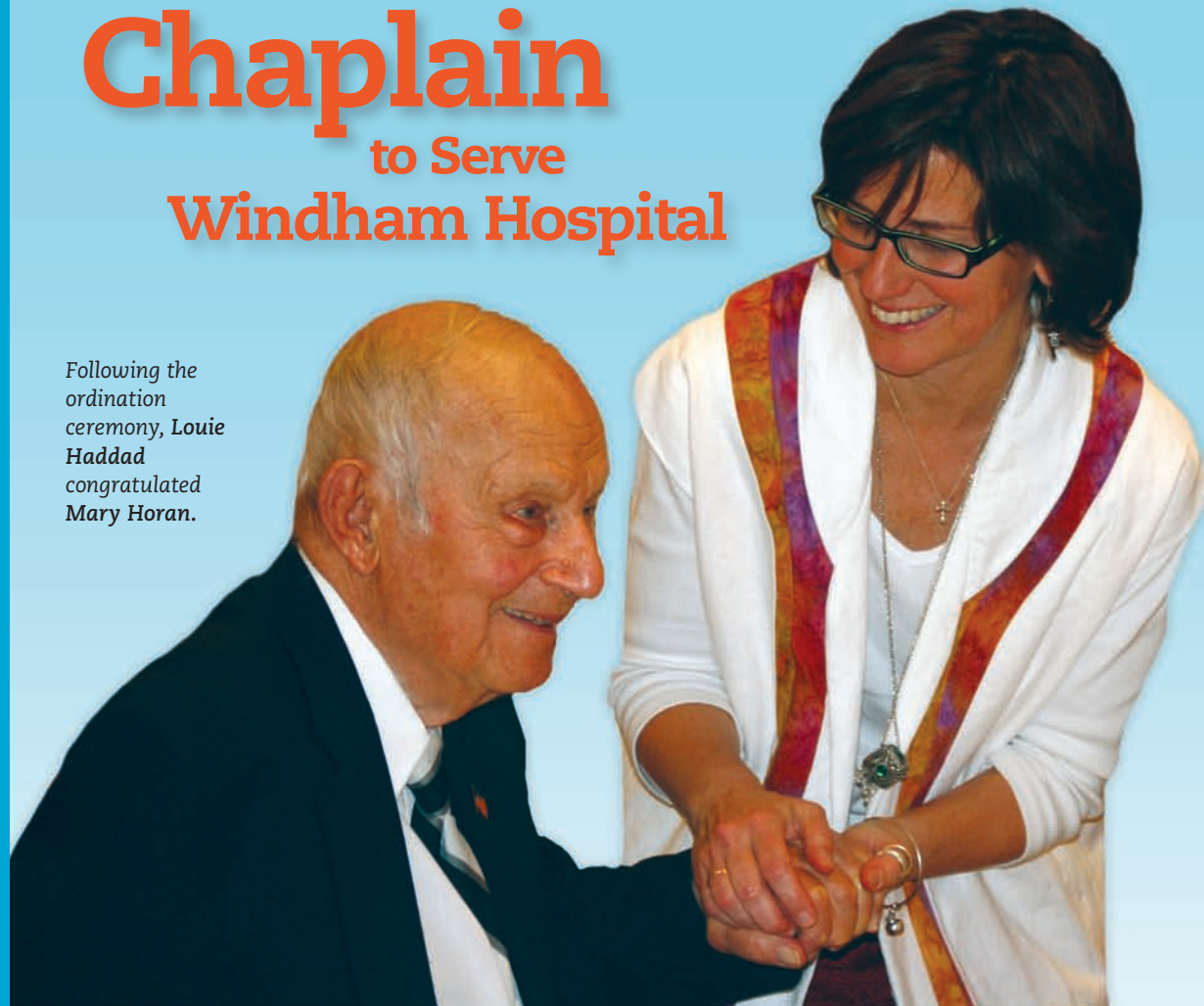


## Chaplain to Serve Windham Hospital

Following the ordination ceremony, Louie Haddad congratulated Mary Horan.



*“It’s such a privilege to serve as a chaplain in a hospital.*

*People can choose to go to a church or temple, but it is in the hospital where they directly confront life-altering decisions, and I am honored to serve in these deeply personal moments.”*



**- Mary C. Horan, MDiv**  
Windham Hospital’s  
new full-time chaplain

**W**indham Hospital now has a full-time chaplain! **Mary C. Horan, MDiv**, was recently ordained as a minister in the First Congregational Church in Lebanon and now serves Windham Hospital as full-time Director of Pastoral and Spiritual Care. She explains, “In the Congregational Church, one cannot be ordained until ‘called’ by a specific congregation. My calling came from Windham Hospital, and the staff here has supported me throughout this amazing process.” In fact, the hospital and the church co-sponsored the ordination, and several staff members—who commented on how deeply moving the event was—attended Mary’s ordination ceremony at the end of October.

Mary completed a Master of Divinity program at Andover Newton Theological School in Boston in 2009, and followed that with a year-long residency at Hartford Hospital (a chaplaincy training program that is one of the oldest in the US).

Continued on page 7

# Nurse Practitioners:

## A Vital Part of Today's Healthcare Team

Pictured at right: *Chris Desmond, APRN*

**A**ccording to the CDC, it's one of the fastest growing fields in medicine. The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), or nurse practitioner, is a valuable member of the staff in many medical offices these days. The reason? There just aren't enough physicians, and our aging and expanding population in the US—the “baby boomers”—requires additional medical services. That demand will only increase in the years to come, and nurse practitioners are meeting some of that demand.


**Elizabeth Visone**, APRN, a nurse practitioner who sees her patients at Windham Internal Medicine, comments, “We are a part of today's healthcare team, and we complement and coordinate medical services for our patients. We're here to help patients manage their health—especially those with chronic illness such as diabetes or hypertension.”

Nurse practitioners are licensed caregivers who have, at minimum, spent four years in Masters' programs, and another year or two in residencies, much like physicians. In fact, Liz will receive her doctorate in nursing this May. “This is not about career change,” she says. “I will continue to see my patients here in Willimantic. I may be the luckiest person in the world, because every day, I get up and go to work to do something I really love!”

**Nurse practitioners are licensed caregivers who have, at minimum, spent four years in Masters' programs, and another year or two in residencies, much like physicians.**

**Beth Cheney**, APRN, Director, Prenatal Clinic and Oncology Programs at Windham Hospital, is also passionate about her chosen profession, “APRNs focus on healthy living and the prevention of disease so patients can stay healthy. Of course, we diagnose, prescribe for, and treat patients, but we try to see the whole person, not just an illness. We get to know them. Do they understand why (and how) they should take their medication? Can they afford it? What factors affect their ability to follow medical advice? Patient education is a large portion of our job,” she concludes.

**Chris Desmond**, APRN, serves emergency patients at Windham Hospital. He comments, “I have spent the last 15 years working at Windham in various capacities, from technician to registered nurse, and now as a nurse practitioner—a member of a truly collaborative emergency medicine team.

Because I've been at Windham for a while, I know many of the community members and have cared for their family members in the past. It is a pleasure to be able to sit down with a patient—and the patient's family—to talk about their concerns. In the ED, this interaction can take place very rapidly, and sometimes it only takes a couple of extra minutes to make a real difference in a patient's recovery. Making that difference is the best part of being a nurse practitioner.” 

# Windham Welcomes Rheumatologist

**I**oana Cristiana Stanescu, MD, Windham Hospital's first full-time, community-based rheumatologist, has opened her practice at Perkins Corner, the professional office building at the junction of Routes 31 and 32 in Mansfield.


Common rheumatologic conditions include osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, osteoporosis, Lyme disease, inflammatory back pain, and lupus.

Dr. Stanescu is a graduate of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest, Romania and performed her internship and residency at Danbury Hospital and the Yale School of Medicine and Pharmacy. She followed with a Fellowship in Rheumatology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. Dr. Stanescu is board-certified in rheumatology, and a Member of the American College of Rheumatology.

"When I first came to Connecticut in 1995," she recalls, "I fell in love with New England. I'm very excited about opening my new



*Ioana Cristiana Stanescu, MD*

practice and serving local patients." In addition to strong medical skills, people who know her describe Dr. Stanescu as enthusiastic and upbeat, with solid people skills. Her new practice is located at 10 Higgins Highway, Suite 14, Mansfield Center, CT 06250; phone 860.456.9900. 




*Melissa Hall, radiologic technologist, sets up a mammogram for a patient at the Windham Hospital Center for Women's Health at Mansfield—the primary breast cancer screening facility in the region.*

## Windham Hospital Breast Care Center Nationally Accredited

**T**he Breast Care Center at Windham Hospital provides comprehensive, state-of-the-art, and compassionate breast care for patients in Northeast Connecticut. In December, the Center added to its accolades and accomplishments a prestigious recognition by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC). The NAPBC awards accreditation only to those centers that voluntarily undergo a rigorous review of their performance and agree to comply with the standards established by the Program. A breast center that achieves NAPBC accreditation has demonstrated a firm commitment to offer its patients every significant advantage in their battle against breast disease.

More than 200,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with breast disease each year, and Connecticut holds the dubious distinction of having the highest incidence of breast cancer in the country. Receiving care at a NAPBC-accredited center ensures that these patients have access to:

- **Comprehensive care, including a full range of state-of-the-art services**
- **Quality breast care close to home**
- **Information about ongoing clinical trials and new treatment options**
- **A multidisciplinary team approach to coordinate the best treatment options, with physicians and nurses who have specialized training in cancer care**

"It's rewarding to be recognized nationally for the quality of care that we provide to the members of the communities we serve," said **Cary Trantalis, RN, MSN**, Vice President of Operations at the Hospital. "I would like to extend my appreciation to our entire multidisciplinary team who work together to provide our patients the very best care and outcomes possible." 

# MOON GLOW

16TH ANNUAL AUTUMN GALA



The Auxiliary to Windham Hospital held its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Gala on November 12, 2011 at the Hartford Marriott Downtown. Dubbed “Moonglow,” the event honored **Carol Palonen, RN**, Caregiver of the Year; **Francis Siracusa, MD**, Physician of the Year; and **Soroptimist International of Willimantic** as Philanthropists of the Year. 🌈



Top Left: The 2011 Physician of the Year, Francis Siracusa, MD, is congratulated by his wife, Karen Siracusa (left) and Kathy Grunigen, Auxiliary Chair of the Autumn Gala  
Top Right: Denise Merrill and Stephen Leach, MD  
Bottom Left: Ann and Michael Dion  
Bottom Right: Beverly and Robert Bundy, MD



# o n t h e MOVE



Kim Ninteau, MS

## Kim Ninteau, MS

recently passed the comprehensive exam for her Master's Degree in Organizational Management from Eastern Connecticut State University.



Beth Cheney, APRN

## Beth Cheney, APRN

Director, Prenatal Clinic and Oncology Programs at Windham Hospital, was recently appointed to the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight by Speaker of the House **Christopher Donovan**.



Robert O'Connor, MD

## Robert O'Connor, MD

has successfully completed the Orthopaedic Surgery Board Exam, making him board-certified in orthopaedic surgery. Dr. O'Connor's practice, The SPORTS Centre, LLC, is located at 151 Storrs Road (Route 195) in Mansfield Center, and his phone is 860.456.1780.



Brenda Davis, RN, and Gregory Shangold, MD

## Brenda Davis, RN

has been named 2011's Emergency Nurse of the Year by the Northeast Emergency Medicine Specialists. The award is presented annually to "a nurse who demonstrates the highest caliber of care, exceeding the highest expectations of quality care daily."



Juanita Vazquez, BA, with her department manager, Michelle Wallace, RN, BSN

## Juanita Vazquez, BA

a member of the Social Work team at Windham Hospital, was honored by the Board of Directors for the Access Community Action Agency for her ten years of service on the Board. In making the award, **Peter DeBiasi**, President and CEO of the Access Agency, said, "She has made a positive difference for Access and the individuals, families, and communities we serve. Thank you for sharing your time and talent to strengthen Access!" Her service to the Access Agency also earned Juanita a special Public Leadership Citation from the State of Connecticut, Office of the Treasurer.



## Federal Funds Initiate Medical Records Project at School Health Clinics

Congressman **Joe Courtney** has announced that Windham Hospital has secured a \$101,597 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement an electronic health record system (EHR) at the two school-based health clinics in Windham. The new EHR project will be funded 100% by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which provided a total of \$200 million for FY 2010 through FY 2013 for school-based health centers. Windham Hospital, in partnership with the Town of Windham, provides healthcare services and staff at clinics in both the Windham Middle and High Schools, serving more than 465 students—2250 visits—annually.

"This grant will help Windham Hospital improve the already tremendous work it is doing to keep our children healthy in school," said Congressman Courtney. "Electronic records will help schools keep track of immunizations, prevent medical errors, and will ensure that students, many of whom rely on these centers for primary care, can get back on their feet and back in the classroom."

"The overall goal of the new system will be to improve the Windham School Based Health Center program's effectiveness and efficiency and enhance the quality of care and patient outcomes. We are honored to have been selected as one of the grantees—one of three grants awarded in all of New England—in this highly competitive process," said **Stephen Larcen, PhD**, President and CEO, Windham Hospital.

*Pictured Above: Kathy Nelson, APRN, examines a student at the Windham High School Health Center.*

# Russo Attends FEMA Emergency Management Institute in Alabama

**T**om Russo recently completed an intensive, four-day “train the trainer” course in Alabama at the former Noble Army Hospital at Ft. McClellan. In that facility, FEMA has created a unique hospital environment where students can carry out disaster exercises in real time, without disrupting patient care or hospital routines at their home offices. The Emergency Management Institute Tom attended focuses on training hospital emergency response teams (HERT) to respond to mass casualty incidents—whether accidental, natural, or terrorist in origin. Now back in the office, Tom is working with hospital staff members and his colleagues at Hartford HealthCare to develop an emergency response plan, to identify and inventory system resources and equipment available for disaster response, and developing training exercises and simulations for Windham Hospital. “Disasters are not the sort of thing a person likes to think about,” he says, “but it’s important—especially for our Hospital staff. Our community will look to us as a resource in an emergency, and we need to be ready to respond quickly, appropriately, and expertly. People are counting on us!”



Tom Russo,  
Associate Director  
of Facilities



A fully suited  
Tom Russo  
ready for a mass  
casualty drill.



A disaster  
exercise  
team in  
action.



Hundreds of acclaimed primary care physicians and specialists. One number to remember.

1.800.DOCTORS



Windham  
Hospital

A Hartford HealthCare Partner

An expert doctor is just  
three simple steps away...

**1.** Call  
1.800.DOCTORS

**2.** Enter your  
zip code

**3.** Get connected to a  
top-quality physician  
near you

# Getting to know...

## Karen Barbone, RN, CDE

**Q.** How long have you worked at Windham Hospital?

**A.** 25 years.

**Q.** What is your title?

**A.** Coordinator of Diabetes Education.

**Q.** What part of your job you like the most?

**A.** Meeting interesting people.

**Q.** What is your best memory about Windham Hospital?

**A.** Delivering a few babies before the doctor showed up (Karen previously worked in the Maternity/OB Unit at Windham).

**Q.** What is your personal philosophy or what mantra or saying best defines how you live your life?

**A.** Just give it a try—you can do it!

**Q.** What town do you live in?

**A.** Canterbury.

**Q.** Are you involved in volunteering / helping out in your community?

**A.** Yes, I've been PTO president, coach, CCD teacher, and a Girl Scout Leader.

**Q.** If you were to win the lottery tomorrow, what would you do?

**A.** Get my husband a job with the Red Sox or Bruins and build an indoor/outdoor lap pool for myself.

**Q.** If you weren't working at Windham Hospital, is there another job that you have always wanted to do?

**A.** Be a librarian, or a professional athlete (but I'm not athletic enough!)

**Q.** What is one thing in your life of which you are most proud?

**A.** My children.

**Q.** What did you do during your last vacation?

**A.** Went to visit the Amish country.

**Q.** What do you do for fun?

**A.** Play hockey, run, swim, watch sports, crafts.

**Q.** Do you have any children/pets?

**A.** A son Tom, and daughter Kelli, dog and running partner Tobe.



Karen Barbone, RN, CDE

**Q.** Is there one thing about yourself that you'd want everybody to know?

**A.** I'm pretty competitive, but I'm a softy when it comes to movies and books (I need to bring tissues to the movies).

**Q.** What is the one thing that only your closest friends and family know about you?

**A.** I can run a marathon but I can't touch my toes.

**Q.** People would be surprised to know that you have...

**A.** Run 6 marathons, done a few triathalons, and play ice hockey.

**Q.** My favorite TV show is...

**A.** Modern Family, and sporting events.

**Q.** The last great movie I saw was...

**A.** The Help.

**Q.** The last song I uploaded to my iPod or played on my stereo was...

**A.** Anything Billy Joel.

**Q.** My pet peeve is...

**A.** People who don't help themselves or even try.

**Q.** The one thing I have always wanted to do but have never done is...

**A.** Seen Mount Rushmore or any of the canyons out west.

**Q.** My hero is...

**A.** Both of my grandmothers who lost their husbands when they were pregnant, and raised their families on their own in the 1940s and 50s.


**Q.** The three people (from the past or present) that I would like to have dinner with are...

**A.** Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and Babe Didrikson Zaharias.

# Chaplain

continued from page 1

It was an arduous, and she says, "unmatched experience which uniquely blended medical and pastoral training." Long hours spent in the Hartford Hospital Trauma Center included "baptizing infants who cannot survive their early birth, praying with families while a loved one clings to life, or crying with patients as their worst fears are confirmed. This is some of the hardest work I have ever done, and yet I know this is where I must be." When asked about her decision to serve the Hospital, she remarks, "I already hold a license that allows me to practice as a medical professional, something I have loved doing for nearly all of my adult life. This is different. This is my life choice, not a work choice. This is an affirmation of diversity, of celebrating life, and spirituality, and community connections, and it's truly a privilege to be here."


Mary is quite familiar with Windham Hospital and its patients. She was born here ("my father was one of the very first dads allowed into the labor room!"), has lived within the Hospital's service area all of her life, and she has served the hospital for 20 years, first as a speech pathologist, and later as Director of Family Centered Care. Of her new position, she comments, "It's such a privilege to serve as a chaplain in a hospital. People can choose to go to a church or temple, but it is in the hospital where they directly confront life-altering decisions, and I am honored to serve in these deeply personal moments." Her job description notes that she "responds to the spiritual or religious needs of patients, families, friends, staff, and volunteers." In addition, she maintains a relationship with local religious leaders and their spiritual communities. Mary may be contacted by calling 860.456.6955. 

## A WORD FROM OUR PATIENTS

I am writing to express my appreciation for Windham Hospital's extraordinary quality of care. Not only did my wonderful physicians and surgeons effortlessly facilitate my double surgeries, the entire hospital staff extended kind attention, clear information, and generous time at every moment...The medical and nursing staffs showed me great compassion and understanding, worked with utmost skill and utterly supported both me and my husband during the post-operative period. My two-day recovery stay was facilitated by the wonderfully helpful, dedicated nurses, and all through the diagnostic, outpatient, operative, and post-operative treatment, I was in awe of the commitment that every individual on the staff gave to resolve my medical issues and healing process. Everyone made me feel that they had nothing better to do that day than help me. I had never realized (or expected) that this level of care was possible in any hospital, and that it was available to me at my local hospital quite simply astounded me - and still astonishes me...I came to recognize the pride that your hospital's staff has in being part of such a remarkable enterprise. One of my nurses told me that she loved being part of such a great hospital. For my part, I am deeply grateful that all this is so close to home and remains available to people in this area of Connecticut.



## New Compliance Line

**H**artford Health-Care has established a single ComplianceLine for all affiliates within the system. This "hot line" provides employees, patients, physicians and visitors the ability to report concerns regarding perceived misconduct or violations of governmental regulations, the organization's code of conduct, polices or practices. Concerned persons can either speak with a trained operator at 1.855.HHC.OCAP or provide information via the web 24/7 at [www.HHC.OCAPComplianceLine.com](http://www.HHC.OCAPComplianceLine.com). Reports can be made anonymously. All reports will be handled objectively, professionally and securely by a third party vendor and responses will be given after due diligence and investigation by the Office of Compliance, Audit and Privacy (OCAP). 

**HealthLink** IS A PUBLICATION OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT OF WINDHAM HOSPITAL

Managing Editor: Heather Tindall

Editor: Sharyn Mathews

Submit Items for HealthLink to: [smathews@wcmh.org](mailto:smathews@wcmh.org)

The Public Relations and Marketing Department will accept copy and photos for editorial consideration for HealthLink. Items must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month (i.e., one month before publication).