



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**The Valley Hospital Foundation's *Women For Health* Designate Funds  
Towards Much Needed Palliative Care Program**

**Ridgewood, New Jersey November 18, 2015**

On the afternoon of November 12<sup>th</sup>, members of the Valley Hospital Foundation's *Women For Health* gathered at the Ridgewood Country Club to vote on the designation of their collective gift to Valley. This year, Valley Home Care's Home-Based Palliative Care Program is the lucky recipient of funding in the amount of \$150,000. The funds will provide staff training, hire a Nurse Practitioner to perform in-home consultations with patients and their families, and develop marketing materials to spread the word about this new program.

Formed in 2011, The Valley Hospital Foundation's *Women For Health* has grown from 30 charter members to its current membership of 150 women, primarily from Bergen and Passaic Counties. These women have pooled their social and philanthropic resources to assist The Valley Hospital and Valley Home Care in providing the best possible healthcare. Each year the members gather to hear presentations on three funding opportunities at Valley and then vote to determine which program will receive their collective gift.

This gift marks the *Women For Health*'s largest gift since its inception in 2011. Palliative care is for those patients and families living with long standing, chronic medical conditions that impact their ability to participate in activities they enjoy most. Tina Basenese, R.N., MA, APN-C, ACHPN, Director of Valley Hospice explained, enthusiastically and tearfully, "These patients don't necessarily need home care, and they are not on hospice either. But they are frequently being readmitted to the hospital for painful and aggressive treatments that don't truly improve their quality of life. They are stuck in the gap between home care and hospice." The home care arm of Valley's Palliative Care Services reaches these

‘lost’ patients, and bridges that gap by developing a program model, providing staff training, and piloting care programs for select patients and families.

The two co-chairs for *Women For Health* are Danielle Gaglioti and Julie Epstein, who introduced the three different presenters, directed questions, and facilitated discussion. “What is unique about *Women For Health* is that we get the chance to decide on where our philanthropic dollars are directed within Valley,” stated Danielle. “We watch the different presentations from the hospital representatives, ask questions about their programs, and then come to our own educated, collective decision. It makes us feel closer to the cause.”

If you are interested in becoming a member of this unique group of women philanthropists, please contact Sandy Carapezza at 201-291-6300 or acarape@valleyhospitalfoundation.org.



Julie Epstein, *Women For Health* co-chair and Trustee of The Valley Hospital Foundation, Tina Basenese, R.N., MA, APN-C, ACHPN, Director of Valley Hospice; and Danielle Gaglioti, *Women For Health* co-chair and Trustee of The Valley Hospital Foundation.