

# JOURNEYS

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

It's about how you live...

Spring 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

### 26th Annual Ecumenical Christmas Concert a Holiday Favorite for Malone Community!

The 26th Annual Christmas Concert was held on Sunday, December 5, 2010 at St. Joseph's Church in Malone, New York. The event grossed over \$6,000 to benefit Hospice of the North Country. The program highlighted traditional holiday favorites and we received many compliments!

Thank you to music director Dale Breault, accompanist Ralph Hastings, Pastor Joe Giroux, Brent Charland, our program sponsors, Bonesteel's Gardening Center and Balsam Hill Tree Farm. A special thank you to all the volunteer choir members who donate their time and talent each year to this event. We could not pull it off without your continued support!

### 5th Annual Frank Davio Memorial Golf Tournament Raises over \$8 K for HONC!

The 5th Annual Frank Davio Memorial Golf Tournament was held on Friday, August 20, 2010 at the Malone Golf Club. Over \$8,000 was raised to benefit Hospice of the North Country.

Thank you to the sponsors, volunteers, tournament participants and tournament committee. It was a fun and successful event for HONC!

### Save the Date! Annual Dinner and Volunteer Appreciation Event

Please join us for Hospice of the North Country's Annual Dinner and Volunteer Appreciation Event on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at the Rainbow Banquet Hall in Altona, New York. Marko the Magician will perform during the cocktail and hors d'oeuvres hour starting at 6:00 PM. Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM with program to follow.

All are welcome to attend...please call 561.8465 for ticket prices and more information.

### Hospice of the North Country Awarded Grant from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield to Purchase PCA Pump

Hospice of the North Country (HONC) received an Excellus BlueCross BlueShield grant for \$2,700 to purchase a LifeCare PCA Pump.

The "Home Infusion: Providing Comfort and Choices for Hospice Patients" program is an initiative that will allow terminally ill patients in need of infusion pain management in Clinton and Northern Franklin Counties to be discharged from inpatient facilities to their homes more quickly and live their last days in their chosen setting, in the company of their family and friends.

Since purchasing our own LifeCare PCA Pump, HONC is able to provide faster service to those patients whose pain cannot be managed by more traditional methods, such as oral medication or transdermal patches. We also predict that with this device HONC will be able to serve more people who are facing end-of-life challenges.

We thank Excellus BlueCross BlueShield for this award and for their support of our mission to provide comfort care and choice for our patients.

## From the Chief Executive Officer Kent W. Brooks

In an environment where the future of healthcare in our country seems unknown and less than secure one fact remains constant. Those who are struggling with a terminal illness and are at the end of that journey need and deserve high quality and compassionate care that treats them with the respect and dignity that every human being deserves as the end draws near. Hospice provides and accomplishes this kind of care in our country. Here at home, Hospice of the North Country provides such care.

In a climate where phrases like “rationing of care” and “futile treatment” seem to be the predominate clouds on the horizon of Medicaid and Medicare reform in our state and country, Hospice of the North County remains determined and committed to provide care regardless of payment structures and cut-backs in the overall health care system. *OUR MISSION, IN HONORING LIFE, is to help people of the North Country die in spiritual, mental, and physical comfort. We support and encourage people and their families to determine their end-of-life care.*

HOSPICE  
of the North Country

Your ongoing support in the form of volunteer hours, financial donations, and spreading the good word about the work that we do allows us to keep our focus, meet the need, and accomplish our mission.

Thank you,



### 6th Annual In Motion 5K Walk/Run to Benefit HONC!

The 6th Annual In Motion Physical Therapy 5K Walk/Run was held on Saturday October 30, 2010. Pictured below are some of the participants from the day of the walk.

The turnout was better than ever this year and a total of \$2,003.50 was raised to benefit HONC. Thank you to Kathy Lashomb, the staff at In Motion and all the participants for braving the cold weather and supporting the mission of HONC.



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

## Thank you!!!!

We would like to acknowledge organizations in the community that have raised money for Hospice of the North Country in the Fall/Winter of 2010 and January of 2011....

- ◆ Adirondack Energy
- ◆ Back Porch Band
- ◆ Class of 1960
- ◆ Plattsburgh Lions Club
- ◆ Peru Middle School
- ◆ Titus Mountain, Inc
- ◆ Wal-Mart—Malone
- ◆ IBC Inc.
- ◆ Kristie Keating— Madison Handbags
- ◆ In Motion Physical Therapy

### Light Up A Life 2010- Thanks:

**Diana Duquette and Duquette Family**

**Todd Conners**

**Clinton County Board of Realtors, Champlain Centre North Mall, Karen & Dan Hickey, the Wing girls, Doug & Myra Macmillan, all the volunteers that manned the table at the mall throughout the month of December, HONC volunteers and staff members and thank you to all those who donated to the campaign!**

**We are proud to report that the campaign took in over \$40,000 this year! Thank you for your support!**

**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!**

## Life at Hospice of the North Country



Pictured left, Hospice of the North Country Chief Executive Officer Kent W. Brooks and Chief Financial Officer Greg McDonald.

### Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with the planning phase of both the 6th Annual Frank Davio Memorial Golf Tournament (July 8th) and the 16th Carol Walle Golf Tournament (July 16th).

If you are interested in volunteering for either of these events, please call 483.3200 and ask for Amanda!



Pictured above are Plattsburgh family support staff members Alyson Bever, LCSW and Sue McDonnell, SW.



Pictured left, Malone Social Worker Jessica Dumas wraps gifts for our Malone patients during the 2010 Holiday Season.



Pictured left are Tammy Crinklaw, LCSW, Franklin County patient Maggie Vensel and "Santa" Nancy Brusco. Malone staff members spread holiday spirit to each one of our patients and their loved ones. This has become a tradition and is enjoyed by many!



Pictured left are Beth Sharlow, RN Nursing Team Leader in Plattsburgh and Katie LePage, RN Case Manager.

### Did You Know?

Recent government action has reversed the decision to include voluntary advance care planning consultations as part of a Medicare beneficiaries' annual wellness exam. This voluntary consultation with a physician, however, is still part of the "welcome to Medicare" exam as it has been since 2008.

We strongly encourage and support advance care planning, including having discussions with healthcare providers and family members and completing an advance care directive (living will and health care proxy). Rather than make decisions in a time of crisis, ensure that your family and loved ones understand your end-of-life wishes. The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) Caring Connections offers information on care at the end of life and provides free, state-specific living will and healthcare proxy forms: Visit [www.CaringInfo.org](http://www.CaringInfo.org), or call the HelpLine at 1-800-658-8898.



# HOSPICE *of the* NORTH COUNTRY

## 2011 Events

“Make the Flower Bloom”  
May

Hospice of the North Country Annual Dinner and Volunteer Appreciation Event  
Saturday, May 7, 2011  
Rainbow Banquet Hall, Altona

Plattsburgh Memorial Butterfly Release  
Saturday, June 11, 2011  
Melissa Penfield Park, Plattsburgh

Malone Memorial Butterfly Release  
Saturday, June 18, 2011  
Malone Recreational Park

6th Annual Frank Davio Memorial Golf Tournament  
July 8, 2011  
Malone Golf Club

16th Annual Carol Walleth Memorial Golf Tournament  
July 16, 2011  
North Country Golf Club-Rouses Point

5th Annual Hot Rods for Hospice  
Saturday, August 6, 2011  
8 Ball Billiards Café– Plattsburgh

Light Up A Life 2011  
Month of December– Champlain Centre North-Plattsburgh

27th Ecumenical Christmas Concert  
Sunday, December 4, 2011  
St. Joseph’s Church–Malone

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Visit us on the web at [www.hospicenc.org](http://www.hospicenc.org)

358 Tom Miller Road  
Plattsburgh, New York 12901



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