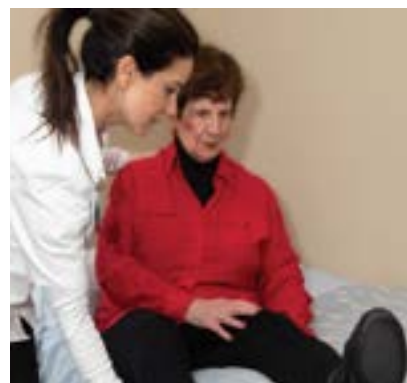


COMPASSIONATE
CARE SINCE 1952

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



VISITING NURSE SERVICE
&
HOSPICE OF SUFFOLK



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friend,

As a lifelong resident of Northport and East Northport, it is gratifying to see Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk's (VNSHS) impact on the community. Founded as the first visiting nurse service in Suffolk County in 1952, VNSHS is committed to providing the highest quality of compassionate, charitable care to families facing a health care crisis.

An unwavering commitment to compassionate care has navigated VNSHS since it was founded and has never been more evident than during the uncharted times of the pandemic. Every member of the VNSHS team does whatever is needed to serve patients and maintain business operations without interruption. Supported by ongoing employee education, enhanced use of technology and a collaboration which can be so rare in today's complex health care system, our VNSHS team safely provides home health and hospice services, inpatient care at Hospice House, rehabilitative therapy and home health aides throughout Suffolk County to both COVID and non-COVID patients.

The community plays a vital role in our ability to serve. We thank the media outlets for allowing us to quickly relay important health messages to the public, our donors for their loyal support and for their flexibility as we modified or went 'virtual' with our events and meetings, the physicians, hospitals and assisted living facilities who we collaborate with to provide the best possible patient care and, most of all, our patients who we proudly serve. Thank you for all of your continuing support, trust and partnership in this difficult time and putting your faith in our organization. You inspire us to fulfill our mission every day.

ROBERT P. COGLIATI, BOARD PRESIDENT



CEO'S REPORT

Dear Friend,

As we review 2019 in the context of where we find ourselves today, we could never have anticipated how drastically our world within the community we serve would change. We are indeed fortunate as an agency to have been in a position of financial security and staff availability to meet the COVID-19 crisis head on when faced with an abrupt change of daily operations that included provision for office support staff to work remotely from home. Services continued uninterrupted as clinical staff were protected with successful acquisition of adequate Personal Protective Equipment and in person home visits were supplemented with "virtual visits" through tele-monitoring via computer. Four of eight Hospice House rooms were converted in record time to safely accommodate and care for COVID positive patients while protecting non-COVID patients, and a revolving door of admissions of the very sick averaged 2 short day stays.

Perhaps as importantly as having been able to respond to the crisis at hand, VNSHS met an opportunity to evaluate our operations both administratively and clinically, compelled to fine tune patient care plans to be focused and more meaningful than ever. This year especially, home care demonstrated its value having moved up the hierarchy of health care providing follow-up after in-patient discharge. In coordination with hospitals after their specialty inpatient interventions, we have been able to fulfill a shared goal promoting improved health and quality life at home even in this time of pandemic crisis.

I am especially grateful to all in our community who continue to support our programs by whatever means - your confidence and trust inspires us to be responsive to your needs and provide quality care in fulfillment of our service mission. You are the wind beneath our wings, and we offer our heartfelt thanks with best wishes to all for a healthy year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Taylor". The script is fluid and cursive.

LINDA TAYLOR, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Linda Taylor, MA, BSN, RN
Chief Executive Officer

Scott J. Williams
Chief Financial Officer

Beth Rosenfeld, MBA, BSN, RN
Director of Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement

Andrea Cowles, MA, BSN, RN
Director of Intake and Service Development

Susan Bruder
Director of Development

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Silvia Rivera-Belardo, MSN, BSN, RN
Director of Clinical Operations

Tedra Grant, RN
Clinical Manager

Mathew Keuchler, OTR/L
Clinical Manager

Jacek Wiczynski OTR/L, CSCS
Clinical Manager

PROGRAM STAFF CERTIFIED HOSPICE

Birjis G. Akhund, MD
Medical Director

John Ferraro, MD
Assistant Medical Director

Bruce S. Zitkus, EdD, ANP-BC, CDE
Nurse Practitioner

Connie Sue Alexander, BSN, RN
Director of Patient Services

Rev. Mark Bigelow
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Mary Denning, LSCW,
Hospice Social Work Supervisor

Bonnie Gruber
Coordinator of Hospice Support Services

MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Friend,

Since joining Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk in 2002, many changes in health care have occurred. We have seen advancements in technology, an increased awareness of palliative and hospice care and the pandemic required unprecedented adaptations in practice. Through it all, VNSHS has held an unwavering commitment to treating patients with kindness and dignity as they achieve their maximum quality of life.

VNSHS' compassionate care is guided by a question we ask of every patient and their caregivers - "What matters most to you?" We ask this because the true gift of hospice is its capacity to help families see how much can be shared at the end of life. This year, we joyfully hosted a wedding in our Memorial Garden for a patient's daughter. Another family was comforted knowing that their parents who were married for more than 50 years could spend their final days together at Hospice House. What mattered most to a palliative care patient was that he spend his final days with family he was separated from due to COVID travel restrictions. With his goal in mind, VNSHS nurses, physical therapist and social worker developed his care plan. They worked with the patient, his family and the airlines which enabled him to safely make the 16-hour international trip to be reunited with his family. These are just a few of the anecdotes which demonstrate the meaning of the compassionate care VNSHS provides.

As an oncologist, I joined VNSHS with a desire to see another side of medicine. It has been both humbling and rewarding to work with a team dedicated to bringing peace and comfort to patients in their final days. I would like to thank our Palliative and Hospice team for their tireless commitment to carry on the VNSHS tradition to provide compassionate, charitable care of the highest quality to families facing a healthcare crisis.



BIRJIS AKHUND, MEDICAL DIRECTOR





The skilled and dedicated Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk staff are the core to our existence. Their commitment, compassion and professional expertise enables day-to-day operations and care of both COVID and non-COVID patients to continue without interruption.



WHAT SETS VNSHS APART

Customized

Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk is committed to what matters most to our patients. Guided by physician orders, we work closely with each patient and caregiver to determine their own individualized care plan to maintain quality of life and maximum independence.

Continuity

We provide a comprehensive array of health care services and maintain maximum staff continuity within a patient's treatment period. This ensures the highest level of care and comfort and allows patients to seamlessly transition to the varied specialty services should the need arise.

Rooted in the community since 1952, Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk (VNSHS) provides the highest quality of care to families facing a health care crisis

Charitable

We work with patients and their caregivers to determine the services covered by insurance. As a certified home health agency, we bill Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance companies. When insurance does not cover a service, fees are adjusted based on ability to pay.

Compassionate

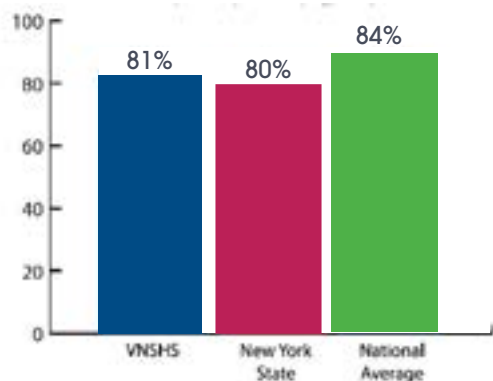
We are proud of our unwavering commitment to treating patients with kindness and dignity as we help them achieve their maximum level of health and quality of life. This has been the cornerstone of our mission since we were founded and what distinguishes VNSHS in today's complex, dynamic health care world.

QUALITY ASSURANCE & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

Quality health care that improves individual health and well-being is important to everyone. We strive every day to provide the best in home health and hospice care. We are proud to report that our satisfaction survey outcomes, once again, meet or exceed New York State and National averages.

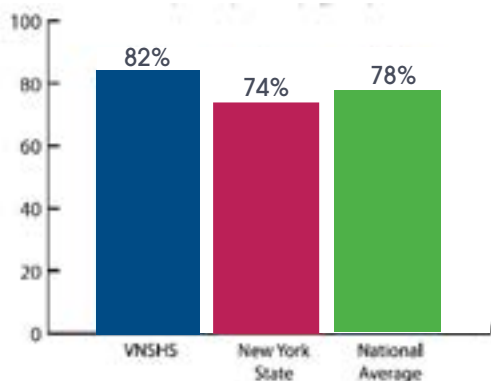
How do patients rate the overall care from the home health agency?

Patients who gave their home health agency a rating of 9 or 10 on a scale from 0 (lowest) to 10 (highest).



Would patients recommend the home health agency to friends and family?

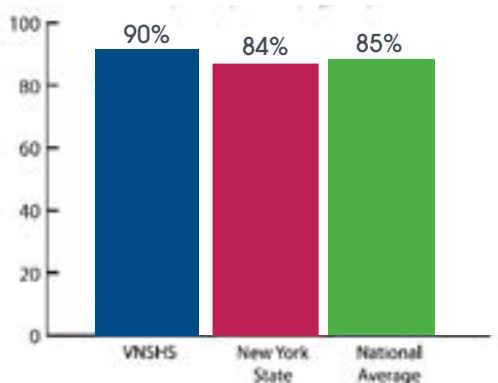
Patients who reported YES, they would definitely recommend the home health agency to friends and family.



Results are from patients who received home health care services between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019, as reported in www.medicare.gov/homehealthcompare.

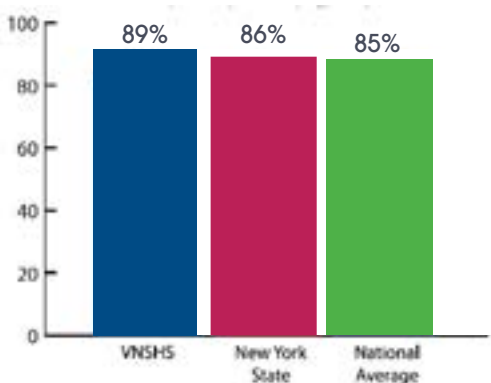
What number would you use to rate your family member's hospice care?

Family members who gave their hospice a rating of 9 or 10 on a scale from 0 (worst possible care) to 10 (the best hospice care possible).



Would you recommend this hospice to your friends and family?

Family members who answered 'definitely yes' to this question.

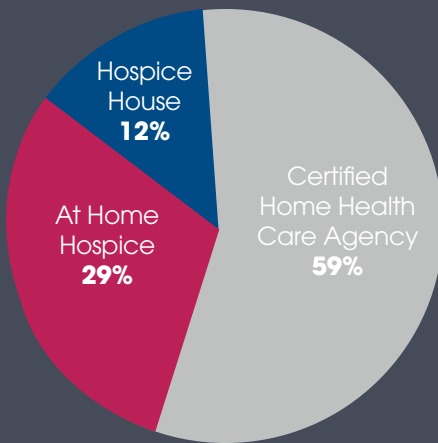


Results are from the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Hospice survey for the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, and were obtained from Strategic Healthcare Programs, our data collection vendor. These results are not yet published.

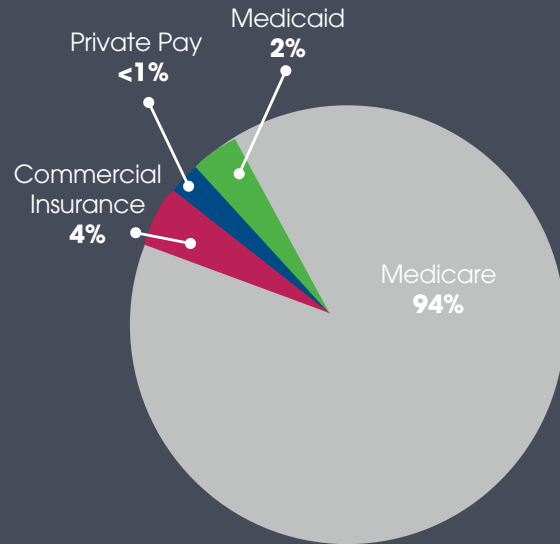
2019 FINANCIAL DATA

Fundraising and other revenue from the community are critical to our ability to provide charity care and programs that are not supported by a funding source.

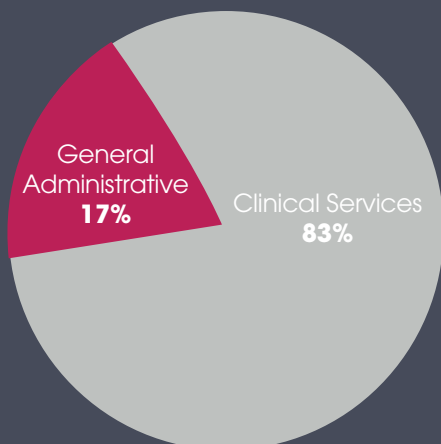
PATIENT SERVICE REVENUE



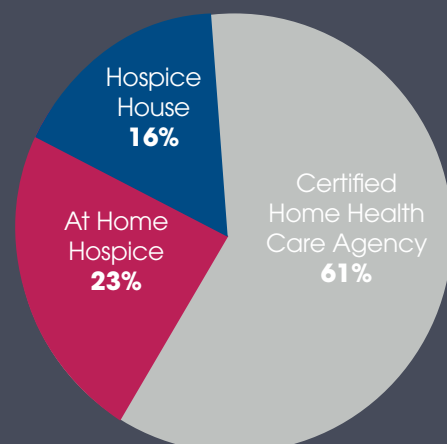
PATIENT SERVICE BY SOURCE



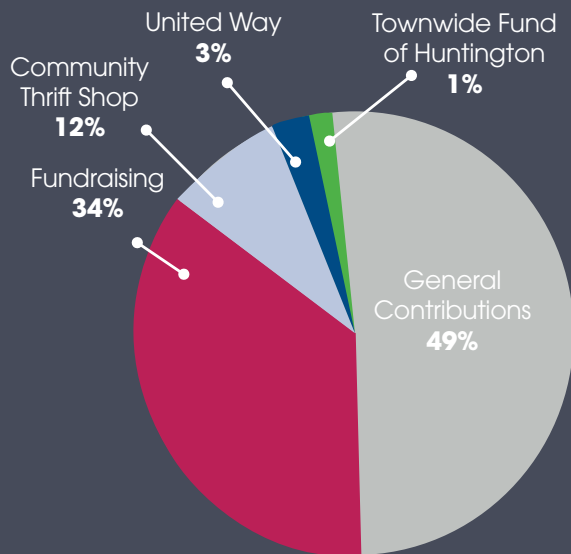
TOTAL EXPENSES



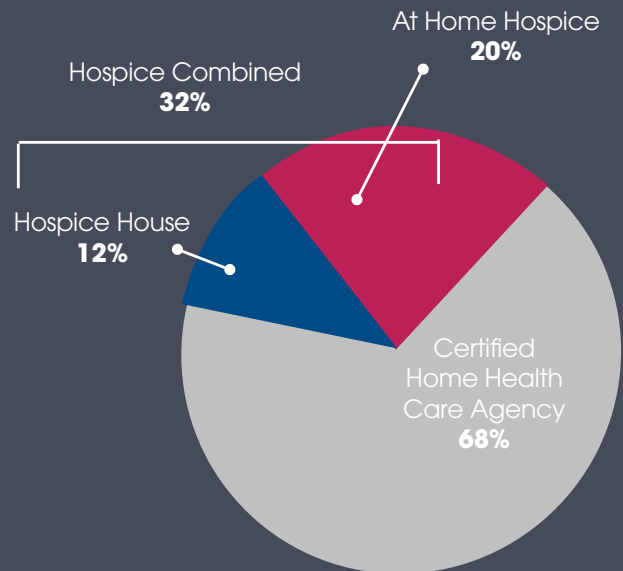
PROGRAM EXPENSES



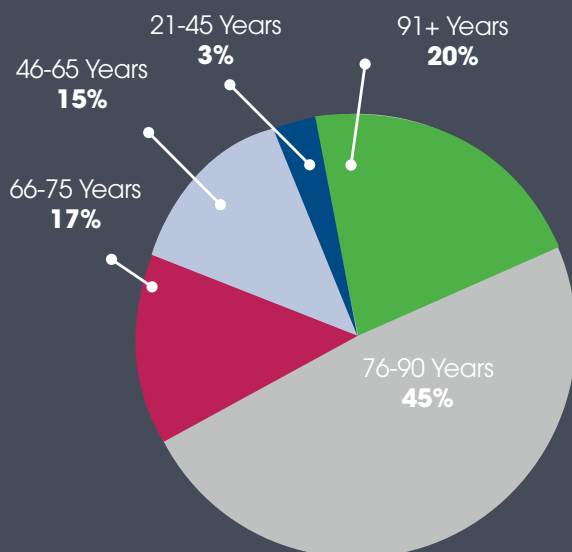
GROSS CONTRIBUTIONS AND FUNDING



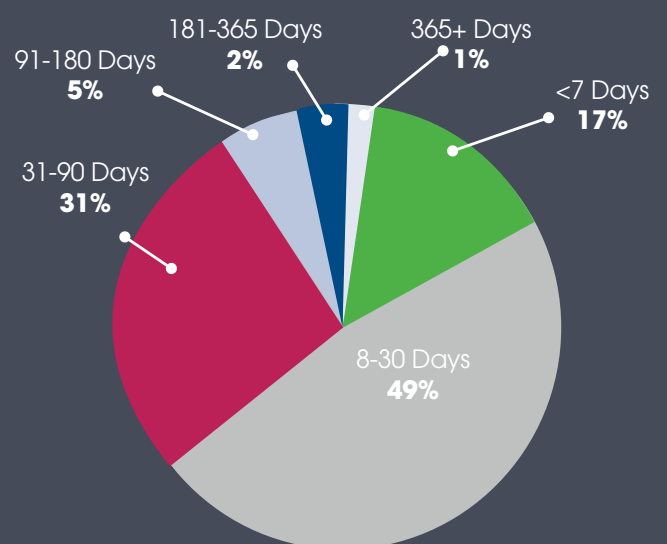
PATIENTS SERVED



AGE DISTRIBUTION OF PATIENT ADMITS



AVERAGE LENGTH OF HOME CARE AND HOSPICE COMBINED



15TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOSPICE HOUSE

Hospice House provides a supportive homelike environment where families and friends can share final days with their loved ones. Since 2004, more than 5,000 patients have been lovingly cared for by our compassionate staff and volunteers.

Building the warm and welcoming Hospice House was a labor of love by so many dedicated people that began long before the groundbreaking at our East Northport location in 2003. It began with a commitment to caring for our community by so many who had the foresight to complete the certification process that credentialed home health and hospice programs, laid a broader groundwork that underlies services provided by competent professional staff and volunteers at Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk today.

In 2019, VNSHS commemorated the 15th anniversary of Hospice House with a celebration featuring the 20s, 30s and jazz music of Grammy Award Winning Artist Vince Giordano & the Nighthawks at The Founder's Room. At this event, VNSHS proudly recognized all who are instrumental in making Hospice House the oasis it has become - a place that brings comfort and peace and a time for sharing old and making new memories for families to treasure into their future.



15TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOSPICE HOUSE



2019 DONOR LIST

We would like to acknowledge and thank all who contributed in support of the work of Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk in our community.

"My continued thanks for the wonderful work that you do in homes and at Hospice House. During the pandemic, the VNSHS staff was terrific – coming to my mother and keeping her out of the hospital."

\$25,000 - \$99,000

The Community Thrift Shop

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Mrs. Marilyn and Mr. Richard T. Cunliff
Douglas W. Duval
David and Bess Fuchs
David Harris, MD
Estate of Mary H. McLaughlin
Staller Associates

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous
James Archdeacon
The Charles and Helen Reichert
Family Foundation
Dentists for a Better Huntington
East Northport Chamber of Commerce
John W. Engeman Theater
Mutual of America
Sheehan & Company, C.P.A., P.C.
Warren and Linda Taylor
Townwide Fund of Huntington
United Way of Long Island
David Weiss, PhD and
Mary Margaret Weiss

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Atria East Northport
Avanti Healthcare Services
Bailey Lane LLC
Robert Banzer
The First National Bank of Long Island
Elizabeth Hammell
Marcia Hebet
Health Care Answering Services
Huntington Lions Foundation
The Lambert Family Foundation
Long Island Community Chest
Minuteman Press International
Morgan Stanley
Nolan Funeral Home
Steve and Carol Peltier
Rossiter Financial Group
Rotary Club of Northport
USI Insurance Services LLC

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Park T. Adikes
Alex Brown/A Division of Raymond
James
Asset Graphics
Brightree Home & Hospice, LLC
Brueggemann Funeral Home
The Business Women's Golf Association
Caminiti & Cogliati, CPAs, LLP
Caring People
Cerini & Associates, LLP
Gail M. Culleton
Enclara Pharmacia
Maria E. Freidank
GEICO Philanthropic Foundation
Great Cow Harbor 10-K Run
Janet Greenblatt
John A. Grillo
Christopher Hibbard
Eileen Hickman
ISL Products International, LTD
Kissinger Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Landy
Mastic Beach Property Owners
Medline Foundation
Dorothy M. Mezic
Michele M. Miroff
My Tribute Gift Foundation Inc.
Sylvia Neira
Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Nolan
Park East Construction Corp.
Jorge Puente, MD and
Patricia Matos-Puente, MD
Steven and Lisa Radgowski
Gary and Virginia Raffaele

Deborah A. Randall
Clifford R. Raynor
Beatrice Riccardo
John and Ellen Rieger
Schwab Charitable
Margaret Sherlock
Alan P. Sherr, DC
Virginia C. Sica-Peters
Smithtown Stitcher's Quilt Guild
The Spionkop Charitable Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Vela
Ronald Whaley

\$500 - \$999

Diane Albino
Apex Laboratory
Bessemer Trust
Antoinette L. Blanck
Borg & Borg Insurance
Christine Cappy
Thomas Carroll
Catherine Christensen
Crab Meadow Ladies Golf Association
Mr. and Mrs. William Cunningham
DA Rempe & ML Wilson Fund
Dominic and Deborah De Falco
Ronald J. Duswalt
Scott Englander
William Finin
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Flynn
Fox Family Foundation
Emmy R. Hoerner
Carolyn Hogan-Levy
Ingerman Smith, LLP
Frank and Patricia Kabela
Kiddie Academy of Greenlawn
Kiwanis Club of Northport/
East Northport
Charlotte P. Koons
The Landtek Group
Kenneth R. Latham



The rain didn't stop loyal VNSHS friends and sponsors who came out to participate in Paws for a Cause 2019 to benefit Hospice House.



At the 19th Annual Run for the Health of It, VNSHS proudly honored running royalty Nina Kuscsik, NYRR Hall of Famer and first woman to officially win the Boston Marathon and Gary Muhrcke, winner of the first NYC Marathon and founder of Super Runners Shop.

“Going above and beyond to help our patients is what we do. Helping others is second nature to us at VNSHS.”



“During weekly rounds much of the discussion centers around the stories and anecdotes, old and new, that the patients and their families relate to the VNSHS team.”





VNSHS was delighted to honor Robert 'Rob' Banzer, Superintendent of Northport - East Northport UFSD at the 15th Annual Golf Classic at Indian Hills Country Club.

Maureen Lewin
 Richard Lewisy
 John J. and Lisa Lynch
 Judith A. Madenberg
 Jennifer Matthews
 McBee Associates
 Michael L. McCarthy, Esq.
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Mensch
 Thomas C. Mina
 John Mongeluzzi
 Northport Volunteer Fire Department
 Francine Paci
 Penn Mutual
 Patricia J. Petersen
 Irene Piscopo Rogers
 Diane Poschmann
 William Raisch
 Safe Harbor Title Agency, LTD
 Loretta Scala
 Aryeh and Susan Shander
 Signature Premier Properties, LLC
 Trachtenberg & Pauker, LLP
 Thomas Volpicella
 Janet Werner
 Kurt Wildermuth
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\$250 - \$499

Robert F. Aberle
 Agewell New York, LLC
 Americare Pharmaceutical Services
 David D. Aughtry
 Janet Banzer
 Lewis and Janet Barbera
 The Baupost Group, LLC
 Marvin Berger
 Joseph Bessette
 Peter and Susan Bruder
 Virginia Burke
 Larry and Sandra Chenkin
 Kathleen Chilcott
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William and Kathy Cloonan
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 Michael and Andrea Cowles
 Cuddles Pet Care Services
 Greg and Jennie Cuilwik
 Daniel Gale Agency
 John and Michele DeFalco
 Dominick Doria & Son
 Wholesale Produce
 John and Antonia Donohue
 Louise Fadness
 Eleanor Fauser
 Fauser Associates, PC
 Ann Gagliano
 Donald Gardiner
 Gino's of Northport
 Mr. and Mrs. John T. Glancy
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. Grambow
 Dennis Hess
 William Hess
 Horizon Kinetics, LLC
 Gerald and Denise Hovdestad
 Robert and Emily Howard
 Mary K. Huelin
 Hunter EMS
 Dr. Ronald F. Iannacone
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ingram
 Susan Jensen
 Mr. and Mrs. J. William Johnson
 Jones Drug Store
 Robert and Joan Joseph
 Chip Kaye
 Robert Kelly
 Sunyung Kim

Kings Park Fire Department
 Mr. and Mrs. Brian Law
 Lewisy Fuel Oil
 Michael Lorusso
 Sallie Marriott
 Sylvia Mascaros
 Elizabeth V. McCarthy
 Peter and Patricia McKenna
 Carol W. Meagher
 Alice Michaelian
 Helen M. Misiano
 Michael Moran
 The Murphy Family
 National Grid
 Northport Farmers Market
 Northport Public Library
 Omni Cable Foundation
 Judith E. Roberts
 Bruce Rosen
 John and Judy Ross
 Jacqueline Russo
 Schultheis & Panettieri LLP
 Frances Sinobio
 Charles and Mary Skinas
 Anthony Smith
 The Society of St. Johnland
 Richard and Barbara Sorelle
 Stan Deutsch Associates
 Sterling Floor Designs, LTD
 Robert F. Taglich
 Charles J. Theisen, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Thompson
 Cathy J. Weber Fox
 Scott J. Williams
 Mary Zihal

"In my 17 years since as a volunteer, I have met astronauts, TV stars, rich people and paupers. Believers and non-believers. They all found comfort in a place called Hospice House."

\$100 - \$249

Bill Adams
Joanne A. Agoglia
Lauretta Alio
Rick and Joanne Ambrosio
Warren R. Amendola
American Debt Resources
William Amplo
Carol A. Anderson
Gina Angevine
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Geoffrey Chellis
Bill and Mary Ciesla
Lisa Claisse
Pamela R. Cobb

Stephen and Rosemary Dare
Timothy Daugherty
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Davidson
William Davidson
Robert Davis
Denise DeJong
James and Rosemary Del Guidice
Nancy Delaney
Peggy DeMayo
Arlene Dempsey
Stephen and Mary Beth Denniston
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Priscilla Doane
Priscilla Doane Fund
Kostas Douzinas, MD and
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Michael A. Downs
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Patricia Duran
Helen Durand
Daniel and Robin Dy
Kathleen N. Eberhardt
Sally Economou
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ehrlichman
Sofia Eide
Electronix Systems Central Station
Alarms
Kathleen Ellis
The Estee Lauder Companies
Laura Febrizio

"On my VNSHS interview, I was asked "Why hospice?" My answer was,
it's more than a paycheck, it must be a calling."

W. Gerald Asher
Matthew Ashwood
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Athanasio
Deneen M. Bair
William Bales
Moria Balseca
Donald A. Barnes
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Barrett, Jr.
Marie Basti
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Bateman
BBS: Architects, Landscape Architects
and Engineers
Mr. and Mrs. A. Scott Beatty
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
James and Mary Bentley
Susan Bergmann
Alfred Berner
Stephen Berry
Steven and Donna Berry
Mr. and Mrs. Kishin J. Bharwani
Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Billela
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Frank and Joyce Bolz
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Kevin and Mary Boyle
Angela Bracciante
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Carol Brand
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brand
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Breicha
Sharon Brennan
Briar Ridge Properties
Jennifer Brown
Christine Brunone
Michael Brunone
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Burch
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Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Burr
John D. Caffrey, Jr.
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Jean M. Campbell
Phillip G. Caporusso
Elvira A. Carminati

Colony Club H.O.A., Inc.
The Community Foundation
Ward and Christine Conolly
Terry G. Consentino
Gerald and Patricia Conway
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Correia
Roberta Cowan
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Creighton
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Culleton
Frank P. Cutrone
Bryan Dabruzzi
Florence P. Dallari
Anthony J. Daniels
Larry and Carmen Daniels
Janet Dannenberg
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Dannenberg
Mark Dannenberg
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dannenberg
Dorothy J. Dare



Class of 2019 Northport High School graduate, Grace Burkhart, was awarded the Helen Strobl Memorial Scholarship in honor of the Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk's first executive director, who was a Baccalaureate and Masters nursing graduate and proponent of higher education for nurses. This scholarship is awarded annually to a student who has demonstrated academic achievement and is pursuing a career in the field of nursing.



A treasured tradition of the holiday season, VNSHS volunteers bake, box and deliver their favorite cookies to VNSHS hospice families throughout Suffolk County.

Ferrera, DeStefano & Caporusso
Robert J. and Barbara Festa
Fidelity Charitable
Dorothy Fiedler
John and Beth Filippini
Tracey Finck
Margaret L. Fine
James and Joyce Finn
Mary Fischer
Mr. and Mrs. Michael L. Fisenne

Linda Gottlieb
Neil Greenberg
Erin Grimm
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Groelinger
Dr. and Mrs. David Gross
David and Maryann Grow
Charles and Linda Gruhn
Robert and Annette Gueits
Elizabeth V.W. Haarke
Robin Hadley

Kristin Holcomb
Mary Ellen E. Hornik
Gisela Hunermund
Suzanne Hunt and Bette Flood
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Hurt
Islip School Age Child Care
Judith Jakhelln
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jencen
Frank and Nancy Jenkins
JG Homes

“Our hospice experience was one of respect, care and compassion which culminated in lasting positive memories.”

James P. Flaherty
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Fleming
Carolyn Flynn
Michael and Gail Flynn
John H. Flynn
Ellen Foster
Fr. Thomas A. Judge Columbiettes
Rosemary T. Franke
June L. Friedman
Marie Fristachi
Lawrence and Mary Fritz
Matthew and Donna Fronk
Francine Fuchs
Candido Fuentes-Felix, MD
Susan Furfaro
Michele Gates
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Gazes
Donna L. Geiger
Lynn Gekle
Barbara Gettinger
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John and Kristin Higgins
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Marsha Kahn
Mitchell and Adela Kahn
C. Scott Kelly
Rita Kelly
Felicia A. Kelsey
Colleen Kennedy
Edward C. and Mary-Jo Kevorkian
KHJ Brand Activation
Elana F. Kieffer
James P. Kiesel
Nancy Killian
Barbara Kirwin
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Klein
KMR Contracting
Frank and Nancy Koch II
Gary and Donna Kranich
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Kroll
Dorothy Kuchler
Lorraine Kulik
Franklin and Lillian LaBarbara

“Nothing compares to what I have gotten from being a volunteer. Whether it is sitting quietly with a patient, lending an ear to a visitor, making sure the kitchen is neat or watering plants, I always get so much more in return than I feel I give.”

"Your staff allowed me to be a wife instead of a caregiver."

Mr. and Mrs. William Laimit
Linda Lanzer
Larkfield Auto Car Wash & Detail Center
George P. Lauinger Jr.
Barbara Lavalle
Andrew Lawrence
John and Doris Lea
James L. Leone
Rosemarie Leone
James R. and Luciana Leskody Melissa-
Robyn Levitan
Frank Sammarino and Keyman Lew
Toni Lico
Keryn Lieberman
Jovanna Little
Beth Anne Lucignano
Laurinda Lundy
Mr. and Mrs. Arno Lutz
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lynch, Jr.
Mary Lou Lysaght
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Macari
Mary Ellen Mack
Corinne Mackay
Eileen Madden
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"The nurses came to our house to take care of my late wife during the final weeks of her life. It is hard for me to express my gratitude for the comfort they gave to both of us. You have to be there to realize the sheer humanity of it."

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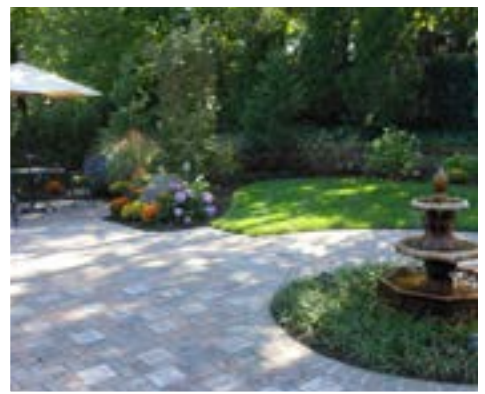
"I am so thankful for the stories my patients and their families share with me. I am honored each day, at such an intimate time, they have allowed me to accompany them as they approach end-of-life."

Hospice House: New York State's First Freestanding Inpatient Hospice

In the late 1990's, VNSHS recognized a gap in service on Long Island as there was no dedicated residence for patients who require end-of-life care and are unable to stay in their own home. As baby boomers and generation x'ers were juggling career and family while becoming caregivers to their parents and grandparents, hospice awareness and need was increasing. Although most Americans preferred to die at home, the majority spent their last days in facilities unlike home, which did not offer the full complement of services available to alleviate pain and suffering. Quality of life they may have enjoyed was sacrificed. Family needs and their participation in caring for loved ones was unmet.

As a trusted leader in healthcare, Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk established New York State's first freestanding inpatient hospice in November 2004. Its warm, homelike setting neither appears nor functions like a hospital or nursing home. With no set visiting hours, loved ones can stay 24-hours a day. Today Hospice House consistently serves as a model for the development of other hospice services.

Hospice House runs at an operating deficit annually - a loss which the generosity of donors helps to offset. VNSHS is currently offering a naming opportunity of Hospice House in appreciation of a \$1 million gift. Please contact Linda Taylor or Susan Bruder if you are interested in naming this valuable community resource in memory or in honor of a loved one.





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