift in January, with the construction of a new entrance ramp and porch.



FAMILY HEALTH & HOSPITAL

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**WAIT! PLEASE!** If you're throwing this newsletter into the recycling bin without opening it, please let us know so that we can stop annoying you. The money we save on printing and postage will be used for patient care instead. Call 802-365-9109 or e-mail [info@gracecottage.org](mailto:info@gracecottage.org) to opt out.

## Grace Cottage's "Cabin Fever" Online Auction February 14-28, 2024 [32auctions.com/GraceCottage2024](https://32auctions.com/GraceCottage2024)

Grace Cottage's annual *Cabin Fever Auction* offers more than 150 items donated by generous businesses and individuals, with all proceeds this year benefitting Grace Cottage's new primary care clinic building.

From 8:00 a.m. on February 14, until 8:00 p.m. on February 28, you can browse and bid on items for every taste and budget, including treasures you can't buy anywhere else. Auction items range in value from \$20 to Priceless, from the practical to the sublime.

Bid to win a stay in a luxurious Caribbean resort or a South African safari adventure, or gift certificates to favorite local restaurants, practical items like an oil change for your car, overnight stays in area inns, jams and syrup, and lots more! Bid low and get notified when someone outbids you, or "Buy Now" and make it yours right away! Either way, you'll feel good supporting this annual fundraiser, knowing that it's going to help Grace Cottage care for our patients.

Items are being added through February 14th and beyond. Check out the growing selection at [32auctions.com/GraceCottage2024](https://32auctions.com/GraceCottage2024) and register to bid so that you can hit the ground bidding on Valentine's Day!



## Grateful patients write:

"The speed with which you handled my problem in your Emergency Department was excellent. I am a retired nurse (ICU & Pediatric ICU). Your staff was professional and knowledgeable. The care was on par with a big university hospital."

— Judith Neyer, Pittsburgh, PA

"I can't tell you how nice it was to be greeted at the ER so warmly. I was cared for quickly and efficiently and all of the staff was so kind and caring. Nothing could have been better. It was a great experience."

— Cynthia Gubb, Londonderry, VT

"I've made two different visits to your ER with pretty severe sciatic pain and felt relieved from the moment I stepped into the hospital. Every person I dealt with treated me like a neighbor instead of just another patient. I can't think of anything that could have been improved during my visit. I appreciate the effort to help me with the pain, and praise the personal touch that patients receive at Grace Cottage."

— Dave Tiffany, Hollis, NH