



Guiding the way.

A NON-PROFIT HOSPICE

Spring 2016

Reflections

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“The most important goal for Gilchrist Center is to ease pain and suffering—to provide compassionate care. I know the dedicated staff will fulfill that goal every day.”

Jeanne “Jinny” Gilchrist Vance at the Sept. 19, 1996 opening of Gilchrist Center Towson.

Twin Milestones

2016 brings milestone anniversaries for two of Gilchrist’s inpatient centers, which grew out of the vision of one woman – Jeanne “Jinny” Gilchrist Vance.

This issue of Reflections celebrates 20 years of Gilchrist Center Towson and 5 years of Gilchrist Center Howard County serving the community.

Jeanne “Jinny” Gilchrist Vance knew that there was a crucial need for a peaceful, calming inpatient hospice center in Greater Baltimore – a “home away from home” that could serve as a worthy complement for the fledgling home hospice program she was working to create.

Her vision would become Gilchrist Center, located atop rolling hills in the heart of Towson and the icon of Gilchrist Hospice Care. Its overwhelming success would demonstrate an immense need

for expansion; 10 beds were added to the initial 24 in 2009. In 2011, a second facility, the 10-bed Gilchrist Center Howard County in Columbia, would open for patient care.

“Gilchrist is a marvelous organization, one that in many ways surpasses Jinny’s dream,” said W. Lee Thomas, a founding Gilchrist board member and advisor to Ms. Vance. Jinny Vance, Gilchrist’s founding benefactor, died in 2003. “I think she would be pleased with how much it has grown.”

20th
Anniversary

Gilchrist Center Towson



Pat & George Harrison

Pat Harrison was in crisis. With a tumor growing around her trachea, breathing had become difficult and care impossible at home. Within hours of her admission to Gilchrist Center Towson, the diligent staff had Pat resting comfortably – feeling safe and secure, despite the aggressive growth of her cancer.

With her condition stabilized and her time limited, Pat and her husband, George, commenced living again, within the confines of Gilchrist Center. Over the next few weeks, they celebrated St. Patrick's Day and decorated Easter eggs with their two young grandchildren. With help from the center staff, the family held the wedding of the couple's older daughter in the Gilchrist chapel. And Pat and George

celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary, quietly and with chocolate cake, in Pat's hospice room.

"The people here are so wonderful. We've been so blessed to be here," said Pat.

Nearly 20 years since Gilchrist Center Towson first opened its doors to patients, it continues to serve as a haven for thousands of families. While the care of most Gilchrist patients continues to be provided in their own homes, Gilchrist Center serves as an important resource for families at a critical point in their hospice journeys – when pain or other symptoms are too intense to be managed at home. The fact that care is provided in a warm,

5th
Anniversary

Gilchrist Center Howard County



Blair Wilson & Ronald Shelton

One of the first patients admitted to Gilchrist Center Howard County was actually a transfer from the Towson inpatient center – an older gentleman whose family had struggled to juggle the 45-minute commute from their Western Howard County home to Towson.

As the new center's first and only dedicated social worker, Blair Wilson wasn't surprised to see them. After all, during her years spent working with home care patients in Howard County, she had seen so many caregivers opt to keep a loved one in crisis at home rather than take on the added burden of the long commute.

"They were thrilled to be closer to home," she said. "Having the new center here has been amazingly beneficial to both our patients and their families. It has allowed them to spend more time with one another."

For so many Howard County patient families, the May 2011 opening of Gilchrist Center Howard County brought relief; the center offered extraordinary care for loved ones with pain and other symptoms too severe to manage at home, and it was "just down the street."

"Probably the most amazing and wonderful thing about the center is the teamwork," Blair said. "We all work

1996-2016

home-like setting— with red doors, cookies baking in the oven and blossoming gardens – is soothing for both patients and families.

“It’s our job to care for patients and to help the family through a difficult time,” said Gina Ranieri-Bender, who manages the center with her twin sister, Tina Maggio. The sisters began work at Gilchrist Center in 1996. “It’s so much nicer to do that here than in an ICU. It’s like home here.”



*Tina Maggio &
Gina Ranieri-Bender,
Gilchrist Center Towson
Managers*

2011-2016

together. We all care about people and want to do what is right for both patients and families, even if they’re here only a short time.”

Designed with Gilchrist Center Towson in mind – complete with the same red doors and carpet – Gilchrist Center Howard County, like its predecessor, has a home-like feel.

“The amount of care I get here is unbelievable. I don’t want for anything,” said patient Ronald Shelton, who was admitted to the center because of safety and caregiving issues at the facility where he was receiving care. With his health stabilized, Blair has since found him a more permanent place to live. “It was like getting out of a Volkswagen and into a Cadillac.”

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The compassionate, coordinated care that Gilchrist Center Towson and Gilchrist Center Howard County provides is, in large part, made possible by the generosity of our donors. Despite Gilchrist’s best efforts to streamline costs, inpatient hospice care continually exceeds reimbursements from Medicare and other insurers.

SINCE JULY 2015, THE CENTERS HAVE INCURRED AN AVERAGE LOSS OF:

GILCHRIST CENTER
TOWSON

-\$150,000
a month

GILCHRIST CENTER
HOWARD COUNTY

-\$55,000
a month

WHY DOES INPATIENT HOSPICE CARE COST SO MUCH?

- We maintain a low (6 to 1) patient-to-nurse ratio.
- Patients may still receive advance treatments like ventilator support and artificial nutrition, which are not reimbursed.
- Patient care addresses acute issues and requires complex treatment plans.
- Medicare reimbursement for acute inpatient hospice care is far less than hospital payments for a similar level of care.

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phone 410.730.5072

TTY Maryland Relay Service: 1.800.735.2258

Gilchrist Hospice Care provides services without regard to race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, disability, religion, ability to pay or national origin.

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SAVE THE DATES



Sunday, October 23

**Proceeds benefit
Gilchrist Center Howard County**

5pm • Turf Valley, Ellicott City

Event Chairs:
Tracy & Bob Lucido



Friday, December 2

**Proceeds benefit
Gilchrist Center Towson**

7pm • Baltimore Marriott Waterfront

Honorary Chairs:
Jana & Richard Burch and Mary & Tim Mullan