COVID-19 survivor applauds exceptional care she received at MidState Medical Center

By: Cheryl J. Belomizi

Claudine Primack was admitted to MidState Medical Center in early April for a bowel obstruction and was told she would need emergency surgery. As if that wasn’t bad enough, things quickly took an unexpected turn. Prior to surgery, Hartford HealthCare tested Primack for COVID-19, which came back positive.

After surgery, Primack ended up in the ICU at MidState due to her COVID-19 diagnosis. Primack says being in the ICU without visits from her family made the situation especially hard, but says the compassionate people at MidState really helped her along in her fight against the virus.

“It’s the kind of spirit you don’t see everywhere,” Primack explained. “The superior care you want in a hospital is what impressed me the most.”

Primack says she was blown away by the encouragement she received from everyone directly and indirectly involved in her care. From the people emptying the garbage who would tell her to hang in there; the café workers trying to find and adjust to her special restricted diet; the nurses who checked on her constantly telling her she would get better and to keep up the good work; the physical therapists who cheered her on each time she took five steps; the chaplain who called to say a prayer with her every day; and the social worker who updated her husband on a consistent basis – they have all made a lasting impact.

Primack says she remembers sharing stories with her medical team – specifically about her rescue dog, named Jersey. One day she woke up from a deep sleep and noticed a drawing of a dog on the window of the door in her room that read, “Jersey said, get well!”

“This was just one of the moments that kept me motivated to get better,” Primack said.

Primack was discharged from MidState on May 7 – after being in the hospital for a month. But before she could leave, there was a little surprise. MidState colleagues lined the hallway, cheering her on as she was wheeled out of the hospital. “Around every corner was someone applauding and shouting words of encouragement,” Primack recalls. “It was so touching, not only for me, but for the entire staff.”

Primack says her transition home was completely seamless. She received care from Hartford HealthCare at Home and was eventually able to return to work, remotely. Jersey was happy to have her back home as well. Primack says she continues to think fondly of everyone at MidState who was part of her care.

“A personal note from Claudine Primack: I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of the staff that I dealt with on a daily basis. My family and I are eternally grateful for the life-saving, superior care that I received.

Above, left: Primack’s dog, Jersey; right, COVID-19 Survivor Claudine Primack
New Britain business and the best of a community partnership donates thousands of face shields to Hartford HealthCare

OKAY Industries, a medical device manufacturer in New Britain, teamed up with community organizations to make 22,000 face shields that are being used by medical staff and first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hartford HealthCare received 14,000 of the donated face shields. The shields were created through an assembly line that was made up of volunteers inside the gymnasium at New Britain High School.

We’d like to thank the following individuals and organizations for making this partnership possible.

- OKAY Industries
- Community Chest of New Britain & Berlin
- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving COVID-19 Relief Fund
- Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust at the Main Street Community Foundation
- American Savings Foundation

From the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain

- CFGNB Community Initiatives Fund
- Conry Asset Management Charitable Fund
- Kevin and Christine (Malachowski) Bruemmer Fund
- Lasher Fund in Memory of Douglas S. Lasher
- Obedzinski Family Charitable Fund & Many Individual Donors to its Civic Leadership Fund

Tremendous outpouring of mutual appreciation

During the peak of COVID-19, you relied on us to care for your loved ones, neighbors, friends, colleagues and surrounding communities. While we were doing that, something amazing happened -- over the past several months, The Hospital of Central Connecticut and MidState Medical Center have been the recipients of an overwhelming amount of needed goods, services, monetary donations, and goodwill.

Restaurants and individuals donated food, some more than once. Businesses, small and large, ramped up their assembly lines, and produced and delivered PPE supplies. Individuals and organizations gave monetary donations. Quilting groups, religious groups and other community members sewed masks by the hundreds. And on top of all that, your encouragement, appreciation and well wishes were all over the media, newspapers and social media. Notes and cards came pouring in. We spotted heart signs on lawns, windows and cars on our drive into work! Your appreciation kept us going during a time when we were pushed beyond what we could have ever imagined.

You were doing all you could to help - and more... Thank You! Your thoughtfulness and generosity means more to us than you will ever know. We would like to take a moment to recognize all of you and let you know how much we appreciate your support during a time when we needed it most.
The following is a listing of the generous donors who supported MidState Medical Center during the pandemic with an in-kind or monetary gift.

Due to the overwhelming amount of donations received, we may have inadvertently missed some of those who made a donation. Please know that your generosity had and continues to have a profound impact on our hospitals and staff.

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MidState Medical Center Auxiliary donates thousands to COVID-19 Fund

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National Emphysema Foundation,
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Stewart EFI, LLC, Thomaston

Savoy Pizzeria-Max Restaurant Group donation to MidState and HOCC

Katie Anton & Mary Anton

Marianne Benassi-Beckmann
Mary Page
Maureen Hoedtke
Maureen Kane
MBH Architecture, LLC,
West Hartford
Melissa Davis
Meriden Girls Softball
Little League
Michael Barker
Michael Batista
MidState Family Birthing Center
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Amy Soobitsky/Pizza Pal
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BJ’s Wholesale Club, Southington
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Vivek Kamath and Rajani Nadkarni, M.D.
Wallingford Electric
WeHa Brewing & Roasting Company, West Hartford
Westfield Meriden
William Sprouse
Wise Guys, Meriden
Zach Taddei
Zentek Farms, Cheshire
Zentek Farms plants donation to MidState
Easter Basket donation to HOCC from Tatiana Hernandez
The HOCC New Britain Auxiliary donated hundreds of meals to HOCC staff
Patricia Lowe-Weichsel mask donation to MidState

Rebel Dog Coffee Co donation to HOCC

Mitchell Wollen donation to MidState
Fundraising News for Our Donors Who Are Making a Difference

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Rogers Orchards donation to HOCC

Food for the Front Lines donation to HOCC

Olympos Diner donation to MidState

Dunkin Donuts gift card donation to MidState

The Tomasso Group donation of meals to the HHC Cancer Institute at HOCC
We are safe.
We are prepared.
We are ready to care for you.

Questions about the coronavirus?
Need emotional support?
Sometimes people need a bit of emotional support. You can get that assistance any time of day or night by calling 1.833.621.0600. Hartford HealthCare’s Community Care Center hotline. Experts from our Behavioral Health Network are available to help with managing feelings and emotions, mental health concerns, substance use issues, and any medical issues and concerns about COVID-19. They may also help schedule follow-up appointments, if needed.

For all the latest news and updates from Hartford HealthCare:
Hartford HealthCare Health & Wellness Coronavirus, please visit: hartfordhealthcare.org/coronavirus


COVID-19 Hotline - 860.972.8100

• Or text COVID19 to 31996 for daily updates

CONNECTIONS THAT MATTER – a guide to a variety of free or reduced-cost services.
• To find out more, please visit: connectionsthatmatter.org

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
Please visit, cdc.gov

Take similar precautions as you would during the flu season. The best way to prevent the spread of this new virus is to wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, disinfect surfaces, cover your cough, avoid touching your face, stay home when you’re sick and avoid being within six feet of others who might be sick.

Would you like to help?
Support COVID-19 needs at your community hospital
You can help in this crisis by making a charitable donation to the COVID-19 Fund, so we can continue to do everything possible to ensure excellent staffing levels on the front lines, operate mobile testing sites, and provide Personal Protective Equipment and other support for our staff.

If you would like to donate directly to your community hospital’s COVID-19 Fund, please visit MidState Medical Center’s page at midstatemedical.org/donate or The Hospital of Central Connecticut’s page at THOCC.org/donate.