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NEWS RELEASE

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Cottage Hospital's Ray of Hope Celebrates Successful First Year *Second annual benefit seeks to raise funds for revolutionary Ray of Hope Unit*

Since its much-lauded inception in October 2016, Cottage Hospital's Ray of Hope Unit has successfully helped a multitude of older patients navigate through their mental health challenges and get back to a healthier lifestyle.

To gear up for another groundbreaking year, Cottage will host its second annual fundraising benefit for the Ray of Hope Unit on October 20, 2017.

The Great Gatsby-themed gala will be held at the Common Man Inn & Spa, located in Plymouth, NH, and feature music by the Wicked Smart Horn Band, an acclaimed local band based out of Franconia, NH.

The Ray of Hope unit is a voluntary adult behavioral health program that benefits individuals throughout the tri-state region and beyond. The 10-bed unit provides both psychiatric and supportive medical care services to older adults suffering from acute psychiatric, behavioral or emotional issues. This can include depression and mood disorders, dementia, anxiety disorders, and other mental illnesses.

The unit's namesake is a nod to the late Raymond Burton, the longest-serving executive councilor of NH District 1 of over forty years. Ray Burton exemplified the values of public service and collaboration as a dedicated resident who cherished his roots in the North Country and made Cottage Hospital his hospital of choice.

"One of the biggest benefits this unit has provided is to those at home who are caring for a loved one, but need help coping with the mental health issues," said Dr. Chad Findley, MD.

Cottage Hospital remains committed to educating and raising awareness to the behavioral health needs of residents – and this event hopes to bring together the community’s circle of support. Each tax-deductible ticket purchase or business sponsorship will help sustain and expand the mission in the ongoing mental health crisis.

To learn more about the Ray of Hope, or purchase tickets for the gala, go to <http://www.cottagehospital.org/ritz/> or contact Cottage Hospital’s Community Relations Department at 603.747.9707

Cottage Hospital is a community hospital located in Woodsville, NH. The only designated trauma center in the North Country, the hospital has been serving the Upper Connecticut River Valley of New Hampshire and Vermont for over 110 years with a broad range of services. For more information, visit www.cottagehospital.org or call 603-747-9000.