



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

It's that time of year, isn't it? The Holiday Season, when our hearts fill with joy, our bellies fill with home baked goodies and turkey, and when we start thinking about giving to those we love. I don't know about you but as I get older giving gets more personal. A handmade gift here, a favorite batch of cookies for someone special there. All the while we cherish the memories that weave the tapestry of our lives. I believe we all get a little retrospective and sentimental about what we are thankful for. As we examine the happenings of the year, I am so thankful for all of it. The things that went well, even the things that could've been better, and I set goals for the year to come. There are so many things, right? Where do you begin to remember all the things we are so fortunate to have or have experienced this year?

Here at Charlotte House, it is no different. The list is endless. It always begins and ends with our residents who allowed us to care for them during the year. It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of their journey. It is something we don't take lightly. We realize the immense trust they put in us to make sure they are comfortable, and that their end-of-life journey is meaningful and peaceful. How can we possibly thank them for the gift of being here with us? It truly is a treasure to each of us here and we are honored to care for each person who comes to Charlotte House.

Then of course there are the volunteers and staff that give of themselves without hesitation to keep the Charlotte House mission going forward. There are many different types of volunteers that empower us to do what we do: caregivers, fundraisers, board members, house management (cleaning, watering plants, inventories, you name it). They all work to welcome our residents and ensure that each resident feels loved, cared for and peaceful during their time of need. To say we are grateful for our volunteers falls short of the magnitude of thanks we have for them. None of this is possible without these selfless people.

How do we thank the families of our residents who become part of our extended family at Charlotte House? There is a bonding with the family that occurs esoterically, and it is beautiful. Our hearts take them in and love them as we do the residents. In our hearts we share their

joys, their sorrows, their grief, and their thankfulness. We laugh with them, cry with them, support them and honor their loved one right alongside them. We are so thankful for this opportunity to have a piece of our heart transformed with each resident we care for.

Then, of course we must thank our donors. There are not enough words to express our gratitude. I don't even know what to say that can adequately express the love we have for them. Many give so much and many give as much as they can. Every bit of monetary or in-kind donation is what keeps our doors open. People's generosity constantly amazes me. The people of the community and their propensity to give and support leaves me in absolute awe. Whether it is for a fundraiser, a check in the mail, a knock on our door with an in-kind donation of goods, a bequest or a legacy gift, donors are precious in our sights.

We are so thankful for the many community partners that support Charlotte House. Our gratitude extends in many directions. We thank Homecare and Hospice of Wyoming County. We also thank the medical teams and physicians both in private practice and through our local hospitals. Charlotte House wouldn't be able to continue without the referrals we receive from discharge planners, social workers, nurses, and administrators throughout the medical community. Sinclair Pharmacy works with us every step of the way to make prescriptions accessible in an expedient way. We thank all of you for your vote of confidence.

We send a special thank you to our Chambers of Commerce, Wyoming County, Warsaw, Arcade, and East Aurora for their services have been invaluable. We would be remiss to not add in the local fire departments, ambulance and EMT services that work to transport our residents here safely. A very special thank you goes out to our local funeral homes that provide services to our residents and their loved ones at the end. A very special thank you to Barb Knight of The Arcade Herald for covering all our events and making a special effort to highlight what Charlotte House is all about! The list goes on and on and each one that I add to the list brings a smile of gratitude to my face. Thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

**2024:** We are looking toward you with hope in our hearts. Our goals have been set to reach more individuals that may not know about what Charlotte House Comfort Care is. It is important to us to serve more people during their end-of-life journey. We want to entice more people to volunteer with us so that they too can know the incredible mission that is Charlotte House. Most of all we want to live in gratitude for all our blessings, including all who touch our hearts every day.



Victoria Tiebor and Marisa Sanders of the Arcade VFW post. She donated her tips of \$1,100 from the day before and after Thanksgiving to Charlotte House!



Victoria Tiebor receiving \$1000 check from Melody Kemmerer, owner and Kayla Hintz of Mel's Place Restaurant in Chaffee. Mel hosted a craft fair this summer with the proceeds coming to Charlotte House!



Victoria Tiebor and Emily Parmeter, owner of Lux Salon in Arcade. Emily held a Holiday basket raffle with proceeds of \$1,900 coming to Charlotte House!



## THANK YOU FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello everyone, as they say, "time flies when you're having fun". My time here is proof positive that it is true! It has been a wonderful 9-month journey with Charlotte House and hard to believe that time has flown so fast. I cannot express how much I love this mission. I have had the privilege of working with such incredible people, both here and in the community. I have learned so much about what a tight knit community this is and how giving our citizens are! I try my best to always live a life of gratitude and with Charlotte House, our volunteers, our staff, our board, and our supporters make it easy for me! These past 9 months have been eventful. We have had some incredible happenings like our Spirits Night event, our Duck Derby, the Strykersville Fireman's Parade with our Duck Float, selling Tacos in a Bag at the Strykersville Town Wide Garage Sale, we ran the snack concession at the Java Town Park Soccer Field, we were the guests of honor at Mel's Diner for their first annual vendor show and the Varysburg tree lighting with proceeds going to Charlotte House. We served ice cream at The Wyoming County Fair in Pike, we had a Vendor Show at Hope Lutheran Church in Arcade, we hosted our Annual Meat Raffle and we even snuck in a new event...Trunk or Treat on Halloween! I'm proud to say that all were a booming success.

We have just concluded our annual Holiday Basket Raffle. This is an all-time favorite event for many! It's exciting because your ticket buys you chances to win daily from Thanksgiving until Christmas. If you win, your ticket gets re-entered for a chance to win again! Tickets are a bargain at \$10.00 each. If you missed it, no fear, remember it for next year! We hosted a Holiday Wonderland Comfort Care Homes Bus Tour, free of charge. This was an exciting way for people to learn about Comfort Care Homes in Wyoming County. It included bus transportation, a Holiday extravaganza of lights, decorations, breakfast, lunch and dessert. It was a lively group and fun was had by all! Thank you to Suzanne's and Gateway Homes for joining in the festivities.

I am excited to tell you about some of the events that are coming up here at Charlotte House! Our website ([www.charlottehousecomfortcare.org](http://www.charlottehousecomfortcare.org)) is featuring an opportunity to make your shopping easy this year. We are selling RADA Cutlery. Don't let the name fool you. It is much more than cutlery and I am happy to report that their prices are very affordable and of great quality! Check it out!

As we enter the New Year, we will be starting it off with exciting new events. So far, we are planning a Fireman's Invitational Chili Cook-off March 10, 2024, open to the public, Maple Excursion on the A & A Railroad (March 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2024), A Valentine's Love and Luminaries event (February 10, 2024) as a tribute to loved ones that have passed or as a beautiful way to say, "I Love you" to anyone! We will be hosting a Heartstrings event in the Spring (early June) that will feature art and literature. We are also exploring a possible Super Bowl celebration, an Easter celebration and possibly something new in the early summer featuring music. Please stay tuned for more information. Of course, there will be more of our tried, true and beloved events that everyone so graciously supports.

Thank you to everyone who supported Charlotte House in 2023, we hope to earn your support in 2024. Thank you for welcoming me into my new role as Executive Director. It's my honor to be here and to be part of this awesome team. I have so enjoyed the past 9 months and look forward to welcoming in a New Year full of promise and hope! I wish you an amazing New Year filled with health and happiness.

## Did you know?

Our monthly board meetings are open to the public. Our Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 in the Holy Family Church Hall at 4316 Route 98, North Java. Any group or individual wanting to address the Board, must submit a written request (including the topic) to the Board President, Kathy Schwab, at least 1 week prior to the meeting.

## Board of Directors:

Kathy Schwab,  
President  
Harry Beckous,  
Vice President  
Donna Kibler, Secretary  
Sandy Janes, Treasurer  
Andrea Aldinger  
Rachel Ashcroft  
Kimberly Bragg  
Doris Kirsch  
Kathy Schwab  
Pat Standish  
Carol Wittman

## LYNN'S ICED PUMPKIN COOKIES

*A perfect harvest holiday treat that both kids and adults love!*

Recipe yields 36 cookies/servings

Prep: 20 minutes/Cook: 15 minutes / Additional: 30 minutes/Total: 1hr 5 minutes

### Ingredients:

#### Cookies

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 tsp. ground cinnamon  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 tsp ground nutmeg  
1/2 tsp. ground cloves  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 1/2 cups white sugar  
1/2 cup butter, softened  
1 cup canned pumpkin puree  
1 egg  
1 tsp. vanilla extract

#### Icing

2 cups confectioners' sugar  
3 tbs. milk  
1 tbs. melted butter  
1 tsp. vanilla extract

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F

Grease 2 cookie sheets

Make cookies: Combine flour, cinnamon, baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg, cloves, and salt in a medium bowl

Cream together sugar and butter in a mixing bowl until fluffy, 2 to 3 minutes. Add pumpkin, egg, and vanilla; beat until creamy. Mix in flour until combined. Drop tablespoons of dough onto the prepared cookie sheets; flatten slightly.

Bake in the preheated oven until centers are set, 15 - 20 minutes, switching racks halfway through. Transfer cookies to a wire rack to cool to room temperature, about 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, make icing: Stir together confectioners' sugar, milk, butter, and vanilla in a bowl until smooth. Add milk as needed to achieve drizzling consistency.

Drizzle icing over cooled cookies with a fork.

*Enjoy!*

**Thanks to your generous donations,** Charlotte House is able to serve our community by providing individuals at end-of-life with the love and respect of an extended family.

Since the opening of Charlotte House, we have provided comfort care to more than 40 community members each with their own story, each leaving an imprint on our hearts. Your donation will help cover the costs associated with running the home, everything from utilities and associated insurances to everyday supplies. As you probably know, there is never any charge to the resident or their family for the length of their stay with us. Our existence completely relies on the support and generosity of supporters like you through donations, participation in our fundraisers and grants that we are so fortunate to receive.

We are asking you to please consider a one time gift of support or possibly a pledge of monthly donation for any amount during our 2024 annual appeal.

With sincere appreciation,  
The Charlotte House Board of Directors



## OUR VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Here at Charlotte House, we rely so heavily on the generosity and service of our volunteers. It is difficult to choose a volunteer to spotlight for each edition of our newsletter. Each one of our volunteers contributes selflessly to making our mission happen day-to-day and month-to-month. We are so blessed to have each one of them.

This time around, it is an honor to spotlight Katie Shaver and her family! Katie has worked tirelessly on fundraising efforts for Charlotte House. There are 3 major initiatives that she heads up for us. She oversees our Annual Duck Derby and Meat Raffle. This year she also added a new event for us that was a tremendous success, our 1st annual Vendor Show. Katie is very humble about what she does for Charlotte House, but it is monumental and so incredibly appreciated. So now here is a little about Katie and her beautiful family...

Katie has been married to her husband Dennis for almost 23 years. They have 3 wonderful children, Tyler, Aaron, and Samantha. They have lived in Java for most of their married life. Katie served as the Director for Java Recreation Department, and it was at a Board meeting that Katie and her family heard Bill Streicher (Wyoming County Emergency Services) discussing the need for volunteers. She learned that the average age for volunteer firemen was over 50. Dennis and her sons were interested in lending hours to help the community through service to the fire department. At the same time, she found out about Charlotte House and our constant need for volunteers. She decided to offer her services to Charlotte House and the rest is history! Katie does not do hands-on care with our residents, but her fundraising service is no less vital to our mission. Katie's fundraising efforts are a large part of making sure we can offer end-of-life care to people in need, free of charge. Katie and her entire family constantly take part in helping Charlotte House! Their family has become our fundraising dynamo! They are quick to help and quick to come up with new and exciting ideas! Even our Duck Derby was born out of trying to do fundraising without people having to be hands on. The first year, during Covid, they single handedly ran the first Derby and it was a great success! The Shaver Family is community minded and always willing to help. They are a shining example of giving of oneself. Katie is to be commended for being the mother and wife of this dynamic family and for the value they have for volunteerism. I'm not sure what we would do without the Shaver Family. Our gratitude is tremendous and our love for Katie, Dennis, Tyler, Aaron, and Samantha makes our hearts full!

*Thank you to the Shavers from all of us at Charlotte House!*

## From the Resident Care Corner: **WHY WON'T THEY EAT?**

More times than not, when we have a resident at Charlotte House, families become concerned when their loved one refuses to eat, declines the offer of food, or quite literally pushes food offered to them away, if they have the strength to do so.

Sometimes families feel it's neglectful when we do not force the residents to eat, or insist they eat on a regular basis.

Food is always offered to our residents throughout the day, as are liquids. However, it is their right to refuse to eat or drink, just as it is anyone else's right who would not be in a comfort care setting.

There are many factors that go into the overall care of the residents once they come into Charlotte House, and nutrition is of the utmost importance. However, as an individual enters the stage of comfort care, the body also plays a key role in deciding how much sleep, food, hydration, activity, and medication is needed to sustain them at this crucial time.

As far as nutrition is concerned, the process of digestion requires an immense amount of energy and is the first body system to actually shut down, allowing the body to disperse that energy which would normally be used for this process to be sent elsewhere, where it will be put to better use.

Because of this, an individual will not require any food to produce the energy needed to fulfill the digestive process, and therefore will no longer want to eat, need to eat, and will most likely refuse to eat.

Most family members find this a hard concept to accept, and will themselves try to feed their loved one, even though the process has already begun. This can be dangerous at times for several reasons. It can pose a choking hazard for the resident, especially if they pocket the food they did not want in the first place, it can cause excessive bloating, which can cause undue pain, and at times can lead to constipation, nausea and vomiting.

Each volunteer and staff member is well trained in methods they can use to deliver small amounts of liquids to our residents to help keep their mouths moist, aid in the taking of prescribed medications, and help in their overall comfort.

Rest assured, each and every individual here at Charlotte House has nothing but the best intentions at heart for every resident that touches our hearts.

## DENNIS J. WITTMAN MEMORIAL

We are honored to have a Memorial sitting/reflection area outside of Charlotte House in honor of Dennis J. Wittman. Carol and daughters, Holly and Jennifer, donated the funds to create a memorial for their late Husband and Father. They felt it important not only to honor his memory but create a peaceful and quiet spot to pray, think or reflect while enjoying a beautiful outdoor space. Families and guests can utilize this area during any season. Carol chose a beautiful Amish built bench and table. A memorial marker will be placed at a later date. You can feel the lasting love and care they have for Dennis by this amazing gesture.

Dennis married Carol (Chmielowiec) in 1971. He was a devoted husband and father.

Dennis had a beloved Husky named Kodah. When sitting on the bench you can almost imagine Dennis and Kodah sitting there together, enjoying the afternoon sunshine.

We were honored to care for Dennis at Charlotte House during 2020. He passed away on July 1, 2020. Dennis led a distinguished life and career. He retired after 36 years as a Probation Officer in Genesee County, however, that was only the beginning. He spent the rest of his life specializing in serving others, advocating, and devoting himself to children and women's rights. He was even appointed by the esteemed Governor George Pataki to lead the New York Citizen's Review Board for Abused Children. He traveled worldwide engaging others in education regarding the law on victim's rights.

His wife Carol became a board member of Charlotte House after Dennis passed. Carol contributes in numerous ways and focuses on reaching people who need Comfort Care. She is a constant advocate for our residents, staff, and volunteers.







**CHARLOTTE**  
— **HOUSE**  
Comfort Care Home



Non-Profit Organization  
Standard Mail  
**US Postage PAID**  
Geneseo, NY 14454  
**Permit No. 29**

4316 Route 98  
P.O. Box 123  
North Java, New York 14113



charlottehouseinc@gmail.com  
CharlotteHouseComfortCare.Org  
(585) 535-4065

*Charlotte House, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.  
Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law.*



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**Donations:** Please consider donating to Charlotte House. We rely on donations and fundraising to make our mission a reality. Please remember that we receive no funding from Medicare, Medicaid, New York State or the federal government. All we do, we are able to do because of the generosity of people like you! *Thank You!*

## SPECIAL NOTE

# THANK YOU

We would like to thank our outgoing Board President, Kim Bragg for her hard work and dedication to Charlotte House. Kim remains a vital part of our board and a faithful resident care volunteer!

We welcome our incoming Board President Kathy Schwab. Kathy Schwab has been a longtime supporter and member of the Charlotte House Board. We are excited about her new role as President.

We are so grateful for both incredible women. They are a gift, and we appreciate everything they contribute!

## Wish list:



Disposable Gloves- Size Large  
Adult Wipes  
No water/rinse free shampoo caps  
Kitchen size and small trash bags  
Swiffer Sweeper wet cloth refills  
Biotene  
Medihoney wound gel  
Coffee- (k-cups)  
Multipurpose printer paper

Please go to:

**<https://a.co/02Nrn4j>**

to see an updated list of needed items on Amazon.