

# Hospice of Westchester **TODAY**

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[www.HospiceofWestchester.org](http://www.HospiceofWestchester.org)

## Hospice of Westchester Celebrates **30 Years** of Exceptional Care

*Hospice of Westchester (HOW) is proud to be celebrating our 30th Anniversary of providing exceptional hospice services to patients and families throughout the Westchester County community in 2022.*

Our organization was established in 1992, when Visiting Nurse Services in Westchester and the Ronald M. Alpert Palliative Care Program at White Plains Hospital Center came together to provide comprehensive, end-of-life care to Westchester County residents, eventually becoming the standalone entity it is today, Hospice of Westchester.

HOW's dedication to the community over the past three decades includes

the provision of services that addresses the medical, physical, psychosocial, and spiritual needs of our patients. Our programs and services are offered to Westchester County residents of any age who are diagnosed with any life-limiting illness. HOW combines the highest level of quality medical care with the emotional and spiritual support that families need most when caring for a loved one. HOW staff, with their

extraordinary skill and compassionate care, guide patients along their most important journey.

From a grassroots staff of 20 individuals providing care to approximately 25 patients per day when it launched in 1992, we today boast a team of 61 staff members serving approximately 80 patients per day. Our staff includes a medical director, registered nurses, licensed social workers, spiritual counselors, bereavement counselors and certified home health aides, in addition to other departments that include finance, development and public affairs, and administrative support. We also have a very active volunteer program of more than 20 specially-educated individuals which augment the professional staff.

Due to the vision and generosity of Anna L. Shereff, the Anna & Louis H. Shereff Caregiver Program was

*Continued on page 6*



Back row (L-R): Paul T. Khoury, M.D and Barbara Khoury (premier sponsors); Stacey Cohen (Co-Communications, Inc.); Mary K. Spengler, MS, LHNA (HOW CEO); James P. O'Toole (event co-chair); George Whitehead (PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP). Front row (L-R): Michele and Terry Geller, DDS (event co-chairs, emcees and premier sponsors).

*Story on page 3*



## 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL

Hundreds of business and community leaders participated in HOW's 20th Annual Golf Invitational, which was held at Westchester Hills Golf Club in White Plains on June 14. This year's event honored Karen and John Zanzarella, longtime supporters, who have been volunteer coordinators and managers for the Golf Invitational since its inception. The event featured brunch/lunch, 18 holes of golf, a barbecue on the ninth hole, a cocktail reception, dinner and awards ceremony, as well as a silent auction and raffles.

IN APPRECIATION

### GRAND SPONSORS

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From left: William F. Flocks, Jr. (Beecher Flocks Funeral Home, Inc. and HOW Chairman); Jim O'Toole (Event emcee); Mike Wellman (Envipco); Christa Puccio-Gallo (Atlantic); Karen and John Zanzarella (Event honorees; Zanzarella Marketing); Mary K. Spengler, MS, LHNA (CEO of HOW); Jim O'Connor (Empress Ambulance); Michael K. Ciaramella (Polchinski Memorials); Jack Geoghegan (Hildegard D. Becher Foundation Inc.); Beth Milligan (TOMRA North America); and Joseph Kahl (Manhattan Beer Distributors, LLC)



From left: Beth Wooters, Tara Ryan, Liz Flocks and Sue Adams



From left: Rudyard Whyte, Jin Park, Ron Gill and Richard Dawson

# Tree of Life

2022

As we head into the holiday season, Hospice of Westchester remains committed to honoring our patients through our annual Tree of Life, which celebrates the memory and lives of our loved ones.

While we always look forward to the Tree of Life gathering, your safety remains our top priority. For this reason, we have decided to forgo an in-person reception this year. We are extremely grateful to our Sponsors for their support and are pleased to announce that the personalized stars and commemorative ornaments will continue to be available for your purchase.

You can enjoy viewing the Tree of Life from the safety and comfort of your home. The stars will be placed on the Tree, which will be displayed in our office. A video will be available on our website for your viewing pleasure in early December. 💙

IN APPRECIATION

### GRAND SPONSORS

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The Hildegard D. Becher Foundation, Inc.

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# In Celebration of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Event co-chairs included William F. Flooks Jr., Michele and Terry Geller, DDS, and James P. O'Toole

Hospice of Westchester (HOW) hosted its "In Celebration" Gala Cocktail Reception on Thursday, September 22, at the Westchester Country Club in Rye. The event celebrated the organization's 30th anniversary and honored HOW's Staff and Volunteers, as well as its Patients and Their Families. The evening also featured a Celebration of Life for longtime supporters Anna L. Shereff and her son, Jesse M. Shereff. ♥

**GRAND SPONSOR**  
Rochelle Shereff

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Michele and Terry Geller, DDS  
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The Hildegard D. Becher Foundation, Inc.  
Barbara and Paul T. Khoury, MD  
White Plains Hospital

**SIGNATURE SPONSORS**  
Beecher Flooks Funeral Home, Inc.  
Co-Communications, Inc.  
PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP

IN APPRECIATION



1. From left: Susan Fox (White Plains Hospital); Terry Geller, DDS and Michele Geller (event co-chairs, emcees and premier sponsors); Rochelle Shereff (grand sponsor) 2. Back row (L-R): Gary Tatz, MD (HOW medical director); HOW Patient Care Coordinators Nancy Caputi, RN, Laura Lemos Vidarte, RN and Mary Pat Barden, RN. Front row (L-R): Anthony Ciarletta RPh and Linda Ciarletta RPh (Grassy Sprain Pharmacy); and Barbara Cassano, RN 3. Members of Hospice of Westchester staff. Back row (L-R): Christine Paletta, social worker; Enock Yatri, spiritual care coordinator; Francine Ferreri, social worker; and Jesse Caudill, spiritual care coordinator. Front row (L-R): Gabrielle Zale, reflexologist; Diane April, reflexologist; Chivian Singh-Sacerdote, home health aide; and Sophia Allen-Dennis, home health aide 4. Members of Hospice of Westchester's staff. Back row (L-R): Kathy Ghegan, RN; Patricia Sakal, RN; Kristy Heinrich, RN; Front row (L-R): Sunyoung Keum, RN; Evelyn Varga, executive assistant; Kenia Taveras, team coordinator





# The Chief Executive Officer



**FOR 30 YEARS, HOSPICE OF WESTCHESTER (HOW) HAS BUILT ON ITS LEGACY AS A RESPECTED MEMBER OF WESTCHESTER'S HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY, PROVIDING END-OF-LIFE CARE THAT EMPHASIZES COMPASSION, DIGNITY, AND RESPECT.**

Our organization was established in 1992 with a dedication to providing exceptional end-of-life care to County residents. We have provided hospice services to thousands of patients and families through the years. Our extraordinary staff and volunteers celebrate and exemplify our mission and values of respect, integrity, dignity, teamwork and excellence as they guide our patients and their families along their most important journey. At the core of every decision we make, it is our relationships with those receiving our services that matter most. It is an honor to be invited into our patients' homes to provide them with help and support.

This has been an active year for our organization. We were thrilled to be able to once again host our In Celebration Gala Cocktail Reception, as well as our Annual Golf Invitational. In addition, we are proud to say that we have once again met all 20 standards of charitable accountability established by the Better Business Bureau and received designation as an accredited nonprofit.

The past two years at HOW have been beyond description. We accomplished much and were able to fulfill our mission due to the actions of many: Our patients and their families who demonstrated tremendous courage; our extraordinary direct care staff and volunteers who always put our patients/families first; the incredible office staff who came in every day to ensure operational excellence; and the exceptional management staff who supported the infrastructure in remarkable ways.

When we consider the accomplishments and challenges the last 30 years have brought and those still to come, we extend our gratitude to our dedicated Board of Directors, the Westchester community, and our donors and supporters for the essential role they have played in our continued success. We reflect proudly on our past and look forward to continuing to serve as the model for excellence in end-of-life care.

Thank you for your continued generosity. Our best wishes to you and your family for a peaceful and healthy holiday season. 💙

*Mary K. Spengler*

MARY. K. SPENGLER, MS, LNHA  
CEO

Visit our website  
[www.HospiceofWestchester.org](http://www.HospiceofWestchester.org)

## Have specialized skills?

(second language, Veteran, etc)

## Want to learn new skills?

(administrative tasks, computing etc)

## Want to meet new people?

(other volunteers, hospice staff)

## Become a Hospice Volunteer!

Our volunteers provide comfort, companionship and advocate for our patients. Hospice volunteers are special and essential members of the care team.

What you can do:

- 💙 **Patient visits** - Provide companionship, emotional support, life review poetry, or read to patients
- 💙 **Flowers for Life** - Arrange and deliver flowers
- 💙 **Office Support** - Assist with filing, mailing, and other business-related jobs

**We would love to hear from you to explore the possibility of you joining our volunteer team.**

**Please call Joan Jacobus, Director of Volunteers at 914-682-1484 ext. 185, or e-mail [jjacobus@hospiceofwestchester.com](mailto:jjacobus@hospiceofwestchester.com)**



*Hospice of Westchester is a private not-for-profit, tax exempt agency that is certified by the federal government, licensed by the New York State Department of Health, as well as accredited by the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP).*



## BEREAVEMENT GROUPS

### Winter Bereavement Support Groups & Workshops

- ♡ Spouse/Partner Loss
  - ♡ Adult Parent Loss
  - ♡ Flying Solo
- (spousal loss after a year for women)

**Please contact our Bereavement Department for more information. Groups are held on a regular basis.**

### Individual Grief Counseling

Short-term, one-on-one counseling is available to members of the community and our patient family members. Please contact our Bereavement Department for more information about groups or individual services. Individual Counseling and Support Groups are held in person in our office. Due to Covid-19 precautions, we are also providing virtual counseling via the Zoom platform.

**Kim Gordon, LMHC-CT**  
Bereavement Coordinator  
914-682-1484 ext. 163

**Joan Jacobus, LCSW, MBA**  
Volunteer Director/Bereavement Coordinator  
914-682-1484 ext. 185

## HAPPENINGS & GATHERINGS

### Hospice of Westchester Receives \$15,000 Grant from Field Hall Foundation

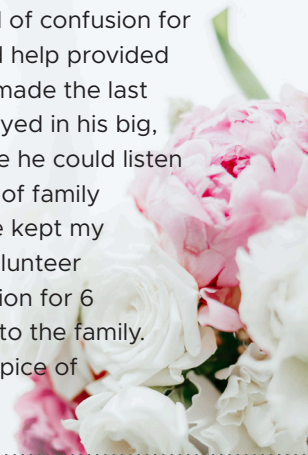


(L-R): Holly K. Benedict (HOW Director of Development and Public Affairs); Patti Lavan Horvath (Program Officer, Field Hall Foundation); Mary K. Spengler, MS, LHNA (HOW CEO); William F. Flooks, Jr., (HOW Chairman)

In October 2022, HOW received a \$15,000 grant from Field Hall Foundation. The funds will support the organization's Home Care Services. "We are grateful to Field Hall Foundation for their generosity and support of our mission," said Mary K. Spengler, MS, LHNA, Chief Executive Officer, HOW. "This grant will help us continue to provide quality and compassionate services to those in our care." ♡

## TESTIMONIAL

When we enrolled my father in hospice it ended a period of confusion for my sisters and me on how to help him. The guidance and help provided to him and my family saved us. Hospice of Westchester made the last months of my father's life as happy as it could be. He stayed in his big, sunny living room he had known for over 40 years, where he could listen to the music he liked since the 1930s, have the company of family and count on the help of superb professionals. The nurse kept my father comfortable with warmth and friendliness. Your volunteer brought a wise point of view and light hearted conversation for 6 months and your social worker offered cheerful support to the family. I would like to thank you and the excellent people at Hospice of Westchester for doing such extraordinary work." J.E.



## APPRECIATION TO FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF HOSPICE OF WESTCHESTER



Hospice of Westchester (HOW) has been a valued and respected member of the health-care community, providing extraordinary end-of-life care to Westchester County residents for 30 years. Operating our organization is always a delicate balancing act and the Covid-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges. All the while, HOW has remained committed to our patients and their families while ensuring the safety of our staff and volunteers.

HOW has endured financial challenges caused by the pandemic, including increased costs and expenses for additional safety precautions to protect everyone involved with our organization. Your generosity has helped us manage through these challenging times and we are so grateful to you, our donors, and our community members, for your ongoing support. We need your tangible gifts to allow for adequate staffing, to ensure that our patient costs are covered and so

we can invest in required technologies. No one is denied service, and we must be prepared to absorb the cost of care for those without health insurance or the ability to pay. Please continue this tradition of giving by making a year-end, tax-deductible gift. Your contributions will support the heart of our operations – Hospice Home Care – and our commitment to provide exceptional end-of-life care to Westchester County residents as they travel along their most important journey.

Your support is more crucial than ever as we navigate these troubled times together. We invite you to partner with us in this great endeavor. Your tax-deductible donation can be made using the enclosed envelope, online at [hospiceofwestchester.org](https://hospiceofwestchester.org) or by calling Holly Benedict at 914-682-1484 ext. 122.

Thank you for the essential role you play in our continued success and for helping us fulfill our mission. ♡



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Hospice of Westchester is a private, not-for-profit, tax-exempt agency.  
If this was received in error, please call 914-682-1484 ext 122.

#### OUR MISSION

Hospice of Westchester is committed to providing compassionate end of life care. We combine the highest level of quality medical care with emotional and spiritual support enabling individuals and their loved ones to make the most of each day.

*Continued from cover*

established in 1995 in memory of her late husband. The program assists qualified patients who lack other resources in employing a caregiver, which allows them to receive care at home. Mrs. Shereff expanded her sponsorship to include HOW's Complementary Care Program in 2012. In 2022, Rochelle Shereff further enhanced the Shereff Family's support to include the HOW Bereavement Program.

In addition to traditional hospice services, HOW was the first hospice organization in Westchester County to establish a Complementary Care

Program in 2000, which further supports our commitment to increasing the well-being and improving the quality of life of our patients. The Anna & Louis H. Shereff Complementary Care Program provides a variety of therapies including massage, music and art therapies along with reflexology at no cost to the patient.

In 2013, we expanded our pediatric palliative care program, called Comfort Crew. We were the first organization to provide a formalized palliative care program in Westchester County designed specifically for children.

Hospice of Westchester has been regarded as the hallmark of excellence in providing hospice services in the Westchester community since 1992. These services are offered to patients at little or no cost, wherever they reside: in a private residence, an assisted living facility or a skilled nursing facility.

All of us at Hospice of Westchester are eternally grateful to you and all of our community donors, for the essential role you have played in our 30 years of continued success. We know that without your help, we would not have been able to accomplish all that we have. ♥

## NATIONAL HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH

In 1992, the month of November was designated as National Hospice & Palliative Care Month. It is a time to celebrate hospice and palliative care workers and professionals and to raise awareness of hospice and palliative care within the community. ♥