Dear Friend,

During this COVID-19 pandemic, our team is focused on keeping our community safe. Never in our recent memory have we faced a global health crisis of this magnitude.

You help keep our spirits up with your outpouring of support, and this helps us get through a very challenging and stressful time.

Through it all, donations from our community are especially important. Thank you for donating to the Emergency Response Fund, offering supplies, sewing masks, sending us notes and posting signs and banners at your homes and businesses to express your support.

This report highlights a few of the many ways that our community and staff members are making a difference during this health crisis.

In March, we opened our incident command center, which we activate when there is an emergency. The command center oversees our health system’s response to COVID-19. For several months, this included twice daily briefings to review how we could keep patients and staff safe and healthy while also preventing the spread of the virus and planning for a surge in cases.

This pandemic is not over, and the risk of contracting COVID-19 remains. More people in our community can and will contract the virus and need to be treated and hospitalized. Fortunately, thanks to your support, we are prepared to take care of you and your neighbors.

We are here if and when you need us, and we know that you will support us — no matter what challenges we are facing. We know that we are not alone, and we are grateful.

Sincerely,

Vincent G. Capece, Jr.
President/CEO
It would take this entire report, and many more pages, to highlight all of the Middlesex Health employees who are making a difference as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone in our organization plays a role in keeping patients, the community and our staff safe. Our employees are our greatest asset, and their expertise and dedication has been invaluable during this crisis.

We rely on everyone to work together and coordinate care from physicians, nurses, patient care technicians, paramedics, EMTs and other clinicians; our cleaning, laundry and nutrition teams; to our laboratory and imaging departments; to security, IT, finance and administrative teams; and outpatient clinical teams from home care and cancer care to behavioral health, physical rehabilitation and primary care. Everyone is a health care hero at Middlesex Health.
A COVID-19 Story: The Paduch Family

On March 9, Chris Paduch of Haddam Neck got sick. He couldn’t get out of bed and had a 102 fever. When Chris’ fever broke, he still didn’t improve, and his wife, Jill also began to feel sick. Their family physician suspected they were both COVID-19 positive, and Chris, who was very weak, was admitted to Middlesex Hospital.

After a chest X-ray and a CT scan, Chris learned that he had pneumonia and pulmonary thrombosis, or blood clots, in both lungs. Chris was diagnosed with COVID-19, and Jill later tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies, an indication that she had, or was exposed to, the virus.

Chris’ condition continued to worsen, and his pulmonologist let Jill know that a ventilator was absolutely necessary to save Chris’ life. Chris was intubated and on a ventilator in Middlesex Hospital’s Critical Care Unit for 23 days.

“The doctor called me every day and was very straight with me,” says Jill. “It was really hard to believe that the illness was as bad as it was. I absolutely felt that the Middlesex team was doing everything they could for Chris, and I felt that they were personally invested in me.”

Eventually, thanks to the care he received, Chris did improve and was removed from the ventilator.

“Everyone at Middlesex Hospital was wonderful,” he says. “They were so good to me. They told me I was a miracle. I felt like a celebrity in that hospital. I was able to see my pulmonologist to thank him and even though he was dressed in full PPE, I could tell that he was smiling from ear to ear.”

After nearly two months of being in a hospital bed, Chris is now home and is working on a limited schedule. “I’m living life,” he says. “I do what I can. It’s a case of gradual improvement. I was told that for every day in the hospital, it will take me a few days to recover.”

Chris expects that it will be November before he feels like himself again.

To read a full version of Chris and Jill’s story visit middlesexhealth.org/Paduchfamily.

Advancing Treatments for Patients with COVID-19

Middlesex Health is using two experimental treatment protocols, convalescent plasma and Remdesivir, to help advance the medical community’s understanding of how best to care for patients with COVID-19.

Mayo Clinic Convalescent Plasma Initiative

In April, Middlesex Health joined a national initiative, led by Mayo Clinic, that is investigating the use of convalescent plasma during the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative is using convalescent plasma from patients who have fully recovered from COVID-19 with the hope that antibodies in the plasma can help hospitalized patients who have COVID-19.

The initiative is ongoing and dozens of eligible patients at Middlesex have received convalescent plasma infusions. As a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, Middlesex Health regularly collaborates with Mayo Clinic on many matters, including the convalescent plasma program.

More information about donating convalescent plasma can be found at www.uscoviplasma.org/donate.

Remdesivir

Following guidelines issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Middlesex Health is prescribing Remdesivir for patients in the hospital who are experiencing severe symptoms of COVID-19. The Middlesex Health clinical team is compiling data on the results of this treatment in order to build the medical community’s knowledge about COVID-19.
In-Kind Supply Donations

In addition to monetary donations, which helped us purchase critical items, many individuals in our community donated supplies and local companies donated or manufactured supplies, including:

- Rolls of aluminum to create nose bridges in masks
- Hand-sewn surgical mask covers and fabric masks
- Face shields
- N95 respirator masks
- Gloves
- Food and snacks
- Hand sanitizer

Emergency Response Fund
Thank you For Making a Difference

We created the Emergency Response Fund to accept donations from our community. This money is used to purchase equipment, supplies and other needs directly related to our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful to the generous individuals, companies and foundations who made donations to the fund. Every donation makes a difference for the health and safety of our patients and employees.

Total Raised to date: $314,410
Total Donors: 280
Median Donation: $100 (donations ranged from $5 to $100,000)

What you helped us purchase:

- 10 ventilators
- Trailer for testing and evaluation
- Two glidescopes for visualizing intubations
- 100,000s of respirators, surgical masks, gloves, gowns and face shields
- Swabs for COVID-19 testing
- Cleaning products and hand sanitizer