

Giving Thanks

Fall/Winter 2021

MidState Medical Center

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 4)

Special Points of Interest

- A Message from the President
- HHC Acquires Hunter's Ambulance
- Breast Cancer Early Detection
- Auxiliary Golf Tournament

Hartford 
HealthCare

MidState Medical Center

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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A Message from the President & CEO



*“The future is brighter
because of
people like you.”*

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Havican". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey background.

Gary Havican
President, Central Region

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 MidState Medical Center 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:

- 103 patients assisted
- 104 procedures/services provided
- Total funds allocated: \$28,877

Community Support

- Care packages from the Meriden Rotary Club's Community Service Committee, included 600 inspirational notes from members of the Maloney Interact Club, and assembled by Kuhn Employment Opportunities.
- St. Paul's in Kensington donates gift cards for various restaurants & retailers
- 28 cases of KIND bars from KIND, Inc.
- Handmade Valentine's Day Cards from classes at Canton Intermediate School and Cherry Brook Primary School

Thank you for your generous support.

At right, the Jill Bertolini Symposium. 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

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!



HOCC
Giving

MidState
Giving



Auxiliary Notes

AUXILIARY CELEBRATES OUR NURSES

In recognition and celebration of National Nurses Week, the MidState Medical Center Auxiliary recognized nurses in the Central Region with a special gift—a plush beach towel!

MIDSTATE MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY

MidState Medical Center's Auxiliary and its members have provided services to the hospital, comforting patients and families through a wide variety of volunteer efforts and financial support.

Projects funded in 2021 include:

- \$60,000 to help support comprehensive cancer services
- \$15,000 donation to HOCC's COVID-19 Fund to help support the purchase of essential supplies for our patients and colleagues.
- Towels for the entire nursing staff
- Distributed 180 poinsettias to patients

AUXILIARY GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES \$60,000 TO BENEFIT MIDSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

On Monday, August 2nd, the MidState Medical Center Auxiliary hosted their 36th Annual Golf Tournament. One hundred and forty golfers enjoyed a full day of golf at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell. The tournament raised \$60,000 with the proceeds the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at MidState Medical Center.

During the evening's reception, Dr. Niamey Wilson, expressed her gratitude to the MidState Auxiliary for their generosity and shared how this donation will help support the comprehensive cancer services our patients receive.

The MidState Auxiliary appreciates the generosity of all who contributed to this very important fundraiser and would like to extend a special thank you to this year's sponsors, especially the law firm of DanaherLagnese, PC, for being the tournament's Presenting Sponsor. Also, a very special thanks, goes out to this year's Auxiliary golf committee, Philanthropy staff, and all who volunteered to help make this event very successful.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsor
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SAVE THE DATE

The MidState Medical Center Auxiliary Golf Tournament will be held on **Monday, August 1, 2022** at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell.



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!

THANK YOU

Generous Grants Awarded

GRANTS RECEIVED FISCAL YEAR 2021 (OCT. 1, 2020-SEPT. 30, 2021)

- **After The Storm, Inc. - \$8,000**
Integrative Therapies
- **ION Bank Foundation - \$5,000**
Breast Cancer Early Detection



Volunteer recruitment is open all year: teens, college students and adults. For more information about the Volunteer Program, please call Nicole Kaczmarczyk, Volunteer Manager, at 203.584.1094.

“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, MidState Medical Center 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:

MIDWIFERY SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE AT MIDSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

Midwifery services are increasing in popularity around the country and MidState Medical Center is meeting the interest of the community by introducing these specialized services to the region. MidState Medical Center is pleased to welcome two new midwives through Women's Health CT who will be providing services at the Family Birthing Center.

Midwifery services at MidState Medical Center are now available for women who desire the possible benefits of a midwife-assisted birth, including a reduction in the use of epidurals, a lower chance of having a caesarean section, and a more natural birth experience.



**HUNTER'S
AMBULANCE**

Hartford HealthCare
Emergency Medical Services

HUNTER'S AMBULANCE

Hartford HealthCare (HHC) purchased Hunter's Ambulance Service Inc., in 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.

"Emergency Medical Services are an essential component of our care coordination model, providing access to care when it's needed most."

THE JOINT COMMISSION CELEBRATES COI AT MIDSTATE

Visits by regulatory and accrediting agencies are important and necessary to ensure safety and promote quality. But last Wednesday's exit interview with The Joint Commission for two programs at the Connecticut Orthopaedic Institute at MidState Medical Center was positively celebratory.

The Joint Commission, an independent organization that accredits more than 22,000 health care organizations

and programs in the U.S., concluded its exceptional review for certification of our Advanced Hip and Knee Replacement Program, and offered top-level congratulations for earning the nation's first certification for Advanced Spine care.



Pictured (L-R) - Anthony Hrenko, Kyle Hunchak (sitting), Pamela Tempe-Gaffey, Diana Marroquin, Lisa Ambrogio-DeCola, Andrew Turczak, Dr. Patrick Tomak, Dr. John Beiner, Dr. Joel Bauman, Anna Malz (sitting), Cathy Mangini, Thomas Mangano, Dianne Vye

Leave a Lasting Legacy

You can leave a lasting legacy that will benefit patients and families for generations to come by remembering MidState Medical Center in your will. Just as the legacy of others has made a difference for individuals in our care today, your legacy can ensure financial strength, technological capability and medical excellence for those in our care tomorrow. When you write or review your will, please consider including a charitable gift to MidState Medical Center.

The Infinity Circle recognizes individuals and families who have planned to make a gift through their will or other estate plans to benefit MidState Medical Center and have informed us of their intension during their lifetime. We are grateful to our Infinity Circle members for their vision and generosity.

If you would like more information about the hospital's Infinity Circle, 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.

Infinity Circle Members

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*Deceased

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THANK YOU

Your gift made a difference!

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.

Please visit MidState Medical Center's page at midstatemedical.org/giving to see our Honor Roll of Donors.

**Thank you for your
generous support!**