

## CareVans Bring Healthcare Where It's Needed

When a man in his 40s approached Hartford HealthCare's CareVan to ask about getting dentures, the medical team made an appointment for him at the Hartford Hospital Community Health dental clinic for the next day.

When a patient with type 2 diabetes explained that he frequently visits emergency departments, the CareVan team scheduled an appointment for him at the Charter Oak Health Center in Hartford, where he will get the support he needs to manage his diabetes.

And when an older woman visiting a CareVan clinic in northwest

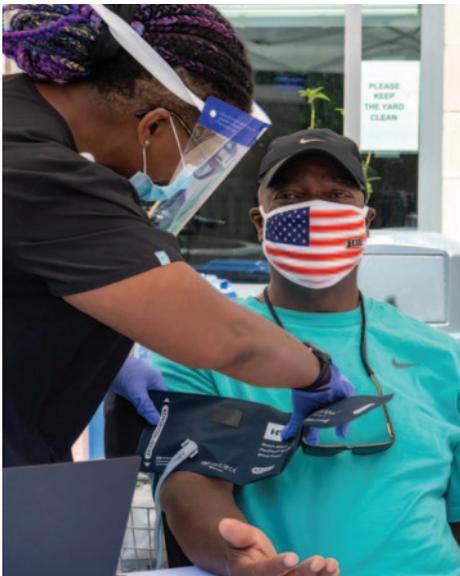
Connecticut asked to have her blood pressure checked, the medical team immediately called for emergency services, concerned about a possible stroke. The intervention most likely prevented severe neurologic damage.

Anecdotes alone don't offer the complete picture of how Hartford HealthCare's Neighborhood Health program is making a difference in the lives of those in underserved communities. Still, the vans' first weeks on the road show the clinics provide a vital link to life-saving care.

Over the summer, Hartford HealthCare launched its Neighborhood Health program with the unveiling of CareVans that bring critical services directly to communities most in need. With two clinics per week scheduled, the vans began delivering services in Hartford, Torrington, Winsted, and Thomaston on August 16.

"Our plan calls for us to offer a full series of screenings based on the need of particular communities—prevention  
*(continued on page 2)*

*Hartford HealthCare President and CEO Jeffrey A. Flaks announces the launch of the Neighborhood Health initiative at a media gathering at the Open Hearth in Hartford in August.*



A client of the Open Hearth gets his blood pressure checked during a CareVan visit.



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and medical screens for diabetes, bariatrics, high blood pressure, breast cancer, and prostate cancer," said Hartford HealthCare President and CEO Jeffrey A. Flaks. "Later, but not too far in the future, we will supplement the CareVans with larger vehicles—clinics on wheels." Hartford HealthCare will also expand the CareVans' service area.

During the first weeks on the ground, CareVan teams handled everything from behavioral health needs to COVID-19 vaccinations. The interventions often prevented unnecessary emergency room visits.

The program is an outgrowth of the lessons learned from the pandemic. When COVID-19 hit, it underscored longstanding health inequities that put some people at greater risk of getting sick and dying from the disease. To bring COVID-19 tests and vaccinations to communities in need, Hartford HealthCare set up testing sites across the state and mobilized vaccination vans, collaborating with churches, neighborhood organizations, and community health centers.

In addition to vaccines, testing, and health screenings, the Neighborhood Health program connects people with social services.

A client of the Open Hearth gets his temperature checked during a CareVan visit.



If you would like to support Hartford Hospital and Hartford HealthCare's Neighborhood Health program, visit [givinghartfordhospital/CareVans](https://givinghartfordhospital/CareVans) (scan the QR code).



## ESTATE PLANNING: The Times They May Be Changing

Legislation has recently been introduced in Congress which, if passed, could impact the way our current financial assets may be taxed, not only upon sale, but potentially upon death. While no one can predict which elements of these bills might survive to become law—nor when they might become effective if they did—it would behoove us all to at least familiarize ourselves with their implications, and talk with our advisors to determine timely, best courses of action, if appropriate.

If you happen to decide to divest yourself of any appreciated assets before such changes may take effect, or revisit your estate plan in anticipation of the potential loss of "stepped up basis" for your heirs, please keep in mind that there are sound, mitigating, and proven charitable gift planning techniques that could be included in that process.

Not only could you reduce your capital gains tax exposure immediately and possibly benefit your family in the long-run, your thoughtful planning now could also result in a much-needed charitable gift in support of Hartford Hospital's vital mission at this critical time for the health of our community.

To learn more about the possibilities, please visit [plannedgiving.hartfordhospital.org](https://plannedgiving.hartfordhospital.org) or contact Lynn Rossini, vice president, Philanthropy, Hartford Hospital, at [Lynn.Rossini@hhchealth.org](mailto:Lynn.Rossini@hhchealth.org) or 860.972.6282.

We cannot provide you with tax advice, but we would be happy to share gift planning ideas, techniques, or strategies for you to share with your advisor.



## FLYNN FELLOWSHIP Helps Students Tap into Joys and Challenges of Oncology Nursing



From left: Nicole Crapser, RN, oncology nurse educator, Hartford Hospital; Mary Kate Eanniello, RN, director, Nursing Education, Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute; Heidi Cutter, BSN, nurse manager, Hartford Hospital; Jason Kilcoyne, University of Connecticut Flynn Fellow 2021; Nina Nevarez, University of Saint Joseph Flynn Fellow 2021; Emilee Tirino, University of Saint Joseph Flynn Fellow 2021; and Fred Flynn. Photo was taken before mask mandate.

Graduation ceremonies for the Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Development Program at the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital are joyful occasions. Nurses-to-be confidently present the findings of their research on improving patient care. Their mentors and veteran nurses enthusiastically share all that the fellows contributed while immersing themselves in learning to care for cancer patients. And parents and friends at the ceremony delightedly soak it all in.

Frederick C. Flynn Jr. is the man who laid the groundwork for the inspiring ceremonies marking the milestone in the rigorous training program. The Stamford resident started the program at Greenwich Hospital in 2014 in loving memory of his wife Susan and to honor the expert, compassionate care she received while being treated for ovarian cancer.

Since 2014, the program has grown to more than 30 internships in partnership with 17 nursing schools and nearly a dozen hospitals across the country. More than 200 have completed the training program.

In August, Jason Kilcoyne of the University of Connecticut and Nina Nevarez and Emilee Tirino, who both attend the University of Saint Joseph, joined 13 "Flynn Fellows" who have completed the program at Hartford Hospital. Of the 12 in the workforce, five are oncology nurses at Hartford, Flynn said.

"Hartford Hospital is a shining example of the success of program," he said. The fellows agree the program is invaluable.

"Being empathetic is something you can't learn unless you go out and be in patient care," Kilcoyne said. "This fellowship is well thought out. You go through so much in the hospital that you develop without really knowing it. Now that I am at the end, I feel like I can go back to school and be a better nurse."

## Support the Future of Oncology Nursing at Hartford Hospital

You can help Hartford Hospital train the next generation of oncology nurses through the Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Development Program. Fred Flynn will match up to \$25,000 in gifts supporting the fellowship program and the professional development of staff members who work alongside our Flynn Fellows.

Make your charitable contribution today at [giving.hartfordhospital.org/flynnfellowship](https://giving.hartfordhospital.org/flynnfellowship) (scan QR code) or contact Bethany Pelletier at 860.972.0503 or [Bethany.Pelletier@hhchealth.org](mailto:Bethany.Pelletier@hhchealth.org).

All donations will directly impact the future of oncology care at Hartford Hospital.



# Reiki Volunteer's Generous Spirit Keeps Flowing

Deborah "Debbie" Bator was passionate, especially about helping people. Her brother Michael Kamal says she was born that way.

"There was just never a time when she was not excited and happy to share her joy with others," he says. "The amazing thing is after she got sick and had a near-death experience, was in a coma for a while, had right atrium failure, and was physically exhausted—she never lost this effusiveness."

Bator's enthusiasm was especially appreciated at the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center at Hartford Hospital. As a volunteer and certified Reiki practitioner, she was a gifted healer and a strong, proactive advocate of the touch therapy.

Even as her health continued to be a challenge, Kamal says, Bator's devotion to helping people through the hands-on relaxation technique never diminished.

"It certainly repurposed her life as her health was failing," he says. "She'd painstakingly get herself ready and drag herself to the car and go and do her Reiki volunteering" for patients at the Cancer Center, including hospice patients.

Sadly, Bator, who was from Willington, passed away in April 2020. To honor her uplifting spirit, her family is raising funds to support one of Bator's greatest passions, the Reiki program at Hartford Hospital.

Punyapriya Gopal, coordinator of the Reiki volunteer program, says Bator not only volunteered but "stepped up to represent Hartford Hospital at any chance for Reiki volunteer opportunities in the community. And she did it all with a passion for helping people get better."

Donations to the Debbie Bator Memorial Fund will be used to recruit and train Reiki volunteers, support paid-staff Reiki sessions for patients, and provide community outreach and education about Reiki.

According to Gopal, the Reiki Volunteer Program at Hartford



Punyapriya Gopal coordinates the Reiki volunteer program.

Hospital started in 1998. It is the nation's first and longest-running hospital-based Reiki program. Run by Volunteer Services and the Department of Integrative Medicine, the program has hosted more than 170 volunteers and charted more than 75,000 Reiki sessions.

"Where our program stands apart is that it has extremely detailed, comprehensive, ever-evolving guidelines to ensure that there is a seamless merging of cutting-edge science with a holistic therapy like Reiki," Gopal says. "For example, a



Above: Debbie Bator with her sister Suzanne Kamal, on left, and her mother Bea Kamal, center.

Left: Debbie and Chester "Chet" Bator were married 35 years.



patient who has just finished a customized radiation therapy session receives a Reiki session in the 'Reiki Room' right in the Department of Radiation Oncology. This approach ensures uninterrupted medical treatment and a

timely Reiki session for reduction of anxiety."

Bator's family hopes the memorial fund will help make the holistic therapy more available. Kamal says Bator wanted to find a way to help more people through Reiki.

"In her perfect world," Kamal said, "everybody who wanted Reiki [regardless of their ability to pay] could get it within a reasonable time period to alleviate their pain, their anxiety. So that's really the key thing we're trying to accomplish with this memorial fund."

Join Debbie Bator's family in making a difference in the lives of cancer and hospice patients while honoring her giving spirit. To support the Debbie Bator Memorial Fund, visit [giving.hartfordhospital.org/debbie](https://giving.hartfordhospital.org/debbie) (scan QR code).



To learn more about Hartford Hospital's Department of Integrative Medicine, visit [hartfordhospital.org/services/integrative-medicine](https://hartfordhospital.org/services/integrative-medicine) (scan QR code).



# Healthcare Worker to Run 'Virtual' Marathon to Honor COVID-19 Losses and Salute Colleagues

Adam Levine of Bristol says running the Boston Marathon has been a lifelong dream. This year the Hartford Hospital respiratory therapist is living that dream virtually to raise money for the hospital's COVID-19 Fund in honor of the lives lost and to salute his colleagues' hard work during the pandemic.

**"I have worked side by side with such incredible co-workers—from doctors, respiratory therapists, and nurses to PCAs and GSAs—that gave their all to help the patients that came into the hospital with COVID-19."**

Levine, who says he has run four marathons, will take a 26.2-mile route from his home in Bristol to the entrance of Hartford Hospital on October 9. He will pass Bristol Health, UConn John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington, and Saint Francis Hospital and Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford.

Levine began fundraising for Hartford Hospital's COVID-19 Fund in the spring and has raised more than \$6,000 to date.

"For the COVID-19 patients that sadly didn't make it, we know we gave our all," Levine says. "We tried to do everything in our power to create positive outcomes. In honor of those that lost their lives here at Hartford Hospital during the pandemic, I wish to dedicate this marathon to them and their loved ones."

If you would like to support Adam's Run and Hartford Hospital COVID-19 Fund, visit [giving.hartfordhospital.org/adams-run](https://giving.hartfordhospital.org/adams-run) (scan QR code).



Levine's run on October 9 will be his fourth marathon. He has run the Hartford Marathon twice and the Newport Marathon once.





## Golf Tournament Benefits Resuscitation Training

Advanced Performance Glass (APG) hosted the seventh annual btr Golf Tournament on June 10 at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. The event, which is held in memory of Andrew Butterfield, was sold out yet again, and the golfers had a great time. This year, funds raised are supporting the purchase of two Resuscitation Quality Improvement (RQI) training carts for the Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation (CESI) and cardiology. The carts are revolutionizing the way in which medical teams stay current in their resuscitation training by allowing staff to train on their floors or within CESI more frequently. The RQI trainers provide real-time feedback and debriefing. Pictured from left are Gary Rooke, APG president; Heather Spencer, accounting and human resources, APG; Britta Raczowski, operations account manager, CESI; Stephen Donahue, director of operations, CESI; Elaine Rooke, chief financial officer and treasurer, APG; and Meghan Bianco, associate director of special events, Hartford Hospital. The photo was taken when masks were not mandated.



## CTBTA Gift Supports Brain Tumor Patients and Research

Representatives of the Connecticut Brain Tumor Alliance (CTBTA) presented a check for \$25,000 to the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital in July. The grant helps brain tumor patients meet basic needs, supports brain tumor research and CTBTA's annual Fred Cohen Symposium. Pictured from left are Meghan Bianco, associate director of special events, Hartford Hospital; Andrew Salner, MD, director, Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital, and Ned C. and Janet C. Rice Chair; Cheryl Italia, CTBTA Board of Directors; Lynn Rossini, vice president, Philanthropy, Hartford Hospital; Christopher Cusano, executive director, CTBTA; Cassandra Crowal; Ahmad Daher, MD; Alexandra Flowers, MD, CTBTA Board of Directors.

## Walker Cup Tournament

The 2021 Walker Cup Tournament was held at Glastonbury Hills Country Club on August 21. The tournament honors the memory of Robert "Bob" Walker and supports cancer research. Pictured from left are Tom Tedford, event organizer; Walker family members Jack Walker, Carleton Walker, and Jean Walker; Lynn Rossini, vice president, Philanthropy, Hartford Hospital; and Ken Vinci, event organizer.



## A Gift for Breast Care

Members of the Connecticut General Assembly presented a donation for Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute's mobile mammography program in early June. The gift was from proceeds from the legislature's Dress Down Day fundraiser, which collected over \$2,000. From left are Rep. Kathy Kennedy; Rep. Cathy Abercrombie; Rep. Christie Carpino; Rep. Tim Ackert; Karen Weingrod, director of Hartford HealthCare's Breast Program; Rep. Lezlye Zupkus; Rep. William A. Petit Jr.; and Rep. Toni Walker. All individuals in the photo have been fully vaccinated.

# photo-*lanthropy*



## Hartford Hospital

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Hartford Hospital realizes that individuals enjoy learning about our programs, services, and developments. However, we fully respect your privacy. If you do not wish to receive future fundraising requests such as this, please write to the Department of Philanthropy at our address, call 860.972.2322, or email [HartfordHospital@hhchealth.org](mailto:HartfordHospital@hhchealth.org).

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# THE PURPLE LIGHT PROJECT

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The Purple Light Project supports psychiatric patients in Hartford Hospital's Emergency Department. "Purple" is for the purple pod, which is the psychiatric section of the Emergency Department. "Light" represents our light always being on for those suffering from mental health crises. Our vulnerable patients could benefit from basic needs, e.g. warm winter clothing, food, hygiene supplies, blankets, and taxi or bus vouchers. On Saturday, October 2, the Purple Light Project 5k will be held at the Institute of Living. All the funds raised will benefit patients. To register for the race or to learn more about or donate to the Purple Light Project, go to [giving.hartfordhospital.org/purple-light-project](http://giving.hartfordhospital.org/purple-light-project) or scan the QR code.

