

# TODAY

Covering the Heart of the Farmington Valley



## CENTURY CELEBRATION

CCHF Marks 105 Years of Health-Focused Care



## HOUSE-HUNTING TEST

Here's a multiple-choice quiz to test your animal acumen — is this photo:

- A walrus masquerading as a bird?
- A female cat with its signature whiskers posing as a male finch?
- A male house finch collecting nest material?

The photographer who took the photo in late March in a Canton backyard will surely confirm the correct choice — yet if someone really doesn't know the answer, what would you think about their ability to see clearly?

And would you want him or her to pet-sit — or babysit — for you and your family?

Here's hoping and praying for a good start to spring in your neck of the woods and throughout the Farmington Valley!

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The Canton Community Health Fund is the direct descendant of two vital Visiting Nurse Associations and champions a host of local initiatives

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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**“ You can participate and ... make a real difference — that's the thing about small towns: Your voice can be heard ” — Sylvia Cancela**

BY THE NUMBERS **\$570,000 — 25-year CCHF funding**

# LETTERS

newsroom@TodayPublishing.net

## COVER STORY KUDOS

Today Magazine's **March cover story** featured a brief master class from Canton historian Kathy Taylor about the fascinating history of three village greens in her hometown

— **CLICK HERE for our coverage**

Today Magazine's **February cover story** featured Avon High's Abrahamica Bus Ride Against Hate on MLK Day and a visit from the only American to stay in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide

— **CLICK HERE for our coverage**

I AM VERY HAPPY with how my article about the Canton village greens was presented — the photos from the current day and the Canton Historical Museum really made a difference.

Thank you!

— **Kathy Taylor • Canton Town Historian**

THE ARTICLE on the MLK Day Bus Ride was yet another enriching piece. It emphasized common grounds of faith that could bring more healing and tolerance in a ruptured society with glaring fault lines of thoughts that make us perceive others as different from us. Keep up the good work!

— **Sana Syed • Simsbury**

THANK YOU for the story about our Showroom of the Year award — it is way above and beyond! You write impeccably. I can't thank you enough.

— **Mark Bonenfant • Avon Raymour & Flanigan**

I WAS SURPRISED and delighted to see the article featuring Big Fish on Campus LLC and my work as a college admissions consultant. Thank you very much. I will share it on social media, and the timing is excellent.

— **Denise Karp • Avon • Big Fish on Campus owner**

THANK YOU so much for posting our event in the Today Calendar — this was a big success because we were SOLD OUT for our March 2nd event. A big thank-you to Today Online for your help in making that happen!

— **Alison Sjoberg • Journey Home**

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# A Well-Being Conundrum

A SHOW of hands, please — who would prefer health, safety and well-being to the opposite? Safe to say, everyone reading this magazine will raise their hands in affirmation. A local nonprofit has aimed to elevate the health, safety and well-being of Canton residents for a quarter-century — with roots that trace back more than a century. Yes, the Canton Community Health Fund aka CCHF funds myriad initiatives and programs with this lofty goal in mind.

Have you ever wondered why we humans have, in a foundational way, the same goals and hopes and dreams ... only to see those hopes crash and burn when disagreement ensues and conflict erupts over how to best achieve those common goals and realize those shared dreams?

This question is among the notable conundrums of the human experiment, and a solution is difficult to pin down. Intuition tells me the best answer is connected to whom we're asking — and will have a human-and-divine component, with primary reliance on the divine, yet with a key dose of human responsibility • BWD







**Today Magazine • Covering the Heart of the Farmington Valley**

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# CENTURY CELEBRATION

## CCHF Marks 105 Years of Community Care

By Sylvia Cancela  
Special to Today Magazine

IT'S 1918. As World War I veterans return from overseas, the H1N1 influenza pandemic continues to take lives every day all over the world, and in Canton. The Collinsville War Bureau sets up a makeshift emergency hospital at the Congregational Church in Collinsville for patients too ill to remain at home.

A new organization has arrived in town, the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA).

The nurses serve alongside the Connecticut State Guard and Canton's two doctors, caring for patients during this unprecedented time. Thus the VNA's mission, to champion the health, safety and well-being of Canton residents, begins. This mission has continued for a century, and remains as true and vital to our

community today under the banner of the Canton Community Health Fund (CCHF).

One of the VNA's pioneer nurses, Amada Furrer, began her service in 1922. By the time she retired in 1946, as a Canton Visiting Nurse, one can only imagine what she would have experienced in her practice.

Surely, she would have supported returning veterans looking to reconnect with their families, despite new physical and mental challenges.

She would have been a vital partner in the Canton school system, from kindergarten to high school. And her skills, compassion and experience would have touched multi-generations of Canton families, from prenatal through hospice care — see a sidebar article to learn more about Furrer.

In the decades that followed the 1918 pandemic, the VNA worked closely with the Collinsville branch of the American Red Cross and other regional healthcare organizations to meet the evolving needs of a rapidly

growing Canton community. In 1941, the VNA/Canton Public Health Nursing Association and American Red Cross became two independent entities, with the goal of better serving the unique needs of their communities. With this separation, the VNA became the Canton Visiting Nurse Association Inc. (CVNA).

The CVNA continued to partner with healthcare organizations whose

**In the decades that followed the 1918 pandemic, the VNA worked closely with the Collinsville branch of the American Red Cross and other regional healthcare organizations to meet the evolving needs of a rapidly growing Canton community**

strategic goals were compatible with its mission to enhance the health, safety and well-being of the Canton community.

Case in point: In 1948, from June 28-30, the CVNA and the Connecticut State Board of Health co-sponsored Canton's first X-ray clinic. Tuberculosis was the ongoing concern at the time. Appointments for service offered free of charge were available to any resident over the age of 15, and 1,600 individuals signed up.

Confidential reports of the results were made available to both the individual and the family physician. The clinic was funded by money raised by CVNA's sale of American Red Cross Christmas Seal stamps.

+++

IT'S 1955. Deadly flood waters devastate Canton. Lois Maher, a new town resident and nurse at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, is stranded at home. So she volunteers to vaccinate

COVER STORY

NOTEWORTHY NONPROFITS

residents against typhoid, using syringes sterilized in huge pots of boiling water. In 1962, Maher would begin a 30-year career as a Canton Visiting Nurse. Her legacy includes the reimagining and redevelopment of CVNA's highly regarded home healthcare programming — look for Maher's story on CCHF's social media in the coming months.

Throughout the coming years of expansion and growth, CVNA remained steadfast to its vision as an in-community and personally connected resource. For example, CVNA was both Medicaid- and Medicare-certified, but nevertheless used an accounting model

where services were paid for on a sliding scale, depending on the individual resident's ability to pay.

Many times, services and support were offered free of charge.

A grateful community responded to the professionalism, skill and dedication of CVNA's nurses with financial donations. Such generosity led to the creation of CVNA's Memorial Fund, for the benefit of the Canton community.

Further paying it forward, in 1968 CVNA established the Canton Public Health Service (CPHS) Scholarship for graduating Canton High School students pursuing further education in public health. A follow-up study, conducted in 1981, found that over 75% of CPHS Scholarship recipients went on to careers in analytical chemistry, nursing, rehabilitation, physical and respiratory therapy, and psychology.

By the 1980s, Canton had the largest population of children in the Farmington Valley. In response, CVNA prioritized healthy development, safety



**2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS**  
• left-to-right •

- Cheryl Cleaves – SpiritHorse Therapeutic Riding Center of Canton • Michael Langer – Canton Emergency Fuel Bank • Sean McCarthy – Favarrh aka The Arc of Farmington Valley
- Sarah McCusker – Canton Public Library
- Lorinda Paine – Focus on Canton
- Karen Adjian – Canton Food Bank • Sergeant David Rodriguez – Canton Police Department
- Ashley Born – Gifts of Love

Courtesy Photo

**COVER PHOTO**

CCHF Grant Recipients — left-to-right • Mark Selander – Canton Police Officer • Jennifer Herbek – Director of Canton Food Bank • Cheryl Cleaves – President/CEO of SpiritHorse Therapeutic Riding Center of Canton

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and wellness by launching the Well Child Conference in 1986. Countering the growing trend for fast check-in and checkout at other area clinics, CVNA director Colette Ostapko laid out a comprehensive plan to “keep our children healthy and our parents well-informed.”

The conference focused on: the latest healthcare training/education; hands-on nursing support; and strengthening relationships with the local/regional medical community. All programming and services were free of charge, for children aged 6 weeks to 6 years. Case management responsibilities for CVNA nurses could include everything from pre- and post-maternal and child checkups to providing guidance on development phases of childhood.

Well Child also extended from the home into the school system, where the “ladies in blue” were a regular fixture, providing first aid for accidents and illnesses on school grounds.

And there was more change to come. In partnership with Dr. Edward Diters and CVNA’s all-volunteer board of directors, programming reorganized

**At his retirement dinner, \$8300 in donations are collected – Diters insists that this funding be used as seed money for a new scholarship, available to a Canton resident pursuing an education in a health-related field**

under two main strategic operations: community nursing, to promote health and safety, and clinical programs, built around wellness and preventative services.

Community Nursing – In addition to prioritizing children, community nursing addressed other vulnerable populations in Canton by providing: medication compliance and community transitioning for residents struggling with mental health issues; treatment for chronic illnesses and diseases; post-surgical care; and occupational and physical therapy.

One of the most value-added components of community nursing was CVNA’s Loan Closet. Funded by CNVA’s Memorial Fund, the closet stored long-term medical equipment to assist those who were bedridden and short-term tools and apparatus such as wheelchairs, crutches, commodes and walkers. All of these items were offered to residents free of charge. The closet was devised in response to what CVNA was hearing from Canton’s seniors – they wanted to remain in their own homes vs. going into institutional nursing homes.

Clinical Programs – CVNA nurses were hands-on, boots-on-the-ground and mission-ready through every life stage of Canton residents, whether coordinating monthly blood pressure testing; managing annual flu clinics for seniors; providing vaccines and physicals; offering dental, vision and hearing screenings for schoolchildren; or furnishing nutritional counseling/education and poison control for the community at large.

The CVNA’s enduring legacy wouldn’t be complete without a note



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Seated • left-to-right — Jim Gavin • Sandy Trionfini • Jennifer Barlow Asaro  
Standing • left-to-right — Nancy Triou • Deirdre Lloyd • Sylvia Cancela • Allie Southworth-Eck  
Location • former office of CVNA – Canton Town Hall basement • Photo by Tom Kutz Photography

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**Board members not in photo — Janot Bente • Kathy Wood**

on Canton's doctors — specifically, Dr. Ralph Cox and Dr. Diters. Their guidance, advocacy, mentoring and unbidden respect for the work of both VNA and CVNA helped pave the way for the community leadership and remarkable accomplishments of these nurses from 1918 to 1989. Diters' personal legacy actually continues to this day.

+++

IT'S 1989. Canton's beloved family doctor, Edward Nelson Diters, retires after over 40 years of serving the community. At his retirement dinner, \$8300 in donations are collected. Diters insists that this funding be used as seed money for a new scholarship, available to a Canton resident pursuing an education in a health-related field.

In May 1990, Canton High School senior Nancy A. MacLaurin becomes the first recipient of a \$500 Dr. Diters-CVNA Scholarship. Dr. MacLaurin is now a practicing obstetrician and gynecologist in North Carolina — read more about Diters, MacLaurin and other successful scholarship recipients in upcoming CCHF social media posts.

By 1992, the town of Canton had begun transitioning its senior services to in-house programming, while still funding CVNA's community health, safety and wellness initiatives. CVNA, meanwhile, started to focus on third-party reimbursement for its home-care operation.

By 1997, with Medicare funding and staffing needs



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growing, CVNA made a strategic decision to partner with a larger home-care organization. On June 27, 1997, CVNA entered into a merger agreement with a longtime community partner, McLean Community and Home Care Services, a division of the McLean Fund.

Importantly, in acknowledgement and appreciation of the Canton community's many decades of financial generosity, the newly merged business partners agreed not only to transition CVNA's mission to a new community entity, but also to fund it with 100% of the proceeds from the Memorial Fund and the Dr. Diters and CPHS Scholarships. What started in-community was to remain in-community.

+++

IT'S DECEMBER 30, 1997. Canton Community Health Fund Inc. becomes the next generation to carry on the VNA and CVNA mission to contribute to the health, safety and well-being of the Canton community. +

Special thanks to — Kathy Taylor, Canton town historian  
 • Tom Ayres, president of Canton Historical Society  
 • Beth Van Ness, reference and adult services librarian —  
 They shared many treasures found at the Canton Historical Museum and Canton Public Library's Local History Room that informed this article •

• Canton resident Sylvia Cancela is the chair of Canton Community Health Fund — a writer and professional public relations consultant, Cancela is the founder and owner of Red Barn Communication LLC •



Photo by Wendy Rosenberg

### FURRY FACE TIME

A squirrel samples a berry in a Canton backyard — nuts, seeds and fruit are among their favorite foods



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## Special to Today Magazine

CCHF chair Sylvia Cancela has answered this Q&A

### Canton Community Health Fund Inc. • CCHF

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### Year Established

1918 — as Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), which became Canton Visiting Nurse Association Inc. (CVNA) in 1941. In 1997, CVNA merged with McLean Community and Home Care Services, a division of the McLean Fund.

Once united, these business partners transitioned CVNA's mission to a new community entity, the Canton Community Health Fund Inc., and funded it with CVNA's Memorial Fund, the Dr. Diters Scholarship and the Canton Public Health Service Scholarship.

### Mission

Contributing to the health, safety and well-being of the Canton community

### Slogan

By, for and about Canton's community

### Most fulfilling aspect of your work?

CCHF's grants and scholarships are strategic investments in our community. Watching how these investments positively impact the health, safety and well-being of our fellow residents is the very definition of our mission. And following our scholarship recipients, as they make a difference in the healthcare industry at large, further inspires our work as a board.

### Your biggest obstacle, and how you overcome it?

CCHF's all-volunteer board works closely with our community partners. They are the critical hands-on component of our mission. Many of them depend on the participation of volunteers, who can be a highly transitory resource, as every nonprofit in town that depends on volunteers knows.

We have worked, and will continue to work, to ensure that our application and outcome-reporting processes do not add unnecessary bureaucracy or administrative burden to our community partners.

### Most satisfying accomplishment?

After a century of service to our community, the legacy of CCHF's mission is not only still relevant, but more important than ever. And because we have always been in-community, we see the beautiful irrefutable impact of CCHF's funding

## CCHF: Big Impact In Small Town

investments, every single day. There is less food insecurity among our neighbors. They are kept warmer in winter. They feel more empowered and less vulnerable.

Canton's first responders have new tools to protect us all. Individuals who want to pursue careers in healthcare have additional financial assistance to attend the colleges of their choice. There's always more to be done. And we'll be here for it.

### Goals for the next 1-5 years?

- **To Be More Dynamic vs. Transactional** — By deepening our partnerships in the community, we will continue to proactively focus our funding-investments on the most important issues and opportunities trending and impacting Canton.
- **To Tell Stories That Inspire** — Whether it's honoring CCHF's legacy through the remarkable service and lives of Canton visiting nurses, celebrating our scholarship recipients as they make their marks throughout the healthcare industry, or sharing the humanity of CCHF's community partners who are making a difference in our neighbors' lives, this story-sharing will demonstrate what drives our board and makes us so proud to be from Canton.

### Anecdote illustrating how you fulfill your mission:



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# The Unpredictability of Life

by Mel Brickman  
*HealthMarkets Insurance Agency*

If there's something we've learned over the past year, it's that life can be very unpredictable. And it's that unpredictability that has most people in goal-setting mode right now. In addition to enjoying all that life has to offer, we want to be better prepared for the unexpected.

Because life has shown us that we don't always have time, getting our affairs in order is a crucial step as we continue into the New Year. Life insurance should be one of those important steps.

Most people are surprised to learn that life insurance can be very affordable. You don't have to spend a lot to get the coverage you need. Life insurance can be the difference between your loved ones navigating your passing without the stress the loss of your income represents and being able to focus on their emotional state without the added burden.

But life's unpredictability isn't limited to loss of life. Sometimes the loss of a job can be an unexpected blow, or an injury happens that prevents a person from working. Disability



Mel Brickman  
#16511376

insurance may also be an important addition to your personal preparedness portfolio. And there are options to help you continue your healthcare coverage should you lose your job.

The unpredictable nature of life makes it more important than ever before to find coverage that fits your needs. You can schedule a complimentary review with me, a licensed insurance agent, to explore a variety of insurance options at no cost to you. Give me a call, anytime.

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It's 2022 — Canton is slowly moving beyond everything that the COVID pandemic brought to our community. CCHF stepped up to promote the health, safety and well-being of Canton by distributing nearly \$50,000.00 in grants and scholarships. Through our community partners, CCHF's grants helped underwrite and provide:

- Enhanced weekly meal plans for families who dealt with food insecurity.
- Memory care programming, training, education and supplies for Canton's seniors and their caregivers.
- Lifesaving equipment for Canton's first responders to use during search and rescue emergencies.
- Empowerment for children and adults with disabilities, through weekly therapeutic horseback riding sessions and art classes.
- Support for a safe, substance-free environment for Canton's High School seniors to, once again, gather and celebrate their graduation.
- Funds to pay for electric bills and fuel supplies — including the repair

of a heat pump so that a terminally ill resident could remain home with family.

In 2022, CCHF scholarships also contributed to and supported the ambitions of Canton High School seniors pursuing healthcare careers in: nursing, cancer research and forensic pathology. Read more about how CCHF's grants and scholarships are making a difference in our upcoming social media posts.

### How has the COVID pandemic impacted your work?

From 2020-2022, Canton Community Health Fund distributed over \$100,000 to our community partners and to individuals pursuing careers in healthcare. In some cases, we funded well over the requested amount to more vulnerable populations in Canton who were especially impacted by the COVID pandemic. We were in the position to increase our support — so we did. And because we live and operate CCHF from Canton, the community knew it could rely on us.

### Interesting stats + numbers:

Since 1998, CCHF has distributed:

- Over \$70,000 in scholarships to individuals pursuing careers in healthcare.
- Over \$500,000 in funding investments to community partners who directly and significantly enhance the lives of our neighbors.

### Besides donations, how is your work funded?

Donations from the Canton community are the very basis of CCHF's foundation — and we continue to count on them today. We do not have an outside corporate sponsor. And true to our legacy, remaining independent is primary in our ability to be flexible and responsive to the community.

As a private foundation, we continue to be 100% funded through the generosity of individuals who understand and support the critical importance of our mission. When people donate to CCHF, they know their money is going to support Canton residents.

continued on next page

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#### SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

TWILIGHT • Oil • 20" x 20"

**TERRE LEFFERTS**

Member • Canton Artists' Guild

Terre Lefferts — her solo exhibit at Gallery on the Green is grounded in reverence for the natural world — her pastoral and coastal scenes reflect her immersion in dual residencies in Connecticut and Maine

### How closely do you work with other agencies/nonprofits?

They are our community partners. Like the Canton Visiting Nurse Association before them, our community partners are the hands, ears, eyes and voices — the critical “boots on the ground” — who inform our strategic and financial decisions. These collaborations help us fulfill our complementary missions to benefit our Canton neighbors.

### What do you appreciate most about the Farmington Valley?

Every Valley town has its own unique identity that includes both complementary and contrasting characteristics: urban/rural, quirky/traditional, historic/contemporary, liberal/conservative. But they all have small-town pride in common.

Importantly, you can participate in town government on a commission and in one (or more) nonprofit community organizations or clubs — and you can make a real difference. That’s the thing about small towns. Your voice can be heard.

### What constructive change would you like to see in the Valley?

Few people volunteer because they expect to be paid. And most town governments would acknowledge that without the time and skills provided by community volunteers, the business of running a small town would be significantly hampered.

So, how do you demonstrate appreciation and value for something that is priceless? How about turning the tables and supporting volunteer families? Progressive towns in the Farmington Valley are exploring ways to do this — providing discounts on property taxes, offering gas cards to compensate for travel, and even distributing movie tickets and pool passes. It’s a start.

### Volunteer info:

CCHF is managed by an all-volunteer board of directors who oversee the fund’s investment in addition to the promotion, assessment, decision-making and distribution of grants and scholarships. CCHF is always looking for individuals to actively

Because we have always been in-community, we see the beautiful irrefutable impact of CCHF’s funding investments, every single day

... There’s always more to be done — and we’ll be here for it

engage by sharing their talents, experience and knowledge to make a difference in our community — interested parties may apply at [www.CantonCommunityHealthFund.org](http://www.CantonCommunityHealthFund.org) > About Us > Join Us

### Board of directors:

CCHF’s board is comprised of a talented and accomplished mix of professionals from the fields of law, marketing, business, healthcare, education, emergency services and finance:

- Sylvia Cancela — chair
- Deidre Lloyd — vice chair
- Kathy Wood — treasurer
- Jennifer Barlow Asaro — marketing
- Nancy Triou — grants coordinator
- Janot Bente
- Jim Gavin
- Allie Southworth Eck

### Number of employees:

We do not have paid staff.

### Further comment:

We invite Today Magazine’s readers to join us in supporting CCHF’s mission to contribute to the health, safety and

well-being of the Canton community. Canton residents may never know that their food, fuel, training or life-saving equipment, provided through our community partners, was funded in part by the Canton Community Health Fund. Your donation will support our mission and continue to make our work as silent partners possible.

• To donate via our PayPal account, go to our website: About Us > Make A Difference

• To donate via mail:  
Canton Community Health Fund  
P.O. Box 75, Collinsville CT 06022

• For opportunities to make individual or estate/legacy contributions, please contact CCHF treasurer Kathy Wood: [kathleengwood@comcast.net](mailto:kathleengwood@comcast.net)

Whatever the next century brings may be unknown. What we do know is that Canton Community Health Fund will be in-community and mission-ready. On behalf of the CCHF board of directors, we thank you! +

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# CCHF History Traces To 1918 Flu Pandemic

By Bruce Deckert  
Editor-in-Chief • Today Magazine

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

IN THIS EDITION of Today Magazine, we spotlight the history and current work of the Canton Community Health Fund, aka CCHF — a community-building nonprofit that traces its roots back more than a century, to 1918.

The math is straightforward: 2023 is the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) — the CCHF's ancestral organization that was established in 1918. In 1941, the VNA became the Canton Visiting Nurse Association (CVNA).

In 1997, the CVNA merged with a McLean visiting nurse group, and in the process bequeathed a key component of this community-focused initiative to a new organization — you guessed it, the Canton Community Health Fund.

The VNA was formed in the midst of the H1N1 influenza pandemic of 1918-19 — by far the worst pandemic in modern history in terms of the number of reported deaths, according to the Atlanta-based U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other sources.

The CDC estimates that at least 50 million people worldwide died during this horrific pandemic, which began as World War I was concluding in 1918. Those 50 million deaths represented 3.3% of the global population of about 1.5 billion people at the time. Other sources say the death toll reached as high as 100 million.

By comparison, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted

## WWI Pandemic Far Worse Than COVID

The VNA was formed in the midst of the H1N1 influenza pandemic of 1918-19 — by far the worst pandemic in modern history

in 6.8 million people dying worldwide as of March 2023, according to the Switzerland-based World Health Organization (WHO). Those 6.8 million COVID deaths represent 0.0008% of today's global population of about 7.9 billion people.

During the 1918-19 influenza pandemic, about 500 million people worldwide became infected with the H1N1 virus, according to the CDC — one-third of the global population then.

By comparison, since the COVID pandemic began in 2019, slightly less than one-tenth of the world's current population has been infected with the COVID-19 virus.

The 1918 influenza pandemic is often called the Spanish flu outbreak, but historical sources say this is an unfair misnomer. Another name for this record-setting pandemic is the Great Influenza. A groundbreaking book by author John M. Barry utilizes that term — “The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History” — published in October 2005.

It's inaccurate to pinpoint Spain as the source of this flu horror story. The geographic origin of the 1918 outbreak is unknown — or at least not universally agreed on by historians and medical professionals.

Let's return to Canton, Connecticut, and our cover story on a small organization called the CCHF that aims to give back and make a big difference in the local community. Just in case it isn't clear — yes, the origin of our cover story is in this edition of Today Magazine. +

Sources • World Health Organization (WHO)

• U.S. Census Bureau • History.com

• U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

• National Library of Medicine — affiliate of National Institutes of Health

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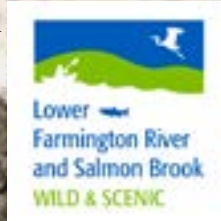


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## MARCH 23

**The LIDAR Revolution in Earth Surface Mapping**, presented by Will Ouimet, Assoc. Professor, Departments of Geosciences and Geography, Univ. of Connecticut. He will explain the techniques used by LIDAR for locating historic human settlements and land use patterns. LIDAR = Light Detection and Ranging using lasers for 3D scanning.

## APRIL 20

**Hunting Techniques of the Paleoindian**, presented by Richard Boisvert, retired New Hampshire state archeologist, who is very familiar with the discovery and analysis of the Brian D. Jones (BDJ) site and other Paleoindian sites in northern New England.

## MAY 11

**The Big Importance of Small Things: Microscopic and Blood Residue Analysis of Ancient Stone Tools**, presented by Heather M. Rockwell, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Cultural and Historic Preservation, Noreen Stonor Drexel Cultural and Historic Preservation Program, Salve Regina University. This presentation will examine the process and limitations of blood residue and use-wear analysis, and how they have contributed to our understanding of ancient people.

## SEPT. 21

**Paleoindian Sites, Site Patterning and Travel Corridors along the Southern Arm of the Champlain Sea**, presented by Jess Robinson, Vermont State Archaeologist, Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center, Barre, VT. He will compare and contrast Paleo sites in Vermont with the Brian D. Jones site in Avon.

## OCT. 12

**Update on the scientific analysis of the Brian D. Jones (BDJ) site in Avon, CT 2019**, presented by Eric Heffter, Senior Prehistoric Archaeologist, Archaeological and Historical Services, Storrs, CT. His presentation will be 90 minutes with time after for Q&A. October is Archaeology Month in Connecticut!

Watch the webinars from the 2021 and 2022 series on the Avon Library's YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/user/afplct](http://www.youtube.com/user/afplct)

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# Amada Furrer – Canton Visiting Nurse • Career History

Special to Today Magazine

**AMADA FURRER – Canton Visiting Nurse • 1922-46**  
1918 – Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) established  
1941 – VNA becomes Canton Visiting Nurse Association  
1997 – Canton Community Health Fund (CCHF) founded

**Training** – St. Mark’s Hospital – NYC

**Employer** – Canton Visiting Nurse Association  
Canton Town Hall Office – Phone: #588

**Title** – Canton Public Health Nurse

**Work Schedule** – 1940 – Monday thru Friday – 44 hours

**Annual Salary** – 1940 – \$1560

## Professional Highlights

**1922** – Joined Visiting Nurse Association, Canton Chapter

**1940** – Appointed head nurse for Canton school system – this new position was in addition to her duties as Canton town nurse

**1941** – Canton Visiting Nurse Association (CVNA) conducts a town-wide fundraiser to purchase a new car for Furrer

**1946** – Furrer retires after 24 years of service to the Canton community •

• At the monthly meeting of the Canton Public Health and Nursing Association, Furrer was gifted with a gold broach “in recognition of her unflinching and valuable service here during the past twenty years” •

• “The people of Canton will miss Mrs. Furrer, as she not only faithfully fulfilled her duties as the Public Health Nurse, but was also a friend to all those who needed her help, and spent many extra hours, outside of her regular duties, in doing Social Welfare work” •

“Mrs. Furrer ... was also a friend to all those who needed her help, and spent many extra hours, outside of her regular duties, in doing Social Welfare work”

• “Mrs. Furrer was always cheerful, and always glad to do the many little extra favors that were asked of her, without any thought to her own personal health. It is for these things, that the Town of Canton thanks her for a job well done” •

## Community Involvement

**1940** – Captain, American Red Cross sale of Christmas Seal stamps – 85% of proceeds remained in Canton to combat tuberculosis and other lung diseases

**1942** – Executive Committee Member, Salvation Army War Relief Drive – Acting Health Nurse, Canton Defense Council Evacuation Committee

**1943** – Community Volunteer, American Red Cross Blood Drive, which raised 145 pints from and for Canton residents

**1944** – Chairperson for Home Nursing: American Red Cross, Canton chapter

Furrer was also a member of Canton Nurses Club, Cawasa Grange of Collinsville, Canton Rebekah Lodge and St Patrick’s Church, Collinsville

**Personal** – Amada Furrer and her husband Adolph lived in Collinsville for 43 years, where they raised their two children, Carl and Edith • Their family would grow to include three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren •

On September 23, 1964, at the age of 82, Furrer died after a long illness • She is buried alongside her husband at Greenwood Cemetery in Avon +

Signature of Amada Furrer – image courtesy of Canton historical sources

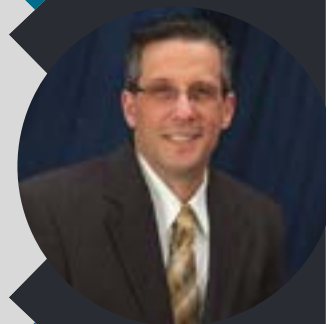
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## NURSING HISTORY – TENDING + MENDING

- In November 1986, Colette Ostapko cares for a young patient via the Well Child initiative sponsored by the Canton Visiting Nurse Association — she was director of the CVNA
- The Visiting Nurse Association aka VNA was established in 1918 and became the CVNA in 1941 — the Canton Community Health Fund aka CCHF was founded as an offshoot in 1997
- The CVNA began its Well Child initiative in October 1986 — before this, such programming was shared with Avon and Farmington, but those towns merged their services without Canton, says CCHF chair Sylvia Cancela



This photo appeared in the Farmington Valley Herald on November 6, 1986 — the Herald was a weekly newspaper published from 1890 through 2005, according to [SimsburyRecords.webs.com](http://SimsburyRecords.webs.com)

Photo by Randy McGovern — Farmington Valley Herald

By the 1980s, Canton had the largest population of children in the Farmington Valley ... CVNA nurses were hands-on, boots-on-the-ground and mission-ready through every life stage of Canton residents



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# Scholarship Recipient Giving Back

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Special to Today Magazine

**DEVIN KADIS**

**Dr. Diters Scholarship Recipient**

- Devin Kadis received the Dr. Diters Scholarship in 2017 — the scholarship is awarded by the Canton Community Health Fund aka CCHF
- See page 4 for our CCHF cover story

**Training** — Colorado State University  
B.S. in kinesiology • 2021

**Employer** — National Ability Center  
Park City, Utah

**Title** — Groups and Military Program  
Supervisor

## Professional Highlights

Devin supervises recreational therapy for people of various abilities — physical, cognitive or intellectual — and other challenges. She also works specifically with veterans who have physical disabilities and with those experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder and/or military sexual trauma.

Devin hosts groups of 15 to 30 veterans, from all over the country, for overnight retreats where she leads them in a wide variety of recreational programming, including mountain biking, rock climbing, skiing, whitewater rafting and many other outdoor opportunities. Many of these veterans have not left



## SNOW PROBLEM-SOLVING

- Devin Kadis helps Jamie relearn how to snowboard after she suffered the loss of her right leg to a traumatic injury
- A scholarship recipient via CCHF, Kadis is a supervisor at the National Ability Center in Utah
- Jaime is training for the Paralympics

their homes in years. This life-changing programming benefits them now and in the future as they look forward to more adventures to come.

## Value of Dr. Diters Scholarship

“The Dr. Diters Scholarship allowed me to explore my options without the strain of finances being the issue. I was very lucky to have scholarships like this one that allowed me to volunteer, intern and shadow different healthcare fields so I could be certain which career path I wanted to take.” — Devin Kadis

## Future Plans

Devin plans to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy in the fall of 2024:

“Eventually, I aspire to help rehabilitate veterans with disabilities,” she says, “and create a program that helps feed into a better healthcare system for all veterans.”

## Personal

“My brother inspired me to enter this field. He has faced more challenges than most, but he never quit, and I knew that was the type of person I wanted to surround myself with for the rest of my life. This field allows me to make it through the tough days and remember that what I do truly makes a difference in someone’s life. I wouldn’t have it any other way.” — Devin Kadis +



## HOUSE CALL

A mother house wren captures a moth — this songbird has one of the largest ranges of any songbird in the world — from Canada to southernmost South America — per AllAboutBirds.org

Photo by Wendy Rosenberg

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[www.coldwellbankerhomes.com](http://www.coldwellbankerhomes.com) > Agents

Liza Sivek Marketing – 203-278-5492  
[www.lizasivekmarketing.com](http://www.lizasivekmarketing.com)

Maglieri Construction – 860-242-0298 – Bloomfield  
[www.maglieri-construction.com](http://www.maglieri-construction.com)

Magna Physical Therapy – 860-679-0430 – Avon  
[www.magnapt.com](http://www.magnapt.com)

Maher's Paint & Wallpaper – 860-678-1200 – Avon + Simsbury  
[www.maherspaintedandwallpaper.com](http://www.maherspaintedandwallpaper.com)

Make It GF – 860-693-1300 – Canton  
[www.makeitgf.com](http://www.makeitgf.com)

Mandel Vilar Press — 806-790-4731 — Simsbury  
[www.mvpublishers.org](http://www.mvpublishers.org)

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Massage Envy — 860-693-8000 — Canton  
[www.massageenvy.com](http://www.massageenvy.com) > Locations

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The Master's School — 860-651-9361 — West Simsbury  
[www.masterschool.org](http://www.masterschool.org)

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McLean — 860-658-3786 — Simsbury  
[www.mcleancare.org](http://www.mcleancare.org)

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Nails of Envy — formerly Canton + Avon

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Northwest Community Bank — 860-379-7561  
[www.nwcommunitybank.com](http://www.nwcommunitybank.com)

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Odalys Bekanich: Realtor — 860-965-3652 — Avon  
[www.coldwellbankerhomes.com](http://www.coldwellbankerhomes.com) > Agents

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Peggy's Personalized Promos — 860-379-7775 — New Hartford  
[www.peggys.biz](http://www.peggys.biz)

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Planning Partners LLC — 860-693-9916 — Canton  
[www.planningpartner.com](http://www.planningpartner.com)

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Raimie Weber Jewelry — 860-409-3400 — Avon  
[www.rweberjewelry.com](http://www.rweberjewelry.com)

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Randy Brolo: Book Author  
[www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) > Spirit of Delilah

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Ravenswood Natural Health — 860-264-1587 — Simsbury  
[www.ravenswoodnaturalhealth.com](http://www.ravenswoodnaturalhealth.com)

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Richman Business Brokerage — 860-408-9177 — Simsbury  
[www.richmanbusiness.com](http://www.richmanbusiness.com) — formerly The Deal Team

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Suburban Sanitation Service — 860-673-3078 — Canton  
[www.subsanserv.com](http://www.subsanserv.com)

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Trading Post — 860-693-4679 — Canton  
[www.tradingpostmusic.com](http://www.tradingpostmusic.com)

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Transition Fitness Center — 860-398-1449 — Canton  
[www.transition-fitness-center.business.site](http://www.transition-fitness-center.business.site)

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UConn Health — 860-658-8750  
[www.health.uconn.edu](http://www.health.uconn.edu)

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Up Top Barbershop — 860-658-4499 — Simsbury  
[www.booksy.com](http://www.booksy.com) > Up Top Barbershop

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Vincent Funeral Homes — 860-693-0251  
[www.vincentfuneralhome.com](http://www.vincentfuneralhome.com)

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Vincent Tully: Realtor — 860-214-3030  
[www.coldwellbankerhomes.com](http://www.coldwellbankerhomes.com) > Agent

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Welden Hardware — 860-658-4078 — Simsbury  
[www.weldenhardware.com](http://www.weldenhardware.com)

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William Raveis — 860-693-2987 — Avon  
[www.raveis.com/agentfind.asp?smart=1](http://www.raveis.com/agentfind.asp?smart=1)

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The Village: Second Chance Shops — 860-236-4511  
[www.thevillage.org/second-chance-shops](http://www.thevillage.org/second-chance-shops)

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