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- Ram Dass

Thanksgiving Message

 11/23/2020

 Aroostook House of Comfort

 Board of Directors

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Physical Address: 18 Green Hill Drive
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 867
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: (207) 769-2402
www.aroostookhouseofcomfort.org

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Aroostook House of Comfort, I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving. Even during these uncertain times, I hope you will be able to reflect on who and what means the most to you and focus on what you are thankful for. Sometimes our blessings are so near to us that we overlook the significance they have on our lives.

We are celebrating our third Thanksgiving at the Aroostook House of Comfort. We have much to be thankful for. First, we are thankful for our caring, compassionate, sacrificing, attentive and skilled staff. These individuals share their gifts day after day in caring for our patients and families. We are thankful for our volunteers, who are an amazing example of what it truly means to serve others while doing whatever it takes to make everyone feel comfortable. One can have the most elaborate facility possible, but without those warm individuals, our home is just another facility. We are thankful for the families and friends who have allowed us to care for their loved ones. May the memories you hold be a comfort to you now and brighten future days. Thank you for letting us be a part of your journey.

We are thankful for our donors and supporters, who have embraced the House of Comfort's dream over the years. Each donor has allowed us to open our doors and now plays an important role in keeping them open. Without this continued support, the House of Comfort would still be a dream. Often we have said that the generosity of one can help change the journey for many.

We are thankful for the Aroostook County hospitals, long term care facilities, and medical professionals for assisting and guiding patients, their families, and caregivers in their hospice and respite care.

Finally, we are thankful for Northern Light Home Care & Hospice, our top-notch caregiving organization, for their continued support and belief in the House of Comfort's dream. You help to make all this possible for Aroostook County and beyond.

May this Thanksgiving be a blessing to you and the ones closest to you. Stay safe, and God bless.

Sincerely,

Rick Duncan, Chairman
Board of Directors, Aroostook House of Comfort

On behalf of the Aroostook House of Comfort, I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving. Even during these uncertain times, I hope you will be able to reflect on who and what means the most to you and focus on what you are thankful for. Sometimes our blessings are so near to us that we overlook the significance they have on our lives.

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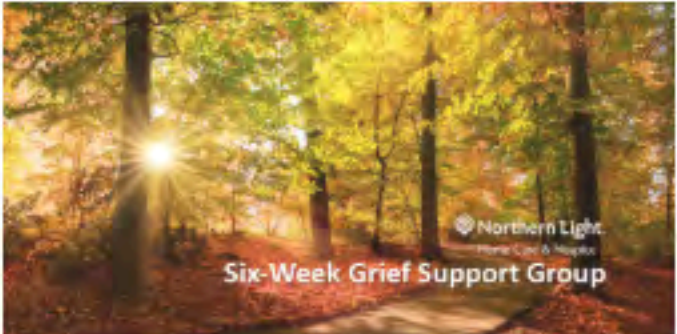
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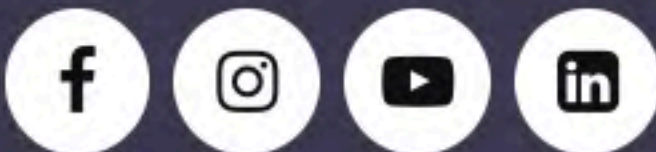
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Northern Light Grief Support Group in Presque Isle



Northern Light Home Care & Hospice Volunteer Training



18 Green Hill Drive
PO Box 867
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Aroostook House of Comfort (nurse's station): (207) 764-9406
Billing Questions: 1-800-757-3326
Executive Director: (207) 540-1080



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Aroostook House of Comfort TV Commercial

11/13/2020

Aroostook House of Comfort

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The Aroostook House of Comfort will be airing a thirty-second tv ad featuring staff, board members, and a family member's testimonial. Thank you to all those who participated in the production of this commercial!

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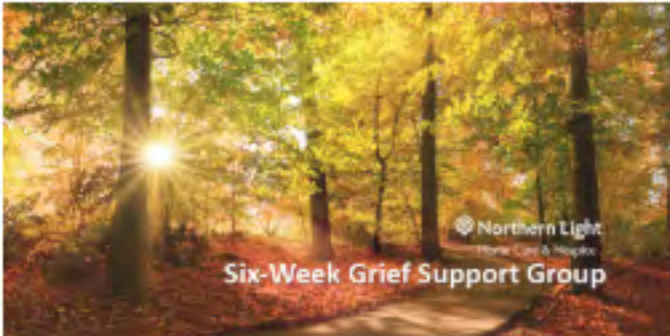
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COVID-19 Policy

10/05/2020

Aroostook House of Comfort

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COVID-19

Response & Precautionary Measures

The Aroostook House of Comfort would like to ensure that our patients, volunteers, staff, and community are safe from Covid-19. We are taking every precaution within our facility to avoid exposure and take preventive actions daily to stop the spread of the virus. We are following the guidelines issued by the CDC to help minimize any potential health risks.

We have implemented a visitor screening process with the following policies:

- Visitors are screened before entering the hospice house for fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and travel history.
- Visitors are required to wash their hands in the family restrooms before entering the patient's room.
- Masks are mandatory and must be worn at all times.
- Children under the age of 12 are permitted entry only under certain circumstances. Please check with a staff member or administration.
- Two visitors at a time are allowed in the patient's room. Others are asked to wait outside the facility or in a vehicle parked on the premises. Please check with a staff member or administration for other options.
- Once in the building, visitors are asked to remain in the waiting area. At this time visitors are not allowed in the family area, children's playroom, or the kitchen area.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at 207-764-9406.

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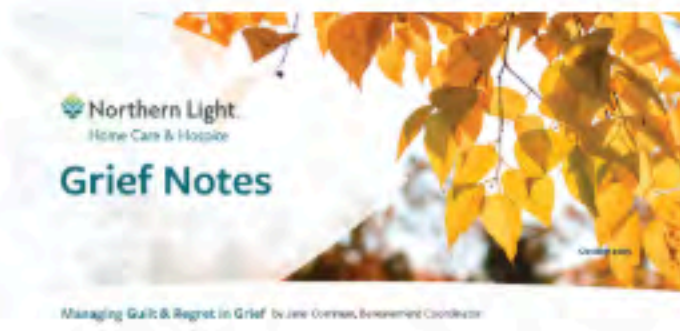
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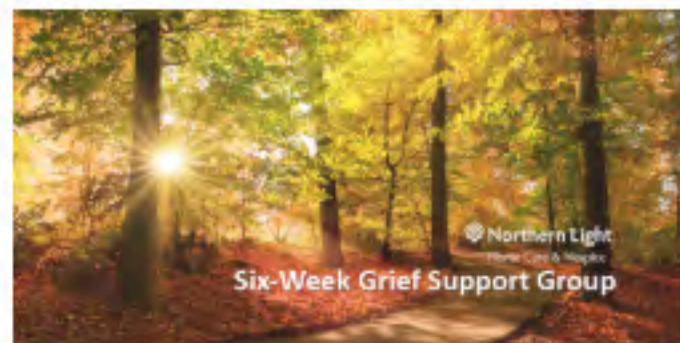
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AROOSTOOK
House of Comfort



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PO Box 867

Presque Isle, ME 04769

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Billing Questions: 1-800-757-3326

Executive Director: (207) 540-1080

The Aroostook Hospice Foundation, owner of the Aroostook House of Comfort, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 2009.

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Meet Our Board - Nancy Cronkite

09/16/2020

Aroostook House of Comfort

Board of Directors

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Nancy Cronkite

Nancy Cronkite has served as Recording Secretary since the founding meeting for the House of Comfort. Unable to decide what she wanted to be when she “grew up”, she finally found her calling when she joined the Oncology Team at The Aroostook Medical Center in 2002 and remained there until her retirement in January 2020. Through her years at Aroostook Cancer Care, Nancy witnessed families struggling with how to provide quality end-of-life care for their loved one or patients who had no family to provide such care. In addition, she and her sister had provided hospice care for their mother as she lost her battle with cancer. These experiences influenced her decision to be part of establishing the House of Comfort.

Nancy has also served as Church Treasurer, an Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP) Board member, and MSAD #1 School Board member.

She is married to Brent Cronkite. They have three children and seven grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with family, gardening, and traveling the old-fashioned way—by car.

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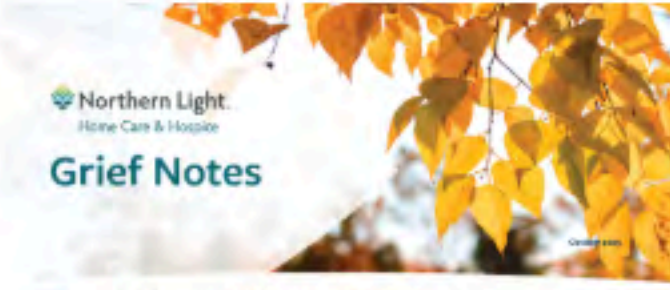
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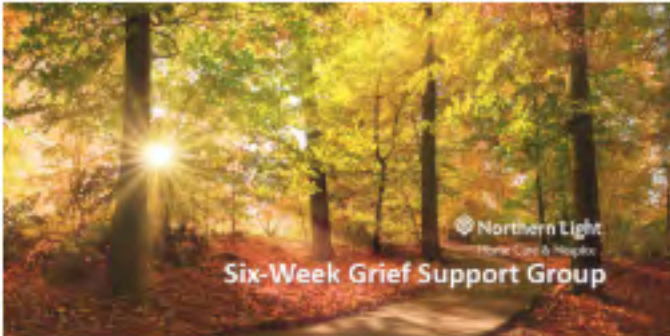
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Welcome Dr. David Jones to Our Board of Directors

06/27/2020

Aroostook House of Comfort

Board of Directors

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David D. Jones MD, FAAFP, was born and grew up in Boston in a medical family, went to Swarthmore College, and then the University of Vermont Medical School. His medical training was at the Maine Dartmouth Family Practice Residency in Augusta. Dr. Jones subsequently practiced Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine in Aroostook County starting in 1981 and moved to Aroostook County in 1982 to help found Aroostook Family Practice in Presque Isle. He also continued to practice Emergency Medicine and had a large nursing home practice. As his Family Practice patients and he aged, Hospice Medicine became a natural part of his practice. He became the Hospice Physician for Visiting Nurses of Aroostook/EMHS (Northern Lighthouse Home Care and Hospice) in 2005 while continuing to practice Family Medicine in Presque Isle and Emergency Medicine in Fort Kent. Dr. Jones also served on the Board of Medicine for eight years during this time. Now, as he retires from Emergency Medicine and his other work obligations, Dr. Jones will continue to practice as the Hospice Physician for Northern Maine and the Medical Director for the Aroostook House of Comfort.

"I married an Acadian from Eagle Lake, Debbie, who is an FNP working for hospice, and we both enjoy outdoor activities, gardening, tree farming, and exercise. We enjoy our family the most, though with five grandchildren all in New England. I love the County, my community, and my hospice work. My wife and I have no plans to ever move."

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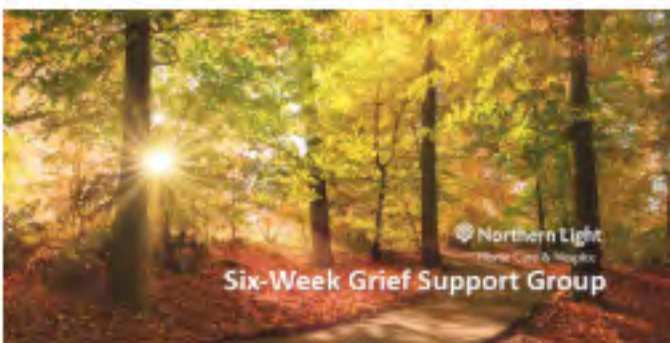
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Tournament Update: Thank You to Sponsors

05/22/2020

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Dear Aroostook House of Comfort Golf Classic Sponsor,

The Aroostook Hospice Foundation Board of Directors hopes this letter finds you well. In the last few months, businesses and families have been through a great deal coping with Covid-19 and yet there are still many unknowns. After consideration our board voted that it would be in everyone's best interest to reschedule the Aroostook House of Comfort Golf Classic 2020 for June 19, 2021.

Over the years, we have been amazed by the continued financial support we have received from area businesses. Your donations help us in our mission to provide a place where patients and families spend their final days together in a comfortable, peaceful and stress free environment.

Our hope for you is that when this crisis abates, you will prosper as never before. Please continue to stay safe and healthy. We look forward to being together next June golfing and enjoying another great Aroostook House of Comfort Golf Classic.

In closing, I would like to share a message received from a patient's family. Businesses like yours help to make this possible.

"From the minute I first entered your 'house', it felt just like that. The receptionist, nurses, doctors, pastor, even the custodian treated us all like family. There was no explanation needed; you knew and understood why we were there. You gently and compassionately tended to our needs as well as to the needs of our father. The Aroostook House of Comfort is truly a 'Jewel in the Crown', which my mother always referred to as 'God's Country.' The House of Comfort is the most valuable and precious place for people in Aroostook County to spend the end of their lives." - Laurie Osgood Bjorn

Warm Regards,

Rick Duncan
Chairman Board of Directors, Aroostook House of Comfort

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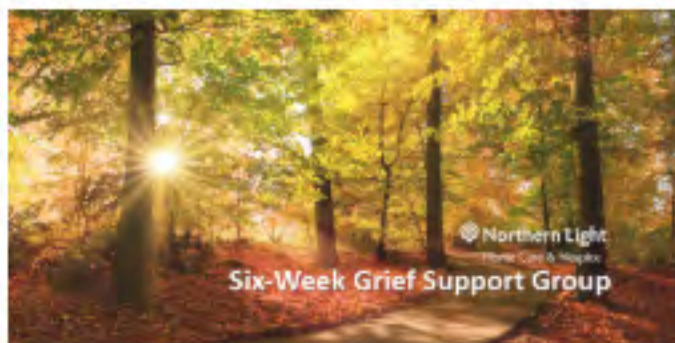
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AHOC Announces Impact Gift: Supports Hospice Need in Aroostook County



04/21/2020



Aroostook House of Comfort



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Aroostook House of Comfort Announces Impact Gift
Generous donation will support critical hospice need in Aroostook County.

Presque Isle—The Aroostook Hospice Foundation (AHF), in continuing fundraising efforts for the Aroostook House of Comfort, is pleased to announce a major charitable contribution from a Presque Isle native, Mary Barton Akeley Smith. This generous donation made in memory of her late husband, Rodney Smith, was made possible in part by a grant from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. It will help support our facility or “house” where patients receive hospice services and continue its impact by ensuring that the Aroostook House of Comfort’s model of care is available for years to come.

Mrs. Smith, an avid supporter of Presque Isle, has funded such projects as the Mark and Emily Turner Memorial Library, the Rodney Smith Wellness Center at Northern Maine Community College, and the Dr. Robert Vinton Akeley endowed Chair of Agricultural Science and Agribusiness with a new on-campus greenhouse at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Her generous gift to the Aroostook House of Comfort will support a critical healthcare need in our community and help to better the lives of Aroostook County residents.

“Contributions from donors like Mrs. Smith will help sustain the house as we go forward into the future,” said Rick Duncan, Board Chairman of the Aroostook Hospice Foundation (AHF). “This generous gift will also help us in our mission to give patients the comfort and attention they deserve in a peaceful, home-like setting.”

As we know, terminal illness does not discriminate by age, gender, or socioeconomic status. The Aroostook House of Comfort is the only stand-alone facility north of Auburn to provide inpatient hospice and respite care services to individuals facing a life-limiting illness. Our hospice house offers a much-needed resource to a community that is spread over 6,828 square miles, making travel sometimes lengthy and expensive. Our inpatient services allow for 24-hour care by a local experienced Medicare-certified hospice care agency relieving the emotional and physical stress on families and caregivers. Mrs. Smith’s support of the Aroostook House of Comfort is an investment in our commitment to making an impact on the lives of our patients and their families.

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About the Aroostook House of Comfort We are committed to helping individuals and families on their journey through hospice and end-of-life care. The Aroostook House of Comfort provides the facility or “house” for patients to receive hospice care services. The medical care is administered by a local Medicare-certified hospice care agency team made up of several professionals focused on providing spiritual, social, emotional, and medical support. Our donors and volunteers have made it possible to build a 9,800 square foot state-of-the-art facility where every detail has been carefully considered to accommodate our patients and their families.

Contact Rick Duncan, Chairman, Aroostook Hospice Foundation
Phone: (207) 769-2402

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AHOC Welcomes Three New Board Members

02/27/2020

Aroostook House of Comfort

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Erika Arguello is an International Medical School Graduate from the American University UAM in Managua, Nicaragua. She currently serves as the Project Director of The Rural Recovery Network and the Better Breathing, Better Living grant, HRSA funded grants, at Cary Medical Center. Before joining Cary Medical Center, she was a Clinical Research Coordinator in the Neuro-Oncology department at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"I feel very honored to be selected for this remarkable opportunity and serve the Aroostook House of Comfort as a member of the board. I look forward to working together with the board to be an advocate for the organization and its mission to help individuals and families through hospice and end-of-life care."

Norman Fournier was born and raised in Wallagrass and is a graduate of the University of Maine in Fort Kent with a B.S. in Education. He attended Graduate School at the University of Maine in Orono with 45 hours in Doctoral Program in U.S. History before being drafted serving two years in U.S. Army. Norman has participated on several boards throughout Aroostook County, such as the Maine Human Rights Commission, United Way of Aroostook, SAD# 27 School Board, Maine Employers' Mutual Insurance Company, Aroostook Transportation Corporation, St. Joseph Parish Council, and the University of Maine System. His 40-year career in health and social services include positions as the Director of Children Services and the Executive Director at Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP), later as the Associate Administrator at Northern Maine Medical Center, and as Chief Executive Officer of Fish River Rural Health Eagle Lake before retiring in 2012.

"Having worked in Health Care for 25 years, I know firsthand how crucial the services of the Aroostook House of Comfort are for the residents of this County. I am honored and excited to serve as a Board member on such a worthy organization."

Terri Ouellette has been with MMG since 1998 and serves as Accounting Manager. Terri holds an MSB from Husson University and a dual B.A. in Accounting and Business Management from the University of Maine at Presque Isle. She earned her Certificate in General Insurance, Associate in Insurance Services (AIS), Associate in Reinsurance (ARe) and Associate in Insurance Accounting and Finance (AIAF). She has the distinction of being named Virginia Allan Young careerist in 2006 by the Caribou Business & Professional Women. Terri serves on the Accounting and Business Administration Advisory Board of Northern Maine Community College and the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board.

"I have personally witnessed the genuine and compassionate care that the AHOC provided not only to my father during his time of need, but to my entire family. The overwhelming sense of relief that I experienced by entrusting my father's care to AHOC in his final days was something that I am eternally grateful for. The appreciation, gratitude and respect that I have for this organization inspired me to want to contribute to the cause. All that said, becoming an AHOC Board member was an extremely easy decision for me."

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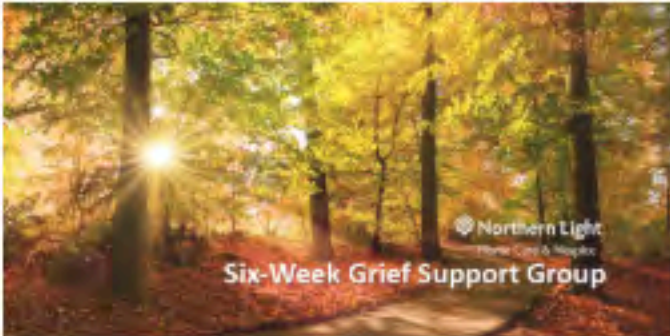
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