

Welcome Message

As we welcome the renewal and quiet beauty of spring, I am reminded of the strength, compassion, and generosity that sustain the Aroostook Hospice Foundation. I extend heartfelt gratitude to each of you, our dedicated donors, partners, and friends, and share a look ahead at ways you can continue to support this mission. Because of you, families across our region have access to care that prioritizes comfort, dignity, and compassion in a setting that feels like home.

We are deeply honored by the sense of ownership our community holds in this work. It reflects a shared belief that every individual deserves a compassionate end-of-life journey, and together, we ensure that care remains available close to home. Through your support, whether by giving, volunteering, attending events, or sharing your story, you help make this possible today and for generations to come.

In the months ahead, we invite you to stay connected through our Golf Classic, Walk for Hospice, and Remembrance Way, as well as through monthly giving, legacy gifts, and Naming Opportunities. Thank you for being part of this mission.



Abbey Clair,
Executive Director

I can't express enough how grateful Ellie (Melissa's daughter), I, our family, and Mel's friends are for our experience with the House of Comfort. It was filled with so much love, patience, care, kindness, laughs, tears, but through the sadness and asking, "what if?" The staff was always right there by your side, answering in any way they could. At every visit, no matter who you were to the patient, there was always a friendly face waiting to greet you, check in, and offer support.

Compassion is one of the main words that come to mind when I think of our experience at the House of Comfort as a whole, which provided a very comfortable space to process, think, and, most importantly, grieve. Typically, the word "hospice" is terrifying. It brings up the "what ifs?" and unknowns. The staff at the House of Comfort made that word much less scary. We knew what was ahead, but they marched right along the journey with you every step.

To walk into the House of Comfort is to feel relief. To be able to just be family, and be by your loved one's side, while the experienced staff takes care of their physical, mental, and emotional needs. Our faith in the staff never wavered, and we felt safe leaving your loved one in their hands. We are so thankful to those at the House of Comfort who cared for our Mel so deeply, so intently, so well. Always making sure she was comfortable, had what she needed, listened to our stories/memories, cried with us, laughed with us, and most importantly made us all and Mel feel so loved through the toughest of moments.

We cannot thank Aroostook House of Comfort enough for everything. We recommend that anyone facing a tough time in life take advantage of the amazing care the House of Comfort offers. We wholeheartedly support the Aroostook House of Comfort.



Healing Hearts: The Hanscome Family

The Aroostook House of Comfort is just as pleasant as the name sounds. We knew little bits about this facility before my sister's battle with cancer progressed, but we didn't know the depths of the love, care, and beautiful personalities that you are surrounded by when walking through those doors. The atmosphere is truly the most home-like and welcoming. Offering a living room you can take your loved one to, benches and seating areas throughout for a breather, and a kitchen with lots of goodies! They provide not only for their patients but also for their patients' families.

In December 2025, my sister Melissa was brought to the House of Comfort by family members for a Christmas party, but little did we know that upon arriving, she would reside there until her final day.



Provider Education & Community Outreach

The Aroostook Hospice Foundation in partnership with Northern Light Home Care & Hospice, recently hosted an evening of connection and education at the Greenhouse Restaurant, bringing together providers from Cary Medical Center and Pines Health Services.

This meaningful gathering provided an opportunity to recognize the compassionate and dedicated work of health-care providers across our region, while also offering education on hospice care in Aroostook County. Discussion included the philosophy of hospice, available resources, and the services offered at the Aroostook House of Comfort. Strengthening relationships among care providers helps ensure that patients and families receive thoughtful, coordinated support when it is needed most, and conversations like these are an important part of that work.

Thank you to everyone who attended and engaged so genuinely in these discussions. Your commitment to caring for patients and families throughout our region does not go unnoticed, and a sincere thank-you as well to the Greenhouse Restaurant for the warm, welcoming setting and excellent hospitality. We look forward to continued collaboration as we work together to support comfort, dignity, and compassionate care throughout Aroostook County.



Care Made Possible by Our Community

The Aroostook House of Comfort exists because this community believes no one should face the end of life without dignity, comfort, and peace. In 2025, that belief came to life in meaningful ways. Because of you, 167 patients and their families from 39 Maine communities received compassionate care in a place where loved ones could gather, support was present, and no one was alone. In moments that matter most, your support helps create space for connection, reflection, and peace.

This impact is only possible because of a community that continues to show up through time, generosity, and shared purpose. Through the hands of our volunteers and the support of our donors and event participants, you help ensure that financial hardship is never a barrier to care. Your continued commitment allows us to meet each patient and family with compassion, honoring their needs and wishes every step of the way.



44 volunteers supporting patients and families



2,518 volunteer hours of comfort and companionship



\$92,500 raised in Charity Care funding since 2022



\$616,000+ raised to sustain care and the House in 2025

Volunteer Spotlight: Tom Richard

We celebrate the dedicated volunteers who share their stories of compassion and care, supporting patients and families through their hospice journey. At the Aroostook House of Comfort, volunteers help create a warm, welcoming environment where no one feels alone. Each brings their own experiences and heart to this work, strengthening the sense of community that defines the House. Tom Richard is one of those volunteers, and his story reflects the meaningful impact of giving back.



"Over the last few years I had visited the House of Comfort to visit and spend time with close friends that were in hospice care and their families. I also attended a few public events that the House of Comfort hosted, including the Remembrance Way dedication ceremonies and a Walk for Hospice event. During my visits to the House of Comfort and attending these events I was impressed with the organization and professionalism of all the staff. All were sincere and compassionate to patients, families, and visiting friends. As I approached my retirement from 40 years in education at Northern Maine Community College, I decided that I would like to contribute and be a part of the House of Comfort team.

I've thoroughly enjoyed my volunteer experience here at the House of Comfort, whether making coffee, preparing meals, washing dishes, or hanging bird feeders. The biggest and most rewarding part of volunteering is greeting families and friends of the hospice patients. These are the times you can see and feel the families' appreciation and thankfulness they have for the House of Comfort. I've been volunteering for just over a year now and by far the most impressionable observation I've witnessed is the true dedication and dignified care the House of Comfort, doctors, nurses, and staff provide to the hospice patients and their families. Aroostook County is truly blessed to have such a beautiful facility and dedicated staff providing hospice care for our loved ones."



Naming Opportunity Highlight: Family Dining Room

In loving memory of Iffy Sargent, the Sargent family made a generous \$25,000 gift to dedicate the Family Dining Room, a space that reflects the heart of the home. Thoughtfully designed to feel warm and familiar, it offers patients, families, and staff a place to gather, share meals, and find connection during life's most tender moments.



More than just a space, the Family Dining Room supports a sense of normalcy and togetherness. It is where conversations are shared, milestones are quietly honored, and time with loved ones is cherished. Iffy's photo is now displayed within the room, serving as a lasting tribute to a life remembered and a legacy of compassion that will continue to touch others.

We are deeply grateful to the Sargent family for honoring Iffy in such a meaningful way. Additional naming opportunities are available throughout the Aroostook House of Comfort. To learn more or begin a conversation, please contact the Aroostook Hospice Foundation.

"The Aroostook House of Comfort gave our family a place of comfort and support during the most difficult time of our lives. The morning we walked through the front door, we felt a sense of ease."
- Debbie Nelson



Trivia Night for a Meaningful Cause

Laughter, costumes, and a spirit of generosity filled the room at a Halloween-themed Trivia Night hosted by our friends at Katahdin Brew Works.

We were honored to be chosen as the beneficiary of this fun and festive evening, where community members came together for a night of friendly competition in support of the Aroostook House of Comfort. Thanks to the incredible energy and generosity of everyone involved, the event raised \$1,100 to support compassionate hospice care for patients and families across our region. Moments like these are a beautiful reminder that meaningful impact often begins with simple connection, gathering together, sharing joy, and giving back. Our sincere thanks to Katahdin Brew Works for their creativity and generosity, and to all who participated and made the evening so memorable.

Did You Know Giving Has Tax Benefits Too?

There are several ways to give beyond writing a check, and some options may offer real tax advantages. By partnering with Plancorp, our registered investment advisor, we can help explore gifting strategies that support Aroostook House of Comfort and align with your financial plans.

- **Cash:** Simple and easy, but often less tax-efficient than other giving options.
- **Publicly Traded Securities:** Donating appreciated stock may provide a fair market value deduction and help avoid capital gains tax.
- **IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs):** IRA owners age 70½ or older can direct up to \$110,000 in 2026 directly to charity, counting toward your RMD and excluded from taxable income.
- **Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs):** Contribute now, take the deduction immediately, and recommend grants over time. (Note: DAFs cannot receive QCDs.)
- **Real Estate and Personal Property:** Can be tax-efficient but may require appraisals and additional documentation.
- **Charitable Trusts and Planned Giving:** Combine charitable impact with income and estate planning goals.



Want to explore what fits your situation? Our development team, together with Plancorp, can help you evaluate options and design a giving approach that makes a lasting difference for Aroostook House of Comfort.

Get Involved and Make an Impact

Every step you take, every hour you give, and every dollar you share helps bring comfort, dignity, and support to patients and families in their time of greatest need. Whether you're joining us for an event, honoring a loved one, or simply supporting our mission in your own way, you are an essential part of the Aroostook House of Comfort community. Explore the upcoming opportunities below and discover how you can make a meaningful difference.



13th Annual Golf Classic

Saturday, June 20th at the Presque Isle Country Club

We are thrilled to announce the 13th Annual Aroostook House of Comfort Golf Classic, to be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at the Presque Isle Country Club! Last year, thanks to your incredible support and the generous sponsorship of the Logan P. Graves Foundation, we raised over \$90,000, bringing our event's lifetime total to more than \$610,000! We invite you to join us again this year! Visit our website for additional details on team registrations and sponsorship opportunities.

Remembrance Way: Path of Love & Legacy

Saturday, August 22nd, 2026, Aroostook House of Comfort

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 and 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 22nd. For more information or for purchasing, please visit our website or contact Executive Director, Abbey Clair, at 207-299-2053.



3rd Annual Walk for Hospice

Saturday, September 19th at the Caribou High School Track & Trails
Join us at the Caribou High School on Saturday, September 19th for the 4th Annual Walk for Hospice, proudly presented by Event Sponsor, Greenlaw Electric! Last year, thanks to your incredible support, we raised \$68,000 for the Aroostook House of Comfort. We hope you may 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!