

# Reflections

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## Celebrating 30 Years at Joseph Richey

Joseph Richey House was a unique concept from the start. It was Maryland's first free-standing residential hospice, located in renovated rowhomes in Baltimore City and reliant on a large cadre of volunteer physicians to provide daily medical oversight.

It also had an ambitious mission: to serve the underprivileged and underserved, ensuring that all would have access to safe, compassionate care at the end of life, regardless of ability to pay.

*“We filled a niche. Medicare and insurance companies wanted most care at home, but there was a whole nucleus of people who didn't have a caregiver or home and needed hospice care,” said Dr. John W. Payne, an ophthalmologist one of the original physicians providing care at Richey House and the center's volunteer medical director from 2000 to 2009. “We provided them with a place to call home, and became an important part of the movement to improve end of life care in Baltimore.”*

Three decades after opening its doors, Joseph Richey House, which is now known as Gilchrist Center Baltimore – Joseph Richey House, remains a vital resource for terminally-ill patients in Greater Baltimore. With the feel of a bed and breakfast and a caring staff that often becomes like treasured family, the center, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, cares for both



...Dr. John W. Payne

### Also in this issue

<i>Celebrating 30 Years at Joseph Richey</i> .....	1-3	<i>Leaving A Legacy</i> .....	6
<i>Running Festival</i> .....	3	<i>Holly Ball</i> .....	7
<i>Always Meeting the Need</i> .....	4	<i>Volunteer Awarded State-Wide Honor</i> .....	7
<i>Team Brings Holidays to Family</i> .....	5	<i>Spring Jazz Brunch</i> .....	8

# Celebrating 30 Years at Joseph Richey

*(continued)*



*Social worker, Victoria Ringo, with  
Lumelia Turner*

*Charles "Butch" Troyer with hospice aide Doren Christian  
(center) and nurse Monica Hastings*



the poorest of individuals, some who have spent at least part of their lives homeless as well as those with more resources. Among those cared for at Richey House over the years were Otis "Damon" Harris of the Temptations, local artist and muralist Tom Miller and Richey volunteer Dr. George William Benedict.

Conceived through the joint efforts of the All Saints Sisters of the Poor and Mount Calvary Church, Richey House, which began accepting patients in 1987 and joined the Gilchrist complement of services in 2014, originally served as a hospice for patients with more traditional hospice diagnoses. It distinguished itself a few years later as a haven for individuals with end-stage HIV/AIDS as that patient population soared across the United States and during a period when the disease carried a great stigma.

*"Everyone, at the time, was very afraid of caring for patients with AIDS," said Dr. Payne. "We insisted that we should take care of all of those who were dying, and not just patients with heart disease, dementia and cancer."*

During those earliest years, and at various points throughout its history, the center struggled to stay open, with the church and sisters funding the payroll when reimbursements from insurance, which cover only medical care but not the costs of other services, provided including 24/7 caregivers, meals and other residential services.

"Closing was never an option," said Catherine Frome, RN, who started work manning the front desk at Richey House as a 20-year-old in 1997 and now oversees inpatient clinical operations for Gilchrist Hospice Care. "Richey leaders always relied heavily on faith and the support of the community."

When budget shortfalls threatened to shut Richey a few years ago, the organization decided to partner with Gilchrist, eventually merging all operations into the larger hospice. Today, Gilchrist continues to fundraise to cover a significant portion of the costs of providing residential care. The vast majority of patients at the center cannot afford to pay for residential services at Richey House.

“Gilchrist has been a blessing for Joseph Richey House. It was struggling and Gilchrist brought a lot of expertise and resources,” said Dr. Payne. “It’s been a wonderful union.”

Today, as 30 years ago, Richey House, which continues to be the only residential hospice center in Baltimore City and remains a vital, welcoming and warm resource for the community, caring for all who need a safe place to stay at the end of life, regardless of background or ability to pay.



*“We  
put the  
dignity  
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*lives at the end of life. It is a  
quiet, sacred space for so many of  
our patients and families.”*

...Catherine Frome, Gilchrist’s Director  
of Clinical Operations

## Spring Jazz Brunch

Gilchrist Hospice Care will be hosting a Jazz Brunch to benefit Gilchrist Center Baltimore – Joseph Richey House on Sunday, April 23, 2017 from 10:30am to 1 p.m. at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center, 823 N. Howard Street in Baltimore.

The Jazz Brunch Committee is led by Heidi Kenny-Berman, Esq. and Neal Friedlander, MD.

It will be a lovely ...

Tickets can be purchased at:

[gilchristservices.org/jazzbrunch](http://gilchristservices.org/jazzbrunch)

## Running Festival

Team RUN GBMC, a group of 96 runners, raised \$50,000 to benefit Gilchrist Center Baltimore – Joseph Richey House this past fall through their participation in the Baltimore Running Festival. The runners represented Gilchrist and GBMC in all four festival races – the 5k, marathon relay, half-marathon and full marathon – and actively raised money for Richey House in the weeks before the race.

The group’s run was sponsored by the GBMC Volunteer Auxiliary. In addition to the runners, 20 volunteers handed out water and Gatorade along the marathon route.

*For more information about Joseph Richey, sponsorship opportunities or events, or to make a gift, please contact Ted Blankenship, Director of Development at 443-849-8263 or [tblankenship@gilchristservices.org](mailto:tblankenship@gilchristservices.org).*

# Always Meeting the Need

Since 2010, Gilchrist Kids has provided loving end of life care to over 190 infants, children and young adults with life-limiting with illnesses injuries, birth defects and genetic disorders throughout Central Maryland and beyond. The overarching goal was and is simple: By providing pediatric end of life care at home, Gilchrist Kids will help your child “live well” surrounded by loved ones in the place that provides the most solace. Although this goal, remains the backbone of the program, we have found that there are times, no matter what support systems are in place, that this cannot be accomplished. These children and their families may need more complex care than can safely be delivered in their own homes. There are also times when the family members caring for these children, need to attend a loved ones wedding or graduation or just literally a few days to rest from the rigors of caregiving.

This Spring, Gilchrist will be able to offer children and their families a home-like alternative to the hospital for managing their symptom needs. We



will be opening a 4 bed pediatric hospice unit which will be called Dr. Bob’s, named in honor of Dr. Bob Irwin, a beloved pediatrician and the Volunteer Medical Director at Joseph Richey House. The patient rooms and surrounding play areas decorated with murals and artwork will be a place where children – or their siblings – can enjoy the toys, games and stuffed animals. Dr. Bob’s will be open to any infant child or young adult in Maryland needing symptom management care who cannot be cared for at home or by their home hospice provider. When opened, Dr. Bob’s will be one of only a handful of pediatric-specific inpatient hospice units in the country.

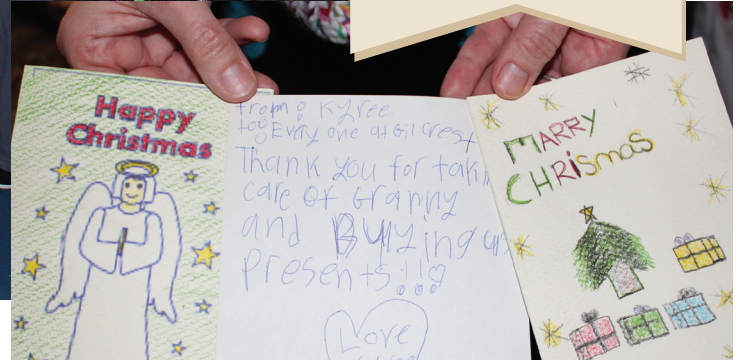
*To learn more, please contact:  
Mary Tiso, Gilchrist Kids Team  
Manager at 443.849.8345 or  
email at [mtiso@gilchristservices.org](mailto:mtiso@gilchristservices.org)*

*Across from Dr. Bob’s is a building-wide mural that can be viewed from patient rooms.*





From l to r: Patient Pamela Gregory with her daughter Sharon Carnes while surrounded by Gilchrist Nurse Valerie Appelt, Chaplain Jenny Williams, Team Manager Jill Campbell and Social Worker Anna Blyukher (seated in front).



Thank you cards from the children to Gilchrist staff.

## Gilchrist Team Brings Holidays to Family

Pamela Gregory's two daughters knew money would be tight, so they prepared their own children, aged 9 to 22, in advance.

But thanks to the family's Gilchrist Hospice Care team members, who delivered a large cache of gifts just days before the holiday, no one in the family was wanting for presents this year.

"We had an absolutely wonderful Christmas. It was just a good day," said Sharon Carnes, Pamela's daughter. "We really appreciate Gilchrist – how nice the people are and how much they help us."

Gilchrist team members began caring for Pamela and her family – daughters Sharon Carnes and Wendy Gregory, as well as eight grandchildren – last winter when Pamela, who has lung disease, decided she was tired of making repeated trips to the hospital emergency room to manage her frequent breathing crises.

For Pamela Gregory and her daughters, having Gilchrist in the home offered confidence and 24-hour support: "We have had to call at night when she had trouble breathing and the staff walked us through what to do. I can call and they are right there," Sharon said.

But as the holiday approached, Gilchrist's involvement took that care to a whole new level. Each year, the organization's care teams "adopt" families for the holidays, and the Gregorys were chosen to be recipients of the Baltimore City-based team's generosity at *both* Thanksgiving and Christmas this year.

"They have a lot of humility and they do not really see themselves as needing much," said Anna Blyukher, the family's social worker. "They were so excited that we were bringing them food for Thanksgiving and presents for Christmas – very grateful and very humble about it. The children all prepared thank you cards."

Team members supplied about 50 presents for seven grandchildren, including games and gift cards for the whole family.

"They appreciated it so much. It was so special," said Valerie Appelt, Pamela Gregory's Gilchrist nurse. "It was Christmas at its best."

They are a great family to care for. They always say, "I love you" to one another." They all realize it is Pamela's last Christmas. They want it to be perfect."

# Leaving a Legacy

*The Gilchrist Legacy Society recognizes donors who have made provisions to leave Gilchrist in their estate or retirement plans. No gift is too small to make a difference.*

Pat Thompson likes to give back to her community, and she does so in a quiet but remarkable way.

Pat was a volunteer for Gilchrist Hospice Care and when she began making her will, made an important decision to make a provision in her will to benefit Gilchrist.

As a hospice nurse in Washington, DC, Pat said she felt “privileged to be able to be with the patients and their families at this very important point in their life. Hospice provided the support they needed so that the families could spend the time with their loved ones and helped them live their life to the fullest.”

Years later, when she retired, Pat became a Gilchrist volunteer and again offered her time and talent to serve Gilchrist patients and their families. “The caring and support provided by the Gilchrist team made such a difference.”

**But it was through a more personal and powerful experience, that moved Pat to think about a planned gift to the organization:**

*“I had a dear friend who was cared for by Gilchrist at the end of her struggles with breast cancer and I got to see ‘first-hand’ what the services that Gilchrist provides means to the patients and families. Gilchrist supported my friend and allowed her to die in the manner that she wanted and I know that meant everything to her. I am forever thankful to Gilchrist for that.*

*When it became time for my husband and I to write our wills, it was a very easy decision to give a gift to Gilchrist. It was important to us to know that in our small way, we were helping to ensure that Gilchrist would be able to continue its mission. Our attorney worked with the Gilchrist Development Department to ensure that our wishes would be fulfilled. It was an easy thing to do but one that is so very meaningful to us.”*

Gilchrist was there for Pat and her friend, and her gift ensures that Gilchrist will be there for many more patients and families in years to come.

By making her bequest intention known to Gilchrist, Pat also became a member of the Gilchrist Legacy Society, which recognizes those donors who have made legacy gifts.

## *What’s your*



Making a planned gift to Gilchrist through a bequest is a powerful way to help provide for the organization in the future. To learn more about this and other gift planning options, please contact Jamie Lynch, Director of Development, at 443-849-8241 or email her at [jlynch@gilchristservices.org](mailto:jlynch@gilchristservices.org).

# An Elegant Evening with Lasting Impact

The biennial Holly Ball to benefit Gilchrist Hospice Care, held December 2, was again a highlight of the holiday season in Baltimore, drawing more than 750 guests, who spent the night dining, dancing and enjoying an elegant evening with friends.

This year's event included the premiere showing of the new Gilchrist video, which highlights the benefits of hospice and, in particular, Gilchrist's care, through three patient stories and the testimonial of Gilchrist Board Member Mary Mullan, whose mother was a recipient of Gilchrist's care.

Thanks to the generosity of our Presenting Sponsor, MileOne Automotive, and to all of the sponsors, donors, committee members and attendees, the event raised over \$600,000 to benefit Gilchrist Center Towson.

To view the Gilchrist video, please visit:

[gilchristservices.org/hollyball](http://gilchristservices.org/hollyball)



*2016 Holly Ball Honorary Co-Chairs:  
(l to r) Richard & Jana Burch and Mary & Tim Mullan*



*(l to r) Judy & Steve Fader, Steve & Audrey Thomas and David & Jane Smith.*

## Volunteer Awarded State-Wide Honor

Long-time Gilchrist Hospice Care volunteer Tom Louden was chosen as a recipient of a 2016 GERI award, a state-wide honor that recognizes extraordinary volunteer service among older adults in Maryland. Tom, a Gilchrist volunteer in Howard county for 16 years, was one of five senior citizens chosen to receive the award, a sculpture of a baby's hand in the palm of an adult hand, this year; he was also named to the Maryland Senior Citizens' Hall of Fame.

Over his more than a decade and a half of service, Tom has donated thousands of hours as a volunteer, visiting more than 100 patients in their own homes, rocking babies cared for by the Gilchrist Kids pediatric hospice program and acting as a mentor to new volunteers. He also serves on the planning committee for Taste of Howard County, an annual fundraiser whose proceeds are used to support our Columbia-based inpatient hospice center, Gilchrist Center Howard County.





*Guiding the way.*

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## Save the Date



# Spring Jazz Brunch

to benefit Gilchrist Center Baltimore – Joseph Richey House

## Sunday, April 23

from 10:30am to 1pm

Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center: 847 North Howard Street

*Event Chairs* Heidi Kenny–Berman, Esq. & Neal Friedlander, MD

Tickets are \$150 each. Sponsorships Available.

*more information & purchase tickets:* [gilchristservices.org/JazzBrunch](http://gilchristservices.org/JazzBrunch)  
or contact Ted Blankenship at 443.849.8263 or [tblankenship@gilchristservices.org](mailto:tblankenship@gilchristservices.org)