No One Fights Alone

It takes a special kind of person to put your own challenges aside to help others – even in the midst of so much uncertainty. Jill Bertolini defined what it means to be that special person. Her story has become a source of inspiration – filled with countless emotions.

Cancer is at the center of Jill’s health story. In October 2019, days after returning home from a honeymoon in Africa with her husband, Jill was diagnosed with breast cancer. She underwent a double mastectomy on October 30, which was eventually followed by reconstructive surgery.

In September 2020, less than a year later, Jill noticed that she wasn’t feeling well. She attributed much of it to her being rundown due to a big move she and her husband had just made after buying their dream home. Two weeks later, the 42-year-old ended up in the emergency room. A CAT scan revealed something abnormal and she was admitted to the hospital. She would later learn that she had stage four pancreatic cancer, which was inoperable and completely unrelated to the breast cancer. The devastating news was made worse when she also learned that the pancreatic cancer metastasized to her liver and lungs.

Doctors told Jill that patients with her prognosis who undergo treatment live an average of a year. Jill opted to go through treatment, but also wanted to still follow through with the goals she set for herself prior to her second cancer diagnosis. One of those goals – helping other women.

After her breast cancer diagnosis in 2019, Jill decided that every October she would make a basket full of items that would bring a woman comfort and healing as they recovered from a mastectomy. Her breast surgeon would then give the basket to a patient. As October 2020 approached, Jill was committed to carrying out this goal – despite just being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She knew her time was limited, but never wavered from her commitment to helping other women.

Jill was not only a Hartford HealthCare patient, but also a former employee – once serving as the director of Medical Staff Services at The Hospital of Central Connecticut and MidState Medical Center. Her former colleagues heard (continued on page 8)
Central Region Welcomes
New Director of Philanthropy

Leslie Cifone has been named the Regional Director of Philanthropy and Volunteer Services at The Hospital of Central Connecticut and MidState Medical Center.

Cifone Shares Her Vision

The focus of our job in philanthropy is to be a bridge between our Hospitals and the individuals and businesses in the communities we serve, offering opportunities to partner for a common benefit. Our goal is donor-centered. We wish to communicate with our donors so that they are up to date on Hospital initiatives and strategies. We then help them find meaningful ways to participate in the growth and development of our Hospitals within the communities they live, work and recreate. Our commitment to stewardship helps to instill confidence that not only do we value our relationship with our donors, but that we ensure their gifts are used in the manner and spirit in which they bestow it.

We have a strong and long history in the community. We look forward to continuing and growing our presence and alliances, finding opportunities to create new collaborations as we discover the potential for them. Additionally, we continue to support the The Hospital of Central Connecticut and MidState Medical Center with funds for programs, equipment, and technology so we can grow and address community needs both existing and emerging. We continue to listen to our donors, solicit their input and find ways to deepen our relationship with each of them, to fulfill our shared goal and mission; to improve the health and healing of the people and communities we serve.

“We ensure their gifts are used in the manner and spirit in which they bestow it.”

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Dear Friend,

I hope this letter finds you and your family doing well. As we transition into the new fiscal year, I would like to extend my gratitude for your unwavering support and commitment to The Hospital of Central Connecticut and MidState Medical Center. We recognize that the support from our communities is critical to our success.

That support, specifically during the pandemic, has given us the ability to adapt and grow in these ever-changing times. We’ve been able to improve access to safe, quality care to our patients, enhance programs and services that countless people depend on, and advance our treatments with the help of technology.

Over the summer, we were proud to announce Hartford HealthCare’s acquisition of Hunter’s Ambulance in Meriden. This new partnership has allowed for active engagement with the EMS teams and our Emergency Department physicians. No other commercial service in the northeast has this type of structure, which greatly benefits our patients.

Most recently, the Connecticut Orthopaedic Institute (COI) at MidState Medical Center attracted national attention. The Joint Commission, an independent organization that accredits more than 22,000 healthcare organizations and programs in the U.S., recognized COI’s Advanced Hip and Knee Replacement Program with the first-ever certification for Advanced Spine Care. This incredible advancement also benefits our patients.

Finally, I’d like to share plans to expand neurosurgery at The Hospital of Central Connecticut. We are recruiting five neurosurgeons, purchasing new equipment, and renovating existing patient rooms. This plan will create a neurosurgery site of excellence at The Hospital of Central Connecticut, expanding the capabilities to support current and future demand.

As we reflect back on our accomplishments in 2021, we eagerly look forward to new opportunities in 2022. We know that this work would not be possible without your support and we cherish the work we’re doing together to help bring the best care possible to the Central Region. The future is brighter because of people like you – who selflessly give back to the community. It has a profound impact on countless lives.

I wish you and your family a relaxing and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

Gary Havican
President, Central Region
Generous Grants Awarded

**Grants Received Fiscal Year 2021** (Oct. 1, 2020–Sept. 30, 2021)

- **Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust at the Main Street Community Foundation** - $60,000  
  Equipment and infusion chairs for Medical Oncology and Infusion at Bradley Campus

- **American Savings Foundation**—$25,450  
  H.O.P.E. Program (Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education) & Volunteer Services

- **Breast Cancer Alliance, Inc.**—$15,000  
  Breast Cancer Education & Outreach

- **CT Breast Health Initiative, Inc.**—$25,000  
  Breast Cancer Rehabilitation Services

- **Farmington Bank Community Foundation**—$5,000  
  Breast Cancer Early Detection

- **The Charlotte Johnson Hollfelder Foundation, Inc.**—$25,000  
  Breast Health Services

HOCC, Bradley Memorial Campus Receives Generous Grant

The Hospital of Central Connecticut at the Bradley Memorial Campus received a $60,000 grant from the Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust at the Main Street Community Foundation. The grant is being used to purchase necessary equipment and infusion chairs for the Medical Oncology and Infusion suite at the Bradley Campus. The hospital is committed to improving access to care and modernizing healthcare for the community in Southington. The state-of-the-art equipment and infusion chairs will provide optimal comfort in a relaxing and caring environment for patients needing IV infusion and cancer treatment therapies.

Paying It Forward

The Hospital of Central Connecticut recognized and awarded four nurses with scholarships this year that were supported by the Diane Ramy Faulconer Scholarship program, established in March 2015 through the charitable support of Diane Ramy Faulconer.

Diane is a generous friend and supporter of The Hospital of Central Connecticut. Her goal in establishing this scholars program is to “pay it forward” by financially assisting nurses at the hospital who are committed to furthering their education. Diane was fortunate to receive scholarships herself at the start of her career, and is passionate about giving back to the community where she began her career. Diane has generously provided funds to support HOCC nurses since 2015 and has contributed $225,000

Donor Impact

**Breast Cancer Early Detection**

The advancements we have made can be attributed in many ways to people like you who have generously supported our mission to improve the health and healing of the people and communities we serve.

One example is the Breast Cancer Early Detection program which is funded through generous contributions from both grant funding and gifts from our community and colleagues. The charitable donations we receive at The Hospital of Central Connecticut for this Program are used to cover screening and diagnostic procedures for our uninsured and underinsured patients related to the Early Detection program. Some of these procedures include; Mammograms, Ultrasounds, Biopsies, Breast MRI, as well as any other necessary procedures identified by our breast center healthcare professionals. We are grateful to the generous individuals, companies and foundations that have made donations to this program. Every donation, regardless of size, makes a difference!

This year alone your gifts have supported:

- 287 patients assisted
- 448 procedures/services provided
- Total funds allocated: $91,686

To make a donation or view our Honor Roll of Donors, please visit, thocc.org/giving
Community Support

Gifts of Appreciation

- Power of Peace in Southington donates N95 masks
- Tammy Campanelli donated long stem roses to cancer patients receiving infusion treatments
- Danielle Salina, Anousha Hashim, and Emily Tessier collected $724 worth of change from students of QUEST at McGee Middle School
- The Berlin Lion’s Club donates meals for the ICU
- Ryan Lee Foundation in Berlin donates car seats to families in need
- Tamra & Michelle Ibitz from Plainville made blankets for the NICU
- The participants of the F&M 2021 Knit One, Give One event donated knitted baby hats to the Family BirthPlace

Grateful for Quality Care

The Tomasso Family showed their appreciation for the care their family member received by having large boxes of flowers delivered to the C-5 unit and the ICU at The Hospital of Central Connecticut. In addition to the large bouquets, they also sent over four dozen individually packaged roses so that every colleague could receive a flower. The family was deeply moved and grateful for the care and professionalism shown by the staff.

Thank you for your generous support!
Auxiliary Notes

Auxiliaries Celebrate Our Nurses

In recognition and celebration of National Nurses Week, The Hospital of Central Connecticut, MidState Medical Center and Bradley Memorial Campus Auxiliaries recognized nurses in the Central Region with a special gift: a plush beach towel!

New Britain General Campus Auxiliary

The Hospital of Central Connecticut Auxiliary at New Britain General has distinguished itself as an integral part of the hospital by providing concepts, proposals, financial support and volunteerism to complement the growth and technological needs of healthcare.

Projects funded in 2021 include:
- $60,000 for an ultrasound system for the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory
- $25,000 donation to HOCC’s COVID-19 Fund to help support the purchase of essential supplies for our patients and colleagues.
- $7,500 for Nurse Appreciation
- 648 DiBella’s subs for HOCC colleagues
- 31 dozen doughnuts with a note of gratitude delivered to the various departments
- 70 pairs of pajamas for premature babies
- 4 scholarships were given
- Distributed 180 poinsettias to patients

Bradley Memorial Campus Auxiliary

The goal of The Hospital of Central Connecticut Auxiliary at Bradley Memorial is to provide a long-term commitment of emotional and medical support to the hospital and community.

Bradley Memorial Campus Celebrates Scholarship Recipients

The scholarship committee from the Auxiliary at Bradley Memorial Hospital awarded scholarships to three students from Southington High School. The recipients included the following seniors: Nicole Greco, who will be studying Speech Pathology at SUNY in New Paltz, NY; Mitchell Messina, who will be studying Nursing at UMASS or Boston; and, Leah Zaslavsky, who will be entering a Physician’s Assistant Program at Hofstra University. The Auxiliary at Bradley has been awarding scholarships to graduating Southington High School seniors pursuing careers in health care since 1966. Congratulations to this year’s scholarship recipients!

HOCC Auxiliary hosts Annual Golf Tournament

On Wednesday, June 2, The Hospital of Central Connecticut Auxiliary at New Britain campus hosted its 30th Annual Auxiliary Golf Tournament at Tunxis Country Club in Farmington.

The tournament raised more than $60,000. Proceeds from the tournament will fund the purchase of an additional ultrasound system for the Cath Lab at The Hospital of Central Connecticut.

The Hospital of Central Connecticut Auxiliary at New Britain General appreciates the generosity of all who contributed to this fundraiser and would like to extend thanks to this year’s sponsors and a special thank you to Mr. Bill Tomasso & the Tunxis Country Club for their continued support of the HOCC Auxiliary at New Britain General Golf Tournament.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor
- MRI of New Britain

Diamond Sponsors
- Constitution Surgery Alliance
- MBH Architecture, LLC
- Tomasso Group

Gold Sponsors
- BSC Services LLC
- CFM Construction Corporation
- Compass One Healthcare
- Hartford HealthCare Heart & Vascular Institute
- Healogics
- Starling Physicians

Golfer’s Gift Sponsor
- Northeast Emergency Medicine Specialists, LLC

Cart & Lunch Sponsor
- MidState Radiology Associates

Silver Sponsor
- Connecticut GI

Save the Date

The Hospital of Central Connecticut Auxiliary Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at Tunxis Country Club in Farmington.
Pictured (L-R): Laura Napoletano, Auxiliary Chair; Annette Salina, Auxiliary President; Gary Havican, Central Region President & CEO; David Obedzinski, President & CEO, Community Foundation of Greater New Britain; Leslie Cifone, Director of Philanthropy & Volunteer Services

The Hospital of Central Connecticut
The Auxiliary at New Britain General
Colleague Support for Jillene Bertolini
(continued from cover)

about her determination and commitment to helping other women – and wanted to take part as well.

In June 2021, Jill’s colleagues launched the Inaugural Jill Bertolini Symposium, an important fundraiser, which raised more than $50,000. The event now ensures that every woman who goes through a mastectomy will receive a Jill Basket. Jill was overwhelmed with gratitude – realizing her once-a-year gesture would now be done on a regular basis. She wanted these baskets to be part of her legacy, which brought her a tremendous sense of pride. The symposium also provides discussion and information about cancer screenings, diagnoses, treatments, resources and advancements in technology.

Jill’s story shines a spotlight on a disease that impacts countless people, including our families, friends and colleagues. The message to everyone is the same as the event’s motto: No one fights alone.

Sadly, Jill passed away on December 7, 2021 after a courageous 15-month battle with cancer. Jill’s legacy will have a profound impact on other women and their families – also faced with a cancer diagnosis. The Hospital of Central Connecticut and MidState Medical Center are proud to be the driving force behind that legacy – to ensure that her memory, strength, and devotion will live on for years to come.

DONATIONS can be made to support the JILL BERTOLINI FUND at The Hospital of Central Connecticut and MidState Medical Center.

SCAN QR CODES to make a donation today!

Pictured (L-R) – Kim Kerr, RN, CBCN, CN-BN; Holley Dey, MD; Brian Byrne, MD; Niamey Wilson, MD, FACS; Bret Schipper, MD; Camelia Lawrence, MD, FACS; Jill Bertolini and Brian Spyros
Giving Back

75 volunteers contributed over 22,500 hours of volunteer service

**THE GIFT OF TIME – VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

In June, we welcomed back many of our adult volunteers who returned when the hospital’s Volunteer Program resumed. We are grateful to have experienced volunteers supporting the Hospital during these challenging times. The dedication and commitment of our volunteers has been remarkable. Adult Volunteers have contributed approximately 21,000 hours of volunteer service in the Central Region since June 2020! Your help is valued and appreciated throughout the year, as we could not continue our work without you.

Additionally, 25 new adult volunteers were welcomed – many college students – who also helped out in various departments including Emergency Department, Endoscopy & GI, Information Desks, Ambulatory Surgery, Mercury Patient Transport, Cancer Centers, and Medical Records.

Finally, after a pause to our Teen Summer Program in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic, this summer’s teen volunteer program surpassed our expectations. We resumed the program in April 2021 and to-date have successfully onboarded close to 50 teen volunteers who provided more than 1,500 hours of volunteer services throughout the Central Region. In addition to our regular teen program, a pilot program, permitting teens aged 14 to volunteer, was implemented this year. Our volunteers now range in age from 14 – 90+. This exceptional group of volunteers were wonderful to work with – energetic, enthusiastic, intelligent, friendly, helpful, compassionate, hardworking and reliable. Several of the teens remained in the program and will continue after school or on weekends, others pledged to resume again over school breaks or return next summer. In fact, one teen expresses, “It has been an absolute pleasure volunteering at your Hospital and I am looking forward to volunteering year-round during the school year.”

The Volunteer Department wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you and recognition to all of our adult and teen volunteers who have supported us this year.

We are thankful for the numerous devoted hours and talent you share with us throughout the year. We recognize that your volunteerism has changed lives!

“The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.”

– DeAnn Hollis
Hospital News

With the support of our local community, The Hospital of Central Connecticut has been able to offer more advanced technology and improved access to care. We continue to work hard to improve our services for our patients, including these new/expanded services:

HARTFORD HEALTHCARE ACQUIRES HUNTER’S AMBULANCE

Hartford HealthCare (HHC) purchased Hunter’s Ambulance Service Inc., Meriden, making it the first ambulance service owned by HHC.

Hunter’s will continue to operate independently as a division of Hartford HealthCare, and will serve as the primary responder in the region to include The Hospital of Central Connecticut and MidState Medical Center.

“This will greatly enhance our vision of EMS as a strategic component of the HHC integrated care delivery model,” Central Region President Gary Havican said. “Emergency Medical Services are an essential component of our care coordination model, providing access to care when it’s needed most.” Hunter’s shares these same goals and it was important for them to find an institution that emulates the same core values and shares the same vision.

“This is going to ensure that resident needs are met, services are filled and necessary support systems are in place”

HOCC AND NEW BRITAIN RECOVERS

The Hospital of Central Connecticut’s Emergency Department and The Behavioral Health Network are proud to partner with the New Britain Recovers initiative. The program will provide help for homelessness, addiction and youth prevention efforts in the community.

“This is going to ensure that resident needs are met, services are filled and necessary support systems are in place,” said New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart during a news conference on March 8.

The relaunch of New Britain Recovers brings together critical resources under one umbrella that are available to vulnerable populations that need treatment and care.
Southington Honors Our Nurses

The Town of Southington took the time to honor Hartford HealthCare nurses during National Nurses Week. Town leaders were joined by colleagues from the Central Region to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the nurses at The Hospital of Central Connecticut Bradley Campus and beyond.

Showcasing Southington

The Hospital of Central Connecticut Bradley Campus has been named the recipient of the 2020 Betty Kroher Humanitarian Spirit Award. The award is given out annually to individuals and organizations with a connection to the Southington community. The award was given to the hospital and its colleagues due to their hard work and dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Since its inception in 1899, The Hospital of Central Connecticut has been built on the foundation of generous support from individuals through bequests and other planned gifts. It’s thanks to visionary planning and forward thinking individuals that the hospital has benefited and been able to support growth and technology of today to ensure the best care is available to friends, family and all in our communities.

The 1899 Society recognizes individuals and families who have planned to make a gift through their will or other estate plans to benefit The Hospital of Central Connecticut and have informed us of their intention during their lifetime. We are grateful to our 1899 Society members for their vision and generosity.

If you would like more information about the hospital’s 1899 Society, or if you have already included the hospital in your estate plan and would like to speak with someone from the Philanthropy team, please call Tina Fabiani at 860.224.5568.

Ann-Margaret Anselmo, Ph.D.*
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Antoinetta M. Capriglione, M.D.
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*Deceased

Thank you for your generous support!