

In Loving Memory of

Phyllis Stone

From the Clinical Social Work (CSW) Department of Tewksbury Hospital

We sat around the table in our weekly Social Work department meeting today, talking about our memories of Phyllis and what we would say about her in this memorial. Her history? Her impressive resume? Her accomplishments here at Tewksbury? But what came out as we talked was who she was. She was a great boss, a creative spirit, a world traveler, and a true advocate of this profession. Driven and dedicated, balanced with humor and love of life; someone who accepted no personal limitations in herself or in all of those she cared for.

We told stories of Phyllis's clinical prowess and love of paradoxical intervention and her lifelong involvement in the care of others. Also, the central role of Cheezits in her life. Scattered through the meeting were moments of silence, quiet smiles, and more than a few tears.

It may seem strange that it is hard to notice, sometimes, that Phyllis is no longer here. So much of the work we do; the support we give each other, our dedication to our clients, comes directly from her. She built this department and, in many ways, our daily experience so strongly tells us that she is not gone. It is easy to forget for a moment, when we think "oh, I should email Phyllis about this", or "I'll ask Phyllis to sit in on this meeting", and reality comes crashing in.

We miss Phyllis so deeply. She was a strong, beautiful, caring, and generous person who gifted all she knew with her presence. She was the beating heart of our department, and her true gift to us is our desire and ability to follow her example and strive for gentle excellence in all we do.