



*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 2023

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

Light Up a Life 2023

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

Friends of Lewis County Hospice "Light Up A Life 2023" fundraiser will be conducted online and by mail this year from Dec. 1st thru Dec. 31st. All donations will go toward the care of local Hospice patients. With your donation you can help brighten the lives of Hospice 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 - Harrsville
- Brookside Sr Living - Lowville
- Monnat's IGA - Croghan

Online donations can be made by going to friendsoflchospice.org this year as well. Each person's name will be published in February in the Journal and Republican, and will appear on the Friends of Lewis County Hospice website (friendsoflchospice.org) and on Linking Lewis County.

When filling out this form **please print clearly.**
Make checks out 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

Light Up A Life 2023

Please accept my donation of: \$_____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

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

- Kinney Drugs Croghan Northern Credit Union
 Lyons Falls Community Bank Lowville Community Bank
 Pioneer Café Town Talk Hair Haven
 Lewis County Health System Chuck's Market
 Brookside Sr Living Monnat's IGA

President Report

JOANNE DICOB, PRESIDENT OF FRIENDS OF LEWIS COUNTY HOSPICE

I would like to report once a year on what we have been busy doing this past year. If you haven't already noticed, we have developed a Facebook page (Friends of Lewis Hospice, Inc). Please visit and like our page and check for new postings. We also have a web page (friendsoflchospice.org) which will give you information about FOLCH and how to donate. We are a fundraising organization that raises funds for the Lewis County Hospice. All our funds go directly to the Lewis County Hospice program. We are very proud that we can contribute to the program in a very substantial way every year.

We donated \$150,000 at this year's Epicurean to defray costs for the Lewis County Hospice program and decided to give them another \$50,000 this year. Our Epicurean and Light Up a Life fundraisers are the reason we can so generously donate to this hospice service. Most importantly, we have a very generous and understanding community who is also willing to donate to such a worthy cause.

There have been some recent conversations about having a Lewis County Hospice home in our community. We feel the need as we are sending hospice patients to Jefferson County when their family cannot take care of them. Jefferson County is very receptive, but their own community comes first, so we are not always successful in getting our hospice patients into their home. We are trying to do a few surveys for community input. A question will be on the new JCC survey, and we plan to put it on our Facebook page, webpage, in the newsletter and at the Light Up a Life locations. This will be a very simple survey that requires a yes or no answer. We hope you all will take part in one of our survey opportunities and let us know how you feel.

WE WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Joanne Dicob

Vice President

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Hope Scouten
Lorna Weber

The Value of Volunteering for Hospice

BY RENEE KOHLER, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR OF LEWIS COUNTY HOSPICE

The spirit of hospice volunteering stems from a desire to give comfort, peace and care to those facing a terminal illness, their caregivers and loved ones. In those precious end-of-life moments, hospice volunteers offer a level of companionship and support to patients and their families.

In fact, Medicare has identified the importance and value of volunteers in patients and families lives so much that it requires that volunteer hours equal at least 5% of the hospice providers total patient care hours.

People become hospice volunteers for many reasons. Many volunteer to express gratitude for help they received during their loved one's illness. The benefit of engaging in this type of community service is that you're making a difference where you live. You're giving back, and you're helping others.

What kinds of things do hospice volunteers do? Volunteers perform many important duties. Whether providing companionship in a patient's home, providing an opportunity for families to be able to run errands, attend appointments, assist with special events, support the bereavement program or perform administrative tasks in the hospice office. Volunteers play a vital role in enabling hospice to meet the needs of the patients and families.

How can I become a hospice volunteer? Volunteers at Lewis County Hospice will need to complete an application and background check. The Volunteer coordinator will meet with each volunteer to learn more about what areas of Hospice you are interested in helping. We operate under the Lewis County Health System, so there are requirements regarding your physical health, immunizations and training. We will provide you with training about Hospice and the specific type of volunteering you wish to do.

In most cases we require a one year post bereavement waiting period. This guideline helps to ensure that hospice volunteers have healed from their own loss enough to be able to lend emotional support to patients and families.

Volunteers are an integral part of the Hospice team and have a lasting impact on the lives of the patients and families. To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Lewis County Hospice, call volunteer coordinator Renee Kohler at 315-376-5434 or email rkohler@lcgh.net

Thoughtful. Grateful. Blessed.

“ When we left the hospital I had no worries as the supplies were waiting for us at home. Sheri, the Hospice nurse, was wonderful and only a phone call away. ”
-The Family of Bob Logan

Lewis County Hospice Holiday Gift Baskets

The Holidays are fast approaching and Lewis County Hospice is once again planning a get together to assemble gift baskets for our current and recently bereaved families. Every year Lewis County Hospice gathers donations to provide a little holiday cheer to some local Hospice families. Volunteers will be meeting at Brookside Senior Living Center Community Room on Tuesday December 19th, 2023 from 2:00 pm until completed.

Typical items included:

- Holiday ornaments and decorations
- Packaged or homemade food items (cookies, candy etc.)
- Small gift items (lotion, candles, etc.)

Anyone wishing to donate items or assist in assembling can contact Renee Kohler, Volunteer Coordinator, at 315-376-5434.



Save
the Date

THE ANNUAL EPICUREAN EVENT

Sunday May 5th, 2024

Lowville Elks Lodge | 5600 Shady Ave | Lowville, NY

Great food, tasty desserts, music, raffles, and more!

What is a Hospice House?

BY MARSHA ZEHR, SECRETARY OF FRIENDS OF LEWIS COUNTY HOSPICE

The Friends of Lewis County Hospice Board is conducting a brief survey regarding interest in having a Hospice House located in Lewis County.

Many of you may be wondering exactly what a hospice house is, and why we are conducting this survey. A hospice house is a place where end-of-life patients can receive the same compassionate and loving care they would be receiving at home while also being made as comfortable as possible by qualified and trained caregivers. A hospice house provides a peaceful, home-like setting for people who are terminally ill. Hospice houses are designed to provide comfort to both patients and their families. Our caregivers at Lewis County Hospice are some of the best and most qualified, and the care they give to those patients whose wish is to die at home is full of thoughtfulness and sensitivity, but there are times when there is no family to fall into the role of caregiver or the family is no longer able to give the care needed to keep their loved one comfortable. A house such as this would be the next best thing to being at home. Family members are allowed to visit any time, night or day, and patient comfort is a priority.

The following web sites will provide you with an idea as to how a hospice house functions. The www.houseofjohn.org is a smaller two bedroom version, and the www.jeffersonhospice.org is a larger version that you may already be familiar with. I have had personal experience with the Hospice of Jefferson County and I cannot say enough about the compassionate and loving care that I witnessed, and the comfort and undivided attention received by a patient.

At this time, we are asking for input regarding interest in such a building. There have been many Lewis County residents who have been admitted to the Hospice of Jefferson County when hospice care was not available at home.

Our goal is to give Lewis County residents access to such a house closer to home so that they too can be the recipients of such heartfelt care.

Lewis County Hospice House Survey

FROM THE FRIENDS OF LEWIS COUNTY HOSPICE BOARD

The Friends of Lewis County Hospice Board is conducting a brief survey regarding interest in having a Hospice House located in Lewis County. A hospice house is a peaceful, home-like setting for people who are terminally ill where they will be cared for by specialized staff, and where their families are welcome at all hours of the day and night. Hospice houses are designed to provide comfort and compassionate care at end-of-life stages. They typically include private rooms with all the comfort of home and are especially helpful when the family is no longer able to care for their loved ones at home.

- Yes, I would be interested in the establishment of a Hospice House in Lewis County.**
- No, I do not feel that we need a Hospice House in Lewis County.**

Your response may be sent to Friends of Lewis County Hospice, INC,
PO Box 266, Lowville, NY 13367.

If you prefer to do the survey online, the web address is friendsoflchospice.org and you will find the survey on the Home Page.

Hospice Memorial Garden

BY MARY INGERSOLL

It was a quiet summer in the Hospice Memorial Garden this year. With autumn upon us, the garden has been prepared for winter.

Stones placed in the garden this year honor

Charlie Perkins
Stanley & Bernice Slate
Steve Perkins
Lowell Manzer
Chuck Perkins
Irene Bowen
Mildred Reed
Honoring Rick & Ellen Bush
Donald & Ilona Schaefer
Dr. and Mrs. John Brooks
Anthony Matuszczak
Carl Golas
Valley Homemakers
Alan L. Ward
James L. Ward



Stone orders pending for
Brenda J. Bourgeois
Lois & C. James Shapland

Hospice Memorial Garden Facts

- This completes the 25th year since the garden was created
- The garden was established in 1999.
- The garden sits behind the Band Stand in the Veterans Memorial Park.
- It is visited often and serves a quiet place to reflect upon our loved ones.
- Friends of Lewis County Hospice (FOLCH) volunteers care for the garden.
- Hospice Memorial Stones are available with the attached order form in this newsletter.
- The stones are Pennsylvania Blue Stone and will last forever.
- Stone donations are \$200 for large and \$100 for small.
- These monies are established in the Hospice Garden Fund to pay for mulch and needed supplies annually.
- This memorial stone program began in 2005.
- The walkway holds over 200 stones that honor loved ones from our community.

We welcome visitors to stop by and enjoy the garden. Reminisce, sit, and relax. Enjoy the peaceful setting. The Angel in the garden states "To honor those we have loved and lost who remain always in our hearts..."



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