

# Coming Home



A Publication of Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County



Carlos Alvarez, LPN, and Marie Devine. (Photo by Bruce Ando)

## Virtual Visits in the Comfort of Home

Marie Devine is a Norwalk resident and was recently discharged from The Carolton in Fairfield after a brief hospital stay. She needed care at home and her doctor rec-

ommended Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County. Marie now works with a speech therapist, an occupational therapist and a physical therapist from the agency. She is also visited twice a week by her

nurse, Debbie, and she receives virtual visits from Carlos Alvarez, LPN, via Home Telehealth.

Telehealth is an innovative technology that provides seamless communication and remote monitoring to enhance support for patients, clinicians, caregivers and families. The small, easy-to-use, in-home communication system facilitates the reduction of hospital re-admissions and enhances the quality of the care that we are able to provide.

“Telehealth is awesome,” said Marie. “It is so easy to use and there are no wires. It’s fantastic! I don’t even have to plug it in. It’s a wonderful machine, especially when I am not able to get around so easily.”

The Telehealth 4G Tablet makes it easy and convenient for patients to stay in daily touch with a nurse at the agency from the comfort of their own homes. Through this advanced monitoring system the agency is able to manage high-risk patients and communicate with them through video chat, wound imaging and text messaging.

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## Spring Cleaning with the New Canaan Thrift Shop

Are you planning on doing some spring cleaning projects around the house or yard? Does your closet need to be reorganized? Whatever your plans, the New Canaan Thrift Shop is here to help!

The New Canaan Thrift Shop accepts donations of gently-used articles of clothing, accessories, jewelry, books, sporting goods, small appliances, housewares, china, silver, paintings, toys, games, and small home furnishings.

All proceeds from the sale of donated items directly benefit the patients of Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County. So whether commonplace or kitschy, your donated items can make a real difference in someone's life and it's the perfect way to recycle!

The New Canaan Thrift Shop is located at 2 Locust Avenue in New Canaan. It is open from 12 noon until 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and from 10:00 am until



1:00 pm on Saturdays. Donations are accepted from 9:00 am until 12 noon, Monday through Saturday.

To inquire about volunteer opportunities, or to donate items to the New Canaan Thrift Shop, call Ulrike Bell at 203-966-2361. ■



Sharon Bradley with the volunteers at the New Canaan Thrift Shop.

Photo by Bruce Ando



## Agency Welcomes Two Board Members

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County welcomes two Board members. They are Rone Baldwin and Karen Wackerman.

**Rone Baldwin** was Executive Vice President, Markets and Insurance Group, for Centene Corporation in St. Louis, Missouri until 2016. Before that he was CFO of Optiwind Corporation in Torrington, CT, and COO of Guardian Life Insurance Company in New York. He was President and CEO, Employee Benefits Group, with Genworth Financial, Inc. in Windsor, CT. Rone worked at General Electric Company for ten years and served as Vice President, Business Development for GE Capital, President and Country Manager for GE Capital Japan in Tokyo, President and CEO of GE Edison Life Insurance in Tokyo and Senior Vice President, Strategic Development, at GE Insurance in Stamford. Prior to his work at GE, Rone was with Mutual Life of New York, Goldman Sachs & Company in New York, and Booz, Allen and Hamilton in New York and Tokyo.

Rone graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa from Am-



*Rone Baldwin*

herst College with a BA degree in Physics. He holds an MBA from Harvard Business School. He and his wife, Carol, are Weston residents.

**Karen Wackerman, Esq.** rejoins the Board of Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County after a three-year hiatus. Karen is an attorney with the law firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC in Bridgeport. Prior to that, Karen practiced law at Jeffers Cowherd, PC in Fairfield, and at Wackerman Law, LLC in Westport. She was of counsel at Cummings & Lockwood LLC and before that at Cohen and Wolf, PC. Karen served as a Visiting Clinical Professor of Law and Acting Director, Lawyering Process Program, and Assistant Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Connecticut



*Karen Wackerman*

School of Law. She was also an Associate Corporate Attorney at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman in New York and Stamford.

Karen graduated from Smith College with a degree in Government and received her JD cum laude from Brooklyn Law School. She is admitted to practice law in Connecticut and New York.

In addition to having served as former Board Chair at Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County, Karen is an elected member of the RTM in Fairfield. She is a former member of the Inland Wetlands Commission in Wilton and a member of the American, Connecticut, Bridgeport and Fairfield County Bar Associations. Karen is a Fairfield resident. ■



*Your generosity can live on through a bequest to Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County. For more information call:*

**800-898-HOME**



## Laugh Out Loud Raises Funds to Benefit Patients

**O**n Saturday, May 5th, a capacity crowd of friends and supporters gathered to “Laugh Out Loud” and raise funds for the patients of Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County.

The benefit was held at the Westport Woman’s Club and raised more than \$75,000 for the Agency’s patients in need. Highlights of the event included live and silent auctions and hilarious entertainment by the stand-up comedians, Lisa Blythe Perlman, Ellen Loyd and Kevin Flynn.

Bereavement Counselor, Bonnie Verses, spoke movingly about

the work she does with the families of patients.

Event sponsors for *Laugh Out Loud* were George and Carol Bauer, Carol and Rone Baldwin, Day Pitney, LLP, Ken Edgar and Denise Harvey, Liz Fox, Sara and Dave Hunt, Keith and Denise Johnson, Janet and Peter Lebovitz, Pustola Associates, Sterling Equities and TownVibe.

Members of the volunteer benefit committee were Carol Bauer, Missy Dorsey, Ken Edgar, Janice Hess, Judy Higby, Dawn Jeffrey, Janet Karabin, Janet Lebovitz, Laurie Lister, Phyllis Osterman, Jeanne Roberston, Hal Shupack, Roseann Spengler, Carlyn Tief-

enthaler and Kathy Winter.

“We are thankful for the friendship and support of so many in the community who share in our mission to bring healing and comfort to the patients and families in our care,” said Agency President and CEO, Sharon Bradley. “We are tremendously grateful to all our corporate and individual sponsors. We also want to thank our Leadership donors, our volunteer Benefit Committee members, our in-kind donors and everyone who contributed to this very special evening. The funds raised at this event will touch the lives of the many patients in need in our community and we extend our heartfelt thanks.” ■



Sharon Bradley and Keith Johnson



Ken Bernhard, Jennifer Bangser and Liz Fox



Sara Hunt, Judy Bentley and Dave Hunt



Lila and Buck Griswold



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## THANK YOU!



*George and Carol Bauer, Megan Smith-Harris and Bill Harris*



*Clare Myers, Ken Edgar, Denise Harvey and Jeff Myers*



*Phyllis and Tom Osterman, Rob and Gianna Bergman*



*Carol Baldwin, Michael Imber, Rone Baldwin, Edward and Samantha Parker*

## A Celebration of Life

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County honored the patients and families it has served with an ecumenical Celebration of Life memorial service in April at the Carriage Barn Arts Center at Waveny Park in New Canaan.

The Celebration of Life included poetry, readings, acts of remembrance and music as well as a candle-lighting ceremony conducted by the Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County team of nurses, therapists, counselors and caregivers.

“It is important to celebrate the lives of our loved ones and to give thanks for all they have meant to us,” said Christine Pfeffer, Hospice Director at



Families lighting memorial candles at the Celebration of Life.

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County. “We wish to express our deepest gratitude for all they have

meant to us and to acknowledge that our loved ones will remain in our hearts always.” ■



## A New Home in Wilton

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County has purchased the former Hitchcock Furniture store at 22 Danbury Road which will serve as the agency’s new home in Wilton. The former retail building will undergo a major renovation and provide about 8,000 square feet of space to accommodate the agency’s clinical and administrative offices.

“We have been leasing at I-Park for the past ten years,” said Agency President and CEO, Sharon Bradley. “Prior to that, we were housed at the Comstock Community Center



for several decades. This is our first opportunity to purchase a building for a more permanent home. The lease at our current

location expires in February. We are very excited and look forward to moving into the new facility by then.” ■

## Virtual Visits in the Comfort of Home

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The electronic stethoscope enables a nurse at the agency to listen to heart and lung sounds in real time. FDA-approved biometric devices monitor a range of values including blood pressure, weight, oxygen level and blood glucose. The software provides daily symptom questions and instructions specific to a patient's condition. Findings from the Telehealth visits can be communicated to physicians immediately, if necessary.

"Marie's blood pressure has been a little high lately," said Carlos. "I can track that quickly on Telehealth and contact her physician if it becomes a problem."

"My nurse visits me twice a week but with Telehealth, I am being cared for in between visits too," added Marie.

Marie has four children and 11 grandchildren. They love her dearly and worry about her health.



*Carlos Alvarez, LPN, and Marie Devine. (Photo by Bruce Ando)*

"My family is much more comfortable now that I have Telehealth. It gives them peace of mind and they can relax, knowing that I am being monitored on a daily basis. I've told them all about this terrific little machine and they are content."

Telehealth is provided at no additional cost to patients and all information is kept secure and confidential.

"I wouldn't hesitate to recommend Telehealth to anyone who needs it," said Marie. "It is terrific. In fact, everyone at Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County has been terrific. They are kind and gentle and understanding. I look forward to their visits -- whether in person or on Telehealth." ■

## With Gratitude

**W**e wish to express our profound gratitude to the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation for their exceptionally generous gift of \$50,000 at the passing of Mrs. Bailey. We are deeply saddened at the loss of Mrs. Bailey, whose commitment to the community was demonstrated through her philanthropic support of many

charitable organizations in South Florida, Connecticut, New York City and Washington D.C. Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County has been immeasurably enriched by her generous support of our agency. She was an extraordinary woman and we are enormously grateful to the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation. ■



*Cornelia T. Bailey*



## SUMMER SCHEDULE OF SUPPORT GROUPS FOR GRIEVING ADULTS



at the Health & Wellness Center at I-Park, 761 Main Ave., Norwalk

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County is committed to providing bereavement support to anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. Participation in a support group offers the opportunity to grieve in a supportive and therapeutic environment with others who have also suffered a loss.

### Loss of a Spouse

for those grieving the loss of a spouse  
with Laurie Petrasanta, MS, BSW

Weekly on Wednesdays  
7/11/18 - 8/29/18

1:30 – 3:00 pm

with Rev. Karen Judd, LCSW

Weekly on Thursdays  
7/12/18 - 8/30/18

6:00 – 7:30 pm

### Loss of a Parent

with Rev. Karen Judd, LCSW  
for adults grieving the loss of a parent

Weekly on Tuesdays  
7/10/18 - 8/28/18

6:00 – 7:30 pm

### Loss of a Child

with Laurie Petrasanta, MS, BSW  
for adults grieving the loss of a child

Weekly on Thursdays  
7/12/18 - 8/23/18

2:30 – 4:00 pm

### Caregiver Support

with Laurie Petrasanta, MS, BSW  
for those who are caring for an ill loved one

Weekly on Tuesdays  
7/10/18 - 8/28/18

1:00 – 2:30 pm

### Loss of a Loved One

with Bonnie Verses, BS, MA  
for adults grieving the loss of a loved one

Weekly on Saturdays  
7/9/18 - 8/25/18

10:00 – 11:30 am

### Loss of a Pet

with Rev. Karen Judd, LCSW  
for adults grieving the loss of a beloved pet

Weekly on Thursdays  
6/7/18 – 6/21/18

1:00 – 2:30 pm

These programs are free-of-charge and open to the public but pre-registration is required.  
For more information, call Rev. Karen Judd at Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County at 203-762-8958, ext. 255.

# Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County



Trusted care. When you need it most.

P.O. Box 489 • Wilton, CT 06897

www.visitingnurse.net



*Coming Home* is a publication of Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please write to Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County, P.O. Box 489, Wilton, CT 06897.

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