



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 Spring 2025

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

### *Epicurean 2025*

PLANS ARE WELL UNDERWAY FOR THE  
2025 EPICUREAN DELIGHT BEING HELD  
SUNDAY, MAY 4TH, 3 PM – 6 PM AT THE  
THE ELKS LODGE, SHADY AVE. LOWVILLE.

Joining us again this year will be Jeb's  
Restaurant, Red Barn Meats, Brick Oven Inn,  
Divine Catering and Noltz General Store  
serving us their signature appetizers. A  
delicious buffet will be provided by the  
Lowville Elks featuring all new entries. Dessert  
is an assortment of beautiful cupcakes  
prepared by local bakers: Teresa Hoag, Julie  
Harris, Julie Post and Carrie Gunn.

The annual raffle as well as a silent auction  
will run throughout the afternoon. Musical  
entertainment will again be provided by Bill  
and Cassidy. All of our vendors donate their  
food and services for this event.

Join us for a wonderful afternoon with  
friends, family, delicious food, good music  
and lots of auction items as well as door  
prizes.

The Epicurean is Friends of Lewis County  
Hospice's major fundraiser and, as with all of  
our fundraising, the revenues stay in Lewis  
County. We are pleased to work in  
partnership with Lewis County Hospice, part  
of Lewis County Health System, in providing  
compassionate, palliative and end of life care  
for our hospice patients and support for their  
families.

If you would like to support our Hospice community with  
a donation, please complete the form below and mail it  
to the address indicated.

Donations in any amount are very much appreciated.  
Donors of \$25 or more will be considered patrons and  
their names will be published in a handout to be made  
available at the event. One hundred percent of your gift  
will be used for hospice care in Lewis county.

#### **Epicurean Delight 2025**

Sunday May 4th, 3-6pm | Lowville Elks Lodge

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-Epicurean  
c/o Linda Noftsier  
9021 Van Amber Rd.  
Castorland, NY 13620**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# of Event tickets needed \_\_\_\_\_  
@ \$50/each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR  
Ticket orders must be received by April 24th, 2025**

# *Thank You to Our Former FOLCH Board Members for Their Dedication*

As we reflect on the dedication and generosity that fuel the Friends of Lewis County Hospice (FOLCH), we want to extend our deepest gratitude to the board members who have recently stepped away from their roles. Their unwavering commitment to our mission has made a lasting impact, and we are profoundly grateful for the time, talents, and passion they have shared.

Through their leadership and hard work, they have helped make events like our annual Epicurean, Light Up a Life, and Hospice Memorial Garden meaningful and successful. Their efforts have not only supported individuals receiving hospice care but have also provided comfort to families navigating loss. From fundraising initiatives to community outreach, their dedication has strengthened our ability to support those in need during life's most difficult moments.

Though they may be stepping away from the board, their contributions will always be a valued part of FOLCH's legacy. We thank them for their generosity and compassion and wish them the very best in their next endeavors.

Thank you Amy Deavers, Mary Ingersoll, and Lorna Weber. With heartfelt appreciation,

*Friends of Lewis County Hospice*

## **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.

*We  
thank  
you!*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **President**

Joanne Dicob

### **Vice President**

Tina Stanford

### **Secretary**

Marsha Zehr

### **Treasurer**

Linda Noftsier

### **Members**

Michael Brooks  
Gretchen Lane  
Janine Mattimore  
Sue Matuszczak  
Leanne Moser  
Tina Paczkowski  
Susan Sauer  
Hope Scouten

## *Welcoming our New Members*

I'm a lifelong resident of Croghan. I've been married for 31 years to my husband Richard. I have 2 sons & daughters-in-law, Zachary & Bridget and Nicholas & Sabrina - I also have 2 grandchildren - Brantley & Paetyn. I will be retiring from Beaver River Central School as a Senior Account Clerk in March of this year after 24 - 1/2 years. I look forward to supporting Lewis County Friends of Hospice in any capacity.

~ **Janine Mattimore**

I was born and raised in Lewis County to my amazing parents, Wilbur and Sharon Moser, and I have two older brothers who live in Long Island and Texas. I attended Lowville Academy, graduating in 1985, and later earned both my undergraduate and law degrees from Syracuse University.

I began my law career in Canandaigua, New York, working for a private law firm for four years before spending ten years as an Assistant District Attorney in Monroe County. I then served for two years as a prosecutor at the Education Department.

In 2007, I ran for District Attorney in Lewis County and became the first female full-time District Attorney, serving in that role—as well as Coroner—for 16 years, from 2008 to 2023. In March 2024, I began working as an Assistant Attorney General in the Watertown Regional Office, a position I plan to hold until my retirement in 2026 (not that I'm counting!).

I am honored to have been asked to join this board because I deeply believe in its mission. I experienced firsthand the generosity, kindness, warmth, and care shown to my family and my father when he was in hospice before his passing in 2021. Caring for individuals and families in their final days, weeks, or months is both a privilege and a responsibility that deserves the utmost respect and dedication. With gratitude and respect, I accept the position as a member of this board. Thank you all. ~ **Leanne Moser**

## *The Annual Raffle at the Epicurean*

The Friends of Lewis County Hospice are excited to announce this year's prizes for the Annual Raffle. Drawings will be held at the Epicurean and for certain prizes, you need not be present to win.

### **Need Not Be Present to Win...**

**\$10/each or 3 for \$20**

- **Blackstone Grill**
- **32" Wood Burning Fire Pit with Screen**
- **Red Shed Retro Patio Cooler**
- **3pc. Marathon Lakeside Nested Hardside Luggage Set**
- **Cardinal Barn Quilt**

### **Must Be Present to Win...**

- **Gift Certificates to Local Establishments**
- **Wine Baskets**
- **Jewelry**
- **Products Made by Local Artisans**

...and more to come

*To purchase tickets prior to the event, reach out to any FOLCH Board Member or mail payment with the number of raffle tickets needed to:*

### **Friends of Lewis County Hospice - Epicurean Raffle**

c/o Linda Noftsier  
9021 VanAmber Rd  
Castorland, NY 13620

## *The Hidden Pillars of Hospice Care: Why Volunteers Matter More Than You Think*

Volunteers are often called the heart of hospice, but volunteers are much more than that — they are like weight-bearing walls, sometimes hidden but structurally important. Specific in hospice care, volunteers are involved from the beginning, often spearheading the mission of hospice to come into focus. Lewis County hospice was founded in 1988 and volunteers have been involved since the beginning.

Medicare requires that volunteers provide at least 5% of total patient care hours in every hospice program nationwide. This isn't just bureaucratic red tape; it's a recognition that volunteers bring something irreplaceable to end-of-life care. While medical providers manage symptoms, nurses coordinate care, and social workers navigate complex family dynamics, volunteers offer something equally vital: time. They sit with patients, sharing stories, listening, or simply being present during very difficult times. They give family caregivers precious breaks, running errands or providing companionship to their loved ones. These apparently simple gifts of presence and time can mean the difference between a family managing or suffering.

But the impact of hospice volunteers extends far beyond direct patient care. A volunteer might notice subtle changes in a patient's mood that help the care team adjust their approach. They might be the first to spot when a caregiver is struggling with burnout, allowing the social worker to intervene before a crisis develops. In this way, volunteers act as essential observers on the front lines of care, their unpaid status often allowing them to build unique bonds of trust with patients and families.



To support hospice volunteers, we welcome Kathleen Merrick as the new Hospice Volunteer Coordinator. Kathleen is responsible for identifying, recruiting, and training volunteers for the Lewis County Hospice program working closely with the hospice team, patients and families. She also manages and trains volunteers for the Lewis County Health System. "We are thrilled that Kathleen Merrick has joined our team," stated LCHS Home Health/Hospice Director of Patient Services DeyLynne McConnell. Kathleen returned to Lowville in February. You may be familiar with her previous career as a licensed massage therapist and owner of OPEN SKY Healing Arts Center, which she sold in 2017. Together with her husband Charlie, Kathleen has been living in Burlington, Vermont, for the last eight years, where she worked for the University of Vermont Health Network Hospice team.

In an era of increasingly complex and costly healthcare, hospice volunteers remind us that some of the most powerful medicine doesn't come in a bottle or a pill. It comes through human connection, through the simple act of showing up, through the quiet dedication of community members who choose to walk alongside others during life's most challenging journey. They may be unpaid, but their value is immeasurable — true pillars holding up the vital mission of hospice care.

**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)

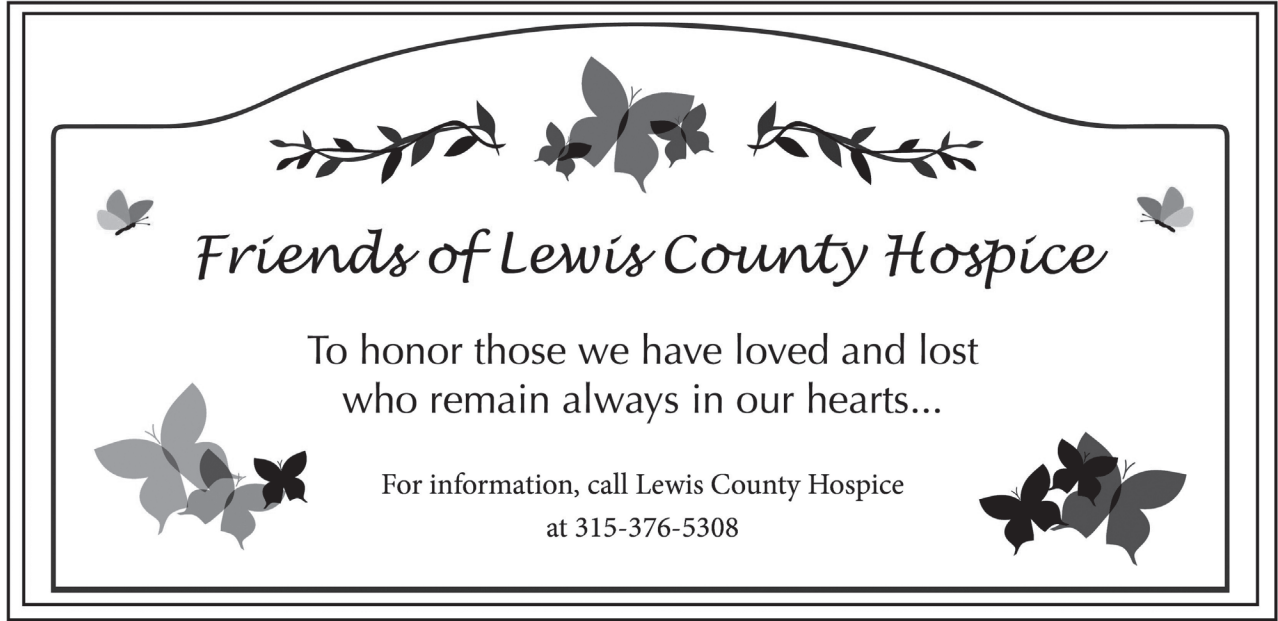
**Make checks payable to Friends of Lewis County Hospice -- Memorial Garden Fund**  
 Mail or deliver completed order form with check to address above.

-----  
**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