

## Expanded Hulitar Hospice Center Opens



What does it mean to offer hope and dignity at end of life? It means welcoming all patients and their families during a pandemic AND providing matchless care throughout a major construction project.

Thanks to the efforts of HopeHealth's Hulitar Hospice Center staff, the HopeHealth Facilities department and contractor Pariseault Builders, the expansion of the Hulitar Hospice Center from 24 to 30 private patient rooms was completed this summer (pictured here).

"I'm very grateful to have been allowed to be there in these crazy times. It meant everything to me to have been able to hold my husband's hand at the very end."

– C. Monaghan

"Families were so grateful to be able to see their loved ones at the Hulitar Hospice Center," said President and CEO Diana Franchitto. "The entire team did everything possible to maintain a peaceful atmosphere, even during the renovation."

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Now with a total of 30 private patient rooms, an expanded kitchen, new family gathering spaces and welcoming décor, the HopeHealth Hulitar Hospice Center is meeting the need for specialized end-of-life care in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts.

## The Schachne Family Offers Helping Hands

It was Andrea and Jay Schachne's personal experiences with hospice that led them to underwrite Helping Hands at Home, a new program at HopeHealth. Andrea has been a hospice volunteer at HopeHealth for more than a decade, and Jay, a cardiologist, has counseled many patients and their families.

When their own parents needed care, they naturally turned to hospice – Jay's father with a hospice in Long Island, NY, and Andrea's mother with HopeHealth.



*Jay and Andrea Schachne's generous gift helped launch a new program to help patients and families.*

Like many patients, their parents needed around-the-clock care. Fortunately, the Schachnes could afford private help. Those helping hands supported their parents' dignity and allowed them to spend time together as a family. The Schachnes decided that other families should have access to this help too, whether or not they had means.

"Many families may not have the resources to get help for important things like bathing, dressing, meals, cleaning, and caregiver respite. Helping Hands at Home provides all that and more."

– Andrea Schachne

They turned to organizations they knew well to create the program: first the agency in Long Island, then the hospital system where Jay was practicing. Then, said Jay, "after Andrea's mother's incredible experience with HopeHealth, we wanted to bring this program to our home state of Rhode Island."

With a generous gift of \$100,000 through the Dorothy and David Schachne Charitable Foundation, they helped launch HopeHealth's Helping Hands at Home.

Since the program launched at HopeHealth in April 2021, more than 20 patients have taken advantage of this new opportunity.

"Many people wish to spend their final days at home," said Suzanne Fortier, Chief Philanthropy Officer. "We are so grateful to the Schachne family for this incredible gift."

Andrea added: "Everyone deserves it. It means so much to our family that Helping Hands at Home is available in Rhode Island."

## Expanded Hulitar Hospice Center (cont.)



*Patients at the Hulitar Hospice Center enjoy private rooms where family are welcomed 24 hours a day.*

The construction project offered an opportunity to perform an overall refresh to a facility that has cared for more than 16,000 patients and their families in the last 12 years.

The expanded Hulitar Hospice Center maintains the original building's design and philosophy, providing a calming atmosphere the moment patients and their families come through the doors.

"At end of life, each hour is precious. Expanding to 30 rooms ensures that everyone who needs specialized hospice care can get it immediately," noted Franchitto.



*The chapel offers families a light-filled perch for peaceful contemplation.*



# Mark Tracy Dedicates his Iron Man Race to Camp BraveHeart

This November, HopeHealth Board Member Mark Tracy will compete in the Ironman Florida in Panama City Beach. Tracy's goal is to complete the grueling triathlon—a 2.4 mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run—and to raise \$10,000 or more in support of Camp BraveHeart, HopeHealth's summer program for kids ages 4 to 17 who have lost a loved one.

Tracy's motivation is personal. His father died when he was nine and he lost his mother as a 19-year-old Brown University freshman. "I felt so alone when I lost my parents. It's great that these kids have a place where they can process their grief, surrounded by those who share the experience," he said.

For Tracy, the Ironman is a metaphor for life and the challenges we face along the journey towards the cheering crowd. "I think that's what Camp BraveHeart gives these kids – the ability to take on the challenge of loss and have the support they need to keep going."

Please visit <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/mark-tracy-ri>



or use the QR code to learn more about Mark Tracy's personal journey and to follow his Ironman progress.



HopeHealth Board Member Mark Tracy mesmerized Camp BraveHeart campers with his Iron Man goals. They signed his t-shirt in encouragement!

## Remembering a Loved One in the Memorial Garden

"Our darling Ms. V." "Always in our hearts." "I will always love you." "At peace now."

More than 800 inscribed bricks fill the Memorial Garden at the Hultar Hospice Center. A peaceful oasis in the city, the garden's trees, flowering shrubs and brick pathway pay tribute to family and friends who have died. Many families find comfort in visiting the garden, as a special place to remember their loved ones.

So much love can be expressed in just 39 letters on a brick paver. While most families have only one or two bricks in memory of loved ones, Warwick resident Bob Christina has purchased more than 50 bricks in memory of his parents,

James and Josephine Christina, and many other loved ones over the last 12 years. A musician, Christina hosts an annual fundraiser in Westerly, "MitchFest," named for his father, James "Mitch" Christina. For the Christina family, the events—and the bricks—are a way to give back for the care their family members have received and support other hospice families through their generosity.

**To learn more about how to purchase a memorial brick for permanent placement in the garden, please visit our website at <https://www.hopehealthco.org/ways-to-give/memorial-giving> or call (401)415-4206.**





## Duffy Fund Supports Nursing Education

With nurses in high demand nationally, it can be especially challenging to find nursing graduates with the experience and confidence to work independently in hospice or home care. With support from the Sheila A. Duffy Fund, a donor-designated fund at the Rhode Island Foundation, HopeHealth has piloted a new program to support on-the-job learning for new nurses.



*Tammy Littleton, HopeHealth's first "graduate" of a new nurse training program funded by the Sheila A. Duffy Fund.*

After eight months training with HopeHealth's Director of Education, Lauren Thorngate, RN, PhD, and a team of supportive preceptors, Littleton was ready to start a new position as an RN Case Manager for a hospice team.

This "grow your own" model of nursing education would not have been possible without the support of the Sheila A. Duffy Fund, which allowed HopeHealth to build on the experience of employees who are already committed to a career in hospice and palliative nursing.

Our first "graduate" is Tammy Littleton, a longtime hospice aide who earned her RN and wanted to stay with HopeHealth.

## Community VNA Joins HopeHealth Family of Services

HopeHealth welcomes to its family of services an Attleboro, Massachusetts-based home health, palliative and hospice organization with a stellar reputation.

Community VNA will now be known as HopeHealth Community VNA and continue to provide high quality health care to residents of southeastern Massachusetts while retaining its Attleboro office. The affiliation between the two organizations became official in June with the approval of the Supreme Judicial Court after a review by the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General.

"This is a natural fit for two nonprofit health care organizations dedicated to providing the highest quality care for home health and seriously ill patients," said HopeHealth President & CEO Diana Franchitto. "Look no further than Community CVNA's five-star patient satisfaction score. Our values perfectly align."

Reynold G. Spadoni, formerly the chief executive officer of Community VNA, will serve as chief strategy officer for HopeHealth.

"As the health care industry continues to change, we have a responsibility to adapt so that we can continue to grow and thrive in the future," Spadoni said. "Community VNA knew that partnering with HopeHealth, an organization well known for its commitment to quality and exceptional service, would ensure a focus on our 110-year-old mission of providing industry leading quality care to our community."

The affiliation increases the total number of home care, palliative care and hospice patients served each day to over 2,000 and makes HopeHealth one of the region's largest not-for-profit independent home health care, hospice and palliative care providers.



*HopeHealth Community VNA in Attleboro will continue to provide high-quality care as part of the HopeHealth family of services.*

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