### Wish list

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our ongoing requests for items on our wish list. Your donations help ensure that Hope Lodge truly is a home away from home, and each gift is appreciated by all who stay here.

- AA batteries
- Bed Bath and Beyond ivory queen sheet sets
- Digital disposable cameras
- Gift cards: Hannaford
- Postage scale
- Stamps
- White hand towels
- White twin and queen duvet covers

We also have an active registry at bedbathandbeyond.com. To access our account, enter first name: Hope and last name: Lodge.

### Meet the Hope Lodge staff

In addition to many volunteers and supporters, the Hope Lodge offers around-the-clock staffing by professionals committed to offering guests the comforts and security of home while supporting their needs through treatment to help them get well and stay well.

- Pictured, back row, from left: Mike Egus, weekend manager; Kelsi Powers, weekend manager; Suven Cooper, weekend manager; Paul Thibault, evening manager; and James Lamoy, night manager.
- Pictured, front row, from left: Karen Sheppard, weekend manager; Kayla Whitmore, weekend manager; Angela Putnam, Hope Lodge manager; Dora Greven, weekend manager; Amy Yavitz, Hope Lodge associate; Carol Dembeck, weekend manager; and Kathleen Conlin, weekend manager.

### Hope Lodge draws the winning hand

On March 10, the Sullivan family hosted their third annual Texas Hold em Tournament to raise money for Hope Lodge. Ken Sullivan launched the friendly poker game fundraiser in honor of his aunt and uncle, Mary and Jim Sullivan, who stayed at the Lodge during Jim’s tandem stem cell transplants in 2009. The tournament attracted approximately 50 friends and family members, raising nearly $1,500 for the place Jim, pictured above right with nephew Ryan Rossier, and Mary consider their “home away from home.”

### Couple makes life-saving decision

Diagnosed with cancer for the third time, Pattie Murphy knew the most critical decision was picking her medical team. The doctors she most respected and trusted were nearly 100 miles away from her home in East Burke, Vermont, at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington. Fortunately, she didn’t have to choose between saving her life and bankrupting her family with travel and lodging expenses.

Through an oncology nurse, Pattie and her husband, Derek, learned about Hope Lodge, a home-like facility providing free accommodations where cancer patients and caregivers find help and hope.

Although Pattie had been treated successfully for cervical cancer at the age of 30, and survived breast cancer twelve years later, she was unprepared for a cancer diagnosis in the fall of 2011. For six weeks following an auto accident, the 48-year-old mother of four had coped with neck pain she attributed to whiplash. But when the pain persisted, she sought medical attention and was stunned to learn three cancerous tumors had caused four pathological breaks in her spinal cord. “I thought I was going to die,” she said.

Her treatment team took immediate action to save her life and prevent paralysis, admitting her for further assessment and treatment just two days before Christmas. Her spinal cord was so compromised by the cancer that doctors were amazed Pattie was still able to walk. When a nuclear bone scan revealed more cancer, Pattie’s orthopedic surgeon was concerned her left femur could shatter, and immediately scheduled surgery to inject a 16½-inch titanium rod into her leg - a procedure she would later endure in the right leg as well.

Through the weeks of radiation and medical appointments in early 2012, Hope Lodge was a refuge for the Murphys. The inseparable married couple of 13 years was encouraged by other Lodge guests and supported by volunteers and staff. They found comfort with new friends in their temporary shelter, along with a deep appreciation for the Hope Lodge network that allowed them to focus on beating cancer.

“Everybody has been amazing,” shared Pattie. “It really is like a home away from home. It’s like having the family that you got to pick.”

Derek, known to friends as Murph, said, “I can’t praise the staff highly enough. Whatever they can do to make your stay easier, they do intuitively.”

Murph, who had taken weeks off from his work in youth services to focus on Pattie’s recovery, and Pattie, who is out of work long term, say they can’t imagine the financial devastation they would have incurred if it were not for Hope Lodge.

“It takes away from the burden you’re already experiencing,” said Murph. Pattie added, “We didn’t have that the first time around. We’re so fortunate.”

### Join us at Relay For Life

Relay For Life is a life-changing event where cancer survivors and those affected by cancer come together to make a difference in a world filled with cancer. Throughout the night, teams camp out and take turns walking around the track to raise money and awareness, helping to create a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

The impact one person can achieve is endless. Friends of Hope Lodge have come together once again to form a team led by Susan Wear, a believer in the significance of each and every birthday.

“I know a lot of people focus on the big birthdays, but many people don’t take the time to acknowledge each birthday for what it is,” said Susan, whose team has raised nearly $20,000 in the past four years. “You can make each passing year even better for yourself, your family, your community, and beyond.”

To support - or join - the Hope Lodge Relay Team at the Relay For Life of Chittenden County Vermont on June 22 - 23, visit relayforlifeorg/chittendenvt.
Donors stay the course

Don Weaver, MD, and his wife of 27 years, Betsy, understand the impact of cancer. Don, a surgical pathologist at Fletcher Allen Health Care and a professor in the Department of Pathology at the University of Vermont, works in the cancer realm every single day, studying and diagnosing disease. He is also a former member of the American Cancer Society New England Division Board of Directors. But the Weavers’ personal connection to cancer impels them to action.

Betsy’s mother lost her life to thymic carcinoma at the age of 52, and her grandmother died of endometrial cancer at the age of 62. Although both Betsy and Don had aunts who lived long lives following breast cancer, Don’s grandmother succumbed to breast cancer in her late thirties.

The couple stood alongside advocates like Bee Tabaskin and Lois McClure in 2004 as the American Cancer Society launched the capital campaign to build a larger Hope Lodge in Burlington, contributing to the hope that a new, state-of-the-art facility would accommodate and assist more cancer patients on their journey through treatment to recovery.

Since 1983, cancer patients have had a home away from home in Burlington. Despite limitations in the original 1950s building – two shared baths serving five tight bedrooms and a steep stairway that limited access for many – often patients were left waiting to be served. “Betsy and Don understood how important it was to build a home-like facility that would better accommodate the needs of cancer patients,” said Amy Deviatt, distinguished giving executive, “and their support for the Lodge continues today.”

“During one of the New England board meetings, Don visited the Hope Lodge in Worcester, Massachusetts,” said Betsy, a retail manager and education administrator. “The striking contrast between the Worcester and Burlington lodges was a convincing argument that Burlington needed a better facility for Hope Lodge.”

Today, the 21,000-square-foot Hope Lodge on East Avenue offers 16 guest suites with private baths, a gourmet kitchen, comfortable living space with numerous amenities, and an outdoor reflection garden. Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week with caring professionals and volunteers, guests can focus on getting well.

The Weavers, parents of three daughters: Kate, 23, Caroline, 20, and Christa, 17, remain proud supporters of the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge. Lois McClure – Bee Tabaskin Building.

“Is it our sincere hope that the community can develop an operational endowment to support the great work Hope Lodge does on a daily basis for the families and cancer patients being treated at Fletcher Allen,” Betsy said.

Get ready to do-si-do

Mark your calendars for the second annual Castle Baron’s Ball to benefit Hope Lodge on Friday, September 14, at the Barn at Lang Farm in Essex, Vermont. Grab your partner and join us for an evening of gaming, dancing, entertainment, and dining. For more information, contact Amy Deviatt at 802.872.6316.

Fashion Show Benefits Hope Lodge

The Interact Club of Glen Rock, New Jersey, held its eighth annual Interact Fashion Show at Glen Rock High School on February 29, and donated the $1,500 in proceeds to the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge in Burlington, where club member Marisa Davitt’s sister, Lilly Lopez-Inverso, was a guest in 2010.

Daffodils offer hope

To welcome spring, Gift of Hope daffodil bouquets were delivered to the guests at Hope Lodge from anonymous donors to the annual American Cancer Society Daffodil Days campaign in Vermont. Picture, from left: Hope Lodge guests Jim and Kim Hopper with Cynthia Buska and her son, Olin Buska II, enjoying the beautiful blooms intended to share the hope for a world free from cancer.

Volunteering helps one man put life back together after cancer

Cancer ripping lives apart. Twenty-nine-year-old Erik Shanks lost his mother and grandmother to the disease in 2011. The pain propelled him to fight back by volunteering at Hope Lodge. With each passing day, Erik is learning to heal and live life to the fullest, giving hope and support to cancer patients and caregivers along the way.

Erik says his mother, at the age of 62, was just too young to die. She battled cancer, which started in her lungs and spread throughout her body, for nearly a year, succumbing six months after her own mother’s passing. Erik, a Burlington resident since 2006, never expected cancer to impact his family in such a profound way.

“I can let it destroy my life,” declared Erik, “or I can do something about it. Seeing what my mom had to go through and knowing how hard it was for her, I thought if there was anything I could do to help others, it would be worth my time.”

Erik picked up the phone and called his local American Cancer Society. He learned about the bounty of volunteer opportunities in the state and selected to serve Hope Lodge. Every Tuesday afternoon since October, Erik, a transportation and security screener for the Department of Homeland Security, arrives at the Lodge to lend a hand, often folding laundry, filing, answering phones, or sharing friendly conversation with guests. It’s a volunteer job he loves.

A place like Hope Lodge, says Erik, where people understand cancer and the challenges that come with it, offers patients the support and strength they need to fight cancer, something he wishes his mother could have experienced during her cancer journey.

Looking forward, Erik, recently engaged with wedding plans on the horizon, has a new perspective on life. “Everything feels more special,” he said. “I see things better. You’re not guaranteed tomorrow, ever. Do it now.”

The American Cancer Society celebrated the more than three million volunteers nationwide who have helped make a difference for people facing cancer during the 38th Annual National Volunteer Week, April 10 – 16.

“On behalf of the staff and guests of Hope Lodge, I want to personally thank each of our compassionate volunteers, past and present, for generously giving their time and energy to our cancer-fighting mission,” Hope Lodge Manager Angela Putman said. “We are so grateful for people like Erik who volunteer to help make this Lodge a home.”

“Your always have time,” said Erik. “There’s nothing in my life that makes me feel better than when I leave on Tuesdays.”