

# Hope Illuminations

Hope



Alzheimer's  
Center

Winter 2005

## We're Looking For Friends

Hope Alzheimer's Center has formed a brand new organization to help spread the word about our programs. Called *Friends of Hope Alzheimer's Center*, the group is inviting everyone who's interested to become a charter member now. Membership is free and everyone is welcome.

Who can join? Participant families past and present, concerned members of the community -- anyone who cares about making days brighter for people with Alzheimer's and related conditions.

Members will receive information about Alzheimer's disease and about our program. They'll be invited to occasional social and educational events. And they'll have opportunities to volunteer their opinions and their time if they choose.

If you'd like to become a member, just fill in the form on page 3 and mail it to us at 25 Brayton Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920.

## Gifts, Grant Support our Work

Hope is delighted to announce that we have received a number of generous gifts and grants. Our thanks to:

- O. Ahlborg & Sons, Inc. for a leadership gift of \$5000. The gift reflects the company's long-standing commitment to supporting organizations that serve vulnerable Rhode Islanders.
- SAEGIS Pharmaceuticals for a \$1000 donation to help fund family and participant services. The gift also supported a presentation on RI based Alzheimer's research by John Stoukides, MD, a highly respected Rhode Island geriatrician.
- Picerne Properties and Ultimate RI for a \$750 contribution raised as part of their annual Rhode Island scavenger hunt.
- Hope is also the recipient of a \$3,000 *Disease Prevention and Health Services Promotion Grant* from the Department of Elderly Affairs. The grant will help us reach out to Latino families and allow us to expand several of our most enjoyable therapeutic programs.



**Great Golf:** Mike Rossi, President of Phred's Drug, Hope Trustee and the guiding force behind last September's highly successful Second Annual Phred's Drug Tournament Classic, (left) stands with golfers Mike Roberto (center) and Bob Holland at the Alpine Country Club. The event drew rave reviews from everyone involved. This year's tournament is scheduled for September 19. You can assure your place in this enjoyable event -- as a player, a sponsor or both -- by calling our Development Office at 401-946-9220.

## Coalition Works to Support Human Service Agencies

Hope is a member of the Provider Index Coalition -- a group of 156 health and human service agencies that contract with the state to serve vulnerable citizens. Its goal is to promote passage of legislation that assures adequate and predictable funding for these important services.

Providers of these services have faced escalating costs for several years without any increase in state reimbursement.

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### Hope

Our thanks to the caring client family who passed along these wonderful lines from a poem by the beloved New England poet Emily Dickinson

*"Hope is the thing with feathers*

*That perches in the soul*

*And sings the tune without the words*

*And never stops at all"*

*Brighter Hours • Fuller Days • Richer Lives*

Loretta Gosselin (at piano) plays for our clients and for special events. Crowding around her at our Halloween party are (clockwise from lower left:) Brian Vincent, Anitra Valles, Rosemary Warren and Luisa Hernandes.



Teresa Nero, who volunteers with her husband Pete, (at left) bring music, joy and love to Hope. Here, client Ralph Maioli smiles as he listens.



Volunteer Pat Feinstein, MD, encourages participant Veronica Cornell to sing.

Says Pat, "They always brighten my Tuesday mornings with their enthusiasm."

## Volunteers Bring the Sound of Music to Hope

Visit Hope Alzheimer's Center almost any time and chances are you'll hear the sound of music -- thanks to the talents and kind hearts of volunteers Loretta Gosselin, Teresa and Peter Nero and Dr. Pat Feinstein.

With their help, participants sing and dance and enjoy music's magic ability to transcend time and the losses brought on by Alzheimer's. Through music, even participants who no longer remember the fine details of life tap their toes and happily connect with others. Some wait eagerly for their favorite song. Many have learned new songs and virtually all enjoy listening.

Their smiles light up the faces of our volunteers as well. "I am truly blessed by the joy they share with me," says Ms. Gosselin,

Mrs. Nero agrees, "There's nothing better."

### Health Notes

## Urinary Tract Infections Can Change Behavior

by Hope Nurses Cheryl Cornell, RN and Marjorie Gardner, RN

A sudden increase in anxiety or other personality change in an elderly person may be the first sign of an otherwise symptomless urinary tract infection. Other changes may include painful or frequent urination, sudden incontinence, cloudy, foul-smelling or blood tinged urine, flank pain or fever.

If you see any of these symptoms, be sure to tell your physician. Urinary tract infections usually respond very well to treatment, and once they are gone the personality changes disappear as well.

2.

## Hope Alzheimer's Center

Formerly  
Louis Feinstein Alzheimer's Center

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## Coalition

The Coalition has made some significant progress toward its goal but there is much left to accomplish.

If you'd like to learn more about this extremely important group, go to [www.providerindexcoalition.org](http://www.providerindexcoalition.org). If you'd like to support the efforts of Hope and the Coalition, please call your State Senator or Representative and tell them you'd like to see an annual adjustment in the funding the state provides so organizations like Hope can deal with rapidly increasing costs.

### RIAFSA

Hope and nine other RI adult day services providers are also working with the RI Association of Facilities and Services for the Aged on public policy and educational issues.

United Way Designation # 4839

## Finding Sunshine: A personal narrative

The following was written by Suzanne Cohoon, a high school student who's been a volunteer at Hope and is now a youth employee:

*You are my sunshine, my only sunshine...*

Now that all of the participants have taken a seat I walk around asking each one if he or she would like to dance. Most tell me no because their knee or leg is bothering them. However, some do say yes and I lead them onto the dance floor. Once a few are dancing in a circle, more come and join. Even though they only move their feet about a foot, it is obvious that they are enjoying themselves.

After dancing in the circle, I walk over to Frank and he looks at me, but the expression on his face is very empty. I bend down and ask him to dance, and it seems like his eyes are searching my face and his brain is searching his memory to try to remember who I am. After a few seconds, he says "sure," like always. I

uncross his legs and hold out my hands. He takes them and stands up. Then, I lead him onto the dance floor.

I put one arm around Frank's waist and the other hand into his. He puts his hand on my back and the other in my hand. We begin to sway to the music. The Neros are playing "Tie a Yellow Ribbon" and throughout the entire song, Frank and I only move about a foot.

*You make me happy when skies are gray...*

We dance for a while without saying anything to each other. Frank does not talk a lot, so when I speak to him that's the extent of our "conversation." He begins to shake and I know he is ok. The first time he did this, I was very worried, but this is what he does when he is happy. As Frank shakes, I begin to laugh, which causes him to laugh as well.

After twenty minutes it is time for

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## Thank You...

...to the kind people who have made donations in memory of our participants between December 2003 and May 2004.

### In Memory of Anthony DeNicola

Mr. & Mrs. Edward DeSautel  
Mr. & Mrs. James O'Leary  
Ms. Carol Netcoh  
Ms. Ursula Nihill  
Mr. & Mrs. Dante Bellini  
Ms. Mary Poli  
Mary DiDonato  
Ms. Dorothy Chase  
Ms. Jeanette Trapassi  
Mr. & Mrs. John Rotondi  
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Mr. & Mrs. Frank Wegrzyn  
Mr. Joseph Murgo  
Mr. Charles Borkoski  
Mr. & Mrs. Neil Hunt  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Masson  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ryan  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Quirk

### In Memory of LillianGrande

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Tomao  
Mr. Nicholas Tartaglione  
Ms. Eleanor Macari  
Mr. John Borek  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Arp  
Mr. & Mrs. Peder Johnsen  
Mr. & Mrs. Cosmo Montaquila

If you'd like to make a donation in memory of one of our participants please make your check payable to Hope Alzheimer's Center and mail to Hope Alzheimer's Center Development Department, 25 Brayton Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920.

Please clip and send to Hope Alzheimer's Center  
25 Brayton Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920

## Help Us Make Days Brighter

Please join us in making days brighter for people with Alzheimer's and related conditions by joining Friends of Hope and/or making a gift to help our work.

YES I'd like to join Friends of Hope Alzheimer's Center  
(no donation required)

Enclosed is my gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) I would like to make my gift in:

Memory of /  Honor of (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a card acknowledging my gift to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU!

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## Finding Sunshine

me to help Frank sit down. I am not sure he wants to sit, but I have to because I have to get ready for the time of day when the participants leave.

Cindy, the lady in charge, tells me Frank looked really happy and it touched her heart to see us dancing together. Later, Karen, a co-worker, tells me how great it was for her to see me dancing with Frank and how special I am because I want to dance with him and work at this job.

When she says that, I think again about Frank. I do not know if he realized that he was dancing with me or if he believed he was dancing with his wife many years earlier. Most likely he does not remember that he kissed me, but I am ok with that because Frank is a sweet guy and it was an innocent kiss.

Cindy and Karen's comments made me feel good. I never really thought I was a special kid because I work at the Hope Alzheimer's Center. I know that I love my job and cannot wait to come back the next day.

I know it may be rare for a 16 year old to want to spend her summer with fifty elderly people, but why not? The people are great and it does not matter to me that they have Alzheimer's because they are still people who love to do normal things. When they come to the Center, they are there to have fun and I am there to help make sure they do.

I never thought that working at the Center or dancing with an 80 year old man would have such an effect on me.

*You'll never know, dear, how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away.*

## Touched by The Holiday Spirit

Hope Alzheimer's Center was truly touched by the spirit of the season as generous donors contributed more than \$9,000 to our holiday appeal.

Our thanks to all, and especially to the clients and staff of MarJon Hair Design for their generous gift and to the Salvatore Mancini Lodge for their very kind unsolicited donation -- two wonderful holiday surprises!

The donations, many made in memory or honor of loved ones, will help us continue to welcome everyone who needs out care and offer them the highest quality care, support and attention the whole year through.

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