



November 13, 2020

Dear Friends of CVHHH,

An epidemiologist and a wayward microbe walk into a bar... wait, haven't heard this one yet? Then read on.

It is humbling to represent CVHHH as Honorary Chairs for the Fall 2020 Appeal. In a year that tested our collective resolve, it is reassuring to know that there's an organization that is fully dedicated to the care and wellbeing of the Central Vermont community.

During my tenure on the Fayston Selectboard, my colleagues and I fielded annual charitable requests from dozens of non-profit programs. Working within tight budget constraints, we prioritized contributions to organizations that were professionally operated and had the deepest reach in our town. We heard of many of our neighbors' positive experiences with CVHHH and knew that the organization checked the right boxes. I would soon learn first-hand what made CVHHH so special.



Eight years ago, Trish's father, Len, was nearing the end of his life. We engaged CVHHH for hospice care, which made it possible for Len to stay in his own home through his death. Len was part of the "greatest generation." He was an incredibly strong-willed and generous person, and we were very close. The care that CVHHH provided in Len's last few days, and the support that the hospice nurses and personal care attendants gave to Trish and her mother, were nothing short of remarkable. Although this was not a unique situation for these caregivers, they cared for Len as if he was the most important patient they had ever had.

As a member of CVHHH's Board of Directors, I have had the opportunity to learn about the many services offered by the organization, and to participate in shaping its strategic direction. The entire staff is impressive. They are dedicated, innovative, and responsive professionals who are unapologetically proud of the high level of care that they provide to Central Vermonters at home. If only the Red Sox were this focused! Serving on the Finance Committee has allowed for an in-depth look at the myriad costs and revenue sources that mirror the complexities of the modern health care system. CVHHH faces perpetual financial challenges because of rigid and unforgiving reimbursement requirements from its biggest payors, Medicare and Medicaid, and this situation has been made even more difficult by the additional costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Vermont state motto is "Freedom & Unity." These two ideals are embodied by CVHHH in its mission to provide patients with the freedom to receive exceptional health care in the security of their own homes supported by an organization united in the skill, compassion, and generosity required to deliver this outstanding care. The importance and relevance of CVHHH to the Central Vermont community cannot be understated.

Please join us in supporting this wonderful organization.

Thank you.

Ed & Trish Read