

Welcome Message

On behalf of the Aroostook Hospice Foundation, I am excited to present our Fall 2024 newsletter. In this edition, you'll discover highlights of our recent efforts and learn about the initiatives shaping the future of the Aroostook House of Comfort. We are dedicated to providing compassionate care and support to individuals and their families during the most challenging times. We offer comfort, dignity, and specialized care when patient needs exceed what can be provided at home. With the help of our community, we ensure that everyone receives this essential care, regardless of their financial capacity. Your heartfelt support makes this possible, and for that, we are profoundly grateful. As we approach the end of the year, we invite you to continue partnering with us to sustain this vital mission.



Abbey Clair,
Executive Director



Healing Hearts: Dyer Family

To honor my mom and my brother, both of whom passed away at the Aroostook House of Comfort (my mom in September 2022 and my brother in May 2023), our family decided to hike to the summit of Mt. Katahdin on August 26th. My mom always loved Katahdin, often referring to it as "The Mountain" or "her Mountain." For several months prior to the hike, I prepared/trained by going to the gym and going on smaller local hikes. We also decided to use this as a fundraising opportunity to benefit the Aroostook House of Comfort and had an amazing response.

The day of our hike began drizzly but do-able. We got about 3 miles into the hike (almost to the tree line), and it began to pour, hail, and then thunder/lightning. As much as we wanted to honor their memories, we knew they wouldn't want us to be in danger, so we made the difficult decision to turn around. Every hiker we encountered along the way back down had also turned around before reaching the summit. Although we didn't reach the summit, we did come across a place on the trail that my mom had her picture taken at about 35 years ago, a picture I carried with me as we hiked. My daughter suggested I have my picture taken in the same spot.

I believe the desire to hike Katahdin came from God, and so I believe He will work it out for me to hike it—someday. That was just not the right day. He wasn't saying no, just "not yet." Even though my heart and mind were ready, my body may not have been (as much as I had believed it was), and God could see that. As I've processed what happened, I'm choosing to believe that all things happen for a reason, and there was a reason we weren't meant to summit that day. I am continuing with taking care of myself, grieving two very significant losses, and trusting God with the process. I have had endless support from friends and family throughout this journey, for which I am eternally grateful. I miss them more than I can explain, but I know they would be proud of me and of the over \$1,100 that we raised to benefit the Aroostook House of Comfort in their memories. - Melissa Dyer





Plancorp Partnership

For six years, the Aroostook Hospice Foundation (AHF) has partnered with Plancorp to manage investment and fiduciary services, helping donors trust their gifts are well-managed and supporting AHF's mission. Certified by CEFEX for over 16 years, Plancorp provides fiduciary best practices and tax-efficient strategies for charitable giving, ensuring financial practices align with donor intent. Charley Meyer, Director of Institutional Asset Management, says, "Plancorp advises donors on fiduciary best practices, offers tax-efficient giving strategies, and ensures our financial practices align with the mission of the Aroostook Hospice Foundation." For more info, contact the AHF at (207) 299-2053.



Memorial Donations

We extend our deepest appreciation to the generous individuals and families who annually make heartfelt donations in memory of loved ones who received care at the Aroostook House of Comfort. Your contributions honor their memory and help provide compassionate hospice care to others in our community during their time of need. Your support makes a lasting impact, and we are sincerely grateful for your kindness and generosity.



McCrum Family Holdings Hosts Employee Fundraiser

On June 13th, Penobscot McCrum LLC hosted a company-wide barbecue at their Washburn plant, bringing together employees from all locations for a day of fun and fundraising. The highlight of the event was a lighthearted competition among McCrum Family Holdings owners—Jay McCrum, Darrell McCrum, Jon McCrum, Nick McCrum, Wade McCrum, and Jason Woollard—each vying to avoid a pie in the face! Buckets with each owner's name were set up, and employees donated to their favorite. In the end, CFO Jason Woollard came up short and was humorously pied by his daughter, Piper. The fun-filled activity raised over \$2,100 for the Aroostook House of Comfort. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the McCrum team for their generosity.

Pineland Farms Kicks Off Grant Campaign

We are honored to share our \$75,000 Matching Grant Campaign, a unique opportunity, made possible by the heartfelt generosity of an anonymous donor. This campaign began in June of this year, and aimed to secure unrestricted funds essential for providing inpatient hospice care in Aroostook County. This funding supports access to inpatient hospice care regardless of insurance or financial capacity. Every donation received through the Matching Grant Campaign has been matched, up to \$75,000. This campaign started strong with a \$5,000 pledge from Pineland Farms Potato Company. Our mission thrives thanks to the unwavering dedication and support of our community. We are profoundly grateful to our many donors who partnered with us for the Matching Grant Campaign and for the remarkable opportunity extended to us by our anonymous donor.



Generous \$10,000 Grant

We are thrilled to share that the Aroostook Hospice Foundation has received a generous \$10,000 grant from Versant Power as part of their 100th anniversary celebration! This significant gift is even more special because it was made possible by the support of Versant Power employees, who voted to select 10 local nonprofits out of over 200 applicants. We are honored to be among the chosen recipients, and this grant has been designated for our Matching Grant Campaign. We extend our deepest gratitude to the leadership and employees of Versant Power for their dedication to making a difference. Together, we are creating a lasting impact on the lives of those in our communities.



"I'm a firm believer in experiencing and living life to its fullest. I believe that this is a human right, even at the end of life. Hospice allows people a chance to live and experience more quality with whatever quantity they have left. It is so rewarding to be a part of and witness families, friends, and partners receiving holistic care and support in incredibly unfair and challenging times." - Dakota Koch, RN

Many Thanks to the Harvest Moon Pageant

We extend our deepest gratitude to the incredible organizers, contestants, and everyone involved in the Miss Harvest Moon Pageant. Thanks to your hard work and dedication, \$2,600 was raised for the Aroostook House of Comfort! These funds were directed toward our Matching Grant Campaign, allowing us to continue providing compassionate care to those in need.



Meet Our Board: Welcome Sue McCrum

Introducing Sue McCrum, the newest member of the Aroostook Hospice Foundation's Board of Directors. Sue resides in Mars Hill with her spouse of 52 years, Jay McCrum. Together, they have raised three children and are the proud grandparents of nine grandchildren. Since 1971, Sue has supported her family-owned farm businesses, McCrum Family Holdings, LLC, in Aroostook County and Belfast. Sue has since volunteered for hospice care in central Aroostook County and the Belfast area since the early 1990s. She is a founding member of Maine Agri-Women and has served in a variety of capacities for the organization. Sue is also a dedicated member of the United Baptist Church of Mars Hill. Her multifaceted contributions reflect her unwavering commitment to her family, community, and the causes she holds dear. She will undoubtedly enhance our ability to make a meaningful impact on the lives of our community members.

Remembrance Way Gains New Coordinator

We are thrilled to introduce Sue Yerxa as our new Remembrance Way Coordinator. Sue has graciously volunteered her time and talents to support the Aroostook Hospice Foundation by managing all stone orders and engraving details for the Remembrance Way Memorial Garden & Pathway. As a family member who has purchased stones and attended Remembrance Way dedications, she has found comfort in honoring her loved ones through this meaningful tribute. Sue was eager to accept this opportunity to give back to a mission that has deeply touched her life. Although reaching out to families during their time of loss is challenging, Sue hopes that the Remembrance Way will provide them with a meaningful way to honor their loved ones. Her goal is to continue fostering the sense of compassion and care that the Aroostook House of Comfort embodies, and we warmly welcome Sue to our team!



Honoring Dr. Jones

On September 15th, friends and family gathered at the Aroostook House of Comfort to honor Dr. David Jones, who passed away unexpectedly on October 22, 2023. Known for his compassionate care as the Medical Director for Northern Light Home Care & Hospice, Dr. Jones was remembered through the dedication of a bench, stepping stone, trees, and a Lyman Whitaker Nebula Wind Sculpture. His wife, Debbie, highlighted how each memorial item reflected his interests, while a stepping stone inscribed with Maya Angelou's quote captured his essence: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."



Otis & Lillian's Stand

This summer, Lillian and Otis Clair, two small but mighty supporters, decided to set up a lemonade stand in their neighborhood. With hard work and enthusiasm, they mixed fresh lemonade and served it to neighbors and friends. Their efforts paid off, as they raised over \$200 for the Aroostook House of Comfort. Their initiative shows how even the smallest actions can make a big difference in supporting their community!

Fueling Our Mission: Why Fundraising is Essential

Maintain a High-Quality Facility: Fundraising helps us preserve our state-of-the-art facility, including patient suites, family gathering areas, a kitchen, children's playroom, chapel, gardens, and other unique spaces.

Secure the Future of Inpatient Hospice Care: Your support ensures the long-term existence of the only inpatient hospice facility north of Augusta.

Provide Charity Care: Donations fund our Charity Care program, helping patients and families who are underinsured or uninsured, ensuring everyone receives care, regardless of financial capacity.

Deliver Compassionate End-of-Life Care and Education: Fundraising enables us to provide comfort, dignity, and personalized support to patients and their caregivers when needs surpass what home hospice can provide. It also strengthens our ability to offer education and resources to the community, empowering families to navigate end-of-life decisions with confidence and care.

We are proud to celebrate the success of three impactful fundraising events this year, each contributing to our mission of providing compassionate end-of-life care and securing the future of inpatient hospice services in Aroostook County.

Community Impact

 **Golf Classic**
46 Teams Participated
166 Sponsors & Donations
9 Raised in 2024

 **Remembrance Way**
38 New Stones
3 Benches, Gardens, & Other
\$34,000+ Raised in 2024

 **Walk for Hospice**
336 Participants
60 Sponsors & Donations
\$60,000+ Raised in 2024



Golf Classic Reaches \$80,000 Milestone

We are delighted to share the tremendous success of our 11th Annual Golf Classic which took place on Saturday, June 15th. Thanks to the generosity and support of our sponsors, teams, and volunteers, we raised over \$80,000 this year, bringing the event's lifetime total to over \$520,000! A special recognition goes to the Logan P. Graves Foundation, our \$10,000 Platinum Sponsor, whose heartfelt support has played a key role in this achievement. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission. We look forward to see you again for the next Golf Classic on Saturday, June 14th 2025!



38 Stones Dedicated for Remembrance Way

On Saturday, August 24th, the Aroostook Hospice Foundation held its annual Remembrance Way Memorial Garden & Pathway Dedication Ceremony at the Aroostook House of Comfort. The event brought together families and friends to honor loved ones, with 38 new stones, 1 bench, a wind sculpture, and 1 mini garden dedicated. Each site was adorned with red and white roses to symbolize love and remembrance. The Remembrance Way serves as a meaningful tribute and fundraiser for the Aroostook House of Comfort, raising over \$34,000 this year! Orders for our next dedication are due by June 1st with a ceremony to follow in August. For more information or for purchasing, please visit our website or contact Executive Director, Abbey Clair, at 207-299-2053.



Community Walk Raises \$60,000 for Hospice

The Aroostook Hospice Foundation held its 2nd Annual Walk for Hospice on Saturday, September 14th, at the Nordic Heritage Center. This exciting event aimed to raise vital support for the Aroostook House of Comfort while promoting community awareness and celebrating the lives of those impacted by hospice. It was a beautiful day for families, friends, and colleagues to walk and reflect together. The event proudly featured McCrum Family Holdings, LLC as the Event Sponsor, with the Family of Dr. David Jones serving as the Memorial Dedication Sponsor. We invite everyone to join us again on Saturday, September 13th, 2025!



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House of Comfort

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