

DECEMBER 10, 2018 | VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 50

## Hello and Happy Holidays!



**We are well into the month of December and you can't escape the spirit of the season.** I hope those who celebrate had a wonderful Hanukkah! For many others, it's on to Christmas or perhaps planning for Kwanzaa. Have you gotten your tree yet? Started your shopping or maybe even finished? Regardless, I hope this holiday season you are blessed with the good fortune of family, friends, cherished memories of loved ones, and the anticipation and excitement that comes this time of year. Personally, I am very pleased with the early Christmas gift of another Red Sox World Series win earlier this year!

*Thanks to all of you,  
many will have a  
brighter holiday  
season because  
of your kind and  
thoughtful gestures.*

I know I have told you before that the work you do and the commitment you share with your colleagues for your patients, their families, and our community, is remarkable. I am impressed but certainly not surprised at what you all do day-in and day-out across all of our operating units, many times above and beyond. I should add that this goes on year-round and not just this time of year when it might seem more common for others. Once again, let me say thank you.

Today, I wanted to highlight some of the great efforts underway at Care New England this holiday season to help others who are less fortunate. Sadly, there are many who find themselves in need both now and throughout the year. But thanks to all of you, many will have a brighter holiday season because of your kind and thoughtful gestures.

Let me share with you just a sampling of some of the efforts taking place through your leadership, enthusiasm, and generosity. Butler is once again coordinating its annual gift drive so that patients will have a chance to celebrate come Christmas morning. Kent Hospital is conducting its 38th annual Adopt-A-Family gift drive which will benefit more than 50 families in need this year. Women & Infants NICU Follow-Up Program and Transition Home Plus Program are accepting financial contributions to provide holiday baskets and gift cards to 10 of their families most in need. The Providence Center is collecting toys for boys and girls ages 3 to 12 to benefit the families of clients. VNA works with the City of Warwick to identify residents who would benefit from a holiday meal. Integra is providing holiday baskets to 25 families including gift cards to Stop & Shop, along with a turkey and all of the fixings! In addition, the crew at Service Road has completed a tremendously successful food drive. They set a goal of 1,000 pounds and knocked that out of the park, collecting more than 2,800 pounds of food for the West Bay Community Action Food Bank (see byte below). I will be sure to include some photos in an upcoming *carenews* column of our Santas and elves in action—stay tuned.

*continued >*

< continued

This outpouring of kindness and sharing is simply amazing! What might seem as a simple act of sharing could ultimately make someone's day, month, or even year. It is impossible for us to know just what others might truly need this holiday season but it is safe to say these acts of thoughtfulness WILL make a big difference. Please see the byte below to see who is still accepting contributions.

Thank you for caring and thank you to all of CNE for helping to make this a great season of joy and giving for so many, including me!

...

## Ways to give this holiday season

Many thanks to all who have already generously given to fundraisers, toy drives, and adopt-a-family programs across our system. Below is information about some programs that are still accepting donations.

**Butler** – Staff have put together a list of items to be given to patients on Christmas morning. A collection box and the sign-up list with requested donations is located outside the hospital cafeteria. For questions, please contact Kerri Lynch at [KALynch@Butler.org](mailto:KALynch@Butler.org).

**The Providence Center** – TPC is seeking new, unwrapped toy donations for boys and girls ages 3 to 12 to benefit client families. Donation bins are now located at 530 North Main Street, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> floor lunch rooms, and 10 Orms Street, front desk. TPC is also accepting cash donations, which can be coordinated with Priscilla Villa, who can be contacted at [PVilla@CareNE.org](mailto:PVilla@CareNE.org) or (401) 528-0160. Those working at satellite locations who would like to donate may coordinate pick-ups and drop-offs with Priscilla.

**Women & Infants** – The combined NICU Follow-Up Program and Transition Home Plus Program are asking for monetary donations to provide holiday baskets and gift cards to 10 of their neediest families. All of these families are graduates of the Women & Infants NICU. Please forward your donation by Thursday, December 13 to Vicki Watson—134 Thurbers Avenue; Barbara Alksninis—NICU/Main Hospital; or Betsey Mottershead/Mary Tucker—101 Plain Street. Please contact Andrea Knoll at [AKNoll@WIHRI.org](mailto:AKNoll@WIHRI.org) with questions.

**Women & Infants** – The Program in Women's Oncology continues an adopt-a-family for the holiday season. They are still in need of gift cards from Walmart, Stop & Shop, Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, and Fandango/AMC (for movies). If you or your department would like to donate gift card(s), please contact the Program in Women's Oncology (Amelia Vess at [amelia.vess@salve.edu](mailto:amelia.vess@salve.edu)).

## Care New England makes huge donation to West Bay Community Action Food Bank

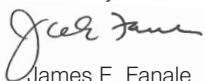
Last month, staff from across Care New England came together and collected 2,825 pounds of food for the West Bay Community Action Food Bank through the Thanks for Giving Food Drive. Patty Doyle of Patient Financial Services spearheaded the effort along with her colleagues at Service Road. She spoke with the director of West Bay who said they had never received a donation of that size! Many thanks to those who donated to help the 1,200 families served each month and the 41 shut-ins served twice a month through this program.

From left to right: Mary St. Pierre, Patty Doyle, Jennifer Couri, and Andrea Colwell

...

Have a great week!

Sincerely,



James E. Fanale, MD  
President and Chief Executive Officer



## Mental Health Association of RI launches Parity Initiative



Governor Raimondo, consumers, advocates, and professionals from Rhode Island's behavioral health community all gathered at Butler recently for a Mental Health Association of RI (MHARI) event launching an important and long-overdue campaign to help Rhode Islanders assert their rights under mental health parity laws. The RI Parity Initiative (RIPI) is a public awareness effort to educate and empower people to understand and assert their rights to health insurance coverage for mental health, including addiction, treatment, and services.

"We should all be proud that Butler was selected as the site for the kickoff of this important campaign. The stigma around mental health, both in the community at-large, and just as importantly with the insurance companies themselves, has been slow to change, and there is still much work to be done. There is no reason, particularly in 2018, that people seeking mental health or addiction services should experience discrimination of any kind," said Mary Marran, president and chief operating officer, Butler Hospital. The RI Parity Initiative will work to educate and inform Rhode Islanders about the rights we all have to ensure health plans cover mental health services the same way they do medical and surgical services.

Earlier this year Governor Raimondo signed an executive order reaffirming and expanding Rhode Island's commitment to people with mental health and substance use disorders while addressing access to timely and needed care. The kickoff of the RI Parity Initiative is an important step towards lessening the stigma within our communities while ensuring a level playing field when patients need access to high-quality, affordable behavioral health services. The Governor, the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals, the Rhode Island Foundation, and the United Way of Rhode Island should all be applauded for their continued focus on these critical issues. For more information, visit <https://riparity.org/>.

## WOMEN & INFANTS

### ICYMI: Dr. Todd Levine interviewed by The Public's Radio



With Rhode Island recently adding autism as a qualifying condition for the use of medical marijuana, a reporter with The Public's Radio interviewed Dr. Todd Levine from Women & Infants' Brown Center for Children, along with the mother of an autistic child.

The story aired locally and is scheduled to also air on National Public Radio. Listen at <https://bit.ly/2Ppytpv>.

## VNA OF CARE NEW ENGLAND

### VNA holds annual Circle of Love and Light Hospice Memorial



On Tuesday, December 4, more than 30 members of the community gathered together at the Warwick Public Library to honor and remember their loved ones who are no longer with us. The evening included a personal reflection from Warwick's Mayor, The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, who recently had a family member receive care from the VNA of Care New England. VNA chaplain, David Johnson, also offered words of encouragement and insight on the challenge of coping with grief throughout the holiday season.

For many, this time of year, a time that has typically been joyous and filled with holiday traditions, is now diminished by the passing of someone they hold dear. The VNA of Care New England is honored to offer this memorial event that promotes peace, comfort, and a time to reflect on the love and light each of our loved ones has left as a legacy.



## Anchor Recovery Center to move to temporary location

Due to the sale of the building, Anchor Recovery Center in Pawtucket will be moving out of its current space before the end of the year and into a temporary location at the Jim Gillen Teen Center, located at 1280 North Main Street in Providence. Community groups that use Anchor for weekly meetings are arranging alternate sites until Anchor finds a permanent home.

The following Anchor Pawtucket services will be available at Anchor's temporary location:

- Recovery coach services
- Employment services (public computers will be available for job-specific activities)
- Education
- All recovery support meetings
- Homecomers' groups
- Women's group
- Arts and crafts groups
- Some volunteer services

Given the limited space at the Teen Center, Anchor will not have the space for members to use public computers or phones, or for any purpose outside of the activities listed above.

Anchor management, with the help of TPC and Care New England Facilities departments, is in the process of searching for a permanent location in the area. Updates will be posted on Anchor's website at <https://anchorrecovery.org> and Anchor's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/anchorrecovery/>. For questions, please call (401) 721-5100. 