

# NEWSLETTER

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

## Welcome Message

On behalf of the Aroostook Hospice Foundation, the owner of the Aroostook House of Comfort, I am delighted to share with you the exciting events and the incredible outpouring of community support that the Aroostook House of Comfort has experienced throughout this year. It is with immense gratitude that we acknowledge the unwavering support from all of you. These partnerships are invaluable, and they make a profound difference in the lives of those we serve. Your involvement plays a pivotal role in sustaining the mission of the Aroostook House of Comfort, and we cannot thank you enough for your commitment.

We hope this newsletter not only informs you but also helps you feel deeply connected to the positive impact we collectively make within our community. Once again, thank you for your unwavering support, dedication, and compassion. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in Aroostook County and beyond.



Abbey Clair,  
Executive Director



## District One Masonic Lodges and the Men of Tyre Raise \$11,000

In October of 2022, our organization received a generous donation of \$3,000 from the Men of Tyre, Northern Maine Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association. Their dedication to making a positive impact in our community is truly commendable. Each July, the Men of Tyre host the Northern Invasion, uniting fellow Widows Sons from across New England and Canada. A charitable organization is selected as the beneficiary of their collective proceeds. We were deeply honored to have been chosen once again as the charity of choice for 2023. Following last year's generous donation, the Widows Sons and District One Masonic Lodges approached the Aroostook Hospice Foundation with the idea of purchasing a bench to be placed within the Aroostook House of Comfort's Remembrance Way Memorial Garden & Pathway. On Saturday, August 26th, a memorial bench was dedicated by the District One Masonic Lodges and the Men of Tyre. President Mark Cassidy presented Executive Director, Abbey Clair, with checks totaling \$8,100. These generous contributions came from the Men of Tyre, Monument Lodge of Houlton, Limestone Lodge, Trinity Lodge of Presque Isle, and the Masonic Lodge of Ashland. The Men of Tyre and District One Masons have demonstrated extraordinary commitment, raising an impressive total of over \$11,000 for the Aroostook Hospice Foundation since the start of this partnership in 2022. We greatly value these exceptional organizations for their remarkable contributions to our cause.

## AHOC Celebrates Five Years of Compassionate Care

On May 9th, we celebrated the Aroostook House of Comfort's 5th anniversary. Established in 2009, after years of dedicated fundraising campaigns, the Aroostook House of Comfort opened its doors in 2018. Since then, the Aroostook House of Comfort, in partnership with Northern Light Home Care & Hospice, a Medicare-certified hospice agency, has served over 800 patients and provided support to their families and caregiving teams from across the state of Maine. The celebration brought together the staff, volunteers, and board members at the heart of the Aroostook House of Comfort. It was an occasion to reflect upon the organization's past achievements and milestones, as well as to unite in setting shared goals for the future.





### 8-Year-Old Shines as Youngest Fundraiser

Our 1st Annual Walk for Hospice brought together a community of remarkable individuals, all driven by compassion and a spirit of giving. Among the donors, participants, and volunteers, we want to shine a spotlight on one exceptional participant, 8-year-old Elena Holmes. Elena was our youngest fundraiser, diligently gathering \$210 in donations from friends, family, and local businesses for the Aroostook House of Comfort. Elena's generosity is deeply appreciated. She is making a difference!



### Antique Tractor Club's Continuous Generosity Benefits Hospice Care

The Northern Maine Antique Tractor Club has been a consistent source of support for the Aroostook House of Comfort over the years. They have raised funds through various methods, including selling raffle tickets for an antique tractor and collecting donations for their Annual Tractor Trek Memory Board. We are sincerely grateful for their generosity and compassionate commitment to the Aroostook House of Comfort. To learn more about the Northern Maine Antique Tractor Club, please visit their website at [nmatc.org](http://nmatc.org).



*The Aroostook House of Comfort, together with the community, provides individuals and their loved ones compassionate care, comfort, dignity, and support when patient needs are greater than home hospice can provide.*

### Facebook Fundraising Fuels AHF's Success with \$9,000 Raised

Enrolling in Facebook Fundraising tools has proven to be a great decision for our organization, raising over \$9,000 since March. This remarkable achievement serves as a testament to the generosity and support of our community. We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed; your donations are making a real impact on the work and mission of the Aroostook Hospice Foundation. Additionally, we are pleased to announce the launch of our new Instagram account! Be sure to follow our page to stay informed about the latest happenings at the Aroostook House of Comfort and discover ways you can be involved.



### Rotary Clubs' Generosity at Aroostook River Fun Run

In May, the Aroostook Hospice Foundation had the privilege of participating in the annual Aroostook River Fun Run, generously sponsored by Rotary Clubs of Presque Isle, Washburn, and Caribou. Among the chosen beneficiaries of this event was the Aroostook House of Comfort. It proved to be a joyful and fulfilling day for all who took part. Following this event, Aroostook Hospice Foundation was presented with a \$646 check by the Washburn Rotary Club. Collaborating with esteemed organizations like Rotary is an honor we deeply cherish.

### Substantial Grant Boosts Hospice Charity Care Efforts

The Aroostook Hospice Foundation (AHF) does not handle payment collection or billing for services; these responsibilities fall under the purview of Medicare-certified hospice providers. However, we recognize that there are situations where patients may be uninsured, face coverage limitations, or have financial constraints that prevent them from accessing inpatient hospice care. Due to the strict eligibility criteria outlined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for inpatient hospice care, even some insured patients may find themselves without financial coverage. To ensure that access to inpatient hospice care is available to those who require it, the AHF established the Charity Care Fund in May 2022. Charity Care has since supported 13



**Maine**  
Community Foundation

patients with financial coverage for inpatient hospice care. A portion of all funds raised by the AHF is designated for Charity Care.

We are pleased to announce a \$12,500 grant from the Willey Family Foundation, in partnership with the Maine Community Foundation, specifically for our Charity Care Fund. Donors wishing to support this initiative are welcome, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Willey Family Foundation and the Maine Community Foundation for recognizing AHF's vital work.





### Honoring Dedicated Hospice Volunteers

Northern Light Home Care & Hospice, our Medicare-certified hospice provider, annually celebrates and honors their dedicated hospice volunteers at a barbecue event. These volunteers work closely with the Aroostook House of Comfort, leaving a lasting impact through their empathy, compassion, and respect. During this event, hospice volunteers were recognized for their significant years of service, ranging from 5 to 15 years. Volunteers play a vital role in the hospice care team, and their commitment and service are deeply appreciated. Recognizing their dedication is a privilege and a testament to their invaluable contributions to our community.



### Community Support: MMG Insurance Interns Brighten AHOC

In June, we had the pleasure of hosting volunteer interns from MMG Insurance, who generously contributed their time and energy to various tasks such as painting light poles, tending to our gardens, and cleaning windows. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to this remarkable group of students. The support and dedication of our community members, as well as our valued local business partners like MMG Insurance, play a vital role in sustaining the Aroostook House of Comfort.



### Online Giving Platform

Your contribution helps individuals and families receive compassionate care, comfort, and support on their journey through hospice regardless of their ability to pay. Our website offers a user-friendly online donation platform that enables donors to make secure, one-time, or recurring contributions. Additionally, we provide the option for donors to cover card processing fees, ensuring that the entirety of their donation goes directly to our mission. We invite you to visit our website to learn more at: [aroostookhouseofcomfort.org/donate](http://aroostookhouseofcomfort.org/donate)



### Legacy Giving: Investing with Purpose

The Aroostook Hospice Foundation (AHF) has entered a partnership with Plancorp, LLC to provide professional investment and fiduciary management services for its assets. AHF adheres to the seven principles for investment fiduciaries outlined in the board-approved Investment Policy Statement, ensuring that all donor contributions are invested in alignment with donor intentions. Plancorp is eager to engage with donors to support the mission of the AHF. For additional details or to arrange a consultation, please reach out to the Foundation at (207) 540-1080.





### 10th Annual Golf Classic Raises Over \$70,000 for Hospice Care

In June, we celebrated a significant milestone, the 10th Anniversary of our Golf Classic, an event that not only marked a decade of excellence but also raised an impressive sum of over \$70,000 for the Aroostook House of Comfort. Over the course of the past ten years, this special event has cumulatively contributed a remarkable \$440,000 to our cause. This achievement would not have been possible without the generous contributions and efforts of our 134 sponsors, 41 participating teams, 29 volunteers, and 42 raffle and prize donors. Each year, we are humbled and deeply appreciative of the unwavering support we receive from our local community and beyond. We would like to give a special shoutout to this year's Platinum Sponsor, S.W. Collins Co. Together, we continue to make a significant impact, ensuring we can provide comfort, care, and dignity to those in need.

### Honoring Loved Ones: Remembrance Way Dedication

On August 26th, the annual Remembrance Way Memorial Garden & Pathway Dedication Ceremony took place at the Aroostook House of Comfort gazebo. The pathway is adorned with personalized etched stones honoring loved ones, surrounded by beautiful gardens. In this year's ceremony, 12 stones, 1 bench, and 1 mini garden were dedicated. Family and friends gathered to share fellowship, music, and moments of reflection. It was a touching day of celebration and remembrance. The Remembrance Way serves as an ongoing fundraising opportunity for the Aroostook House of Comfort. These funds are crucial to sustaining the facility's service to the community. Since the Aroostook Hospice Foundation is a nonprofit organization, donations are essential to cover operational costs, Charity Care funding, and mortgage management. For more about this special opportunity, please visit our website.

### Walk for Hospice Raises Over \$28,000 to Support AHOC

The 1st Annual Walk for Hospice, held on September 9th at the Nordic Heritage Center, raised over \$28,000 for the Aroostook House of Comfort! This inaugural event aimed to support the Aroostook House of Comfort, raise community awareness, and celebrate the impact of hospice care. The 1st Annual Walk for Hospice featured 8 Trail Sponsors, 16 Community Sponsors, and 10 In-Kind Sponsors, with approximately 15 teams and 147 participants registered to walk. A moving testimonial was presented by guest speaker Sharon Campbell, emphasizing the importance of the Aroostook House of Comfort's mission. Attendees tied ribbons to a Memorial Wreath, purchased raffle tickets, and recognized top fundraisers: Melissa Dyer and McCrum Family Holdings LLC. It was a beautiful day of reflection and community support, and anticipation is high for the 2nd Annual Walk for Hospice next year!

### Bringing Leaders Together: Aroostook Hospice Foundation's Houlton Community Social

It was a privilege to organize the first Houlton Community Social, bringing together leaders from diverse backgrounds and spheres of influence. The purpose of this special event was to provide an opportunity to gain deeper insights into the mission and work of the Aroostook Hospice Foundation. We extend our gratitude to all those who gave of their time to attend and actively participate in the discussions. Your presence and engagement were instrumental in making this event meaningful.