

JOURNEYS

A newsletter for friends and families of Hospice of the North Country

It's about how you live...

Fall 2011

Clinton County

358 Tom Miller Road
Plattsburgh, New York 12901
518.561.8465



Franklin County

104 Park Street
Malone, New York 12953
518.483.3200

Hospice of the North Country Highlights



Pictured above are John and Wendy Annette with Glory, their seven year old Newfoundland Pet Therapy Dog.

Pet Therapy Now Offered as a Hospice of the North Country Volunteer Service

Unconditional acceptance, love, affection, comfort and security. These are just some of the feelings one can expect when crossing paths with Glory, a seven-year-old Newfoundland; Skye, a fourteen-year-old Rottweiler/Husky Mix; and Sunshine, a three-year-old Golden Retriever, all three pet therapy dogs. Hospice of the North Country (HONC) is now offering pet therapy as part of our volunteer services. John and Wendy Annette are the proud owners of Glory, Skye and Sunshine, and go together with the dogs on the visits they make to our families. "The dogs do all the work. It's incredibly uplifting accompanying the dogs," Wendy said.

John's interest in pet therapy began while going through obedience training with Skye in 2002. The Annettes are members

of the Clinton County Canine Club where training is offered. After passing the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program and being tested by a Therapy Dogs International evaluator, Skye was ready to work. Her first visits were made to Evergreen Valley Nursing Home. Soon word spread about how beneficial these visits were to the patients and staff. In 2005, the Annettes were contacted by a representative at Saranac Lake Central Schools and asked if they would be interested in participating in the Tail Wagging Reading Program that allows students to practice reading while in a comfortable, non-judgmental presence of therapy dogs.

Nowadays, Glory, Skye and Sunshine along with John and Wendy, continue to participate in reading programs at four local schools, and visit nursing homes, assisted living facilities and now offer pet therapy to HONC patients and their families. The idea of bringing pet therapy to HONC patients and families came from our Family Support team in Plattsburgh. Sue McDonnell, Social Worker for the Clinton County HONC team, was introduced to the Annette's through obedience training courses. She mentioned it to Clinton County Director of Volunteer Services Coordinator, Joy Gifford. Coincidentally, Joy had had her own experience with the Annettes and their "newfy" Glory. Her daughter Allie had met Glory and read to her on several occasions during her school's reading program. Joy says that when John comes into school with Glory, Allie gets excited to read.

Joy knew that pet therapy would be beneficial for those families that were interested in utilizing the service. After checking into regulations that govern our services and getting the okay to offer pet therapy as a volunteer service, Glory, Skye, Sunshine, John and Wendy graduated from the HONC volunteer service training in 2010 and started seeing patients and their families.

Although John and the dogs have only been into a few homes at this time, John has already felt the positive impact the dogs have with our patients and their families. The dogs have received responses from patients who were thought to be unresponsive. Some patients recall stories from their past and engage in life review, while petting the dog by their side. "We have been well received and the patients enjoyed it," he said. Tests have shown that being in the presence of an animal can have several physiological benefits such as decreased heart rate and lower blood pressure.

The dogs have an effect on the families as well. There have been situations where the dogs seem to bond with the caregivers and family members. "It takes their mind off the moment. They are gaining a friend, gaining an experience," Wendy said.

The positive effect of Glory, Skye and Sunshine, reaches all the way to the HONC Administrative Facility on the Tom Miller Road. The faces on

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staff members light up when the Annettes come in with the dogs. "It's a break from reality, the stress melts away," Joy said.

For more information on HONC pet therapy volunteer service, please contact Joy Gifford at 518.561.8465.

For more information about Therapy Dogs International, please contact:

Therapy Dogs International, Inc. (TDI)

88 Bartley Road

Flanders, NJ 07836

phone 973-252-9800

e-mail tdi@gti.net

internet www.tdi-dog.org

Don't Forget!!!!

November is National

Hospice And

Palliative Care Month!!

27th Annual Ecumenical Christmas Concert Singers Needed!

Hospice of the North Country will sponsor the 27th Annual Ecumenical Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 4:00 PM at St. Joseph's Church in Malone. At this time singers are needed for the choir. Dale Breault will direct this year's concert. Sign-ups to sing in the choir will be held in mid-October at St. Joseph's Church. All those interested in participating in the choir are encouraged to contact Amanda Bow at 483.3200 for further information. Please join us for this festive, holiday event!

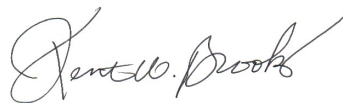
From the Chief Executive Officer Kent W. Brooks

There is one thing that matters to me more than anything else as CEO of Hospice of the North Country. That one thing is this: that we reach as many people as we can with hospice services each year.

As long as there are folks who are dying from terminal illnesses in the North Country who would be willing to receive hospice services but somehow do not, it is my thought that we still have room for growth and improvement. Not for the sake of statistics, or bottom lines, or some sort of pride. But rather for the sake of providing high quality, dignified and respectful care to those who are on life's final journey in the North Country. For the sake of allowing our neighbors to be at home provided with relief and management of their pain and other symptoms.

I would want nothing less for myself and my family. I want nothing less for each and every person in the North Country who has a need for our services. Each of you have the power to give a great gift to someone you might know who is at the end of life. That gift is to introduce them to hospice. Don't assume that they already know about hospice, they may not. You could be the piece in the puzzle that would allow them to experience comfort, peace and dignity as they achieve their final goals in life.

We do great work, spread the word!



Thank you!!!!

We would like to acknowledge organizations in the community that have organized fundraisers and raised money for Hospice of the North Country from February through August 2011...

- ◆ Chazy Lions Club
- ◆ Fourth Ward Irishmen
- ◆ Peru Rod & Gun Club
- ◆ Ausable Valley Booster Club
- ◆ Plattsburgh Lodge of Elks #621
- ◆ Lake Champlain Turkey Talker
- ◆ Beekmantown Lions Club
- ◆ VFW Post #309- Ladies Aux.
- ◆ Plattsburgh High School National Honor Society
- ◆ Back Porch Band
- ◆ Adirondack Riders Motorcycle Club
- ◆ Kiwanis Club of Rouses Point/Champlain
- ◆ Johnson Newspaper Corp.
- ◆ Kim Abbott
- ◆ Peabody's
- ◆ First Congregational Church & Society- Malone
- ◆ American Legion Post 219
- ◆ Bonesteel's Gardening Center
- ◆ Lions Club of Malone

Thank you to all who donated to our various HONC sponsored events throughout the year.

Your support is greatly appreciated! We have had a successful event season so far and we owe it all to our generous sponsors, supporters, patrons, participants and volunteers!

Thank you to those who made personal contributions through the United Way for Hospice of the North Country, SEFA and memorial donations. We appreciate your kindness and continued support!



Hospice of the North Country is a partner agency with the United Way of the Adirondack Region, Inc.

Life at Hospice of the North Country



Pictured above are Michael Davio, Terry Davio, Jean Davio and Merrill McKee at the 6th Annual Frank Davio Memorial Golf Tournament held on July 8, 2011 to benefit HONC.



Pictured above are HONC staff members at a staff development day.



The 5th Annual Hot Rods for Hospice was held on August 6, 2011 at 8 Ball Billiards Café in Plattsburgh. We had a great turnout and approximately seventy cars registered!



Pictured above are members from the Franklin County Relay for Life Team: Jessica Lavarney, Amanda Bow, Jessica Dumas, Diane Roberts and Team Captain Lori Tulip.



HONC Staff Members from both Clinton County and Franklin County participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life 2011 held on June 17th in Malone and Plattsburgh.

Pictured above are members from the Clinton County Relay for Life Team. Front Row: Sherry Miller, Ellen O'Hara. Back Row: Team Captain Linda Facticeau, Jackie Wing Cobb, Kristy Curry, Alyson Curry, Sue McDonnell, Joan Berthiaume and Beth Sharlow.



Pictured above are HONC Medical Director Dr. Christopher Badger, Plattsburgh patient Melvin Claymore and Katie Lepage, RN.



Volunteer Notes

Plattsburgh Volunteer Meetings

Second Tuesday of Every Month

*All Meetings Will Begin at
6:00 PM and Will Be Held at
358 Tom Miller Road*

Plattsburgh Volunteer Training

Last Saturday of Every Month
For Time and Location Contact
Joy Gifford at 561.8465

Malone Volunteer Meetings

October 10, 2011

November 14, 2011

December 12, 2011

*All Meetings Will Begin at
10:30 AM and Will be Held at the
Malone Wesleyan Church
on Finney Blvd.*

*For Information on Becoming a
Volunteer in Franklin County,
Contact Jessica Dumas at 483.3200*



HOSPICE *of the* NORTH COUNTRY

HONC Events

7th Annual In Motion 5K Walk/Run
Sponsored by In Motion Physical Therapy

October 15, 2011

In Motion—Malone

10:00 AM Start

Fall Memorial Service—Clinton County

October 11, 2011

Nazarene Church-Plattsburgh

6:30 PM

Annual Memorial Service-Franklin County

October 30, 2011

St. Mary's Church—Brushton

1:30 PM

Light Up A Life 2011

Month of December

Champlain Centre North

27th Annual Ecumenical Christmas Concert

December 3, 2011

St. Joseph's Church, Malone

4:00 PM

Board of Directors

Cindie Gardner
PRESIDENT

Raeanne McLaughlin
VICE-PRESIDENT

Rose Pandozy
SECRETARY

Tom Rennell
TREASURER

Debbi Barber

Michelle Denny

Judge Patrick McGill

Tom Conlin

Joanne Swiesz

Ginny Cuttaia

Medical Directors

Christopher Badger, MD

John Homer, MD

Wouter Rietsema, MD

Visit us on the web at www.hospicenc.org and on
Facebook!

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Plattsburgh, New York 12901



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