

# CareGivers Connections

## Big Check, For Big Hopes

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care made for a very happy New Year for CareGivers, with this giant check.

Harvard Pilgrim and its family of companies provide health benefit plans, programs and services to more than 3 million customers in New England and beyond. This not-for-profit health services company strives to improve the quality and value of health care for the people and communities it serves.

Seen here are, left to right, Katie Martinez, Marketing Strategy Manager, Dr. William C. Brewster, VP Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and James Wilkie, The CareGivers Executive Director. Thanks!



## Hip-Hip-Hurray, Holiday Hopes

**T**hanks to generous donors, The threadbare bath towels with new ones. CareGivers Holiday Hopes Program delivered more than 280 gifts, valued at \$7,500 to homebound elderly living in the Greater Manchester and Nashua area.

Volunteers telephoned CareGivers' clients inquiring if they wanted anything for Christmas. The items were inventoried online along with the expressed need. There were some compelling stories, motivating donors to purchase the gifts.

For example, a woman had been sleeping on a mattress on the floor. A box spring, she said, would be her Christmas miracle. She received a \$140 box spring.

Donors made others wishes come true. One woman replaced her

*It was heartwarming to feel the spirit of giving right here in our own community.*

A client yearned for a cardigan sweater because the apartment was drafty. One man recently broke his hip and simply wanted a pillow to help support his leg while sleeping.

"The clients stories were convincing," said Sanda Gagnon, a member of the Greater Manchester

Commerce, Leadership Greater Manchester Class of 2019. "It didn't take long for the team to collectively donate more than \$1,300 so that we could purchase approximately 45 gifts off of the wish-

lists of those seniors."

"In addition to the donations, we couldn't wait to be a part of making the actual deliveries of these gifts along with the much needed groceries. It was heartwarming for us to be able to help in this way and to feel the spirit of giving right here in our own community," said Gagnon.

The presents were delivered via the Caring Cupboard food delivery program.

Other organizations participating in the Holiday Hopes Program include St. Mary's Bank, People's Bank, Oracle and Bedford Presbyterian Church.