



# 2022

ANNUAL REPORT  
*of Giving*





## Our Leadership Makes Us Strong

**Every HopeHealth Board meeting** starts with a "Mission Moment." It could be a middle-schooler sharing her Camp BraveHeart story, video footage of a family member's hospice experience, or a heartfelt letter of gratitude. These brief presentations ground our leadership and remind them of their purpose as Directors.

In June 2022, the Mission Moment celebrated Arthur Robbins, who, during his 40+-year tenure on the Board, made a profound impact on HopeHealth. Robbins helped establish the Hulitar Hospice Center in 1993 and in 2008 led the capital campaign to purchase and renovate the current facility at 1085 North Main Street in Providence. In recognition of Robbins' service and his dedication to hospice care in Rhode Island, the Board voted to name him Chair Emeritus for life and placed a plaque in his honor on Room 304 in the Hulitar Hospice Center.

As Keith Kelly marks the end of an eventful nine-year tenure as Chair, his extraordinary leadership and commitment to HopeHealth's mission during a period of immense growth was remarkable and included a variety of affiliations, facility expansions and governance breadth and depth. The incoming Board Chair, Vince Mor, PhD, has decades of experience conducting research on hospice and palliative care and has been principal investigator of more than 40 National Institute of Health grants focusing on frail and chronically ill people. We welcome his expertise and vision.

In November, HopeHealth launched a leadership group, the President's Council, which includes members from the broader community who share a curiosity about hospice, palliative care and home care issues and wish to ensure that our Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts community has the support it needs.

These HopeHealth leaders, including the late Kenneth N. Kermes (see story on page 5), set the stage for HopeHealth's future growth. It continues to be our privilege to serve our community and to ensure that HopeHealth offers the highest quality care. With your partnership and generosity, we know this is possible.

*Thank you*

for making our work possible with your support.

*We are deeply grateful.*



*Diana Franchitto*

Diana Franchitto  
President & CEO



*Keith Kelly*

Keith Kelly  
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ON THE COVER: Veronica Blanchard (right) is a veteran hospice volunteer. She inherited her passion for supporting people at end of life from her mother's example. Also pictured: hospice patient Raynola "Rae" Graham and her daughter, Rachel Leonard (left).

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## A Volunteer's Gift

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Veronica Blanchard's passion for supporting people at end of life started early. "When I was young, my mother would take me with her to visit neighbors who were dying and needed company. This was long before hospice or palliative care even existed," she said. Blanchard learned that she could help just by being there. "While I couldn't change their situation, I could still provide comfort and support. I could make a difference."

Like many of HopeHealth's 260 volunteers, Blanchard made the commitment to become a hospice volunteer after the death of a loved one. "After my mother passed," Blanchard said, "her HopeHealth nurse asked if I wanted to help prepare her to leave home for the last time. She must have seen something in me, because she later asked if I had ever thought about becoming a hospice volunteer."

In 14 years of volunteering, Blanchard has cared for hundreds of patients and their families in homes and nursing facilities throughout Rhode Island. It is a unique role on the hospice care team.

**"I may know something about their diagnosis, but I'm not there as part of their clinical team, I'm there to make a connection and to offer comfort, companionship and support."**

*Veronica Blanchard*



*hope*

Article continues on page 4



## A Volunteer's Gift, *continued*



*Hospice volunteer Veronica Blanchard, right, with patient Raynola "Rae" Graham, left. Blanchard and Graham share a deep bond of friendship through Graham's time under hospice care.*

"I may know something about their diagnosis, but I'm not there as part of their clinical team," she said. "I'm there to make a connection and to offer comfort, companionship and support."

Blanchard maintains a list of every one of her patients to remember them. "Each patient has made me a part of their lives. They trusted me with their daily worries and joys, their love stories and their disappointments. When someone lets you into their home, their world, their story becomes part of you. It really is a gift."

To learn more about volunteering for HopeHealth, visit [HopeHealthCo.org/Volunteer](https://HopeHealthCo.org/Volunteer).



## A Legacy of Love

When Ed Jankowski's wife of 25 years, Joyce, was diagnosed with cancer and suffered a stroke, he retired from his career as a federal civil servant to care for her. Throughout Joyce's illness, Jankowski never left her side, even when she received hospice care at home with HopeHealth.

HopeHealth's grief counselors supported Jankowski as he struggled with Joyce's loss. "The continued support of HopeHealth really helped me deal with my grief," he said. "They were always there when I called, and I really appreciated that."

In the years following Joyce's death, Jankowski found himself thinking about others who might need the support of hospice. After many conversations with HopeHealth Philanthropy staff, he named HopeHealth as a beneficiary of his IRA and in his will, knowing that it will become part of HopeHealth's continued care of our community.

"I think Joyce would be so happy to know that HopeHealth was there for me," Jankowski said, "especially after she passed away. And I think she's smiling down on me, knowing that my gift will help so many other families in their time of need."



*Ed Jankowski holds a photo of his late, beloved wife, Joyce, celebrating a happy moment together.*

## Support for Caregiver Families



*Steven and Susan Whitney, pictured, received in-home respite care and caregiver support through the Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Program through his long journey with dementia.*

Thanks to the support of hundreds of donors, in 2022, 61 families in the greater Attleboro region benefitted from HopeHealth Community VNA's Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Program. The program connects families to community resources, offers support groups focused on the needs of caregivers for patients with dementia, and covers the cost of hundreds of hours of respite care, either in homes or at an adult day center.

Since the program's inception in 2001, two local funders, the Fred M. Roddy Foundation and the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, have been true champions of the program, together giving more than \$1 million in operating and endowment support. "Our board continues to be impressed by HopeHealth's work and their dedication to this community," noted Elizabeth McIntyre of the Fred M. Roddy Foundation.

Community support of the Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Program means that participants like Steven and Susan Whitney, pictured left, get the in-home care and support they need. Sue was determined to care for Steve at home, but the respite care meant a lot. "It mostly was for him for all those years," she said, "and I never thought about it being for me until Robin Walsh (Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Program Coordinator) reminded me of that. I could go for a walk or get my hair done...." Sadly, Steve Whitney died on April 10, 2022, lovingly cared for at home.

## In Memoriam: Kenneth N. Kermes

The HopeHealth family mourns the loss of HopeHealth donor, volunteer, and former Chairman of the Board, Kenneth N. Kermes. Ken died at the HopeHealth Hultar Hospice Center, a facility that he helped support, on September 7, 2022. HopeHealth benefitted from Ken's financial and executive acumen, gained from a 50-year career in business. "Ken had such a passion for our patients and the staff," said President & CEO Diana Franchitto. "I learned so much from him and will miss his drive that made HopeHealth what it is today."





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## A New Memorial Celebrates Loved Ones' Lives

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When Debra DeCarlo heard about HopeHealth's Wall of Gratitude at the Hulitar Hospice Center, she knew she had found the perfect way to remember her beloved partner Carole. "Carole loved nature, she loved the water, and she was my rock," said DeCarlo. "There simply wasn't a better way to pay tribute to her than this."

Carole's memorial river stone joined 25 others in the initial installation of this special memorial. Inspired by the water feature at the Center's family entrance, the Wall of Gratitude allows loved ones and visitors alike an opportunity to reflect on those who have passed away. "I'm proud to have been the first person to remember my Carole with one of these beautiful stones. It means so much to know that others will read her name and she will never be forgotten."



## The Wall of Gratitude

**Carole M. Harman**  
**Forever loved,**  
**♥ Deb.**

The Wall of Gratitude will be added to over time as other families remember their loved ones with inscribed river stones. Proceeds benefit hospice programs and services, and every stone will allow HopeHealth to continue to support our patients and families for years to come.

For more information about the Wall of Gratitude, please visit [HopeHealthCo.org/wall-of-gratitude](https://www.hopehealthco.org/wall-of-gratitude).

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*Includes donors whose cumulative giving was \$250 or more  
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## HopeHealth Chaplains Connect to Community

An annual grant from The Rev. Dr. Duane F. Parker Endowment Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation supports a collaboration with faith leaders throughout our community: HopeHealth's Lunch and Learn Series. Each month, HopeHealth chaplains and interested staff hear from a leader representing diverse faith traditions, from Islam to Catholicism. Chaplains from throughout the community are invited to participate. "The gift provides an opportunity for HopeHealth to educate our team and our colleagues on the fundamental beliefs that are important to patients, including diversity, LGBTQ+, and faith traditions," said Meredith Sinel, Manager of Chaplaincy and Social Work. This education connects HopeHealth's 15-member chaplaincy team to patients' and their families' spiritual beliefs and rituals that provide comfort at end of life.



*HopeHealth Chaplain Samuel Amfo leads a memorial service, one of the many supportive functions hospice chaplains provide.*



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## Three Fundraising Events in 2022

HopeHealth's annual spring and summer events raised more than \$190,000 and provided critical resources to support ongoing patient and family support services at HopeHealth's affiliates.

HopeHealth Community VNA's Spring Break, held virtually on May 18, 2022, supported the Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Program, which provides caregiver support and respite for dozens of families in the greater Attleboro area.

On August 7, 2022, more than 130 runners participated in the Walk/Run for Hospice. HopeHealth Board member Dr. Mark

Young launched this event 20 years ago and has helped raise thousands of dollars for hospice patients and their families in southeastern Massachusetts.

The HopeHealth Golf Invitational on September 13, 2022 was a sellout, with over 100 golfers supporting the Arthur S. Robbins Hope Fund, which provides free care for hospice patients who are uninsured, underinsured or otherwise cannot afford the cost of care.

Thank you to all who support these events, which provide critical funds for HopeHealth programs!



Above, left to right: Runners and walkers at the starting line for the Walk/Run for Hospice in North Attleboro, MA. East Coast Distributors' foursome sinking a putt at the HopeHealth Invitational. Relaxing after a great day of golf at the HopeHealth Invitational.



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## Support for our Youngest Patients



A growing need for specialized palliative and hospice care for our youngest patients led to HopeHealth's collaboration with Hasbro Children's Hospital in 2022. In addition to leading HopeHealth's Pediatric Supportive Services program, Rebecca MacDonell-Yilmaz, MD, MPH (pictured, left), now also oversees in-hospital palliative care at Hasbro. Through this collaboration, pediatric patients and their families now have seamless access to HopeHealth services, including 24-7 on-call medical support, medication management, spiritual care and grief support for siblings. Dr. MacDonell-Yilmaz is confident that this partnership between Hasbro and HopeHealth "can transform the experience for families through a child's illness, and long after a loss. It is all about providing the best care and support for every patient, every family, every day." To read about how pediatric hospice supported 17-month-old Rogan's family, visit "Saying yes to pediatric hospice changed our lives," at [www.HopeHealthCo.org/blog](http://www.HopeHealthCo.org/blog).

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Thank you!



Caring for a loved one with a chronic and life-limiting illness can be a physical and emotional challenge. With caregivers in mind, the three-part Caregiver Confidence Series and new caregiver support groups offer disease-specific support for people caring for loved ones with Parkinson's disease and dementia. Virtual caregiver support groups and mindfulness meditation provide caregivers with important resources to help them take the best care of themselves and their loved ones. Volunteer John Corvese, left, leads support groups for caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer's and dementia. "It's incredibly rewarding work!" he says. Call (401) 415-4664 or visit [www.HopeHealthCo.org/caregiver-education](http://www.HopeHealthCo.org/caregiver-education).



Ron and Loretta Winde's mothers both needed hospice care at the same time and died within 18 hours of each other at the HopeHealth Hulitar Hospice Center. "The support and kindness shown to our mothers by everyone at Hulitar was incredible," said Ron. "We have a gem of a hospice facility in Providence which is staffed by the most caring, professional, dedicated team you would ever want to see."



HopeHealth's Camp BraveHeart received the Hockomock Area YMCA's Red Triangle Award. The award, presented by Joe Halus, Branch Executive for the Hurley Family YMCA in North Attleboro, MA (left) recognizes organizations for partnership and support of YMCA activities, and for meeting the changing needs of the community. Sarah DeCosta, HopeHealth Grief Support Manager and Camp BraveHeart Coordinator (right), explained that, "Our missions align, and it's simple - we want to help people in the community. The more we partner, the more we connect, the more people we can help."



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*Kathleen Locarno, RN is a care navigator who has worked at HopeHealth for 12 years. She says, "I help people navigate to the proper level of care for them—it could be home care, palliative care, hospice, help getting into a nursing home or assisted living—whatever they need. I love my job because it is an honor to help patients and their families find peace, life closure and dignity on their final journey."*

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University of Rhode Island nursing students Becca Allder (left) and Katie Fitzmaurice (right) were the inaugural graduates in 2022 of the Susan D. Flynn Palliative Care Nursing Fellowship, a new partnership for HopeHealth and the URI College of Nursing. During the 6 1/2 week summer program, Allder and Fitzmaurice shadowed HopeHealth nurses in inpatient and home settings and conducted and presented research on their work. The Flynn Fellowship is funded by the Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Development Program, founded by Fred Flynn.

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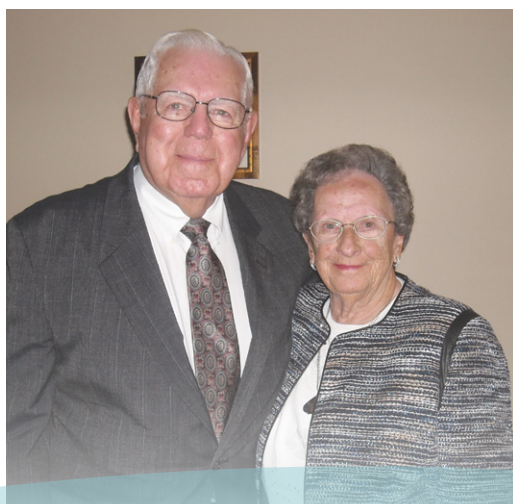
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*When Jim Noonan needed to find end-of-life care for his father, mother, and brother, his family turned to HopeHealth each time. "As a former hospice nurse, I knew exactly the kind of care I wanted for my family," Noonan told us. "HopeHealth did everything possible to make sure our family was comfortable, physically and emotionally," said Noonan, whose parents are pictured left. "Their support allowed us to be together as a family because we could leave the caregiving in their capable hands."*

# Gifts in memory of continued

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Thomas R. Zuercher  
Elaine Zundell





HopeHealth volunteers Harry Potter (left) and Stella Vassilopoulos (right) enjoy some Del's lemonade and some laughter with camper Adriana at Camp BraveHeart, a children's grief support camp offered each summer at two locations: in Massachusetts at the Hockomock Area YMCA and in Rhode Island at Camp JORI. For more information, visit <https://www.hopehealthco.org/campbraveheart>.

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60th Wedding Anniversary  
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Cathy and Tom Lawson  
Jean Mary Louis Charles

Jean and Ed McCann  
Raymond Nault  
Leah Brackett, our family nurse  
Norma Pock  
Paige Prokop, RN  
PTs, OTs and Support Staff  
Ruth Rotenberg  
Addison Tabb  
Mark Tracy

## Sustaining Donors

The following donors help sustain HopeHealth's operations by making two or more gifts per year at an intentional frequency (monthly, quarterly, twice yearly). This thoughtful, sustaining support helps HopeHealth to provide excellence in home care, palliative care, hospice care and grief support each and every day.

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James A. and Kathleen I. Biagioni  
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Dorothy and Richard H. Cooney  
Carol M. DiCarlo  
Sandra DiMaio  
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Paul S. Zompa

**We thank you for your commitment!**

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We thank the following donors who have made plans to leave a gift for HopeHealth through a will or estate plan.

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John Eng-Wong and Priscilla J. Angelo  
Estate of Claire M. McSweeney

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Wetherlaine's Restaurant  
Worcester Red Sox  
Xfinity Center/LiveNation  
Yankee Spirits  
Cheryl A. Young

*Hospice volunteer Paulette Thomas helps sew calming activity blankets for patients with dementia. The brightly colored blankets are embellished with ribbon ties, zippers, beads, buttons and plush toys to keep hands busy.*





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*HopeHealth's Weekend of Hope & Healing is a two-day retreat in the fall for adults who have lost a loved one. The focused program incorporates group therapy sessions, trail walks, meditation, Tai Chi and Qigong, poetry, mask-making and more.*



*Home Care Aides offer a level of comfort and compassion that makes a real difference when healing from an illness or injury. Jeanne Dasilva, CNA at HopeHealth Community VNA, has been doing this work for more than 20 years. "I treat my patients with kindness, respect and dignity because that is how I'd want to be treated, and it's how I'd want my parents to be treated."*



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For the Paiva family, above, hospice gave them cherished time with their “Superman,” 17-month-old Rogan, who died from a rare, aggressive brain cancer. Rogan and his family were cared for by HopeHealth’s Pediatric Supportive Services team. “Hospice isn’t just end of life,” said Rogan’s mother, Nicole. “It’s quality of life while you’re transitioning. It’s being home, happy and comfortable. No matter what, we had those memories and that special time with Rogan. We’re so grateful we had that.”



Luis Calderon, RN, an employee at HopeHealth Visiting Nurse, helps patients recovering at home from an injury or surgery, like Vincenzo Ditraglia, to get back to the activities they love. Enjoying the sunshine in his yard and tending to his roses keep Ditraglia active at age 84.



Hospice social worker Steve Muchiri, MSW, LCSW, says “It is a privilege that patients allow us into their homes, especially at such a critical time in their lives. I know it is a sacred space. I tell them: I’m here to listen to you, and to support you in whatever way you need. I always thank them for the privilege to participate in their care.”



Paul Zompa, right, initially resisted grief support services after the death of his longtime partner, David, left. “I thought I could get through this overwhelming loss on my own,” he said. “But I came to a realization: David wouldn’t have wanted me to remain so unhappy.” He signed up for a six-week spousal support group. “We all shared the same loss of the most important person in our lives,” said Zompa. “When one of the group members said that the hardest thing for her was realizing that her husband was not coming back, well, that’s when losing David truly hit me –and I knew I had come to the right place.”

# 2022 Facts & Figures

## STATISTICS

Hospice patients.....	5,406
Palliative care patients.....	6,456
Home care patients (RI) .....	2,892
Home care patients (MA).....	1,972
Pediatric hospice patients.....	15
PediPal patients.....	164
Grief support clients.....	5,552
Camp BraveHeart participants .....	150
Employees.....	682
Volunteers.....	262
Donors.....	6,352
Gifts.....	10,881
Total philanthropic support.....	\$2,480,724
Free care provided through the Arthur S. Robbins Hope Fund.....	\$268,310

## Consolidated Financials for HopeHealth, HopeHealth Hospice & Palliative Care, HopeHealth Community VNA and HopeHealth Visiting Nurse

FY22 annual revenue .....	\$88,820,993
FY22 annual expenses.....	\$92,868,733
Income from operations .....	(\$4,047,740)



## HopeHealth's Annual Report of Giving

From time to time, we share news and information with our donors by email. If you would like to receive electronic updates and help us reduce printing and postage costs, please contact us at [Giving@HopeHealthCo.org](mailto:Giving@HopeHealthCo.org).

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*A Camp BraveHeart tradition is to give a lollipop to someone who has helped you during camp—it could be a grief counselor, a volunteer or a new friend. Deanna Upchurch, right, distributes lollipops to eager campers who look forward to this fun moment when they can thank someone for supporting them.*





HopeHealth is a nonprofit organization serving thousands of people each year in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Our caregivers support patients and their families through all stages of illness, providing hospice care, palliative care, home care, and dementia and Alzheimer's support services. For more than 100 years, HopeHealth has provided high-quality care with the utmost skill, compassion and respect for our community.

**HopeHealth**

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