

# GREENWOOD HOUSE GAZETTE

DECEMBER 2016

## Greenwood Heroes

Having a loved one in hospice care can be very stressful, not only for the patient, but the family as well. At Greenwood Hospice, our team provides care and comfort to the patient and prepares the family for dealing with loss. Our team has found a “secret ingredient” to making this difficult time as manageable and easy as possible. **His name is Derwin Bryant, RN.**

Derwin has been part of the Greenwood Hospice team since 2011 and has over 20 years of experience as a hospice nurse. He obtained his Registered Nursing License in 1993 at the Helene Fuld School of Nursing in Trenton. After years of working as a nurse on an oncology unit, he realized that he was not cut out to be a “floor nurse.” He was looking for something more fulfilling.

“I see these patients with terminal diseases and the treatments can be worse than the actual diseases. Sometimes the doctors give them a false set of hopes and beliefs. This is such an injustice to the patient. He or she should be able to spend the time that they have left doing what they enjoy and being comfortable. Most importantly, they should die with dignity.” This belief led him to his career as a hospice nurse.

Since joining the Greenwood Hospice team, Derwin has left his positive handprint on many patients and family members. Hospice Administrator, Janet Hayden, MSW, LSW, describes him as, “A ray of sunshine when he walks into a room. He can go into any situation and find a way to connect with any human being.” Raised by a father that was a pastor, Derwin has warmth and kindness that seems to radiate from him, a quality that is necessary when dealing with people that are experiencing physical and emotional pain.

As a Case Manager, (recently promoted to Clinical Coordinator), his job duties consist of making sure the resident is comfortable and happy as well as working with



the family to provide comfort and support. He will do anything for his patients to make them happy. Whether it's singing the Eagles chant with them, or bringing a resident sparkling cider and celebrating on New Year's Eve, or running out to the supermarket of a client, no act of kindness is ever too small and his answer to any request is always “yes.”

Derwin understands that the dying process is something that most people do not want to face, but realizes that he can make the end of someone's life beautiful. For example, he had a patient who grew up on a horse farm and spent her whole life riding horses. Her last wish was to see her horse again. The Greenwood Hospice team went to incredible lengths to make arrangements to bring this woman's horse to her home for one last visit. After she saw her beloved horse, she decided that she wanted to ride her horse one last time. After hearing this, Derwin did not hesitate to help her onto the horse and walk around with her as she rode. The pure joy that she experienced is what keeps him coming back to his job each and every day.

When asked what he liked the most about his job, he said, “The beautiful moments like granting someone's last wish.” Though his job can be emotionally and physically tiring- working 12 hour days, many days a week, it is the feeling of knowing that his work has a truly positive impact on a patient and family that keeps him motivated



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and inspired. He also cherishes the relationships that he forms with his patients and their families. To this day, he still keeps in touch with many of his previous client's family members.

Derwin lives in Bristol, Pennsylvania, with his wife. In his spare time he enjoys the gym, watching football and baseball and loves spending time with his grandchildren. He is a truly gifted man who is passionate about sharing his talents with others. We are so lucky to have him on our team and cannot thank him enough for being a "Hero of Greenwood Hospice!"

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## Upcoming Events:

**December 24-31-** Hanukkah, the festival of lights, begins on the evening of December 24 and lasts for 8 nights. This joyous holiday celebrates the Jewish Maccabees' victory over the Syrian army in Jerusalem. On each of the nights, we invite you to join us for a traditional menorah lighting led by a local Rabbi. For details, contact Lauryn Goldstein, marketing/development coordinator at 609.883.5391 ext. 393 or [lgoldstein@greenwoodhouse.org](mailto:lgoldstein@greenwoodhouse.org).

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## Looking To Do Some End-Of-The Year Clean-up?

Have sentimental items taken over rooms of your home that need to be reclaimed for practical use? Rick Pollock, Greenwood House Board Member and associate of "A Touch of the Past Antiques" has offered to share his expertise with GWH. By appointment he will: meet you at his office on Route 31 in Pennington, NJ or in your home regarding the items you would like to donate and appraise your item(s) and provide you with a written letter of retail value. Your treasures will then be sold for the benefit of Greenwood House! To take advantage of this opportunity contact Rick at 215.693.1299 or 609.818.9600 or [RCPollock1@aol.com](mailto:RCPollock1@aol.com).

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## Another Great Year at Greenwood House!

Mr. Richard Goldstein, executive director, proudly shares highlights from 2016:

The greatest accomplishment of 2016 was the completion of our full-facility refurbishment in April. This project was an enormous undertaking and could not have been completed without the immense teamwork from our staff and residents. This project also would not have been possible without the generous matching grant that we received and gratefully acknowledge from the Legacy Heritage Fund to support the renovation of our dementia care unit, short-term rehabilitation unit, physical therapy space and Marcus Home. With the Fund's help, the quality of life for our residents has improved and their safety has been enhanced.

All of the services that we provide have grown tremendously over the year. Our skilled nursing facility continues to run at nearly 100% capacity, and with the addition of our beautiful state-of-the-art rehabilitation gym, our short term rehab program is on the rise. Our hospice and homecare continue to grow as people hear about the outstanding service we provide.

We added two wonderful new additions to the administrative staff. Dahlia Kang is our new Chief Financial Officer and Alan Klugman is our new Vice President of Development. We are excited to have them join our team and bring their talents to Greenwood House.

And who can forget the beautiful wedding that we hosted for two of our residents in September. About 150 guests attended in support of Joyce and Steven as they said their vows in our synagogue followed by a reception in their honor. This will definitely be a year to remember for Greenwood House!

**Your Gift Makes a Difference!**

**For 2016 we currently have...**

266 Membership donors, which equals \$80,580.08 • 53 Holiday Fund donors, which equals \$7,675

**Make sure to make your donation before year-end!**