

Hospice & Heart NEWSLETTER

Issue 7 — Fall 2026

Info and news about the Aroostook House of Comfort and hospice care in our community.

Welcome Message

As we reflect on another meaningful year at the Aroostook Hospice Foundation, I am once again reminded that everything we accomplish is made possible by the generosity and compassion of this community.

Throughout the year, we have seen that support take so many forms. From the incredible response to our Golf Classic and Walk for Hospice, to meaningful tributes through Remembrance Way and Naming Opportunities, to handmade quilts, baked goods, thoughtful gestures, and simple words of encouragement, each is a meaningful expression of kindness and connection to our mission.

In this edition, we are pleased to share some of the moments and milestones that have shaped our year, along with new opportunities to be part of the future of our mission. Most importantly, we hope these pages reflect the collective impact of the many donors, volunteers, families, businesses, organizations, and friends who continue to stand beside us.

On behalf of the Aroostook Hospice Foundation, thank you for believing in this mission and for the countless ways you help ensure compassionate end of life care remains available close to home, today and for generations to come.



Abbey Clair,
Executive Director



A New Way to Recognize Generosity

The Aroostook House of Comfort was built on a simple belief: everyone deserves comfort, dignity, and compassionate end-of-life care, regardless of financial circumstances. Making that care available here in Aroostook County has always depended upon the generosity of individuals, families, businesses, and organizations who believe in that mission and choose to support it.

This year, the Aroostook Hospice Foundation is proud to introduce The House Circle, a new way to recognize the many forms that generosity can take. Some donors give faithfully year after year. Others make a significant annual contribution, help establish the House through foundational gifts, or make plans today that will support hospice care for generations to come. Together, these acts of generosity help sustain the Aroostook House of Comfort and ensure that patients and families throughout our region continue to have a place, right here in Aroostook County, where patients and families can count on comfort and support at the end of life.

The House Circle honors that generosity through four circles, each reflecting a different kind of support. The Steadfast Circle and Sustaining Circle honor donors whose consistent giving, year after year or within a single year, helps sustain the House, while the Legacy Circle and Founders Circle recognize those whose generosity extends across generations, through gifts planned for the future or the foundational support that helped bring the House to life. Membership reflects generosity already given rather than an invitation to join, with no application or membership fee, and donors may be recognized in more than one circle.

For Board Chair Rick Duncan, that spirit is what The House Circle is really about. "The House Circle gives us a meaningful way to recognize and thank those whose generosity helps sustain the Aroostook House of Comfort and its mission for generations to come," he said. Members will be recognized within their qualifying circle or circles, receive a commemorative House Circle pin, and be invited to the first annual House Circle Recognition Gathering, coming in early 2027, with additional details to follow in the months ahead.



Did You Know Giving Has Tax Benefits Too?

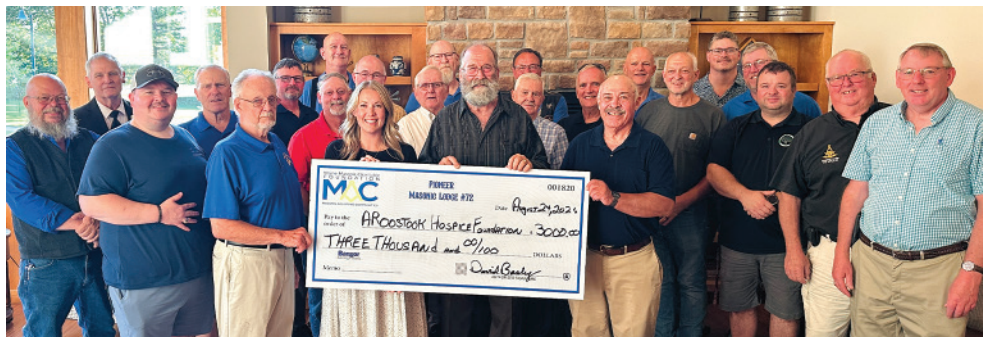
There are many ways to support the Aroostook House of Comfort beyond writing a check, and some may offer meaningful tax advantages. Through our partnership with Plancorp, our registered investment advisor, donors can explore giving strategies that support the House while aligning with their financial goals.

Cash gifts are simple, but often less tax-efficient than other options. Donating appreciated publicly traded securities may provide a fair market value deduction while helping avoid capital gains tax. IRA owners age 70½ or older can direct up to \$110,000 in 2026 directly to charity through a Qualified Charitable Distribution, which counts toward their required minimum distribution and is excluded from taxable income. Donor-advised funds allow donors to contribute now, take an immediate deduction, and recommend grants over time, though they cannot receive QCDs. Gifts of real estate or personal property can also be tax-efficient, though they may require appraisal and additional documentation, and charitable trusts or other planned gifts can combine charitable impact with longer-term income and estate planning goals. Because every financial situation is different, donors are encouraged to consult with their financial or tax advisor when considering these options.

Interested in exploring your giving options? Contact Abbey Clair for a confidential conversation. Together, you can explore an approach that fits your goals and the legacy you hope to create. Contact (207) 299-2053 or abbey@aroostookhouseofcomfort.org

Naming Opportunities Create Lasting Legacies

This year, four significant Naming Opportunities have created lasting tributes within the Aroostook House of Comfort. Each dedication tells a unique story, honoring loved ones, celebrating shared values, and recognizing the people and organizations whose generosity helps make compassionate hospice care possible for patients and families throughout our region.



District One Freemasons | Patient Suite 1

The Freemasons made a generous \$50,000 commitment to dedicate Patient Suite 1, a gift inspired by the compassionate care experienced by members of their Masonic fraternity and their families. The Masonic emblem now displayed at the suite entrance serves as a lasting reflection of their values of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, and their commitment to supporting patients and families throughout our region.

The Hedrich Family | Sandy's Kitchen & Joe's Laundry Room

Through a generous gift from the Hedrich family, two important family spaces have been dedicated in memory of Sandra "Sandy" Hedrich and Uriah Joseph "Joe" Hedrich II. Sandy's Kitchen and Joe's Laundry Room honor their legacy of hospitality, hard work, and compassion while supporting the comforts of home that are so important to families during their time at the House of Comfort.



Carol MacPherson | Patient Suite 2

A \$50,000 gift from Carol MacPherson dedicated Patient Suite 6 in loving memory of her husband, Michael D. MacPherson. As a longtime Foundation leader, Michael played an instrumental role in bringing the Aroostook House of Comfort from dream to reality. Years later, he received care within the home he had worked so hard to help create. This deeply meaningful dedication ensures his legacy of leadership, service, and belief in compassionate hospice care will remain part of the House of Comfort for generations to come.

We are profoundly grateful to these families and community partners for choosing to create such meaningful legacies within the Aroostook House of Comfort. Their generosity not only honors those who have made a difference in their lives but also invests in the future of comfort, dignity, and expert care for patients and families throughout Northern Maine and beyond.

Together, We Made an Impact

Every step taken, every hour volunteered, every sponsorship given, and every dollar raised has helped strengthen the mission of the Aroostook Hospice Foundation. Throughout the year, our community has come together in remarkable ways to support the Aroostook House of Comfort and the patients and families we are privileged to serve.

We are proud to share the results of this year's major fundraising events and, most importantly, to celebrate the people who made them possible. Your generosity continues to help ensure that comfort, dignity, and care remain within reach when they are needed most.



\$96,000+

161 sponsors • 45 teams • 38 raffle/prize donors • 13 in-kind donors • 31 volunteers



\$24,500

35 stones in 2026 • 210 stones since 2018 • 11 total benches



\$75,000+

80 sponsors • 31 teams • 442 participants • 14 in-kind donors • 39 volunteers

Golf Classic

We are delighted to share the tremendous success of our 13th Annual Golf Classic which took place on Saturday, June 20th. Thanks to the generosity and support of our sponsors, teams, and volunteers, we raised over \$96,000 this year, bringing the event's lifetime total to over \$700,000! 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.



Remembrance Way

This August, families and friends gathered at the Aroostook House of Comfort for our annual Remembrance Way Memorial Garden & Pathway Dedication Ceremony. This year, 35 new memorial stones were dedicated, each honoring a life and a story that continues to hold special meaning for those who love and remember them. Adorned with red and white roses, these lasting tributes joined the many already found throughout the grounds of the House of Comfort, creating a peaceful place for remembrance, reflection, and connection. Orders for our next annual dedication are due by June 1, with the ceremony to follow in August. To learn more about Remembrance Way or purchase a memorial, please visit our website or contact Executive Director Abbey Clair at (207) 299-2053.



"I walk for hospice because I've seen how important it is when people and families need support the most. During some of life's hardest moments, hospice brings comfort, compassion, and dignity to those facing the end of life. What stands out to me is that hospice isn't just about caring for a patient it's about caring for an entire family. It helps people focus less on fear and uncertainty and more on spending meaningful time together. I walk in memory of those who are no longer with us, in honor of those currently receiving care, and in appreciation of the nurses, aides, volunteers, and caregivers who give so much of themselves every day to this service. This cause is personal because every one of us will eventually face loss. If my participation can help another family receive the same comfort, support, and dignity during a difficult time that my family received after losing my mother, then every step is worth it."

- Jacob Beaupre



Walk for Hospice

The Aroostook Hospice Foundation held its 4th Annual Walk for Hospice on Saturday, September 19th, at the Caribou High School Track & Trails, proudly presented by Event Sponsor Greenlaw Electric. Together, our incredible community raised over \$75,000 in support of the Aroostook House of Comfort. The Walk brings families, friends, and colleagues together each year to raise awareness, support compassionate hospice care, and celebrate the lives of those who have touched our hearts. We are grateful to everyone who walked, donated, volunteered, and helped make this meaningful day possible. Save the date and join us again on Saturday, September 18th, 2027!

People & Purpose

The Aroostook House of Comfort is more than a facility. It is a mission carried forward by the people who show up for it, again and again. From board members who guide our path forward to community members who lend their talents in ways big and small, every person plays a role in making compassionate hospice care possible for Aroostook County. Their contributions take many forms, from leadership and guidance to the creative talents they use to help us share the story of the Aroostook House of Comfort with our community and beyond.



Through Their Lens

Some stories are best told through images. At the Aroostook House of Comfort, two local creatives have turned their talent toward capturing what makes the House special: Colt Putnam behind a video camera and Tyler Turner behind a photography lens.

For Colt, that meant giving people a chance to step inside the Aroostook House of Comfort without ever walking through its doors. A student at Presque Isle High School, Colt partnered with AHOC through an Extended Learning Opportunity focused on videography to create a virtual tour of the facility. Through filming and editing, he captured the warmth, dignity, and sense of home that define the experience for patients and families at the Aroostook House of Comfort. It's one of several community projects Colt has taken on through the ELO program, and it shows a filmmaker in the making with a real eye for telling other people's stories.



Tyler's lens has focused on another meaningful part of the AHOC story, the quiet act of remembrance. A Northern Maine photographer who began pursuing photography in 2021, Tyler has photographed the annual Remembrance Way ceremony for the past two years. After this year's event, he shared that Remembrance Way "holds a special place in my heart," and that he felt "very fortunate" and "very honored" to be asked to come back. Outside his photography, Tyler works one-on-one with young children with developmental disabilities as an Education Technician, and that same care shows in the way he captures the day.

Colt and Tyler each brought a real talent to something that mattered to the House. Together, they're helping more people see and feel what the Aroostook House of Comfort is about, one frame at a time.

Meet Our Board

Dr. Caleb Swanberg brings both professional expertise and personal experience to his role on the Aroostook Hospice Foundation's Board of Directors. A Caribou native, Caleb returned home after completing medical school and residency to practice Family Medicine in Aroostook County. He currently 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.

Caleb's connection to the House of Comfort runs deep. As a physician, he has had patients spend their final days there, and he has also had loved ones of his own receive hospice care. That perspective, both professional and personal, now guides the leadership he brings to the board.



"I have been continually impressed by the level of care and professionalism provided by those at the House of Comfort," Caleb said. "It is an essential part of Aroostook County's medical community. I am proud and excited to now be a part of the House of Comfort and its critical service to the community." - Dr. Caleb Swanberg



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