



A NIGHT
UNDER ✨
THE STARS

To benefit East End Hospice

SUMMER GALA 2022

Saturday, June 25th

...

40 SECOND NECK LANE
QUOGUE, NEW YORK

BERTSAND

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481 Westhampton-Riverhead Road
Post Office Box 1048
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978-7048

631-288-8400
631-288-8492 FAX
www.eeh.org



Dear Friends:

Welcome back to Second Neck Lane. Thank you for joining us for “A Night Under the Stars” in support of East End Hospice. It is wonderful to see friends old and new as we celebrate our community’s incredible resiliency and East End Hospice’s exciting future.

We are caring for more patients than ever before in our history. The demand for our services has grown substantially as the East End population booms, and the healthcare landscape continues to shift. EEH is the only hospice provider on the East End, and our community needs us now more than ever.

In 2021, we cared for 751 hospice patients and 350 bereavement clients across 450 square miles from Montauk to Mastic and everywhere in between. Growing demand has meant increasing the size of our team and adding new services, like our popular music therapy program and our first-ever Spanish-language bereavement group. It also means building a new home for EEH.

Our new EEH Headquarters will allow us to bring the Zinberg Family Bereavement Center, community spaces, clinical services, and administrative functions under one roof. It reimagines our Kanas Center for Hospice Care’s thoughtful design elements and applies them to areas specially designed for grief and bereavement. The new EEH Headquarters will allow us to meet current needs and plan for a future when even greater numbers of East End residents benefit from EEH’s nationally recognized model of care.

I invite you to learn more about the project by reaching out to me directly or speaking with a member of our Board of Directors or Development Team. Thank you for your partnership in our work. I look forward to launching this new project with you.

With gratitude,

Mary Crosby, RN, MPH, CHPN
President & CEO

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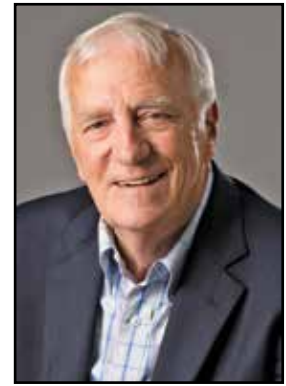
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481 Westhampton-Riverhead Road
Post Office Box 1048
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978-7048

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www.eeh.org



Dear Friends:

What a pleasure to once again celebrate East End Hospice's incredible care for our community and your vital partnership in our work. Your support improves the lives of hundreds of friends and neighbors each year who rely on EEH for hospice and bereavement care.

Our Gala Committee members make our celebration possible. Led by Co-Chairs Paula Palumbo and Thomas Diffley, they've considered every detail to make tonight a spectacular success. Thank you. Thanks also to Robin and Reuben Jeffrey, who, once again, have generously opened their home to Hospice. This evening, the stars reflecting on the bay remind us of our connection to those no longer with us.

We remember our Honorary Chair, Starr Boggs, who sustained us with good food, great conversation and a generous spirit, making him a friend to all who knew him. A night like tonight is a fitting tribute to Starr, who defined East End hospitality. We celebrate the Otis Family of Quogue, our Dorothy P. Savage Good Samaritan Award recipients. Like Dorothy herself, the Otises are passionately committed to our community.

East End Hospice touches so many lives across the East End and beyond because of our generous supporters, dedicated volunteers, including my colleagues on the Board of Directors, and expert staff. They are leaders in the fields of hospice care and bereavement services.

Mary Crosby, President & CEO, oversees our extraordinary work. Her impressive leadership these past few years is surpassed only by her enthusiasm for our future. EEH is positioned to care for growing numbers of hospice patients, their families, friends and caregivers and meet our community's rapidly increasing need for grief and bereavement support.

Thank you for taking part in our "Night Under the Stars." We're honored that you chose to launch your summer season with us. Tonight we celebrate East End Hospice's vital contributions to the well-being of our community. You make our work possible. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Peter C. Halstead
Chairman

East End Hospice Board of Directors 2022



Peter C. Halstead, *Chairman*

Peter is a residential real estate appraiser. He retired after a 30+ career as a commercial pilot and captain. He previously served in the U.S. Navy as Lieutenant Aviator. He and his wife, Michelle, an East End Hospice volunteer, enjoy cooking, traveling and spending time with their children and grandchildren. They reside in Remsenburg.



Rajesh C. Patel, MD, *Vice Chairman*

Dr. Patel is a pulmonologist and critical care practitioner with Eastern Suffolk Pulmonology and Peconic Bay Medical Center. He volunteers with International Surgical Mission Support (ISMS), providing expert medical care to those in need worldwide. Dr. Patel enjoys spending time with his wife, Shoba Patel, MD, and their two sons, former Camp Good Grief volunteers. He lives in Quogue.



Michael Merlo, *Treasurer*

Mike is the former Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer at Signature Bank. He serves on the Board of Directors of New York Institute of Technology and the Tomorrow's Hope Foundation. He and his wife, Gerri, an EEH volunteer, divide their time between Westhampton Beach and Naples.



Elizabeth Webb Rowe, *Secretary*

Betsy volunteers with numerous East End and New York-based nonprofits. She worked as a legal assistant supervisor before retiring in 2001. Betsy enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband, David, and their two children. She is a proud fourth generation Remsenburg resident who now divides her time between New York City and Quogue.



Gabrielle Bamberger

Gay heads Gabrielle Bamberger Public Relations, a firm she founded and has run since the late-1960s. She has developed PR plans and programs for a broad range of for-profit and nonprofit clients. Gay serves on the Board of The Center for Fiction and enjoys traveling, tennis, and spending time with friends and family. She divides her time between New York City and East Hampton.



Arlene Bujese

Arlene is a former educator, curator and Washington, DC-based art gallery director. She owned the Arlene Bujese Gallery in East Hampton for 12 years. Arlene was instrumental in securing and curating the permanent art collection at EEH's Kanas Center for Hospice Care. In addition to her love for art, Arlene enjoys gardening. She resides in East Hampton.



Hon. John Czygier, Jr.

Judge Czygier is Senior Counsel with Lewis Johs Avallone Aviles LLP; his practice areas include Trusts, Estates and Elder Law. He was appointed Judge of the Surrogate's Court of Suffolk County in May of 2001 by Governor George Pataki following twenty-five years in private practice. He was elected to that position in November of that year, and re-elected in 2011, serving until his retirement from the bench in 2018. He has served in various leadership roles for the Surrogate's Association of the State of New York and as Chair of the Hofstra Law School Distinguished Alumni on the Bench. He lives in Remsenburg.

East End Hospice Board of Directors 2022



R. Zachary Epley

Zach is Corporate Director of Support Services at Seaford Center, an alcohol and substance abuse treatment facility in Westhampton. He is a Southampton Fire Department volunteer, Vice President of the Board of Directors of Southampton Youth Services and a Trustee of the Southampton History Museum. He, his wife, Brittney, and four young children live in Southampton.



Melissa Kanas

Melissa is Trial Director of The Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County. She has worked as a public defender for various organizations, including the Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, The Legal Aid Society of New York City and the San Francisco Public Defender's Office. Melissa enjoys spending time with her family, friends, three dogs and two cats. She lives in Remsenburg.



Anthony Meyers

Tony volunteers for several East End charities, including Southampton Hospital. He retired in 1990 after a career on the NASDAQ trading desk. He enjoys playing golf and spending time with his wife, Nannette, an EEH volunteer, his six children and their families. He lives in Southampton.



Pete Meyers

Pete Meyers is Chief Financial Officer of Slayback Pharma LLC. He has over twenty-five years of experience in the health care industry, including roles as CFO at Eagle Pharmaceuticals, Motif BioSciences and TetraLogic Pharmaceuticals Corporation. Pete serves as Chairman and President of The Thomas M. Brennan Memorial Foundation. He enjoys playing hockey and spending time with friends and family. He divides his time between Westchester and Southampton with his wife, Trish, and their two children.



Carol Lee Nespole

Carol Lee served as Director of Purchasing and later as Assistant to the Director of Development at the Trinity School. She supports numerous East End nonprofits. Carol Lee enjoys spending time with family and friends. She and her husband, Jim, live in Remsenburg.



Sally Richardson

Sally Richardson is Publisher at Large of the Macmillan Publishing Group. She was previously, chairman, president and publisher of St. Martin's Publishing Group among other roles in her more than fifty-year career with Macmillan Publishing Group. Sally is a New York Public Library volunteer. She divides her time between New York City and Remsenburg.



Jacalyn Weinstein

Jackie is a licensed clinical social worker in psychiatry at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC. She is a founding Chair of EEH's Valentine Salon Luncheon. Since its beginning 23 years ago, it continues to be the only EEH fundraising event that solely benefits Camp Good Grief. Prior to her social work career, Jackie was active in a family-owned wholesale and retail sporting goods business on Long Island. Jackie enjoys spending time with friends and family. She lives in New York City.



Mary C. Crosby, RN, MPH, CHPN, *President & CEO*

Mary is President & CEO of East End Hospice. Mary has an extensive background in clinical care, healthcare research and project management. She previously held positions at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and the United Nations.

Mary was born and raised in Southampton, New York and returned to the region in 2014. Prior to assuming the role of President & CEO, she worked as a Hospice nurse and later as Nurse Manager of EEH's in-patient facility, the Kanas Center for Hospice Care. She holds degrees from the College of the Holy Cross, Columbia University and New York University's School of Nursing. She resides in Southampton with her husband, Hilton, and their two sons.



Louis J. Avvento, MD, *Medical Director*

Dr. Avvento has been the Medical Director of East End Hospice since 1990. He oversees individual plans of care for each hospice patient in consultation with their primary care provider. Dr. Avvento is an oncologist with New York Cancer & Blood Specialists. He is the former Director of Palliative Care at Peconic Bay Medical Center and Stony Brook Southampton Hospital.

Dr. Avvento is board certified in Internal Medicine, Hematology and Hospice, Medical Oncology and Palliative Care. Dr. Avvento attended New York University and received his medical degree from the University of Rome.

MISSION

East End Hospice is dedicated to improving lives across Eastern Long Island through expert care, comfort and compassion for terminally ill patients and their families.



ABOUT

East End Hospice is the leading and most comprehensive provider of hospice services for Eastern Long Island. Conceived as a grassroots effort to support friends and neighbors, EEH has grown exponentially. Our care covers 450 square miles, including Southampton, East Hampton, Southold, Riverhead and Eastern Brookhaven Townships and Fishers and Shelter Islands.

EEH is certified by the New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. EEH maintains high satisfaction ratings from patient families and bereavement clients and routinely meets or exceeds national care delivery benchmarks

East End Hospice's licensed, professional staff and dedicated volunteers care for more than 750 terminally ill patients and 350 bereavement clients each year.

East End Hospice 1991 Society

The 1991 Society celebrates and honors those who generously include East End Hospice in their charitable estate plans.

Named to reflect the year of East End Hospice's certification, the Society allows East End Hospice to publicly thank those who thoughtfully invest in EEH's future. If you have named East End Hospice as beneficiary of your will, life insurance policy, charitable trust or similar plan, please share your intentions with us, so that we can recognize your commitment to improving lives across Eastern Long Island.

Anonymous (8)

Louis Auer
Frank J. Abbadessa
Theodosia Arkus
Karl H. Behr

Clorinda Bonaccorso

Ralph H. Burack
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Ernest Furtado
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Pasquale Iorio
Margaret F. Jackson
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Willis A. Pyle
William A. Quinn
Frances E. Raff
Sally Richardson
William D. Roberts

Richard Ryan
Joseph D. Ryle
Dorothy Pell Savage
Erwin Schweiger
Joanne C. Seguino
Susan M. Seidman
Viola Adele Southwood
Josephine E. Spencer
Arthur J. Steel
Eva R. Stern
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Rita Bartlett Strand
Barbara Stuchinski
Derith D. Sutherland
Janet T. Swanson
William T. Swanson
Samuel H. Swint, Jr.
Isabel Thompson
Leona Torkelsen
Stephen Torkelsen
Joan M. Trabulsi
Doris Weber
Marie J. Wennerholm
Helen M. Wettereau
Madeline D. White
Victor Whitlock
Margaret C. Wilson
A. Gordon Wooten, Jr.
Dorothy Wormser
Joseph G. Worth
Gibson Bain Young

Bold indicates living member.

Please forgive any omission, list incomplete at time of printing



**21st Annual Dorothy P. Savage
Good Samaritan Award Recipient
THE OTIS FAMILY**



Otis Ford has served the local community for over 75 years and was founded in 1946 by Edward T. (Bob) Otis Jr “at the light” in Quogue. From the start, being in a small town, his focus was on caring for customers and the local community. The current Otis family consists of Tom and Jane Otis and their children , Beth (married to James Miller), Mary, (married to Bryan Beasley), and Tom (married to Kim Otis).

Bob was the first president of Westhampton’s Rotary Club in 1953 and a 59-year member of the Quogue Fire Department. His son Edward T. (Tom) Otis III joined him in 1969 continuing the legacy of service both at the dealership and through the Rotary Club, Quogue School Board, Quogue Fire Dept (50 years in 2022), and countless other endeavors earning him the honor of Grand Marshal of the WHB St. Patrick’s Day Parade in 2013.

Edward T. (Tom) Otis IV became the third generation in 2012. Otis Ford is proud to have many long-time employees and customers, having won Ford’s President’s Award for Customer Satisfaction 23 times, including 16 of the last 20 years and the previous 6 in a row.

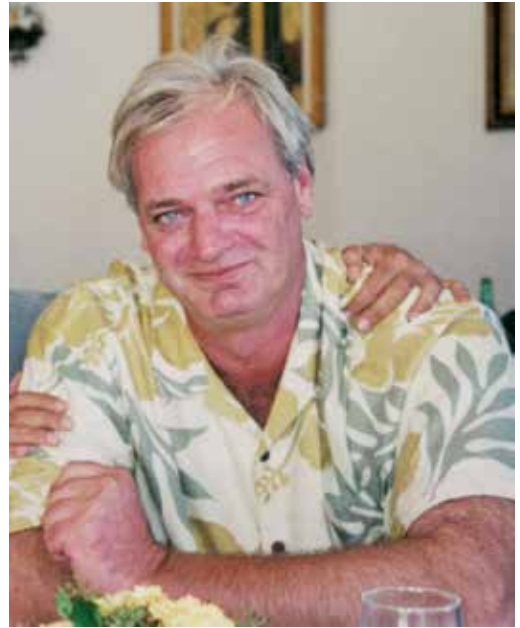
Our family believes in the importance of service to the community. Tom and Jane Otis have always been active members of the Westhampton Presbyterian Church. Jane served on the Quogue Library Board for over 20 years. Edward T. (Tom) Otis IV has continued his family’s legacy of service, becoming a member of the Quogue Fire Department in 2014 and currently serves as the first lieutenant. Tom coaches his son’s baseball team and is happy to help in the community wherever he can. James has also continued the family’s legacy of service, joining the Quogue Fire Department in 2018 and currently serving on the Board of East Little League.

Tom and Kim have served on East End’s Hospice Gala Committee and the Quogue Wildlife Refuge’s Gala Committee for the last seven years. Kim has followed in her mother-in-law, Jane’s, footsteps by serving as a Co-president of the Quogue School PTA for two years. Jane was actively involved in the PTA, also serving as President, while her kids attended Quogue school. Beth and James Miller also served as members of the Quogue PTA Board. Mary and Bryan Beasley are passionate about supporting youth leadership and youth sports in the Westhampton community and across the Island both professionally, through their family owned business, and personally through their Thankful Hearts Project. “We feel so blessed that our family is able to serve our community. It’s a privilege to be able to do so and show our children at a young age the importance of helping others and the value of service to the community. Over and over, I see the truth in the saying “it takes a village,”” says Kim Otis.

Our family takes special pride in supporting East End Hospice and the incredible work that it does. Providing compassionate care when families need it most, the end-of-life care and bereavement services that East End Hospice provides are unparalleled. It is truly something exceptional to be a part of. Our family personally, and our friends, have experienced Hospice’s care for our loved ones, and it is something unlike anything else in a time that is one of the hardest. Tonight, we celebrate East End Hospice and the invaluable service they provide to our community, and we thank you for your generous support. Let’s support, donate, and have a WONDERFUL night!

**IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
STARR BOGGS**

**2022
HONORARY CHAIRPERSON**



Starr Boggs was a Westhampton legend.

Since 1985, his critically-acclaimed restaurant was one of the most popular food destinations in the Hamptons, and his charm and generosity made him a truly beloved member of our community.

Starr donated and catered the food for our East End Hospice Gala for many years.

**We are truly heartbroken by his loss,
and proud to name him
our Honorary Chairperson for 2022.**



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Dear Friends of East End Hospice,

After a two-year hiatus, we are so excited to finally host a live EEH Gala again. The event is sure to be a night to remember, with good friends, great food, and fabulous entertainment, all of us there to support a most worthy cause, the East End Hospice.

Each year, so many people work tirelessly to make this Gala one of the premier events of the season. This year is no exception:

Our honoree this year is Westhampton's own Starr Boggs, who's recent sudden passing was heartbreaking for our East End community. He was a tireless supporter of the Hospice and so many other local charities and his memory will be indelibly inked into our hearts forever.

And congratulations to the Otis Family, the recipient of our Good Samaritan Award. The Otis family continues to give back to the community year after year in so many ways...financially, as Volunteers in our Quogue Fire Department, providing transportation to the attendees of the Gala, as committee members to our EEH family. They are the quintessential example of what it means to be true Citizens of a Community, and we are very grateful to them for that.

Thank you to our dedicated committee volunteers for all that you do to help make this event so special...seeking donations, providing unique ideas to make the event special in every way.... Every one of you have been a vital part of this effort and we are very blessed to have you on board.

A special thanks to Betty Ann Catanzaro and her team of artists, who year after year create a Gala decor that is welcoming, fun, unique and truly spectacular in every sense of the word.

To the Jeffery Family: how can we ever thank you for once again donating your beautiful waterfront property to host this event.... under the stars and on the bay, it would be hard to find a more splendid and perfect location for this Gala. You have our sincerest and heartfelt appreciation.

Finally, to Theresa Murphy and her team...what can we say. YOU are the reason this all comes together. Your energy, dedication, and drive to make this happen is seen and appreciated by all of us. Thank you for your unwavering devotion to the cause.

Cheers,

Tom Diffley & Paula Palumbo
Summer Gala Chairpersons

GALA CHAIRPERSONS

THOMAS DIFFLEY
PAULA PALUMBO

HONORARY COMMITTEE

MR. & MRS. MATTHEW C. BLANK
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MICHAEL CRUISE
NELSON DEMILLE
MR. & MRS. JOHN R. GAMBLING

MR. & MRS. JOHN KANAS
MARIA Z. MOORE
PETER SARTORIUS
ADRIANA TRIGIANA
CAMERON WINKLEVOSS
TYLER WINKLEVOSS

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EILEEN BOCCIO
EILEEN BROD
BETTY ANN CATANZARO
TINA A. DAVIS
YVONNE ELLIMAN
VICTORIA GARCIA
DR. ALEXIS GERSTEN
MICHELE LEMOEL-GRAY
JANIS GRIM
TOM HADLOCK

VERN HACKWORTH
GEORGIA HATCH
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MEG KRETZ
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SHEILA MCCAULEY
BECKY MIGNONE

BETTE & FRANK MOONEY
CAROL LEE & JAMES NESPOLE
JO MARIE PICA
ELIZABETH & JOHN PLATE
JUDITH REID
SALLY RICHARDSON
BETSY & DAVID ROWE
LORA SCHIAVETTA
PAULINE SCHMIDT
ALEXANDRA URDANG &
IRWIN MESSER

JUNIOR COMMITTEE

PAIGE ALBERT
OLIVIA AWAD
SOPHIE HEINBERG
GEORGINA HUTCHINS
LIZ HEWITT

HENRY JOHNSON
KIM & TOM OTIS
LIZZIE POND
JACKIE PERROTTA
CHAIRPERSON: HARRISON MESSER

Master of Ceremonies LUCAS HUNT

LUCAS HUNT is the president of HUNT Auctioneers and a celebrated American poet.

He graduated from World Wide College of Auctioneering, is a Benefit Auctioneer Specialist (BAS), and has helped raise millions of dollars for philanthropic organizations, institutions and foundations.





CARE, COMMITMENT, COMMUNITY: The Campaign for EEH

East End Hospice gratefully recognizes the following donors whose support will make the future of EEH and the new EEH Headquarters a reality:

Anonymous (2)

American Legion Auxiliary No 388

Gabrielle Bamberger

Eileen & Frank Boccio

Burner Law Group, PC

The Countess Moira

Charitable Foundation

Mary & Hilton Crosby

Hon. John M. Czygier, Jr.

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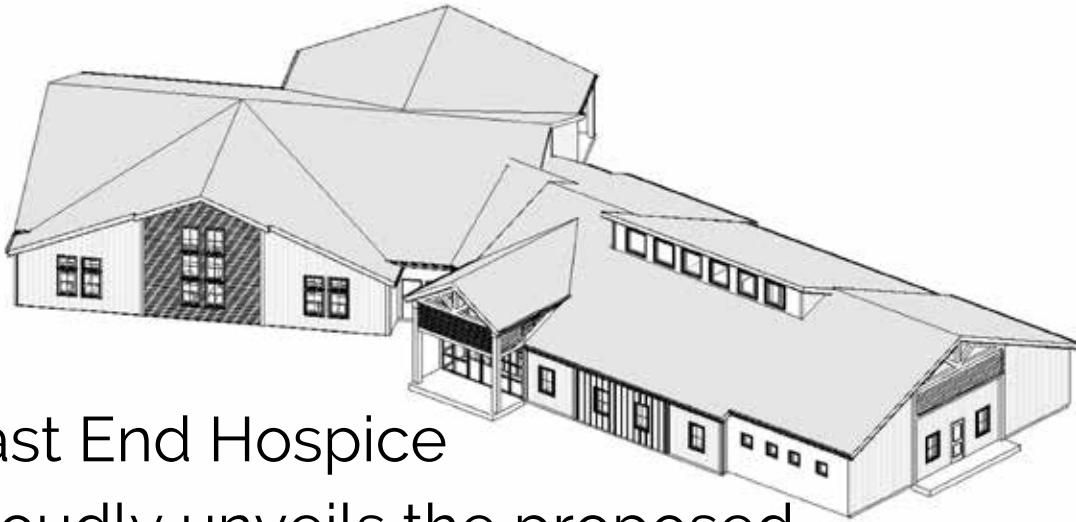
The Waterhouse Family Foundation

Andy Yaeger

Stanley Zinberg, MD

LEARN MORE about The Campaign for EEH and SUPPORT the EEH Headquarters project with your tax-deductible gift, CONTACT Emily K. Madsen, director of Planned and Major Gifts, at 631.288.7080 or emadsen@eeh.org.

Listing incomplete at time of printing; please forgive any omissions.



East End Hospice proudly unveils the proposed EEH Headquarters building project.

Located on 2.2 acres at 85 Old Riverhead Road, Westhampton Beach, NY, EEH's new 10,000 square foot headquarters brings satellite locations into a unified village concept that links bereavement, clinical services and administrative functions.

STATE-OF-THE-ART AMENITIES

- Adaptable studio space for children's activities, wellness exercises and programming
- Seminar rooms for community education, programming and staff development
- Large group therapy room
- Private offices for individual and small group counselling

INTENTIONAL DESIGN FEATURES

- Calming, light-filled spaces connected to nature
- Peaceful outdoor greenspace and gardens
- Clinical and administrative functions consolidated to one campus
- Architecture mirrors Kanas Center for Hospice Care design



GOD BLESS
THE VOLUNTEERS

MR. & MRS. JOHN V. BRENNAN



The John and Elaine Kanas Family Foundation

wishes to thank the entire staff of

East End Hospice

for their hard work and dedication to those in need.

We remember fondly our friend, Starr Boggs,

& extend our congratulations to the Otis Family!

It takes a village!

THE KANAS FAMILY



*With great appreciation
to
East End Hospice
for all you do.*

DR. STANLEY ZINBERG



Our heartfelt thanks to
Mary Crosby
and
the staff and volunteers
of
East End Hospice
for their ongoing
compassion and dedication
particularly during the pandemic.

MARY I. AND JOHN E. HULL



With deep admiration for the
kind and caring service of the
EEH staff and invaluable support
of its generous volunteers.

With prayers and thanks to Starr
for his innumerable
contributions to our community.

Blessings and Good Health to All!

FRANK AND EILEEN BOCCIO



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ROBERT ALLEN**

Forever in our hearts.

PATTY ALLEN



PATRON LEVEL

*With many thanks to all the
professionals and volunteers of
all the Hospices world wide for the
care and love they provide patients
and their families.*

THE CALCAGNINI FAMILY



**THANK YOU
EAST END HOSPICE
FOR ALL YOU DO.**

KEVIN AND SANDY CROWE



**SADLY OUR COMMUNITY RECENTLY LOST
TWO TALENTED AND AMAZING MEN**

**RESTAURATEUR - STARR BOGGS
AND
ARTIST-DAN POLLERA**

**WE ADMIRE THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS,
LOVE OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS
AND THE IMPACT THEY HAD ON OUR LIVES.**

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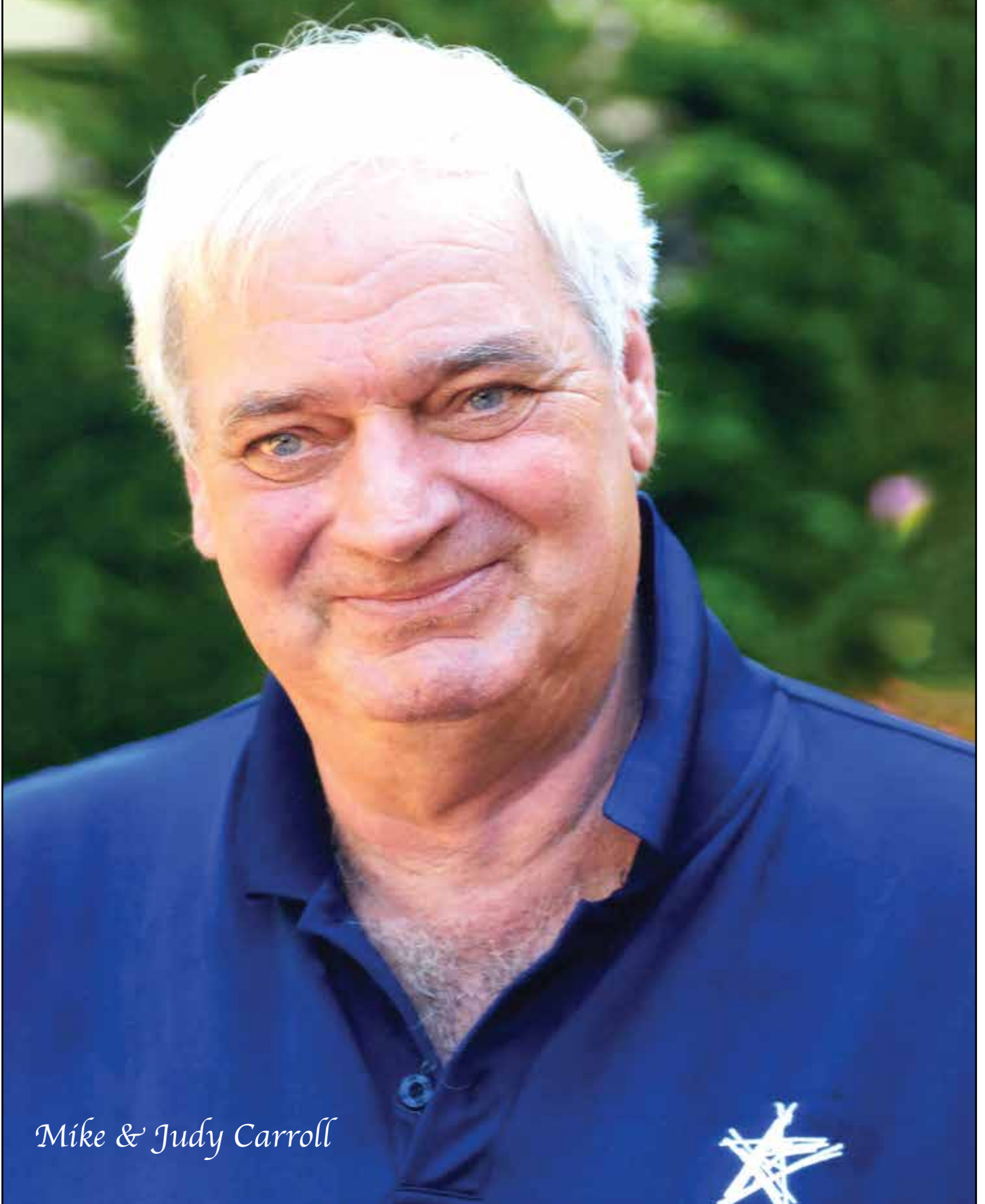
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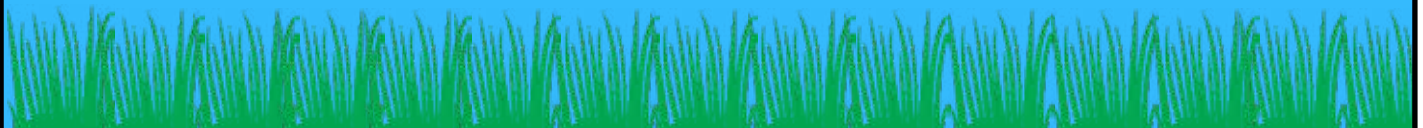
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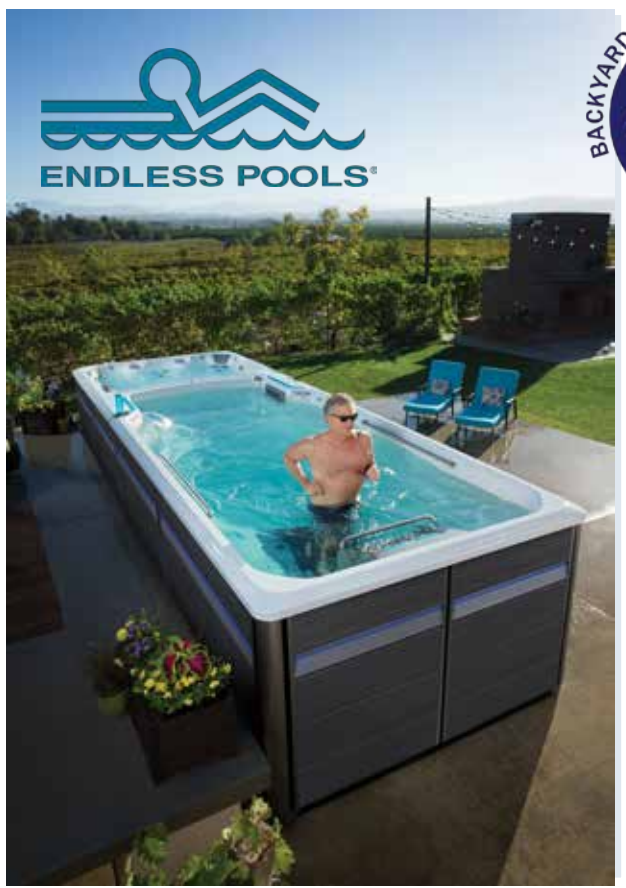
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Camp Good Grief Back For 25th Summer



Since 1997, Camp Good Grief, a bereavement camp for grieving children and teenagers, has offered a safe place for children to express their emotions and talk about their loss, while also engaging in fun traditional camp activities.

The one-week camp run by the East End Hospice of Westhampton is entirely free for all campers and takes place at Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck in Center Moriches, a summer camp for kids with special needs run by the Moriches Rotary Club.

Camp Good Grief was first developed in 1997 by a nurse practitioner, a social worker, and an art therapist who found that grieving as a child is especially difficult, and giving children a safe place to talk about their loss with others like themselves could help dissipate feelings of loneliness.

“When people are grieving, it’s obviously difficult to deal with your own emotions, and then to have to try to explain the grieving process and be present for a child is very difficult to do,” Camp Director Angela Byrns said. “Children, they’re often considered the forgotten mourners, so really just to recognize that they do have feelings, they do have understanding, and to give them a space to be able to express that is what we do here at Camp Good Grief.”

Ms. Byrns explained that research shows that children and teenagers typically don’t start expressing their grief until two years after they deal with loss, meaning they put off their grief and bottle up their emotions for much longer

than adults do. At Camp Good Grief, children aren’t forced to express their grief, but rather given the opportunity to express it in different ways, whether it be verbally, through art, or through music.

“It’s important for kids to have the space to talk about their loss because a lot of the time they feel like they can’t talk about it,” Ms. Byrns said. “They’re not necessarily going to talk about it with their friends, and they may or may not even talk about how they are feeling with their family. Often kids will hold back because they can see that their parent or guardian is grieving and they don’t want to add to that or be a burden.”

At Camp Good Grief, a typical day consists of group therapy, art therapy, and pet therapy, which are all based in therapeutic frameworks and the research of many psychologists who have found that these activities are beneficial in the grieving process, she explained.

“All of the activities that we do have a certain goal, whether it’s getting to know a camper, looking at their feelings, learning how they cope with loss, and then giving kids the opportunity





to talk about the person who they lost and even bring in a picture to talk about that person," she said.

While most of the activities are therapeutically based, Ms. Byrns also emphasized the importance of play. The camp incorporates activities of choice like swimming, drumming, boating, archery and soccer, and special events like puppet shows or magic shows at the end the day to send campers off on a positive note.

"It's definitely a therapeutic camp, but when people come they are surprised to see that kids are running around and smiling and laughing," Ms. Byrns said. "There's definitely tears, and lots of different feelings of sadness, but there's also happiness — which is an incredible thing."

Ms. Byrns, who has been working for East End Hospice for 17 years and first became involved with Camp Good Grief in 2012, said that camp is consistently her favorite week of the year.



"When people ask what I do for a living and I tell them what I do, people do a double take and take a step back," she said. "But camp is such a special place that it's hard to put it into words."

Part of what makes camp so special is the deep sense of community that it fosters among the children who often return to camp for multiple summers, and then end up becoming youth volunteers, and later on adult volunteers.

"Often what ends up happening is they end up becoming a youth volunteer because they know how helpful it was for them to have the camp experience when they were younger, and they want to give that to other children," Ms. Byrns said. "When you have something like that happening, where these kids continue to come back and want to volunteer their time for something that they felt helped them, I think it speaks for itself."

Former campers often call to ask "Do you remember us?" and to talk about how fun camp was, and how much it helped them through a tough time, she said.

"Another thing I hear really often is former campers saying they might even consider a different kind of profession because based on their experience here at camp, they see the benefit of working specifically with children," she added.

Jillian Vargas first attended Camp Good Grief, which was on Shelter Island at the time, after her father died when she was 8 years old. She cited the "loving community" as her reason for returning to camp for two more years as a camper, and then becoming a counselor in 2016 when she was 16 years old.

"It was a whole camp of children who had gone through the same thing as me," Ms. Vargas said, looking back on her years as a camper. "I just remember feeling like it was okay to talk about my loss with others who could really relate."

Ms. Vargas said that the fact that a lot of the counselors now have also been campers in the past is truly the strongest testament to just how great the Camp Good Grief community is.

"Camp Good Grief is the best week of my summer no doubt," she said. "This year, I'm so excited to be with the little kids, and to be able to help anyone, in any way I can, even if it's just being there to listen, is the most amazing feeling."



Memorial Rock Garden

The Mignone family who wanted to remember the life of their dear friend, Kevin P. Kretz, conceptualized a memorial rock garden which will serve as a therapeutic and soothing environment in which patient families, friends and others find comfort while honoring their loved ones. With their determination and creative resources, the Mignones quickly made the garden a beautiful reality thanks to generous donations from their family members and friends.

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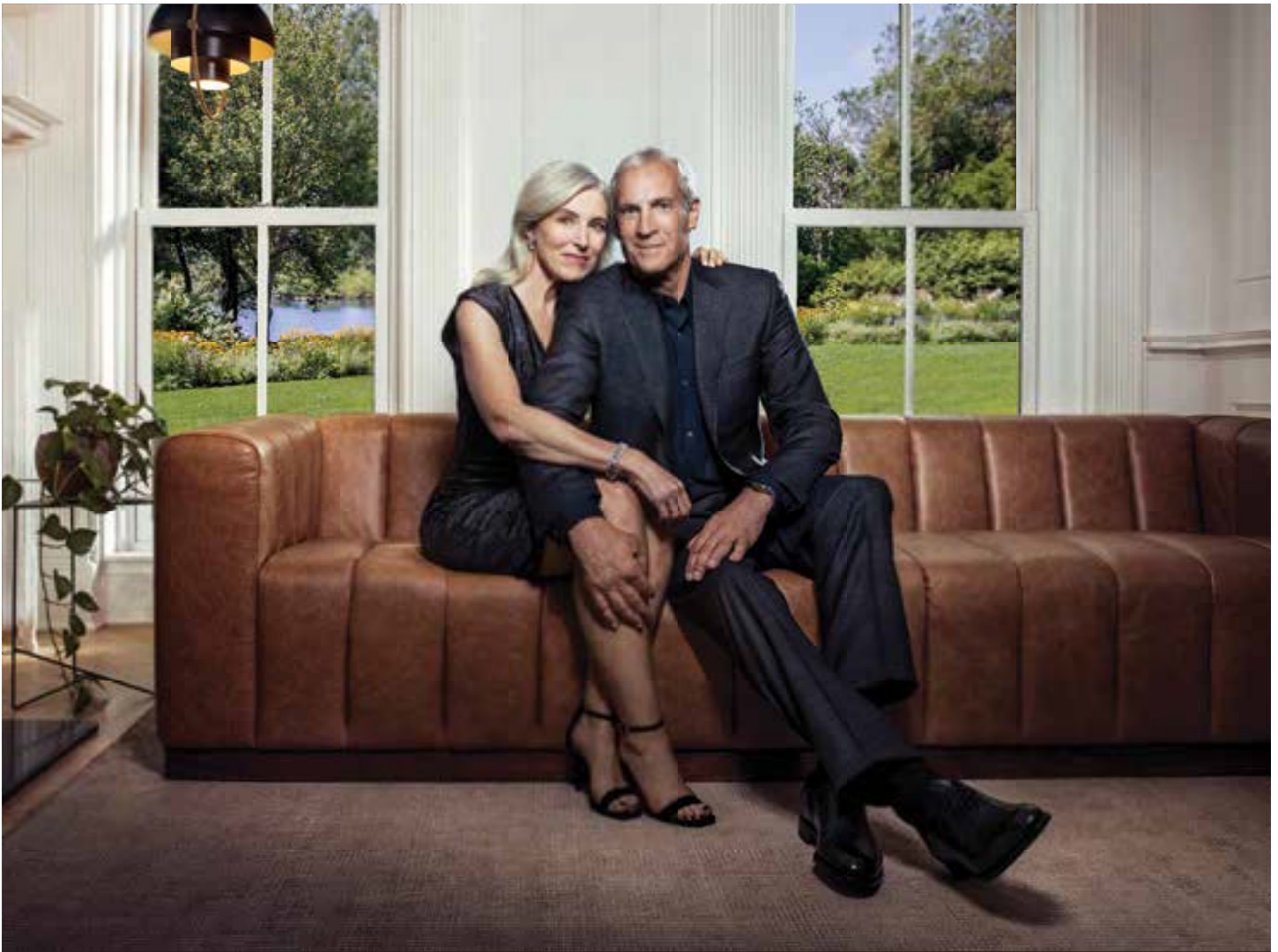
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Making Bereavement Support Accessible To All



Betty Duran, LMSW and Jean Behrens, LCSW-R at East End Hospice. DANA SHAW

In the three years that Jean Behrens, a licensed clinical social worker, has worked as the adult bereavement coordinator for East End Hospice, there's been a goal she and her colleagues have been intent on achieving that has been, frustratingly, difficult to accomplish.

Until now.

Last month, the Westhampton Beach-based nonprofit — which provides care and support services for terminally ill individuals and their families — announced it would begin offering bereavement group therapy in Spanish, opening the door for Spanish speakers to access the same kind of group counseling and support services the organization has long offered in English.

“It’s something we’ve always talked about,” Behrens said in an interview last week.

According to Behrens, several obstacles have stood in the way of putting a Spanish-language bereavement group together for the last few years, even as she and her colleagues understood it would be a vital service to the greater East End community. As is always the case with any nonprofit, funding is typically tight, and the

organization also needed to find — and budget the funds to pay — a bilingual social worker who could not only run the program, but take charge of all the work that goes into putting a bereavement group together, from intake interviews to running the group meetings.

East End Hospice was able to secure funding through a grant from a generous foundation (the organization’s public relations coordinator, Christine Michne, said they were not at liberty to say which organization), which was key in getting the program off the ground, Behrens said.

That’s where Betty Duran comes in. Duran has been working with East End Hospice for nearly a year now, and her ability to speak both fluent English and Spanish has made her the keystone of the outreach. Her ability to do the intake procedures, which are particularly important but also time consuming, has been vital, Behrens said. East End Hospice will spend an hour or more with individuals seeking services, determining the ins and outs of their particular set of circumstances and needs in order to best serve them.

Duran hails from Bay Shore, but is part of a family that originally came from El Salvador, and Spanish was her

first language. She is deeply connected to the Spanish-speaking population in Suffolk County, having done in-home therapy with the Family Service League, and she still works at the mental health clinic in Central Islip, where her dual language skills are an important asset. She understands almost better than anyone how a Spanish-language bereavement group can benefit the community, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

“There really is a big need for this,” she said.

Duran pointed out that in addition to speaking the language, she also has the “cultural competency” that makes her uniquely qualified to understand the needs of Spanish-speaking families and individuals who are processing the death of a loved one and trying to work through their grief in a healthy way.

“I would go to El Salvador every summer, and whenever I saw death and funerals and different services, it was very community based,” Duran said. “And it’s very community based here, too.”

Duran said that despite those kinds of community-based traditions surrounding death in many Spanish-speaking cultures, there can often be a flipside of loneliness when it comes to the ongoing grieving process that takes place after the funeral ceremonies are over.

“In the Hispanic community, feelings are not always expressed,” she said. “You might have support, but it doesn’t mean you’re sharing all your emotions. This group will give [Spanish speakers] a space to share with others.”

Duran also pointed out that the group therapy will be provided free of charge, and that privacy is taken seriously, two factors that East End Hospice hopes to emphasize particularly to reassure any undocumented Spanish speakers who may be interested in attending.

“People need to know that it’s a very confidential process,” Behrens said, keen to emphasize that point. “When people come to us, we do paperwork, but it goes nowhere. We’re not a mental health clinic, we’re a counseling support system. No one has access to anyone’s information. It’s very private. There’s nothing different about it than if they were to go talk to someone at their church.”

Duran, Behrens and the rest of the team at East End Hospice are still in the beginning stages of doing community outreach and putting the word out that Spanish-language bereavement services are now being offered. Duran said they’re trying to make everything as accessible as they can, from translating all the forms into Spanish, doing in-take sessions, and getting referrals of people who may be interested in the group therapy from

various other community organizations.

The hope is to start offering the group session on Tuesday evenings, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., initially over Zoom but with the possibility that they might take place in person in the future.

Duran also pointed out that anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one is welcome, and that the group is not only for people whose loved ones were in hospice care. Whether someone watched a loved one go through a months- or years-long battle with a terminal illness, or lost a family member or close friend suddenly or unexpectedly, the group is open to anyone seeking support as they move through the grieving process.

The need for a Spanish-language bereavement group has existed for a long time, but the pandemic made that need even more acute. With many other groups and organizations that offer a wide range of support and mental health services experiencing long wait lists or wait lists so long that they don’t even offer spots on them any more, the group could not come at a better time.

“The calls we’ve been getting through our office have been so sad,” Behrens said. “People telling us that the waiting lists [to speak with someone] are endless or just never getting a call back from a mental health agency. People have been practically begging us to see them because no one will. That’s what’s going on in the English-speaking world. I can’t even imagine the thoughts that go through someone’s head if they’re Spanish-speaking only. The Spanish-speaking agencies are there, but they’re smaller and they’re overwhelmed.”

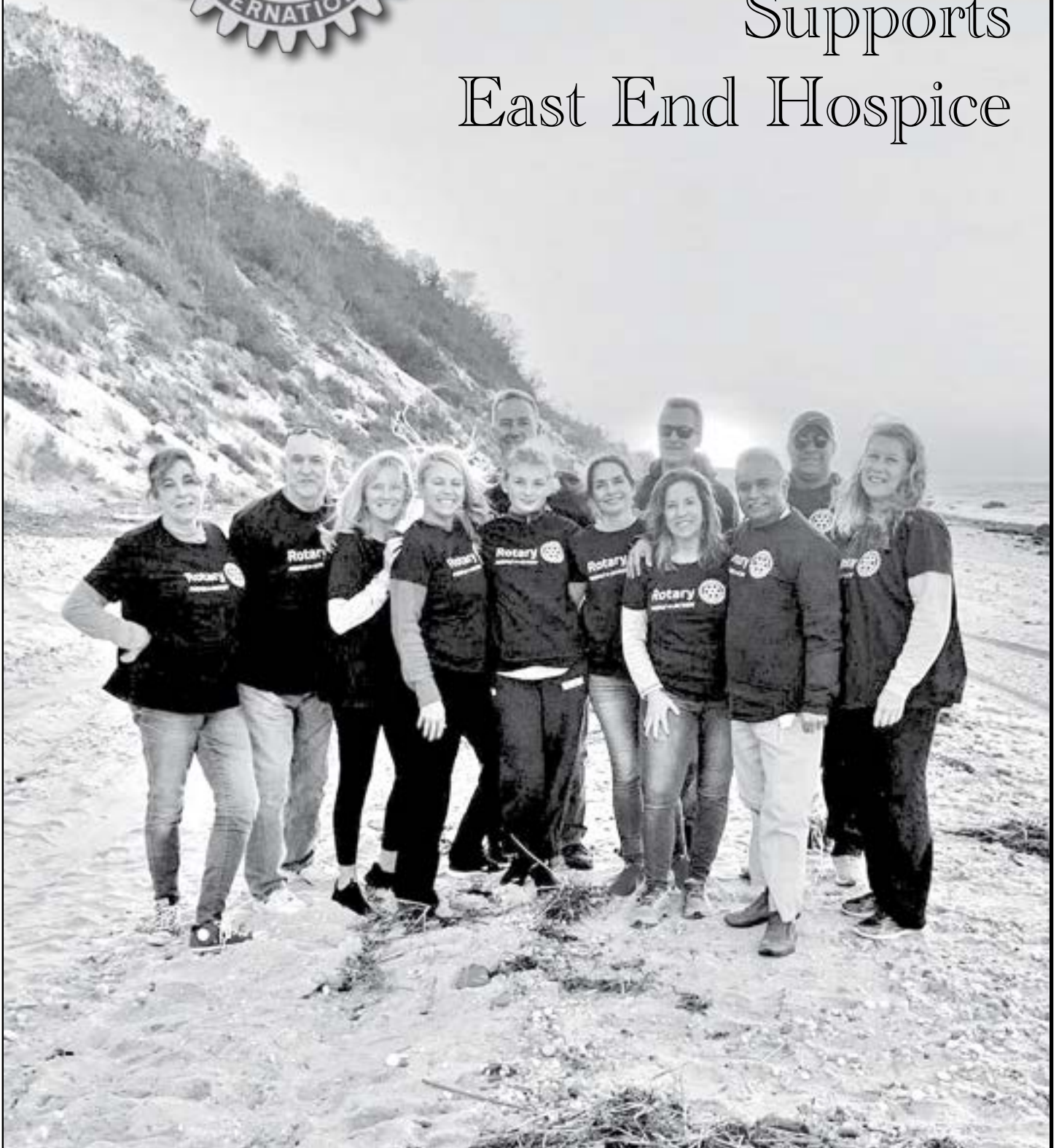
Duran and Behrens hope that more Spanish-speaking people will hear about the group counseling through word of mouth, and that it will grow that way, becoming a valuable resource in the community. And while doing all the intake interviews for individuals and also running the group is a lot of work for one person, Duran said she’s happy to do it because it will help her forge strong connections with the people seeking out help, and will give her the kind of insight to help people get the most out of the group therapy setting.

For Duran, the goal in setting up the group is simple.

“We’re very much on a mission to meet everyone where they’re at,” she said. “For many people, this will be their first experience with a group counseling setting, being in a group, sharing with other people. I’m going to do my best to make people feel comfortable.”



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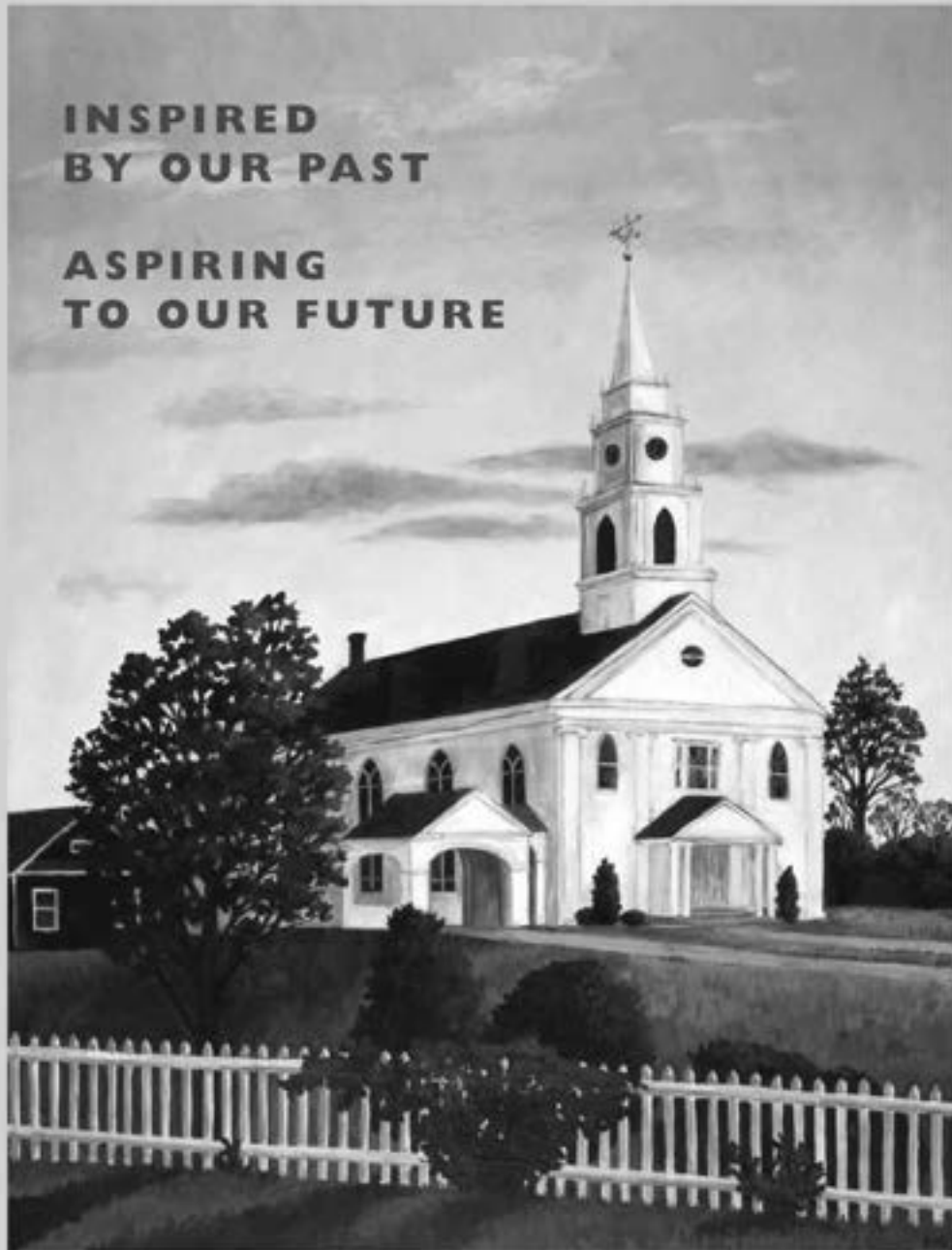
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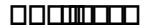
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