

Coming Home



A Publication of Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County



Photo by Bruce Ando

Friendship and Joy

Margot Hopfer was a Weston resident and, until she passed away recently at the age of 92, she received a weekly visit from Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County volunteer, Jessica St. Angelo. It had been a little over a year since the two had been visiting and in that time, they became close friends. They would chat for about an hour each week and the time went by very quickly for both.

“Our visits are wonderful,” said Mrs. Hopfer in a recent interview. “They are the highlight of my week.”

Jessica agreed wholeheartedly and said she looked forward to visiting with Mrs. Hopfer.

“Mrs. Hopfer was light-hearted and had a great outlook on life,” said

Jessica. “She was very funny and she made me laugh. She was such an interesting person and I always looked forward to our time together.”

Mrs. Hopfer was a very busy person throughout her life. She worked at a bakery in New York until she retired at 82.

“I can’t do what I used to be able to do but I am still very active,” said Mrs. Hopfer.

She enjoyed music and opera and had lots of friends and family who would visit regularly.

“I especially love having my volunteer, Jessica, come visit me,” said Mrs. Hopfer. “I would recommend it to everyone! We can talk about anything and everything. My home is a politics-free zone but I can talk with Jessica about politics,” she said with a mischievous smile. “I am very progressive!”

Jessica St. Angelo is a Weston resident and is a busy mother. She works as a bookkeeper for two non-profit organizations in Fairfield County but she still makes time in her life to volunteer for Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County where she has given of her time for the last 2 ½ years.

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Agency Welcomes New Board Members



Photo by Bruce Arado

Phyllis Osterman



Photo by Bruce Arado

Maryne Robin

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County welcomes two new Board members. They are Phyllis Osterman and Maryne Robin.

A Stamford resident, Phyllis Osterman has served as a hospice volunteer for Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County since 2013. She has worked with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Memorial Sloan-Kettering. She also volunteers for Stamford Hospital in the No One Dies

Alone program and sits on the board of Connecticut Cancer Partnership.

A Stamford resident, Maryne Robin is the VP of Strategy and Development for U.S. Computer Connection working with clients on technology and cyber security. Her specialty is in working with major hospitals, health centers, and physicians to address extensive IT requirements of multiple government regulatory programs.

Welcome! ■



Annual Report Now Available

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County has released its 2018 Annual Report. If you would like to receive a copy, you are welcome to call our Development Department at 203-834-6341, ext. 304, or you can read it on our website at www.visitingnurse.net. ■



Many Thanks to the Turnover Shop of Wilton

We wish to extend our wholehearted thanks to The Turnover Shop of Wilton for their exceptionally generous gift of \$46,000 to support the work of Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County.

The Turnover Shop was founded in 1950 with a mission to support health and education. The shop is run entirely by volunteers and has generously provided funding for Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County and the Wilton PTA since its inception.

Over the years, The Turnover Shop has grown and flourished and is now a beloved fixture in the heart of Wilton Center with an ever-expanding following of loyal donors, satisfied customers and dedicated volunteers.

The Turnover Shop welcomes donations and consignments of clothing, jewelry, accessories, collectibles, antiques, art, small furniture, housewares, silverware, china, small appliances, toys, games, books and sporting goods.

“The landscape of merchandise changes every day,” said Dr. Sharon Sobel, who started as a volunteer



Photo by Bruce Ando

33 years ago and has managed The Turnover Shop since 1991. “We carry items that are interesting, useful and valuable. From Waterford crystal to greeting cards, there is something for everyone.”

The relationship between Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County and The Turnover Shop has been an enduring one and we have been the fortunate beneficiary of their increasing support through the years. This year’s

most generous donation will make it possible for our agency to continue providing compassionate home health and hospice care to those in need and we are immensely grateful.

“The Turnover Shop is a treasure in the Wilton community and a source of pride to all who live and work here,” said Sharon Bradley. “We thank them for their dedication, community spirit and extraordinary generosity.” ■



Helping others – now and forever.

A charitable gift in your will could be the most important, and lasting, gift you ever make. For more information about how your generosity can live on through a bequest to Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County, call 203-834-6341, extension 304.

Pitch Perfect Raises Funds to Benefit Patients

On Saturday, February 9th, friends and supporters gathered to enjoy “Pitch Perfect” and raise funds for the patients of Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County.

The benefit was held at Woodway Country Club in Darien and raised more than \$96,000 for the Agency’s patients in need. Megan Smith-Harris served as emcee and highlights of the evening included cocktails, an elegant dinner and a fabulous silent auction. Guests were treated to an a cappella concert which featured the witty vocals and humorous harmonies of Ivy League rivals, the all-male Harvard Krokodiloes and the all-

female Yale Whim ‘n’ Rhythm.

Underwriting sponsors for Pitch Perfect were the Bauer Family Foundation as well as Ken Edgar and Denise Harvey. Additional event sponsors included Rone and Carol Baldwin, Bankwell, Day Pitney, LLP, Liz Fox, Dave and Sara Hunt, Janet and Peter Lebovitz, Pustola Associates Engineers / Constructors, LLC, Stamford Health and Sterling Equities.

Members of the volunteer benefit committee were Carol Bauer, Ken Edgar, Janice Hess, Judy Higby, Janet Lebovitz, Phyllis Osterman, Jeanne Robertson, Hal Shupack and Kathy Winter.

“We are thankful for the friendship and support of so many in the community who share in our mission to bring healing and comfort to the patients and families in our care,” said Sharon Bradley. “We are tremendously grateful to all our corporate and individual sponsors. We also want to thank our emcee, Megan Smith-Harris, our generous Leadership supporters, our volunteer Benefit Committee members, our in-kind donors, and everyone who contributed to this very special evening. The funds raised at this event will touch the lives of the many patients in need in our community and we extend our heartfelt thanks.” ■



Agency President and CEO, Sharon Bradley (center), with underwriting sponsors George and Carol Bauer.



Liz Fox, Iwona McGrath, Jennifer Bangser



Ken Edgar with Carol and Rone Baldwin



Penny Wickey with Hal and Sheila Shupack



Pitch Perfect Raises Funds to Benefit Patients (cont'd.)



Carol Boehly, Paul Hannah and Mike Hess.



Bill Harris, Julene and Simon Greenshields, and Megan Smith-Harris



Tom and Phyllis Osterman

PITCH PERFECT

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AND LEADERSHIP SUPPORTERS**

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THANK YOU!

With Special Thanks to Our In-Kind Donors

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Westport Country Playhouse
The Whitney Shop
Jeff Yates

Thank You for Sharing

At Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County, we are grateful for the privilege of caring for our patients and their loved ones. It is gratifying to receive letters from those who have been touched by our care and we'd like to share excerpts from two of these letters so that you will know the difference your support makes in the lives of our patients and their families. Thanks for joining in our mission to bring healing and comfort to our community. ■

Dear Friends,

It will be ten years since my husband passed away and I remain eternally grateful for the loving care he received from you.

I will always remember the warmth, compassion and patience of the hospice nurse who was with my husband during his final weeks, days and minutes.

In your care, our whole family felt touched by an angel and we were able to let go in peace.

*Sincerely,
Anna*

Dear Friends,

Thank you all so much for taking care of my mother at the end of her life. The care you provided was extraordinarily kind and compassionate and you helped her, and us, get through a terribly difficult time. Our family is deeply grateful for your wonderful care.

You are all amazing and special people and truly blessed in God's eyes.

*With thanks,
Mary Beth*



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS



Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County is committed to providing bereavement support to anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. Participation in a support group offers the opportunity to grieve in a supportive and therapeutic environment with others who have also suffered a loss.

For more information, contact our Bereavement Coordinator at 203-762-8958, ext. 255.



A New Home in Wilton

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County has moved into its new home in Wilton at 22 Danbury Road.

“We have a long and rich history in Wilton and we are pleased to be back,” said Sharon Bradley. “We were leasing at I-Park for the past ten years. Prior to that, we were housed at the Comstock Community Center for several decades. This was our first opportunity to purchase a building for a more permanent home.”

The former retail building underwent a major renovation and now provides about 8,000 square feet of space to accommodate the agency’s clinical and administrative offices.

“Our new home in Wilton is in



a highly visible location on Route 7 and we are easily accessible to the public. The new building is comfortable and welcoming for patients, families, staff, volunteers and members of the community.”

At the groundbreaking ceremony, Wilton First Selectwoman, Lynne Vanderslice, said how pleased she was that Visiting Nurse & Hospice

of Fairfield County was coming home to Wilton.

“The Town of Wilton enjoys a wonderful partnership with the Visiting Nurses,” said Ms. Vanderslice. “We look forward to your serving the town from your beautiful new building on Danbury Road.” ■



A Celebration of Life to Honor Loved Ones

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County will honor the patients and families it has served during the past year with an ecumenical *Celebration of Life* memorial service on Sunday, June 9, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Carriage Barn Arts Center at Waveny Park in New Canaan.

The *Celebration of Life* is open to anyone who has lost a loved one. The interfaith service will include readings, music, and acts of remembrance as well as a candle-lighting ceremony conducted

by the Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County team of nurses, counselors and caregivers. A reception will follow the service. “It is important to celebrate the lives of our loved ones and to give thanks for all they have meant to us,” said Hospice Director, Christine Pfeffer. “We wish to express our gratitude and to acknowledge that our loved ones remain in our hearts always.”

“The *Celebration of Life* embraces all those in our community who wish to honor the memory of a loved one who has died,” said Sharon

Bradley. “In addition to those individuals and families we have served directly, we invite all our friends and supporters in the community to participate in the *Celebration of Life*.”



For reservations or more information about the *Celebration of Life*, call Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County at 203-834-6341, ext. 416. ■

Our Thanks to the New Canaan Artisans

The New Canaan Artisans held their festive Holiday Boutique this winter at The Roger Sherman Inn in New Canaan. It was a very special day and the Boutique was brimming with beautiful, handcrafted merchandise!

The New Canaan Artisans are cherished in our community. We thank them for their devotion to their craft and their uncommon generosity to Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County and to so many other non-profit organizations in our area. ■



Friendship and Joy (cont'd.)

Continued from page 1

“Volunterraing is such a rewarding experience for me and I got so much out of my talks with Mrs. Hopfer,” said Jessica. “Mrs. Hopfer and I would talk about our daughters and we talked a lot about music and politics. It became a beautiful friendship and I feel so lucky to have had her in my life. I think we brought each other joy and that is a gift. I will miss her terribly.” ■



*Make a difference.
Become a volunteer.*

1-800-898-HOME

Coming Home is a publication of Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please write to Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County, P.O. Box 489, Wilton, CT 06897.

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Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County



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