VISTA
HEALTH
SYSTEM

June 25, 2015

RECEIVED
JUN 30 2015
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Mike Constantino
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino:

Please find the enclosed letter of support for Vista Medical Center East Project: 15-026.

Please feel free to call or contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Martin
President and CEO

Cc: Clare C. Ranalli

May 28, 2015

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board:

I would like to offer my strong support for Vista Health System's proposal to convert to all-private rooms at Vista Medical Center East in Waukegan. I have been a patient at Vista where I received extensive treatment for cancer. Having a private room throughout that time was very important to me and my family who were with me throughout my stays in the hospital.

Speaking from my own experience, having a private room is a tremendous benefit when going through a difficult illness or recovering from surgery. I was able to have confidential conversations with my doctors and nurses and was able to have a much more pleasant experience in a room that was quieter and without many disturbances. I firmly believe that all hospital patients would much prefer to be in a private room whenever possible.

Vista has been fully committed to Waukegan and the surrounding community for many generations. For those of us who are from the area, Vista is like our home hospital. There are a lot of hospitals and treatment centers where I could've gone, but I came to Vista because of the quality of care here. I can't say enough about the individual attention and the people at Vista.

I am happy to support Vista with its plans to continue to renovate the hospital even more and look forward to the day when all of its rooms are private.

Sincerely,

Ahmad Farshtchi

IMMANUEL
CHURCH
the place for family

2300 Dilleys Road • Gurnee, Illinois 60031
tel: 847/336-4800 • fax: 847/336-0295 • e-mail: aplace4you@immanuelhome.org • www.immanuelhome.org

June 1, 2015

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board:

I would like to offer my strong support for Vista Health System's proposal to convert to all-private rooms at Vista Medical Center East in Waukegan. I recently underwent double knee replacement surgery at Vista and had a very good experience with the staff and my overall care.

At the same time, I recovered from my surgery in a semi-private room and would have preferred to have been in a private room. The post-operative process is difficult and painful in many ways, and sharing a room is not the best way for anyone to get back to full strength. A private room is certainly quieter and more peaceful, plus it makes it much more relaxing when family members or others come to visit. That way, I don't have to worry about disturbing anyone else, and vice versa.

I heard a doctor say once that no one goes to a hotel and asks to check into a semi-private room, so I would strongly urge you to lend your support for Vista with its proposal to convert all remaining rooms to private.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Boerman

Dr. Joseph Boerman
Pastor, Immanuel Church
Gurnee, IL

June 1, 2015

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board:

I have been a patient at Vista recently for a serious COPD condition that recently led to a diagnosis of lung cancer. By the time you see this, I will have begun undergoing chemotherapy for my condition.

At the same time, I'd like to say that my experience at Vista has been very positive, and I'm grateful to the staff for all they've done for me. I live in Waukegan very close to the hospital and have appreciated it as our community hospital for many years.

I understand that Vista is proposing to renovate a large portion of the hospital so that all of its rooms will be private. I think this is a wonderful idea and would be a great benefit to everyone who is treated there. Private rooms are cleaner, quieter and more relaxing. Patients won't need to share bathrooms – which believe me is a big consideration for anyone who is ill or recovering from surgery.

Private rooms are common in all of the newest hospitals, and I commend Vista for making the financial commitment to bring its facility up to the newest and most modern standards. This is a great way to let the people of Waukegan, Zion, Beach Park, North Chicago, Gurnee and beyond know that Vista is investing in the health and well-being of the entire community.

I hope you won't stand in the way of this type of progress. This is a great community with a history that is important to the growth of Illinois. For us to continue improving, we need a strong healthcare system.

Please vote to allow Vista to move ahead with its plans to renovate Vista Medical Center East with new and improved private rooms.

Thank you,

Henry Bogdala
1601 Alexander Court
Waukegan, IL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Light up a life'

Another Christmas is upon us and, lest we forget, the season of the birth of Jesus Christ. His birthday has evolved into worship, gift-giving, and sharing of the heart. "To light up a life is the most important gift we can give."

We have fortunes of memories collected from throughout the years and for my wife, Beverly, and I, some have been with tears. This time of year, we have the sorrowful memory of our daughter, Cynthia, who left us in December due to breast cancer some years ago. This is a deep hurt a parent never forgets as we travel this mysterious voyage of life. We realize it's not only us who grieve but also the ones who have never been loved — the hungry, the sick, the homeless, and the wayward. Some live in endless states of depression both mentally and economically. Some say the world is not enough but there is good news because, as the legendary Fr. Paul J. Cull would say while he was still with us — "there are many angels among us all over the place." This story is never ending.

Beverly and I found this to be true many times and in many places. We experienced this to be true just this past year as we were patients at Vista Medical Center East in Waukegan. More than a few times, the angels Fr. Cull spoke of came to us in the form of nurses, techs, hospital staff at Vista East, Vista West Rehabilitation, and Vista Home Care. They had no wings but we knew they were angels to us. We also recognize special nurse angels who served by giving us loving care, hope and led us to lift our spirits and again, regain our strength and gave us supreme medical care. We will never forget.

This is the not the end of our story. It goes on because of the wonderful ER doctors, nurses, and, of course, our own doctors. The fabulous Waukegan Fire Department paramedics who, upon arriving many times when we were in medical emergencies, did their job and got us promptly to Vista East emergency room. Thanks to all of those mentioned.

Beverly and I are so grateful that we would like to donate $1,000 in honor of our daughter, Cindy, and all those we've mentioned above to the New-Sun's "Help Them to Hope" fund. We know this is not the answer for all things but this may help "Light up someone's life" who is less fortunate than we have been.

Hank and Beverly Bogdala
Waukegan

HELP THEM TO HOPE

The annual Help Them To Hope campaign benefits local service agencies that provide direct financial support and services to Lake County residents in need.

Agencies that benefit from donations this year are Beacon Place, Catholic Charities of Lake County, Christian Outreach of Lutherans, Mothers Trust Foundation, Open Arms Mission, PADS Lake County and VFW Post No. 1293 in Waukegan.

To donate to the fund, send checks or money orders to Help Them To Hope, P.O. Box 364, Gurnee, IL 60031, or Help Them To Hope, c/o NorStates Bank, 1601 N. Lewis Ave., Waukegan, IL 60085.

Donations also may be made in person at any NorStates branch.

Total donations for Tuesday were $1,020. Total to date is $5,593.77.

Grayslake

Ruth Clement: $20.

Waukegan

Hank and Beverly Bogdala: In loving memory of our daughter Cindy, and all the wonderful care given to us from the doctors, nurses, techs, hospital staff at Vista East, Vista West Rehabilitation, Vista Home Care and the fabulous Waukegan Fire Department paramedics this past year. Check: $1,000.