



Dear Friends of CVHHH,

I am thrilled to have been asked to be the honorary chairperson for CVHHH's Spring Appeal. Why? Because it gives me a chance to tell you about this amazing organization.

My relationship with CVHHH dates back to 1992 when the company decided to move to Granger Road in Berlin. At the time, I served as the selectboard chair. When representatives from CVHHH introduced the business to the community, I thought how great it was that this type of service was coming to central Vermont. Little did I know that a few years later I would join CVHHH's Board of Directors and experience first-hand how fortunate we really are.

I will always think back on my years as a CVHHH Board Member with pride. One experience, in particular, stands out. Every quarter, CVHHH invites members of the community to spend a day with a clinician or personal care attendant out in the field. I was thrilled when they asked me to participate. Of course, I said yes, and I had the opportunity to accompany a CVHHH nurse on three client visits. I learned two valuable lessons that day. First, the CVHHH representatives treat every client with the same compassion and level of skilled service. Second, when a loved one is sick, and you become a caregiver, it is very reassuring to know that CVHHH is available, regardless of where you live or your ability to pay, to provide an incredible range of services and high-quality care right in your home.



When my mom turned 93, she became a resident of Berlin Health & Rehab, now Genesis HealthCare. A few months into Mom's stay there, it became clear that she needed extra support. We called CVHHH and requested hospice care, which was provided for Mom at the nursing home. A volunteer from CVHHH began visiting with Mom a few hours a night. The volunteer sat and talked to Mom and built a great rapport with her. She documented their visits in a red binder which she gave to us after Mom passed away. If you knew my mother, you know that she was not one to share her feelings too often. When my sister and I read the visit notes, we were overwhelmed by the comments Mom felt comfortable making. She talked about how she loved her life, how proud she was of us, and that she felt she'd left nothing undone, that it was time. Hospice was a true gift for Mom and for our family.

Now that I'm technically retired, I remain active as a town funding committee member. I enjoyed sharing the work of CVHHH this past year in advance of Town Meeting Day. A couple of years ago, I had the pleasure of speaking with CVHHH's CEO and COO on an episode of my public-access TV show, Vote for Vermont. We talked about hospice and telemonitoring services. You can find the show on ORCA Media's website.

I hope you will join me in supporting CVHHH. The organization's staff, executive personnel and board members are compassionate, caring, and highly qualified. They were there for my family when we needed them, and it was reassuring to me as a caregiver to have their support.

Sincerely,

*Patricia A. McDonald*