

## Connecting Together: A Celebration of Hope & Gratitude

In order to safely celebrate – and support – all HopeHealth's programs, on Saturday, September 12, at 5 p.m., friends of HopeHealth will come together "virtually" for an evening recognizing caregivers, patients, and families.

Our live, online event, *Connecting Together: A Celebration of Hope & Gratitude*, will be hosted by NBC 10 anchor Mario Hilario, a longtime friend of HopeHealth, and will feature this year's Human Dignity Award honoree, the Rev. Janet Cooper Nelson, along with powerful stories of hope and dignity—even live music!

A virtual event is a way for HopeHealth to share our message broadly even when we can't be together in person. And there's no charge to participate! Please help us spread the word by liking Connecting Together event posts on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HopeHealthCo/> and sharing on your own social media pages.

To join the live virtual event and to get more information about how you can help us support hospice programs, visit our website at [HopeHealthCo.Org/ConnectingTogether](https://www.HopeHealthCo.Org/ConnectingTogether).

For many months, HopeHealth has been working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 health crisis, caring for patients and families who are impacted directly by the pandemic: those who are victims of the virus; those who have ongoing health issues compounded by safety concerns; and those who are isolated after the loss of a loved one. Your support of HopeHealth's hospice, palliative, and grief support programs is more important than ever before. We hope you will join us for Connecting Together!

**Right:** Behind-the-scenes images of the Connecting Together program. All video was shot following social distancing guidelines.

**Top Right:** Human Dignity Award Honoree The Rev. Janet Cooper Nelson filming a brief message of hope and dignity in her Providence garden.

**Middle:** The Paula Clare Band performing live from the home of HopeHealth's Chief Medical Officer, Edward Martin, MD!

**Bottom:** The Human Dignity Award is an engraved bowl handblown at Simon Pearce Glassware in Vermont.



**Connecting Together**  
*A Celebration*  
of Hope & Gratitude



## HopeHealth Construction Update

Over the last several months, HopeHealth has undertaken the upgrade and renovation of its properties, including facility improvements and adjustments to improve safety in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the spring and early summer, our Brockton, MA and Wakefield, RI offices have undergone an overall refresh. The Lincoln, RI office—where HopeHealth Visiting Nurse's main office resides—has been fully renovated and a newly constructed Clinical Education Lab is now serving staff from across HopeHealth. The Clinical Education Lab was supported by grants from the Norman and Rosalie Fain Family Foundation and the Edward J. and Virginia M. Routhier Foundation.

In July, work on the HopeHealth Hular Hospice Center began. Purchased by HopeHealth and renovated in 2009, this year the Hular Hospice Center will see a top-to-bottom refresh and, in 2021, the addition of six beds to the third floor of the Center. Once finished, the Hular Hospice Center will be able to care for 30 patients at a time, all in homelike, private rooms.



*President & CEO Diana Franchitto and COO Maureen Bischoff check the progress of renovations on the 4th floor of the Hular Hospice Center.*

## Recent Grants Support COVID-19 Response

Thanks to generous support from four grantmakers, HopeHealth Hospice has been able to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic, expanding our services in response to the profound loss in our community, and keeping our care teams and patients safe.

A \$50,000 grant from the Rhode Island Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund provided critical resources for HopeHealth to purchase essential Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). "Our patients are among the most medically vulnerable in our community and the organization is committed to ensuring its staff has the highest level of protection available throughout the COVID-19 crisis. This grant guarantees that we can provide these important safety measures to support our staff and the patients they care for during this stressful time," notes Diana Franchitto, HopeHealth President & CEO.

The Amica Companies Foundation, the Ida Ballou Littlefield

Memorial Trust, and the Anthony F. Cordeiro Charitable Foundation made commitments of \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$2,500 respectively to help establish new grief support programs, including: virtual one-on-one counseling and grief support groups for those who have lost a loved one to COVID-19; for professional caregivers who have experienced profound losses; and for those who have lost a loved one during this time of isolation. HopeHealth's Grief support

team is a vital connection to our community during the pandemic, providing meaningful comfort and support. "The loss of a loved one has become even more complicated – especially with the suddenness of the way the world has changed. Thanks to these generous grants, our grief support counselors can continue to help loved ones cope in the face of unimaginable grief," shares Vice President of Philanthropy, Suzanne Fortier.



*Melanie Cordeiro and Merrill Cordeiro of the Anthony F. Cordeiro Charitable Foundation present HopeHealth's CEO, Diana Franchitto (center) with a grant for grief support programs for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.*



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## HopeHealth's Harry Potter: A Volunteer Leader

HopeHealth volunteer grief counselor Harry Potter, a retired Providence Public Schools administrator, has been giving time and expertise for six years – but only learned about the organization when his family needed it. “Ten years ago we decided to move my mother from the hospital to the Hulitar Hospice Center, so she could make her final transition surrounded by her family,” Potter recalls. “We had no idea what to expect or if they would accept how we wanted to celebrate our mother.” But Potter, his sister, and 24 grandchildren and great-grandchildren all felt compassionately informed, supported, and embraced by their care team.



*Harry G. Potter shares his compassionate nature with grieving adults as a HopeHealth volunteer grief support counselor.*

After his mother's death, Potter attended a Loss of Parent grief support group and was inspired to volunteer. With master's degrees in counseling and education administration and a long career as an educator, he had a lot of experience in helping students navigate challenging situations. “Throughout my life, I have felt a natural connection with grief,” shared Potter. “I buried four siblings before my mother passed away. I knew I could give something back to this community with my experience, passion, and skills.”



*Potter, center, shares a laugh and a Del's lemonade with volunteers at HopeHealth's Camp BraveHeart program for children who are grieving the loss of a loved one.*

His grief counselor, Deanna Upchurch, observed Potter's compassionate nature and asked him to consider launching HopeHealth's first Loss of Sibling group. “I have always been conscious of being a Black man – and how people may react to me as a facilitator,” said Potter. “But grief transcends all boundaries and is something we all experience.”

“What I deeply appreciate about HopeHealth – and this opportunity to bring together people who are grieving and mourning – is what we can learn from each other when we have open and honest conversations, listening, and actively building a supportive community,” said Potter. “This grief experience goes beyond gender or skin color, and right to what our hearts and minds can offer each other in support and comfort.”



## In Memory of a Father, in Honor of Caregivers

Joe and Maria Manzi contributed \$4,000 in memory of their father, Frank Manzi, who was cared for at the Hulitar Hospice Center. Some of the funds came from donations from friends who received Maria's hand-sewn masks, like the one worn by Edward Martin, MD (center), HopeHealth's Chief Medical Officer. Maria donated dozens of cloth masks for use by HopeHealth caregivers.

## A Gift for the Future

"Midge and I had been so fortunate," remembers Jim Lewis. "We had a wonderful marriage of over 45 years, rewarding careers, and were enjoying our two sons' growing families."

In 2013, Midge was diagnosed with colon cancer and within less than three years, the cancer had spread. Told she only had months left, Jim and Midge called HopeHealth. "It was incredibly scary for us both as she approached the end of her life. As she grew weaker, I felt so lucky to have HopeHealth caring for us both, physically and emotionally."

Midge Lewis died in February 2016 and ever since, her husband has been an annual donor to HopeHealth. "I knew I had to support this organization that did so much for me and my wife."

In recent years, a friend introduced Lewis to HopeHealth's Legacy Society – a group of generous donors who have made HopeHealth a beneficiary of their estates. It sparked an idea in Lewis' mind. "We had a nice nest egg saved in our TIAA-CREF account, with plenty to take care of me, our boys, our five grandchildren – and support organizations we care about and that really need the resources."



*South County resident James T. Lewis made a legacy gift to HopeHealth in memory of his late wife, Margaret "Midge" Lewis so that other families could benefit from hospice care.*

Lewis spoke with his sons, who agreed that their mother would have wanted to support HopeHealth and appreciate what this generosity will mean for future families who need care.

HopeHealth relies on the generosity of donors to make many programs possible – including grief support, volunteer services, dementia caregiver support, and care for those without insurance – all of which are offered at no charge. That commitment to community was what inspired Lewis to join the Legacy Society. "Everything HopeHealth does, from their care at home to remembrance events, holds such meaning to every family. It is comforting to know that when I pass away, I will be making HopeHealth's continued work possible."

## A Legacy of Caring

Since 1976, HopeHealth has cared for thousands of patients and families facing serious illness and loss with skill, compassion and caring. Along the way, we had a lot of help from many generous friends who wanted to ensure that our care would be available for others far into the future.

You may be surprised at how easy it is to make a significant gift to HopeHealth using retirement funds. During your lifetime, a gift to HopeHealth directly from your IRA can help satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and avoid adding to your income tax burden.

Naming HopeHealth as a full or partial beneficiary of retirement account assets can serve a dual purpose, too, saving your descendants income tax on those funds, and helping to further secure HopeHealth's future as our area's leading nonprofit hospice, palliative care and home care provider.

To learn more, please visit [Legacy.HopeHealthCo.org/explore-gift-options](https://Legacy.HopeHealthCo.org/explore-gift-options) or call Kathleen Bentley at (401) 415-4708.

## HopeHealth Philanthropy Department

Please contact us to share your HopeHealth story, to learn more about how your donation impacted our work, or to make a gift in support of our compassionate care.

**DIANA FRANCHITTO**  
President & CEO

**SUZANNE FORTIER**  
Vice President of Philanthropy

**KATHLEEN BENTLEY**  
Individual Giving Officer

**HELENA CARVALHO**  
Philanthropy Associate

**CHRISTINA GREENE**  
Annual Giving & Database Manager

**JENNIFER MARTIN**  
Special Events Manager

### CONTACT US

**PHONE:**  
(401) 415-4206

**EMAIL:**  
[Giving@HopeHealthCo.org](mailto:Giving@HopeHealthCo.org)

**WEBSITE:**  
[HopeHealthCo.org/Donate](https://HopeHealthCo.org/Donate)

  
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