

Welcome Message

On behalf of the Aroostook Hospice Foundation, it is my great pleasure to share our Spring 2024 newsletter with you. I hope this edition provides you with insight into our recent activities and upcoming initiatives to join us in this mission. Every day, we are touched by the stories shared by family, friends, and community members who have been forever impacted by the Aroostook House of Comfort. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and for ensuring our mission continues. As we enter a busy fundraising period this spring and summer, we are excited to witness our community coming together alongside us, making a meaningful difference here in Aroostook County.



Abbey Clair,
Executive Director



Journey of Giving: Hospice Donor Spotlight

“Supporting the Aroostook House of Comfort has been an easy decision for me. I grew up in Presque Isle and visit family in the area as often as I can. Though I live in the far southern part of the state, my heart is that of “a County Girl.”

My husband and I engaged in hospice services offered in southern Maine after he was given a terminal medical diagnosis. We could use as much or as little of the services he wanted, which allowed him and I to feel comfortable with our decisions.

Around this same time, the concept, and soon reality, of the Aroostook House of Comfort was taking hold. My mother, Erdean Lauritsen, voiced her strong support for the need and idea of the AHOC. Though she did not need the services, she asked family and friends to consider supporting the AHOC when she passed in 2016.

Knowing first-hand the comfort my husband experienced, the gift of peace of mind for me, and the worthy cause and services my mother hope to see offered through the AHOC are the reasons I directly support the Aroostook Hospice Foundation/Aroostook House of Comfort. Supporting the AHOC through donations, volunteering, participating in events, and even by word of mouth requires no second thought from me and hopefully others.”

Carmen Lauritsen-Keegan, Wells, Maine



2023 Annual Report

We welcome you to take a look at our 2023 Annual Report. Thank you to our incredible donors, dedicated volunteers, supportive board members, the outstanding Northern Light Home Care & Hospice staff, and our amazing community of supporters. Your unwavering commitment to our mission has made a meaningful difference in the lives of many.



Special Visitor

East of Eden Stables graciously offered a therapeutic visit for staff and patients at the Aroostook House of Comfort. Patients and staff were richly blessed by the time and companionship shared with Freya, a 19-year-old miniature horse owned by Ari Davenport. It is such a privilege to serve this community alongside so many individuals who are giving of their time and unique resources.

AHF Mission Shared in Community Tour

Over the past few months, I have been engaging in a speaking campaign across Aroostook County. It has been my privilege to represent the Aroostook Hospice Foundation and the Aroostook House of Comfort at eleven different Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lions Clubs throughout our community. These speaking engagements have been truly inspiring. I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to share our mission and vision with these esteemed organizations and learn about how these clubs are investing in and enriching their local communities. I extend



my heartfelt thanks to the following clubs: Houlton, Mars Hill, Presque Isle, Limestone, Fort Fairfield, Caribou, Washburn, and Fort Kent Rotary Clubs, as well as the Presque Isle and Caribou Kiwanis Clubs, and the Fort Kent Lions Club.



Meet Our Board

We are pleased to introduce the newest member of our Board of Directors, Dr. Caleb Swanberg. Dr. Swanberg provides primary care at Pines Health Services, manages patients at Caribou Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, and serves as Chief of Medicine for Cary Medical Center. He resides in Caribou with his wife Melissa and their three daughters, Rosalie, Madeleine, and Lucille. Dr. Swanberg's personal commitment to compassionate, quality, end-of-life care aligns seamlessly with our mission through the Aroostook House of Comfort. He will undoubtedly enhance our ability to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve.

Expanding Our Team

We are thrilled to introduce two exceptional new additions to the Northern Light Home Care & Hospice team at the Aroostook House of Comfort: Dr. Carl Flynn and Kathryn Raymond, FNP-C. Both bring with them a wealth of expertise and a deep commitment to the philosophy of hospice care. It is an honor to welcome individuals who share our mission and values.





Community Efforts Raise Over \$300,000

In 2023, the Aroostook House of Comfort achieved remarkable success, raising \$303,604 with the help of dedicated sponsors, volunteers, and donors. Serving 67 Maine towns, the facility provided essential care to 184 patients. As the only inpatient hospice care facility north of Augusta, it offers state-of-the-art amenities and a compassionate environment. Through its Charity Care program, the Aroostook Hospice Foundation ensures that quality end-of-life care is accessible to all, regardless of financial means. Let's celebrate the generosity and compassion that continue to define the Aroostook House of Comfort, where hospice and heart come together.

Ways to Support Hospice

The generosity of our community is invaluable in providing hospice care to Aroostook County. Your one-time, monthly, quarterly, or annual gift to the Aroostook House of Comfort directly supports individuals and families on their journey through hospice, regardless of their ability to pay. Your contribution helps sustain our non-profit facility, ensuring compassionate care reaches those in need. Through our partnership with Plan-corp, LLC, the Aroostook Hospice Foundation enhances the impact of your support through professional investment and fiduciary management of its assets. Here are ways you can support hospice care:

- Volunteering
- Fundraising
- Naming Opportunities
- One-Time Donations
- Recurring Donations
- Legacy Giving



Christmas at AHOC

In December, we embraced the holiday spirit with the musical talents of Larry Jenkins. Larry graciously volunteered his time to play heartwarming carols for staff, patients, and visitors. A Fort Fairfield native and Berklee College of Music graduate, Larry holds a Bachelor of Music Education. We sincerely appreciate Larry's giving of time and talent, spreading joy and holiday cheer.



Community Art

The Aroostook House of Comfort features a rotating Art Wall curated by local artist Filomena Irving. Her contributions of time and talent have beautifully enriched our space, showcasing her work "Time & Place" and a captivating array of works by other talented local artists. Filomena's expertise and connections in the art community promises an exciting showcase of local talent in the days ahead.

11th Annual Golf Classic

It gives us great pleasure to announce the 11th Annual Aroostook House of Comfort Golf Classic to be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at the Presque Isle Country Club. This year's Platinum Sponsor is the Logan P. Graves Foundation. Your donations and teamwork raised over \$70,000 last year, bringing our total to over \$440,000! We hope you will join us this year as a sponsor or out on the course! Visit our website for additional details on team registrations and sponsorship opportunities.



Memorialize Loved Ones

Our Remembrance Way Memorial Garden & Pathway is paved with personalized etched stones honoring family and friends. Situated between the gazebo and the hospice house, it is a peaceful haven for comfort and reflection. We invite you to memorialize your loved one with a stone or bench and a message of your choice. Your gift helps us provide compassionate care, comfort, dignity, and support to those who journey through hospice. Orders are due by June 1st, and a dedication ceremony will take place on Saturday, August 24th. For more information or to purchase a stone, please visit our website or contact Executive Director Abbey Clair at 207-299-2053.

Lace Up for Hospice Care

Join us at the Nordic Heritage Center on Saturday, September 14th, for the 2nd Annual Walk for Hospice, proudly sponsored by McCrum Family Holdings, LLC! Thanks to your amazing support last year, we raised over \$30,000 for the Aroostook House of Comfort. We hope you will consider sponsoring this event or registering to participate! Save the date and stay tuned for more details. Let's make this year even more impactful!



Remembering Dr. Jones

"Every person who has been blessed with spending time with David walked away a better human. David touched the lives of so many through his career in medicine and outside of his professional life. In his final years, David had a tremendous passion for hospice and end-of-life care. He was incredibly proud to serve as the Medical Director for Northern Light Home Care and Hospice, skillfully offering comfort to patients and families during their most difficult days. As a consulting physician, David ensured that the impact of his expertise spread well beyond his individual practice, welcoming phone calls day or night to other healthcare providers needing guidance in his field." - Tyler J. Stoliker, FNP-C



AROOSTOOK
'House of Comfort'

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