



For Referrals, Patient Care, Volunteer  
& Bereavement Information:  
LEWIS COUNTY HOSPICE OFFICE  
7785 N State Street • Lowville, NY 13367  
315-376-5308 • Fax 315-376-5435

## NEWSLETTER Fall 2024

For Donations  
& Fundraising Events:  
FRIENDS OF  
LEWIS COUNTY HOSPICE, INC.  
P.O. Box 266 • Lowville, NY 13367  
[www.friendsoflchospice.org](http://www.friendsoflchospice.org)

### *Light Up a Life 2024*

HONORING THOSE WE LOVE AND  
REMEMBERING THOSE WE HAVE LOVED  
AND LOST

Friends of Lewis County Hospice  
“Light Up A Life 2024” fundraiser  
will be conducted on line and by  
mail this year from November  
22nd thru December 25th. All  
donations will be used for the  
care of local Hospice patients and  
will help brighten the lives of  
patients and their families.

You will find trees, donation  
forms, preprinted envelopes and  
tags for those you wish to honor  
or remember at the following  
locations:

- Kinney Drugs – Lowville
- Community Bank – Lowville  
and Lyons Falls
- Lewis County Health System  
Lobby
- Hair Haven - Lowville
- Northern Federal Credit Union  
– Croghan
- Pioneer Café – Glenfield
- Town Talk – Copenhagen
- Chuck’s Market – Harrisville
- Brookside Senior Living –  
Lowville
- Monnat’s IGA – Croghan
- Carthage Savings Bank -  
Croghan

Online donations can be made by going to  
[friendsoflchospice.org](http://friendsoflchospice.org).

Each person’s name will be published during  
the month of February in the Journal and  
Republican, and will appear on the Friends of  
Lewis County Hospice website  
([friendsoflchospice.org](http://friendsoflchospice.org)), on Linking Lewis  
County, & FOLCH FB page.

#### Light Up a Life 2024

When filling out this form **please print clearly** and  
make checks payable to: Friends of Lewis County  
Hospice

Send donation and form to:  
**Friends of Lewis County Hospice-LUAL**  
**c/o Linda Noftsier**  
**9021 Van Amber Rd.**  
**Castorland, NY 13620**

Please accept my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check where you would like your tag(s)  
placed:**

- Kinney Drugs  Croghan Northern Credit Union
- Lyons Falls Community Bank  Hair Haven
- Lowville Community Bank  Pioneer Cafe
- Town Talk  Lewis County Health System
- Chuck’s Market  Brookside Senior Living
- Monnat’s IGA  Carthage Savings - Croghan

# *Michael Brooks Joins as Ryan Piche Departs the FOLCH Board of Directors*

## **A Warm Welcome to Michael...**

Michael Brooks was born and raised in Lowville and is a 1970 graduate of Lowville Academy. He attended Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts and Albany Law School in Albany, New York.

Michael worked in Massachusetts as an Assistant District Attorney and in private practice. He also worked as an attorney and administrator for 2 state agencies, including the Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission. He served as a District Court Judge in the Massachusetts Trial Court for 20 years before retiring in 2021.

Michael was the Chairperson of Norfolk Human Services, a local human services provider, as well as the Massachusetts Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation.

Michael is happy to return to Lowville where he lives with his wife Mary.

## **MISSION**

FOLCH advocates for quality end-of-life care and provides humanitarian and financial resources to the members of the Lewis County community facing the challenges that come with the end-of-life.

## **& a Heartfelt Farewell to Ryan...**

We extend our sincere thanks to Ryan Piche for his dedicated service and valuable contributions to the FOLCH Board of Directors, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **President**

Joanne Dicob

### **Vice President**

Tina Stanford

### **Secretary**

Marsha Zehr

### **Treasurer**

Linda Noftsier

### **Members**

Michael Brooks  
Amy Deavers  
Mary Ingersoll  
Gretchen Lane  
Sue Matuszczak  
Tina Paczkowski  
Susan Sauer  
Hope Scouten  
Lorna Weber



“Hospice gave us a sense of security and comfort knowing that they were there for whatever we needed. They came at the drop of a hat and gave my mother professional and compassionate care. The nurses meant everything to our family and we don't know what we would have done without them. Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

***The Family of Ellen Bush***

## *Hospice House Update*

As many of you know, it has been a vision of Friends of Lewis County Hospice to build a Hospice Home in Lewis County. This past year we shared a survey to see what the public thought regarding this project - the results were overwhelmingly positive. A small committee has been meeting this past summer and has made tremendous progress. They have met with architects from Bernier & Carr to share our vision and to find out exactly what this would entail. FOLCH has now retained their services to draw up plans and construct a model. The committee is in the process of reviewing three possible locations, making a site visit to one. We would also entertain donated land, 3 – 5 acres, keeping in mind the need for public water and sewer.



The cost of the project will be enormous. Friends of Lewis County Hospice have been working and saving for many years and are prepared to contribute a large portion of the cost, but much more will be needed. The committee will be meeting with a grant writer and are hoping to begin a Capital Project soon.

Although it all seems overwhelming, we are very excited to begin this new project. We will continue to keep you updated and look for your continued support.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FOR OUR ANNUAL EPICUREAN**

**Sunday May 4th, 2025**

@ the Lowville Elks Lodge

5600 Shady Ave

Lowville, NY

# *A Journey of Compassion: From Motherhood to Nursing Leadership - DeyLynne's Path to Purpose*

My return to school happened in 2012... 15 years after my high school graduation. I decided after having my 7th child delivered here at LCHS that I would go to college to better my future and the future of my children. In the great words of Dr. Crawford....."an educated woman is a respected woman". I chose the field of nursing after sitting in the living room of my ex husband's grandfather and watching his Hospice nurse. At that very moment I knew what I wanted to be when I grew up...I started the process of getting my classes done to get my dream job.



I graduated from St. Elizabeth's College of Nursing in 2016, my first nursing job was at St. E's on the ortho unit... a bittersweet job. I learned a lot. I then decided family first and moved onto South Lewis Central School where I was an elementary nurse for 3 years. In 2019 I missed caring for patients so much I decided LCHS would be a great place to work weekends, soon after in June of 2020 I moved into a full time position as Intake Supervisor for Home Health and Hospice, I was very eager to take a try at Hospice and was allowed the opportunity. I found my passion... End of Life Care for our community. I tell everyone this is the best job I have ever had... the reward is taking time to get to know people and give the absolute best care at the end of their life. I have now decided to lead my great team to better serve our county residents as Home Health and Hospice Director of Patient Services. I continue to provide education to our facility on end of life care and have a team that supports me and my goal to give our patients the best care. In my spare time I love spending time with my family.

# *How to Approach Hospice Conversations with Loved Ones*

BY RACHAEL GOLAS, LMSW

Have you had someone in your life that you know could use hospice support but are unsure on how to start the conversation? **Here are some tips!**

First, I think it's important to validate that these conversations can be hard but by giving someone the space and a listening ear is a great start. If someone has been given a terminal diagnosis it's important for them to explore all of their available options. Even if someone is still receiving life sustaining treatment, encouraging them to hear what hospice can offer may help them make further decisions and lessen the fear.

When one chooses to stop treatment or they are no longer a candidate, hospice may be mentioned to them by their medical team. Some things that I like to highlight is that choosing hospice does not mean giving up. Ultimately the patient's body is in control and the hospice team is there to support with symptom management, emotional support, end of life planning and education. You can explain to them that most routine medications can be continued and their primary care doctors are typically still involved in guiding our team, since they likely know the patient best! Instead of going back and forth to different medical appointments they now have an experienced team coming to their home who reports back to their primary care. That time can then be spent getting out of their home doing enjoyable things like going to their family camp, watching sporting events or a drive to their favorite diner for coffee. Hospice does not mean you are home bound and we encourage you to be as functional as your body allows. Unfortunately, we admit people to hospice after they have spent many days in a hospital or had repeat ER visits. With hospice care we are not in the home 24/7 but there is a RN on call 24/7. So on a weekend they no longer have to worry about who to call if they start experiencing symptoms or having to make another ER visit.

Although I could go on about how hospice can benefit someone, one last thing I want to point out is that the patient and family are the ones driving their care. Our staff is there to educate and support but ultimately the choice is up to the patient or decision makers on how they want their care to look. As long as they are safe, our team enables patients to live out their lives as they wish. We do not force medication on patients, we let them make their decision while educating on some of the benefits.

While there are many ways we can assist someone with their physical symptoms, we are there for the emotional needs as well. Licensed Social Workers, Chaplains and Volunteers can be helpful with providing grief support, spiritual needs and companionship too. We are not just there for the patient but the family and caregivers as well.

Hospice can help people focus on living and what is important to them despite having a terminal diagnosis. The best thing we can do is educate each other, knowledge reduces fear.

# *Hospice Memorial Garden*

BY MARY INGERSOLL



This was a difficult year to garden – between the heat and rains. The Hospice Memorial Garden did not go unscathed. The severe storms in July washed out the walkway and entrance from the torrential rains on two separate occasions. Both times the damage was repaired.

## **The following stones were placed in the Garden this year:**

- Angela, Doug, Ronnie Robbins
- Bette and Loren Schoff
- Grace Myers
- Sam Villanti
- Bernard & Ruth Widrick
- Cynthia Reed Kellogg
- George Davis
- Davison Family
- Nick Thisse
- Theresa Woodhouse
- Carlton Carpenter
- Any Reed Rising
- George S. Reed
- LACS Class of 1970

***Additional Stones are ordered for Leslie Brooks, Mary Buckingham, and Angela Widrick***

*Once the ordered stones are in, there will be a total of 238 stones memorializing our loved ones. Please take the time to sit and visit. Enjoy the garden.*

*At the end of this garden season, Mary Ingersoll will retire from caring for the garden since 1999. After 25 years, it is time to give the opportunity to another caring person.*

*Mary will continue to order and process the Memorial Stones and place them in the garden.*

*If you are interested in a Memorial Stone, please call Mary at 315-783-3803.*

**Friends of Lewis County Hospice -- Memorial Garden Fund**  
**c/o Mary Ingersoll**  
**5511 Jackson Street**  
**Lowville, NY 13367**  
**315-783-3803**

**Order Form for Memorial Stones for the Hospice Memorial Garden**  
**Parkway Drive, Lowville, NY**  
 (Use separate sheet for each stone ordered, please)

Donor's Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Pennsylvania Blue Stone Memorials** (2 sizes available - check one only)

\_\_\_\_\_ -- **Small Stone** (5 1/2" tall x 11 1/2" wide).....**Donation: \$100 each**  
 (Maximum of 3 lines with 17 characters & spaces per line)

\_\_\_\_\_ --**Large Stone** (11 1/2" square) .....**Donation: \$200 each**  
 (Maximum of 3 lines with 17 characters & spaces per line)

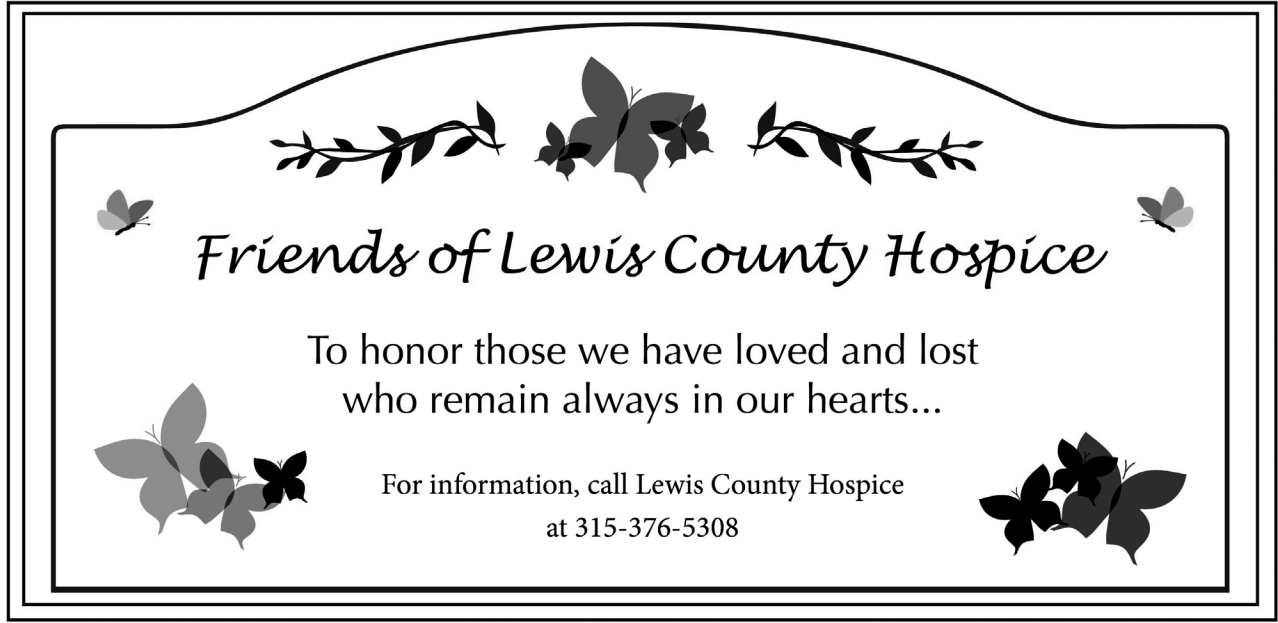
**Make checks payable to Friends of Lewis County Hospice -- Memorial Garden Fund**  
 Mail or deliver completed order form with check to address above.

-----  
**Inscription on stone:** (lettering and spacing will be centered unless otherwise noted)  
**Limit: Small stone up to 3 lines; Large stone up to 6 lines**


Do you require a receipt?     Yes     No  
 May we publish your name as a donor in news releases?     Yes     No

Authorization Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION TO THE HOSPICE MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND**  
 Memorial stones are prepared by T.F. Wright, P.O. Box 230, 609 Adelaide Street, Carthage, NY 13619



*Friends of Lewis County Hospice*

To honor those we have loved and lost  
who remain always in our hearts...

For information, call Lewis County Hospice  
at 315-376-5308



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Watertown, NY 13601  
Permit No. 108

**Friends of Lewis County Hospice**  
P.O. Box 266  
Lowville, New York 13367