

The Spirit

giving makes good happen

Summer 2019

**YOU
HELPED
GUIDE
ANDRES'
FUTURE**



Care-A-Van

BonSecours.com



Andres helps a patient feel comfortable during his Care-A-Van visit.

YOU HELPED GUIDE ANDRES' FUTURE

Andres and his family came to the United States with few resources. One of the first places they felt welcome was at the Care-A-Van. He and his brothers received their school physicals and vaccines there. In his quest to finding his purpose, Andres used his bilingual abilities to be a volunteer at the Care-A-Van. He then accepted a full-time interpreter role. He's been with Care-A-Van since 2014. He credits Bon Secours for the flexibility and support to attend community college and will soon be enrolled in

a university. He says, "My path has been shaped by the Care-A-Van. It plays a vital role in our community. I want to be a social change agent. I owe it to my family, and to the community that has refused to give up on immigrants like me."

The Care-A-Van recently celebrated 25 years in service and, thanks to generous supporters, added a new vehicle to its fleet with special customizations that keep care providers and patients in mind.

"My path has been shaped by the Care-A-Van."

EVERY WOMAN'S LIFE IS SAVING LIVES

Now cancer free, Gina Kochany firmly believes **"every woman should be able to get a mammogram, regardless of background or circumstances."**

Gina's husband caught a news story about the Bon Secours Richmond Every Woman's Life Program and thought she should check it out. Her mother battled breast cancer, and Gina didn't have insurance, so this would be a way to get screened for any concerns. Thanks to the 3D imaging technology, Gina's cancer was detected in early 2018.

The Central Virginia Affiliate, Susan G. Komen for the Cure recently awarded more than \$24,000 toward the Every Woman's Life (EWL) Program, bringing their total support to \$471,000 since 1998. These gifts have allowed uninsured or under-insured women ages 50-64, and most recently women ages 40-49 with symptoms or risk factors, to receive free breast screenings, and treatment as needed. On behalf of all the patients and their families, we are grateful to Komen, as well as Kristen Harris for her extraordinary partnership and advocacy as Executive Director of Central Virginia Affiliate, Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Gina knows that this program is truly saving lives – she speaks from experience!



MARY LU REALIZED SHE WASN'T ALONE

Mary Lu and
Chris Stephens



Mary Lu Stephens found out that the life of a caregiver for a loved one facing cancer can be lonely. No one seemed to quite understand what she was feeling or experiencing. As her husband Chris was being treated at Bon Secours for prostate cancer, an oncologist suggested they visit the Cullather Brain Tumor and Cancer Quality of Life Center. While the program originally started as a resource center for those with brain tumors, the services are now open to all Bon Secours cancer patients.

Mary Lu says, "Chris started getting massages at the Center. When you're in your situation, the idea that someone would take the time to focus on you, to help you relax was incredible. He wouldn't miss his weekly massage for anything." He also learned about the meditation and acupuncture services available.

He found these to be additional avenues of help. Mary Lu even took up the offer for a massage.

"It was the gift of the century. I found that it was more than a massage; it was a reminder that these people understood what I was going through."

When Chris lost his battle to cancer in 2018, the memorial gifts from family and friends were sent to the Cullather Center. Mary Lu reminds all donors, "You will be helping many people through a very bad situation. You will be giving to a program that understands those empty words of 'who do I turn to?' These patients and caregivers need to know that they're not alone."

Please visit Cullather.org to learn more or to give.

What inspired you to be *Good Help*?

Share your reason for becoming a Bon Secours donor and we may feature your story in a future communication.



Reach out to us at info_bsvaf@bshsi.org.

You can be *Good Help* today!

- ✓ Make a donation in honor of a special doctor, nurse, chaplain or volunteer at Bon Secours.
- ✓ Stay up-to-date on what's happening - Like us on Facebook: [bonsecoursrichmondfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/bonsecoursrichmondfoundation)
- ✓ Consider a volunteer project at the Reinhart Guest House or with Noah's Children.

CONTACT US!

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YOU HAVE HELPED THE HUDSON FAMILY FROM DAY ONE

Alison Hudson has built a strong familiarity with Bon Secours pediatric programs. She says, "I never imagined our family would have been faced with such a complex medical journey, but we are so blessed to have the compassion and expertise of the Bon Secours family to be our guide. She recognizes that donor support brings the advanced medical care, continuing education of the physicians and nurses and the comforting resources they've discovered along the way.

Her oldest twins, Caroline and Riley are 11 and both have cerebral palsy. Her younger twins, Maggie and Abby, are six. All four received care in the

St. Mary's NICU and there have been a few visits to the pediatric emergency department for various medical scares. In the last year, Caroline worked with Bon Secours gastroenterology to start a new diet that has allowed her to be more alert and gain weight. Also, Caroline and Riley both participate in intensive therapy at Richmond Hope Therapy Center.

Alison and her husband Craig have several choices for their children's medical care, and they choose Bon Secours. That says a lot, considering they drive an hour and a half from



their home to the various Bon Secours facilities. Alison admits life is crazy with four kids and the array of farm animals, but adds, "In these 11 years, there's always been someone at Bon Secours who can take care of what we need." Their Bon Secours pediatric care journey continues, and many families will find themselves also needing medical care for their child. Your continued support brings the Hudsons and other families answers and comfort.



LEAVE SOMETHING BEHIND; LEAVE SOMETHING AHEAD

The newly renovated Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital chapel and chaplaincy education programs will impact thousands of families in the years to come, and these are part of a legacy that came from a woman's generosity and desire to help others beyond her lifetime. She made a planned gift to support the ministries most meaningful to her.

Bon Secours Richmond Health Care Foundation used this gift toward significant updates to the chapel. Her support also enabled the introduction of the nation's first chaplaincy professional development program and innovative Clinical Pastoral Education programs with local

universities, focused on clinical pastoral care. Spiritual care, supporting patients of all faiths, is a fundamental part of the Bon Secours mission. Her generosity is a true testament to her values during her lifetime.

A gift made after your lifetime will have significant meaning to a program or initiative you are passionate about - you decide where your future gift goes. Regardless of your situation, you will make a difference to Bon Secours patients and their families. If you'd like to learn more about leaving a gift to any Bon Secours Richmond program or project, please contact Ashley Sheets at Ashley_Sheets@bshsi.org.