Palliative & Supportive Care of Nantucket Foundation

Board of Directors 2011-2012: Geoffrey Silva, President...Rick Beaudette, 1st Vice President...Gusie Beaugrand, Secretary...Lou Gennaro, Treasurer...Carolyn Durand...Joseph Grasse...Jeanne Hicks...Robin Manning...Mike Misiurell...Patricia Rottmeyer...Jennifer Shepherd...Judy Waters

Executive Director, Carrie Riden

Palliative & Supportive Care of Nantucket Foundation is a not-for-profit tax exempt public charity.

The Dreamcatcher Dinner & Auction

Thanks to all who helped make the 19th Annual Dreamcatcher Dinner and Auction a huge success! It was a perfect night under the tent at Galley Beach. A great time was enjoyed by all! Plans are already underway for next year’s event June 9th so stay tuned.

We sincerely thank those families who have directed that memorial contributions be made to Palliative & Supportive Care of Nantucket Foundation. Because of these donations we are able to continue to provide services free of charge.

The Holidays are Coming!

Consider contributing to PASCON in lieu of traditional holiday gifts this year. Charitable donations are great gifts for friends, family, employees, and co-workers and are tax-deductible!

Nantucket Mystery Art Show....Stroll Weekend, Friday, Nov. 30th, 5-7 PM
Come buy a beautiful piece of artwork by a Nantucket artist and benefit the Marla Ceely Lamb Fund! Thanks to the Quidley Gallery and Nantucket artists who donate their work we’ve raised over $25,000 over the past 2 years for this very important cause!

B e sure to come out and join in our annual daffodil planting. November 17th at 9:00 am. (Please check our website, www.pascon.org for the planting site.) It’s a wonderful community event and part of our effort to spread hope and beauty across the island. Palliative & Supportive Care of Nantucket has planted over 50,000 bulbs in recent years.

The Dreamcatcher Dinner & Auction

A Partnership in Caring

Founded by the Palliative & Supportive Care of Nantucket Foundation, the palliative & supportive care program is operated as a department of the Nantucket Cottage Hospital, which is an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital, and a member of Partners HealthCare. Palliative & Supportive Care of Nantucket is a specialized health care program dedicated to providing excellent physical, psychological, social, and spiritual care to persons with life-threatening illness and their families.

Gazebo Garden of the Jared Coffin House

The Holidays are Coming!

Consider contributing to PASCON in lieu of traditional holiday gifts this year. Charitable donations are great gifts for friends, family, employees, and co-workers and are tax-deductible!

Palliative & Supportive Care of Nantucket Foundation

Palliative & Supportive Care of Nantucket (formerly Hospice Care of Nantucket)

Currents

Vol. 20, No. 2

Fall 2012

Program Director’s Annual Report
by Charlene Thorton, R.N., A.N.P.

Each fall we take the opportunity to look back on the work we’ve done over the past year to reflect on how well we’ve served our community and to identify any areas in which we feel we could be doing better or offering more. It’s always interesting to review the needs of our patients and their families as well as to scroll back through our calendar to be reminded of what we’ve done.

When we reviewed the past year, we found that we’ve provided end of life “comprehensive care” to 31 patients who have died on Nantucket, which represents 43% of people who have died on Nantucket from any cause. We’ve provided palliative care consultations to a total of 56 clients with earlier stages of life-threatening illness for a total of 181 private visits, and care giver support to 34 family caregivers of persons with chronic illness in addition to the family members of patients receiving our comprehensive end of life care services, for a total of 140 sessions. In our bi-weekly Coping with Cancer Support Group, we served 29 clients, and we’ve provided grief support services to 18 clients in 60 visits, in addition to the family members of patients receiving our comprehensive end of life care services. Lastly, our administrative assistant has disbursed the Marla Ceely Lamb Fund to 95 clients, providing approximately 6 hours/week of assistance and support to persons with cancer who must travel off-island for treatment. These figures represent a significant increase in palliative care visits, grief support services, and caregiver support visits and a fairly constant number of end of life “comprehensive care” patients served compared to the previous few years. Of particular note is that the number of palliative care visits for persons with early stage disease increased by close to 40% over last year, which had already risen markedly from previous years. Since our goal in changing our name was to reach out to serve this population of patients, we’re gratified to see that we’re achieving it.

In addition to providing direct care to patients and families, we remain committed to working with our colleagues in other organizations and enhancing and improving end of life care throughout the health and human services community. During the past year, we’ve hosted a series of 3 webinars on Spiritual Care at the End of Life and invited clergy, health, and human service professionals, as well as the general public, to attend. Developed by Hospice Foundation of America, the webinars featured well known experts in the field and focused on ways that spiritual issues can emerge at end of life and approaches in care that could help alleviate distress and enhance meaning.

We’ve also joined many other hospices across the nation in focusing on the needs of veterans at the end of life, and, last November we hosted a presentation of “Wounded Warriors: Their Last Battle” by Deborah Grassman of the VA Medical Center in Bay Pines, Fl., to which the same community of providers and the general public were invited.

Each year we also try to provide opportunities for hospital and Our Island Home nursing staff to attend off-island conferences on end of life care. Within the past year we were delighted to sponsor 2 nursing assistants from Our Island Home and 1 from NCH to attend the Hospice & Palliative Care Federation of Massachusetts Clinical Review for the Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing Assistant. Such specialized courses for nursing assistants are not offered very often, and, since nursing assistants provide so much care to patients, we were very grateful to have this opportunity. Moreover, they’re all planning to take a certification exam to be certified...
Strelnitski, R N, MS, has achieved certification in Thai Shiatsu Massage, a gentle and nurturing form of bodywork which we offer to any of our clients who are wary. Nan’s work has continued to be profoundely healing to the clients she serves, whether they are coping with illness themselves, caring for a loved one with an illness, or grieving the loss of someone close. As the Nurse Practitioner and Program Director of our services, attending the Palliative Care Update Seminar by Harvard Medical School, provides the overview needed to keep abreast of the information and skills necessary to provide high quality, palliative care to patients with a variety of life-threatening illnesses.

This summer we were delighted to participate in two events which brought us to the water. In July, we, along with Nantucket Cottage Hospital, were the beneficiaries of a portion of the proceeds raised by Swim Across America, an organization which had its start in Nantucket in 1987 and whose mission is to raise funds to help support cancer research, treatment, and prevention. Many of our patients, volunteers, staff, and board members supported the effort by swimming, donating, or volunteering on the shore and a great time was had by all. We’re very hopeful that the event will be repeated next year and that more of the proceeds will stay on Nantucket to help support our work. To see photos and more information, visit their website at www.swimacrossamerica.org and search for Nantucket.

This August, Sailing Heals and Panerai came to the island and treated many of our patients and their guests to a beautiful sunset cocktail party on the tall ship, Pride of Baltimore II, and, together with Nantucket Community Sailing and several volunteer host captains, an afternoon of sailing in Nantucket Harbor. Sailing Heals is an organization which strives to provide people with cancer and their guests a day of healing out on the water, and all who participated were so grateful for the experience. For more information, you may visit their website at www.sailingheals.org. As we look toward the coming year, we’ll continue, of course, to further enhance the quality of the services we already provide, while also identifying opportunities to add further dimensions to our work. Over the coming year, we’ll look more at the needs of distress management and survivorship for persons with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses and strive to increase awareness of those needs among general healthcare practitioners, as well as adding depth to our own services to address those areas. Our goal has always been to help integrate supportive services into the general healthcare system in order to maximize well being of all patients. As always, we’re truly grateful to our Palliative & Supportive Care Foundation for their tireless efforts in supporting all of our work, and to you, the people of Nantucket, who donate to this cause. Since all of our services are offered free of charge and are not reimbursed by insurance, without your support, our services would not exist.

Our own staff must keep abreast of advances in the field as well, and, over the past year, our Palliative Care Counselor, Nan Strelnitski, RN, MS, has achieved certification in Thai Shiatsu Massage, a gentle and nurturing form of bodywork which we offer to any of our clients who are wary. Nan’s work has continued to be profoundely healing to the clients she serves, whether they are coping with illness themselves, caring for a loved one with an illness, or grieving the loss of someone close. As the Nurse Practitioner and Program Director of our services, attending the Palliative Care Update Seminar by Harvard Medical School, provides the overview needed to keep abreast of the information and skills necessary to provide high quality, palliative care to patients with a variety of life-threatening illnesses.

This summer we were delighted to participate in two events which brought us to the water. In July, we, along with Nantucket Cottage Hospital, were the beneficiaries of a portion of the proceeds raised by Swim Across America, an organization which had its start in Nantucket in 1987 and whose mission is to raise funds to help support cancer research, treatment, and prevention. Many of our patients, volunteers, staff, and board members supported the effort by swimming, donating, or volunteering on the shore and a great time was had by all. We’re very hopeful that the event will be repeated next year and that more of the proceeds will stay on Nantucket to help support our work. To see photos and more information, visit their website at www.swimacrossamerica.org and search for Nantucket.

This August, Sailing Heals and Panerai came to the island and treated many of our patients and their guests to a beautiful sunset cocktail party on the tall ship, Pride of Baltimore II, and, together with Nantucket Community Sailing and several volunteer host captains, an afternoon of sailing in Nantucket Harbor. Sailing Heals is an organization which strives to provide people with cancer and their guests a day of healing out on the water, and all who participated were so grateful for the experience. For more information, you may visit their website at www.sailingheals.org. As we look toward the coming year, we’ll continue, of course, to further enhance the quality of the services we already provide, while also identifying opportunities to add further dimensions to our work. Over the coming year, we’ll look more at the needs of distress management and survivorship for persons with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses and strive to increase awareness of those needs among general healthcare practitioners, as well as adding depth to our own services to address those areas. Our goal has always been to help integrate supportive services into the general healthcare system in order to maximize well being of all patients. As always, we’re truly grateful to our Palliative & Supportive Care Foundation for their tireless efforts in supporting all of our work, and to you, the people of Nantucket, who donate to this cause. Since all of our services are offered free of charge and are not reimbursed by insurance, without your support, our services would not exist.

Our own staff must keep abreast of advances in the field as well, and, over the past year, our Palliative Care Counselor, Nan Strelnitski, RN, MS, has achieved certification in Thai Shiatsu Massage, a gentle and nurturing form of bodywork which we offer to any of our clients who are wary. Nan’s work has continued to be profoundely healing to the clients she serves, whether they are coping with illness themselves, caring for a loved one with an illness, or grieving the loss of someone close. As the Nurse Practitioner and Program Director of our services, attending the Palliative Care Update Seminar by Harvard Medical School, provides the overview needed to keep abreast of the information and skills necessary to provide high quality, palliative care to patients with a variety of life-threatening illnesses.

This summer we were delighted to participate in two events which brought us to the water. In July, we, along with Nantucket Cottage Hospital, were the beneficiaries of a portion of the proceeds raised by Swim Across America, an organization which had its start in Nantucket in 1987 and whose mission is to raise funds to help support cancer research, treatment, and prevention. Many of our patients, volunteers, staff, and board members supported the effort by swimming, donating, or volunteering on the shore and a great time was had by all. We’re very hopeful that the event will be repeated next year and that more of the proceeds will stay on Nantucket to help support our work. To see photos and more information, visit their website at www.swimacrossamerica.org and search for Nantucket.

This August, Sailing Heals and Panerai came to the island and treated many of our patients and their guests to a beautiful sunset cocktail party on the tall ship, Pride of Baltimore II, and, together with Nantucket Community Sailing and several volunteer host captains, an afternoon of sailing in Nantucket Harbor. Sailing Heals is an organization which strives to provide people with cancer and their guests a day of healing out on the water, and all who participated were so grateful for the experience. For more information, you may visit their website at www.sailingheals.org. As we look toward the coming year, we’ll continue, of course, to further enhance the quality of the services we already provide, while also identifying opportunities to add further dimensions to our work. Over the coming year, we’ll look more at the needs of distress management and survivorship for persons with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses and strive to increase awareness of those needs among general healthcare practitioners, as well as adding depth to our own services to address those areas. Our goal has always been to help integrate supportive services into the general healthcare system in order to maximize well being of all patients. As always, we’re truly grateful to our Palliative & Supportive Care Foundation for their tireless efforts in supporting all of our work, and to you, the people of Nantucket, who donate to this cause. Since all of our services are offered free of charge and are not reimbursed by insurance, without your support, our services would not exist.

Our own staff must keep abreast of advances in the field as well, and, over the past year, our Palliative Care Counselor, Nan Strelnitski, RN, MS, has achieved certification in Thai Shiatsu Massage, a gentle and nurturing form of bodywork which we offer to any of our clients who are wary. Nan’s work has continued to be profoundely healing to the clients she serves, whether they are coping with illness themselves, caring for a loved one with an illness, or grieving the loss of someone close. As the Nurse Practitioner and Program Director of our services, attending the Palliative Care Update Seminar by Harvard Medical School, provides the overview needed to keep abreast of the information and skills necessary to provide high quality, palliative care to patients with a variety of life-threatening illnesses.

This summer we were delighted to participate in two events which brought us to the water. In July, we, along with Nantucket Cottage Hospital, were the beneficiaries of a portion of the proceeds raised by Swim Across America, an organization which had its start in Nantucket in 1987 and whose mission is to raise funds to help support cancer research, treatment, and prevention. Many of our patients, volunteers, staff, and board members supported the effort by swimming, donating, or volunteering on the shore and a great time was had by all. We’re very hopeful that the event will be repeated next year and that more of the proceeds will stay on Nantucket to help support our work. To see photos and more information, visit their website at www.swimacrossamerica.org and search for Nantucket.

This August, Sailing Heals and Panerai came to the island and treated many of our patients and their guests to a beautiful sunset cocktail party on the tall ship, Pride of Baltimore II, and, together with Nantucket Community Sailing and several volunteer host captains, an afternoon of sailing in Nantucket Harbor. Sailing Heals is an organization which strives to provide people with cancer and their guests a day of healing out on the water, and all who participated were so grateful for the experience. For more information, you may visit their website at www.sailingheals.org. As we look toward the coming year, we’ll continue, of course, to further enhance the quality of the services we already provide, while also identifying opportunities to add further dimensions to our work. Over the coming year, we’ll look more at the needs of distress management and survivorship for persons with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses and strive to increase awareness of those needs among general healthcare practitioners, as well as adding depth to our own services to address those areas. Our goal has always been to help integrate supportive services into the general healthcare system in order to maximize well being of all patients. As always, we’re truly grateful to our Palliative & Supportive Care Foundation for their tireless efforts in supporting all of our work, and to you, the people of Nantucket, who donate to this cause. Since all of our services are offered free of charge and are not reimbursed by insurance, without your support, our services would not exist.