



COMMUNITY FOCUS

NEWSLETTER OF VISITING NURSE SERVICE & HOSPICE OF SUFFOLK, INC.



VISITING NURSE SERVICE &
HOSPICE OF SUFFOLK, INC.



GETTING "SOCIAL" IN CELEBRATION OF THE HOSPICE HOUSE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

By Elise Pearlman

The realization of a dream is always cause for celebration. On November 9, approximately 300 members of the Long Island community-at-large gathered at Northport's John W. Engeman Theater to mark the Hospice House's tenth anniversary. John Lynch, President of the Board of Directors, welcomed the crowd.

"This anniversary is a milestone," he said with regard to the facility which has served more than 3,000 patients as well as their families and friends since it opened in East Northport in November 2004. In recognition of its outstanding and compassionate end-of-life care in a home-like setting, the Hospice House had just been recognized with a prestigious 2014 Health Care Heroes Award, Mr. Lynch noted.

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Jon Batiste and Stay Human wowed the audience at the Hospice House 10th Anniversary celebration.



A Celebrity Taste of Long Island

By Barbara Colatasti

Now in its 12th year, A Taste of Long Island will take center stage at the elegant Larkfield in East Northport in an exclusive culinary showcase that regularly attracts more than 400 attendees. This fabulous evening of premier entertainment has become such a success that VNSHS expects double that number in attendance this year! Join VNSHS, the East Northport Chamber of Commerce, and the East Northport Rotary Club on Thursday, April 23, 2015, from 6:30 to 10:00 pm, for this exciting event.

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EVERY RUNNER/WALKER WILL RECEIVE A BEAUTIFUL PLANT IN CELEBRATION OF MOTHER'S DAY!

‘Run for the Health of It’ set for Saturday, May 9

By Elise Pearlman

VNSHS will host its 15th annual Mother’s Day 5k Race/Walk ‘Run for the Health of It’ on Saturday, May 9. The 5K race/walk, which begins at the VNSHS administrative offices, 505 Main Street, Northport Village, kicks off at 8:30 am with an untimed Fun Run for children. The 5K run/walk starts at 9 am. The race’s challenging course offers a scenic tour of the Village while incorporating part of the historic Cow Harbor Run. It also boasts the distinction of being part of the United States of America Track and Field Long Island Grand Prix Road Race Series. Proceeds benefit the best of causes: an Annual Bereavement Retreat for Families and the Hospice House.

Special Events Planner Barbara Sorelle said that parents can look forward to a fun-filled day for the whole family. Not only will children enjoy taking part

in the fun run and receive medals, but there will be face painting, games, snacks, character mascots, and a DJ on site.

The run/walk which resonates with community spirit also offers participants an incredible way to pay tribute to a loved one.

“You can run or walk in memory or in honor of someone as an individual or a team,” Barbara said, adding that for \$100, signage bearing the honoree’s name will appear on the race course.

The top fundraiser who brings in more than \$300 wins a mountain bike, Barbara indicated. All entrants will come away with great giveaways.

Atria Senior Living Community and Shore Drugs are major sponsors. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. ❤️

Virginia Martinez – A Positive Impact

Welcome, Virginia Martinez, RN, BSN! Ginny, as she likes to be called, joined VNSHS on December 15, 2014, and all are happy to have her on board.

Ginny has filled the position of Director of Operations and is now responsible for the clinical management of the Certified Home Health Agency. Ginny will oversee the clinical direction, supervision, and management of patient care services at VNSHS.

Formerly with Gentiva Health Services, a home health care and hospice provider, Ginny comes to VNSHS with outstanding credentials. As Regional Director of Clinical Operations, Ginny managed operations of 45 branches across the USA over the past 6 years. Prior to that extensive experience, she worked for 3 years as a consultant for RBC Limited, a healthcare and management consultant group; and 14 years before that, Ginny maintained progressive roles at Nursing Sisters Home Care.

She is married and resides in Holbrook. Considerably family-oriented, she enjoys spending time with her husband and 3 grown children. For fun, and to nurture her creative side, Ginny’s numerous hobbies include crafting, quilting, and gardening.

As per Ginny’s words, “If I can make a positive impact on the people I work with, I’ve done my job.” With that kind of collaborative energy, the staff is looking forward to working with Ginny in her new role as Director of Operations at VNSHS. ❤️





HEART to HEART

From our hearts to yours,
Linda Taylor, RN, BSN, MA
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friend,

We could use your help! If you or someone you know has experienced our hospice or home care services you are already familiar with the variety of services provided by our staff and volunteers. Many of the patients we care for have experienced a recent medical problem that impacts their everyday living, often following an admission to a hospital, rehab facility, or nursing home from which they are returning home. Helping one to stay safely at home requires a team effort by a variety of special professionals – perhaps a nurse or therapist to address medical or surgical care plans – but also to assist with the most basic personal care during a temporary period of recuperation once back home. Under the supervision of a nurse, the Home Health Aide on our team is specially trained to provide personal care activities that enable one to get bathed, toileted, dressed, and out and about in the comfort of their own home. Hopefully it is temporary to bridge a period of weakness or debilitation that follows illness, surgery, or even long periods of immobility imposed by extended bed rest. At VNSHS the Home Health Aide is a key member of our team who provides direct care and hopefully assists one to gradually resume caring for themselves. In many ways the job of the Home Health Aide is the most difficult, requiring physical stamina along with the most important qualities of gentle compassion and patience. At VNSHS, which is certified by the Department of Health to provide our own basic HHA training, we pride ourselves in hiring our own aides directly, with a current staff of more than 50 dedicated caring individuals. Yet, as you might guess, we need more, and that's how you can help. We are looking for qualified candidates who may seek employment and perhaps have not even considered a career in home health care. You know the type of person we are looking for – it's the person you would want to take care of you – and perhaps they have not done this type of work before. But if you know them to be caring and compassionate, we can and will teach them to be Home Health Aides. Ask them to call our HR department or send an email to me, ltaylor@vnshs.org. I welcome your referrals and appreciate your help! ❤️



Heather Matias, Home Health Aide, joined VNSHS staff in 2002, and is one of our dedicated staff aides who lifts the spirits of patients she cares for with every visit.

GETTING “SOCIAL” IN CELEBRATION OF THE HOSPICE HOUSE’S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Continued from page 1

“Linda Taylor made it successful,” Mr. Lynch said of the dynamic CEO whose commitment to her vision of a place where patients could enjoy quality of life with friends and family resulted in the creation of the first free-standing facility of its kind in New York State. He also recognized the Hospice House’s dedicated and compassionate staff and volunteers, many of whom were in the audience.

Guests then enjoyed an hour and a half performance by one of New Orleans’ most exciting rising stars, Jon Batiste and his band, “Stay Human.”

To say that Batiste and his group have a unique style is an understatement. Known for reinventing jazz and blues and integrating it into what he calls ‘Social Music,’ Batiste and his group immediately broke the fourth wall, the imaginary line that traditionally separates performers from the audience. Guests were singing along, clapping their hands and stamping their feet. And that was just the beginning.

To their surprise, quite a few audience members were invited on-stage and rose to the occasion by strutting their stuff while the crowd roared with delight. In a final, unifying communal gesture, Batiste and his incredibly talented and sociable band personally engaged every guest by making their way down the aisles of the theater. ❤️

The enthusiasm was contagious, making for an afternoon that few will forget.

Ms. Taylor, who had previously seen Batiste at Carnegie Hall and the Newport Jazz Festival in Rhode Island, said that she was “very excited and pleased” by the band’s performance and the audience’s reaction.

“It was different and unpredictable. I thoroughly enjoyed it,” Ms. Taylor said, adding that she was especially thrilled to see attendees relishing the experience.



Jon Batiste mingles with fans after an engaging performance.

A Celebrity Taste of Long Island *Continued from page 1*

This year’s gala evening will honor Tim Dunne and his family. On June 20, 1997, Tim was injured while diving into a pool—an injury that has left him a quadriplegic since he was 18 years old. Tim, a beloved resident of Northport has remained active in Northport school sports, participating in coaching and team support through the years, along with his family. Tim and his parents recently moved upstate, where his siblings reside.

Proceeds from the evening will benefit VNSHS, the East Northport Chamber of Commerce, and the East Northport Rotary Club. In addition, a portion of the proceeds will benefit Brother Dawson Circle of Squires, which is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus, a charity that is near and dear to Tim’s heart, and one, as honoree, he gets to personally choose.

Long Island restaurants will be putting their best dish forward to showcase their culinary and creative talents and will be recognized in the following categories: Most Creative Dish, Best Table Presentation, Tastiest Dish and People’s Choice. Award recognition will be decided by, 2013 Master Chef winner, Luca Manfe; Hell’s Kitchen contestant, Barret Beyer; Chopped and Cutthroat Kitchen contestant, Rob Burmeister, from the LI RestaurantReview.com; Anna and Michael; and Craig Moulton, culinary competitor. Join the fun at the stunning Larkfield for an event that is sure to entertain and satisfy the most discerning palates. To top off the evening, try your chances at the many raffles offering an array of great prizes, as well as a 50/50 raffle!

Become a sponsor and have your company name listed in the evening program, as well as on a number of featured advertising items from event centerpieces, wine glasses, to company logo on cocktail napkins; and receive up to 9 event tickets, depending on your level of sponsorship.

Advertising space for the evening program is available as well. Simply RSVP by March 2 to benefit from ALL advertising opportunities, and to select the appropriate space that fits your needs. Choose from full-page cover, full-page or half-page advertisements.

This event sells out quickly, so reserve your sponsorship and order tickets today! Reserve either online at www.eastnorthport.com or call the East Northport Chamber of Commerce at (631) 261-3573! Advance tickets are \$75 per person, \$85 at the door. ❤️

Reflections on Thanksgiving at the Hospice House

By Elise Pearlman

Thanksgiving at the Hospice House was a veritable feast of turkey, stuffing and gravy generously donated by Crossroads Cafe, pies, cookies and rolls courtesy of Copenhagen Bakery, and side dishes and desserts lovingly prepared by volunteers. But it was so much more. Recently, staff members and volunteers reflected on the mixture of gratitude, joy and tears they experienced while spending this special day with patients and their families.

Longtime Home Health Aide Verona Murray is the veteran of many Hospice House Thanksgivings. She spoke about the welcoming ambiance that prevailed.

"Everyone who walks through the door gets served," said Verona, indicating that even EMTs who brought in a new admission were invited to enjoy a delicious meal with all the trimmings.

"It is a great calling to do this job," said Verona who feels blessed to be part of a team which feels like family. They are "here for each patient," and make sure that guests, many of whom might have traveled great distances and may have never visited the Hospice House before, feel reassured and at ease.

Verona marvels at all the wonderful people she has met from all walks of life.

"Each family touches you in a different way and has a different story," Verona indicated. "People want to share these stories. It is a day to live in the moment."

Charlotte Koons, a volunteer who has been with VNSHS for almost 20 years, considers it a privilege to pass holidays at the Hospice House. She echoed some of Verona's sentiments.

The staff and volunteers, who "come from a wonderful cross-section of the community," truly become a family on such occasions, Charlotte remarked.

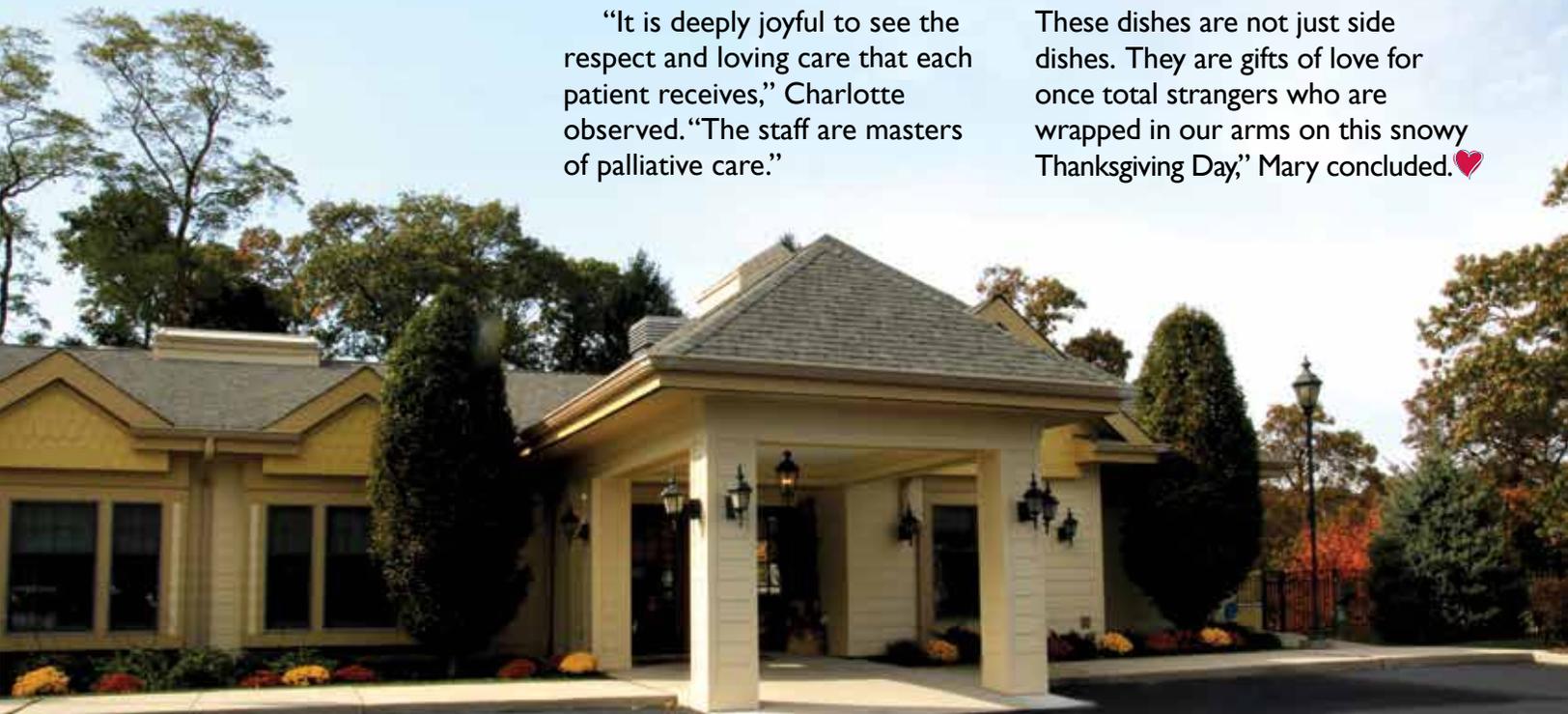
"It is deeply joyful to see the respect and loving care that each patient receives," Charlotte observed. "The staff are masters of palliative care."

The fact that the Hospice House is so home-like also helps guests relax and appreciate time with loved ones.

"There were placemats made by local children," Charlotte recalled of the sweet little touches that helped make the day as festive as possible.

Volunteer Mary Lally takes snapshots in her mind "of the faces here with us for this Thanksgiving. I see cheeks bulging with turkey, smiling, happiness, and yes, there are some tears. I hear laughter and memories of lives we are touching, if only for the moment."

"Nurses, husbands, volunteers, social workers, health aides, housekeepers, and administrative assistants come together to make Hospice House an incredible place to be. We are blessed to have Crossroads Cafe donate the turkey and stuffing. How I wish all those wonderful people who labor over side dishes and then deliver them could see and hear what I do. These dishes are not just side dishes. They are gifts of love for once total strangers who are wrapped in our arms on this snowy Thanksgiving Day," Mary concluded. ❤️



Northport Rotary's Winter Soirée showcases

A LITTLE BIT O' IRELAND



PATRICK O'KANE & GAELFORCE

featuring Tony Steele, vocalist/bassist from
RIVERDANCE on BROADWAY!

Irish eyes will be smiling (as will everyone else) when the Rotary Club of Northport hosts its eighth annual Winter Soirée at the Northport Yacht Club on Saturday, March 14. Entertainment Chair Ann Stevens said that the club decided to go with the Irish theme that proved so popular last year as a festive prelude to St. Patrick's Day.

This year's "A Little Bit O' Ireland" will feature the talents of Celtic recording artist Patrick O'Kane, who hails from Derry City, Ireland, and his band, Gael Force. In addition to vocals, O'Kane plays guitar and the bodhran, a traditional Celtic goatskin-covered frame drum. Gael Force's signature sound is Irish Rock.

Vocalist/bassist Tony Steele has performed in Riverdance on Broadway. The group's musical passion and energy has made them headliners at Irish festivals across the United States. Most recently they performed in concert with renowned Irish tenor Ronan Tyan in the Waldorf Astoria's ballroom. Step dancers from the Mulvihill-Lynch Irish School of Dance will also perform.

The Finnegan Family-- Dan, Tsedey, Michael and Christian -- are being honored for their extraordinary generosity to the Ecumenical Lay Council Food Pantry, Ann Stevens indicated.

In addition to outstanding entertainment, guests will enjoy a lavish spread of international hors d'oeuvres, Irish specialties, and delicious desserts courtesy of Copenhagen Bakery. There will be a cash bar.

The evening runs from 7 to 11 pm. The Northport Yacht Club is located at 11 Bluff Point Road.

"Make reservations early," said Ann Stevens who expects the event will sell out as it did last year. Tickets are \$65 a person, and the proceeds benefit the Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk. To reserve your place at the Winter Soirée, call Barbara Sorelle, VNSHS Special Event Planner at (631) 930-9310 or online at www.visitingnurseservice.org. ❤️

VNSHS PATIENT HONORED BY THE NORTHPORT VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION

By Barbara Colatasti

When the Korean War ended, U.S. forces that had been stationed in Japan remained there in order to maintain the goal of peace and stability in the Far East, which is how Sergeant William H. Davenport, Jr., ended up serving in Japan as an officer in the United States Marines.

Bill served in the Marine Corps from 1954 to 1955 and was recently honored by the Northport Veterans Administration for his exemplary service in a ceremony that took place on December 18, 2014. When the war ended, Bill still had 6 months left to serve and was transferred to the Brooklyn Naval Yard where he completed his tour.

Born and raised in Northport, Bill Davenport remembers when the trolley ran through the town. As a boy, Bill worked for the Lewis Oliver Dairy Farm in a small residential area in Northport. He recalls delivering milk to homeowners in Crab Meadow by horse and milk wagon! Sometimes he had to wait for low tide to deliver to some of the houses on stilts down by the beach because he couldn't reach those homes at high tide.

The walls in Bill's Greenlawn home, where he has resided most of his adult life and raised his family, are adorned with paintings and framed photographs that capture many of those memories. There are paintings of Northport town and dock, compliments of his brother-in-law, as well as photos of his kids, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, which tell the story of a rich and fulfilling life.

At 17 years old, Bill left his work at the farm and the comforts of home to embark on his journey in the marines. He remembers the relationships he formed with the impoverished villagers in the town where he was stationed. He gradually got to know them because of his selfless good deeds. He recounted squadron parties his unit hosted for the marines to ward off the loneliness of being so far from home. On mornings after the events, Bill would pack up the leftover food and bring it to the locals, recognizing their genuine need. The villagers christened him, "Papasan," an

endearment they bestowed upon him for his kindness and generosity.

After serving his full term, Bill returned home to life at the dairy, which was eventually taken over by Kenneth Gloyd. He then married Kenneth's daughter Jean, and went into business with the family. At the time, they owned over 4 acres, and Bill ran the wholesale milk trade, had a menagerie of animals to care for, as well as a country store. The farm has been a Northport favorite of residents for years. He and his family were written up in Kerriann Flanagan Brosky's book, *Huntington's Hidden Past*, which details the history behind the farm, as well as Bill's dedication and commitment to it and to the Northport community, until he retired many years later.

Today, at the age of 78, Bill is a patient in the VNSHS program. He continues to enjoy visits from his family and friends, and still looks forward to playing 5-card stud every Wednesday with one of his buddies.

Mr. Davenport's life exemplifies kindness, dedication, and loyalty to family, town, and country, and illustrates the life of a truly great man. ❤️



Proudly holding his certificate, Bill Davenport is surrounded by his family, his VNSHS nurse and Northport Veterans Administration staff.

Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk, Inc.

Linda Taylor, RN, BSN, MA
Chief Executive Officer

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UPCOMING EVENTS

8th Annual Winter Soiree – A Little Bit o’ Ireland

Saturday, March 14, 2015 - 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 at Northport Yacht Club, Northport, New York.

12th Annual A Taste of Long Island – Long Island’s Premier Food, Wine & Beer Tasting Event

Thursday, April 23, 2015 – 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm at Larkfield, 507 Larkfield Road in East Northport

15th Annual Run for the Health of It - 5K Race/Walk & Kids Fun Run

Saturday, May 9, 2015 – Fun Run at 8:30 am & 5K Run at 9:00 am - 505 Main Street, Northport

Annual Charity Golf Classic

Monday, August 3, 2015- Shotgun start at 12:00 pm - Indian Hills Country Club

Paws For A Cause Halloween Charity Dog Walk & Costume Contest

Sunday, October 25, 2015 - Walk begins at 12:00 pm - 505 Main Street, Northport

CONTACT BARBARA SORELLE 631-930-9310
Visit us online at visitingnurseservice.org



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Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk is a participating agency of
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