

Welcome

Dear Patients, Caregivers, Donors,
and Community Members,

My name is Abbey Clair, LCSW, and new Executive Director for the Aroostook Hospice Foundation. It is a privilege to join the mission of the Aroostook Hospice Foundation in this capacity. There are many exciting developments happening at the Aroostook House of Comfort, and we have accomplished much since taking on this new challenge in September 2022. I am inspired each day by the longstanding impact of the Aroostook House of Comfort and the sincere kindness and generosity of our community members. Thank you for allowing this opportunity to provide an update on the Aroostook Hospice Foundation. We hope you too feel inspired and empowered to make an impact in hospice care here in Aroostook County!



Abbey Clair,
Executive Director



Photo Credit: Jeff Clark

Hospice Charity Care at the Aroostook House of Comfort

The Aroostook Hospice Foundation does not collect payment or bill for services, this is the responsibility of the Medicare-certified hospice provider. There are many circumstances in which patients are uninsured or insurance carriers will not authorize admission or the extension of their care and patients are unable to cover the cost privately. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services guidelines on eligibility for inpatient hospice care are rigid, leaving even many insured patients without financial coverage. In order to meet this need and ensure access to inpatient hospice care, the Aroostook Hospice Foundation established the Charity Care Fund in May 2022. A portion of the funds raised is designated for the Charity Care program. Donors are also welcome to make contributions specifically for Charity Care.

Healing Hearts: Testimonials from Families and Loved Ones



"Once Jim was admitted to the Aroostook House of Comfort, we both felt like a huge weight had literally been lifted off our shoulders. These angels on earth efficiently, compassionately, and lovingly allowed me to be Jim's wife rather than his primary caregiver. The doctors, nurses, aides, and volunteers took care of both of us. They also understood the importance of visitors, family, friends, and even our Golden Retriever Teddy. We were all treated with dignity and allowed to say goodbye as we lost Jim. There was no judgment and I now think of many of the staff as friends. I have many stories to tell but suffice it to say that I will forever be indebted to the Aroostook House of Comfort." — Rosalie Dwyer



New Ways to Make Donations

The Aroostook Hospice Foundation recognizes the importance of ease and convenience in charitable giving. Our newly updated website offers an online donation page. Donors can easily and securely make a one time or reoccurring donation and are given the option to cover card processing fees. We welcome you to explore our website at:

aroostookhouseofcomfort.org/donate



Legacy Giving: Plancorp, LLC

The Aroostook Hospice Foundation (AHF) has partnered with Plancorp, LLC, and Charley Meyer, Director of Institutional Asset Management, to assist in the professional investment and fiduciary management of its assets. The AHF follows the seven precepts for investment fiduciaries expressed in the board-approved Investment Policy Statement to ensure that all donor gifts are invested according to donor intent. Plancorp welcomes the opportunity to consult with donors to benefit the Aroostook Hospice Foundation. For more info, please contact us at (207) 540-1080.



"My father lived at the Aroostook House of Comfort for 13 days before he passed. Dad and the family were welcomed on arrival. Dr. Jones was there to greet Dad and meet with the family. My father was treated every day with kindness and compassion. Our family felt welcome, and we were there daily. This is the most wonderful place, and we are so blessed to have it in our area." — Ruthann Weeks



Donor Spotlight: Jennifer Bennett

Community members are actively engaged in our social media, supporting particular needs that have been identified. Jennifer Bennett, of Mapleton, purchased a bird feeder for her father's window during his time at the Aroostook House of Comfort. After receiving such positive feedback from patients and staff, we added bird feeders to our Amazon Charity List, one for each remaining suite. Jennifer did not hesitate to meet this need in honor of her father, Ronald Sites.

Star City Syndicate Raises \$5,200

In January the Aroostook Hospice Foundation was selected as the recipient for the Star City Syndicate Benefit Concert held at the Caribou Performing Arts Center. This exciting event raised approximately \$5,200 for the Aroostook House of Comfort. Star City Syndicate is a group of Maine-based musicians with diverse backgrounds who come together to celebrate the sounds of the past from Motown and Classic Pop to Contemporary.



Back row from left to right: Joel Hall, Ricky Goupille, Patrick Kinsey, Andy Yaeger, Doug Cronkhite, Brian Mosher, Anthony Scott, and Jon Simonoff. Center row from left to right: Adam Metzler, Kelly Rackler, Sarah Diette, Jenna Simonoff, and Kevin Kinsey. Bottom row from left to right: Sean Diette, Chris Morton, Mark Shaw, and Brandon Jake Lira.



Hospice Heroes: Volunteer Spotlight

The Northern Light Home Care & Hospice volunteers play a significant role at the Aroostook House of Comfort. Their devotion continued to shine amidst the chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteer teams navigated each CDC guideline change and requirement. They have supported patients, family members, and their own team members through one of the most trying times the hospice program has ever faced. They attended infection control trainings, received vaccinations, supported clinics, and donned an array of PPE, all so they could continue to volunteer in support of hospice patients and their caregivers. They are truly hospice heroes! For more info on becoming a hospice volunteer, please call Robin Haynes, Volunteer Coordinator, at (207) 764-9404 or visit our website.



Congratulations Ruth Collins!

The Aroostook Hospice Foundation would like to recognize Northern Light Home Care & Hospice RN Ruth Collins on her well-deserved retirement. For over thirty years, Ruth has devoted herself to home care and hospice in Aroostook County. Congratulations, Ruth, and thank you for your many years of incredible service to your patients and community!



Your Support Makes a Difference

Our success is due to the support of volunteers, donors, and our local communities. Your contributions make it possible to maintain a 9,800-square-foot state-of-the-art facility and provide quality end-of-life care regardless of one's ability to pay. Fundraising efforts include private donations, naming opportunities, grants, and local fundraising events such as the Annual Golf Classic and the Remembrance Way Garden & Pathway.



177

Patients Admitted in 2022



53

Maine Towns Served Since 2018



10

Patients Approved for Charity Care in 2022



\$183,000

Total Funds Raised in 2022



\$68,000

2022 Annual Golf Classic



\$13,250

2022 Remembrance Way Garden & Pathway



AHF Welcomes New Member

We are pleased to introduce our newest board member, Tyler Stoliker, FNP-C, RN. Tyler is employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner by Fish River Rural Health in Madawaska and resides in the Fort Kent area with his family. He is a graduate of the University of Maine at Fort Kent and Saint Joseph's College of Maine. Tyler is board certified by the Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and has received additional training in primary care medicine from Harvard Medical School. Tyler shares our passion for ensuring access to quality end-of-life care services. Please join us in welcoming Tyler as he partners in the mission of the Aroostook House of Comfort!



Remembrance Way Memorial Garden & Pathway

You may be familiar with our Remembrance Way Memorial Garden & Pathway. We continue to add to this memorial annually. The Remembrance Way is paved with personalized stones honoring family and friends. Situated between the gazebo and the hospice house, it is a peaceful haven for reflection. We invite you to memorialize your loved one with a stone and message of your choice. After the stones are placed in the pathway, a dedication ceremony will follow in late summer. Your gift helps us provide compassionate care, comfort, dignity, and support to those who journey through hospice. Orders are due by June 1. Please call Abbey Clair at (207) 540-1080 for more information or visit our website to place your order.

10th Annual AHOC Golf Classic

The Annual Aroostook House of Comfort Golf Classic is to be held Saturday, June 17, 2023, at the Presque Isle Country Club. Your donations and teamwork raised over \$68,000 last year, bringing our total to over \$370,000! Your generosity allows the Aroostook Hospice Foundation, the owner of the Aroostook House of Comfort, to offer a family-centered hospice house to patients whose needs are greater than home hospice can provide. Please visit our website for more information about sponsorship opportunities and registration.



NEW Fundraiser! Walk for Hospice



The Aroostook Hospice Foundation is pleased to announce the first annual Walk for Hospice. This new fundraising event will take place Saturday, September 9th, at the Nordic Heritage Center in Presque Isle. We invite you to follow us on Facebook or visit our website for information and registration. We are also actively seeking new sponsorships, if you or your place of business is interested, please contact us at (207) 540-1080.

**JUN
17**

10th Annual Golf Classic
Team Registration Deadline
Online or Mail-in by **June 2nd**

**AUG
26**

Remembrance Way
Etched Stone Deadline **June 1st**
Ceremony Held **August 26th**

**SEPT
9**

Walk for Hospice
Visit Our website for More Info!
www.arostookhouseofcomfort.org/walk



AROOSTOOK
House of Comfort

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