

Newsletter

Spring 2024
#56



Lead Volunteer Coordinator Amy Blongy and January Volunteer of the Month, Linda Danielovich



Frank Bourn, January Volunteer of the Month



Sylvia Detscher, February Volunteer of the Month



Pauline Pope, February Volunteer of the Month



Hank Offinger in *Barrymore's Ghost*, June 15 at The Barnstormers Theatre



Birthday Brigade recipients: Bill M., Mark R., Dale B., and Deborah M.

A Season of New Beginnings

With Kathryn Holt promoted to Executive Director and Amy Blongy continuing as Lead Coordinator, three positions have merged into two. Kathryn has been attending many events throughout the towns we serve to promote Interlakes Community Caregivers. She also helped organize a "Business After Hours" at Gusto Italian Café with the Meredith Area Chamber of Commerce. ICCI has been fortunate to have **five new members join our Board**. Amy has trained **11 new volunteers** and continues to help ICCI run smoothly. More volunteers are needed. Please contact Amy at ablongy@interlakescares.org if you are interested.

Beginning in 2024, we started a **Volunteer of the Month** program. ICCI wouldn't exist without our volunteers, and we cannot thank them enough for all they do. In January, we recognized our first two recipients, Frank Bourn and Linda Danielovich. Frank provided some very early morning rides to take Neighbors for surgeries. Linda assisted a Neighbor who needed extra care during an extremely difficult week. In February, we recognized Pauline Pope, for completing a large project in the office, while continuing to deliver birthday bags and provide rides. We also recognized Sylvia Detscher, who filled many ride requests at the last minute.

The **Birthday Brigade** continues to be a huge success. Our Neighbors are very appreciative and grateful for their birthday bags.

The following fundraisers are scheduled in the next couple of months:

Tuesday, April 16, Noon – 8 pm Free Cone Day at Ben & Jerry's, Meredith

Friday, May 3, 11:30 am – 9 pm at The Mug Restaurant, Center Harbor

Saturday, June 15, 7:30 pm *Barrymore's Ghost* at The Barnstormers Theatre

We are still looking for sponsorships for *Barrymore's Ghost*. Please contact Kathryn at kholt@interlakescares.org if you are interested.

As we approach the summer of 2024, I can see that we have been incredibly blessed at Interlakes Community Caregivers in all facets of this organization. Since the last time I wrote to you there have been many positive changes as we continue to assist our Neighbors get from here to there.

In November 2023, we hired Kathryn Holt to be our new Executive Director. Kathryn has been with Caregivers for some time in a part-time role and now, with her new leadership, Kathryn is helping this organization to thrive. We have five new board members. Evelyn Lamprey, Diane Poh, John Valpey, Wendy Bagley, and Marc Fils-Aime have joined our Board since last November, and all five are primed to make notable contributions to our active board. We set a goal in October 2023 to train 20 new volunteers by May 31, 2024; and with the strong leadership of Amy Blongy, our Lead Coordinator, we have trained eleven new volunteers who will help drive our Neighbors. We also have volunteers working with us in the office to help with day-to-day operations. So far it appears we are successfully meeting our goals for 2024.

We need more help. We are actively looking for two more directors to round out the executive team. Do you think you could help oversee Interlakes Community Caregivers? We are searching for at least another nine volunteers to assist our Neighbors. Do you like to drive? Can you spare a few hours each week to help your Neighbor get to their appointments? If any of these opportunities seem right to you, please reach out and let's see how you might help keep this local organization strong.

I am proud to be in this position and I pray that together we can help to make a difference in our Neighbor's life today.



**CHAIRMAN'S
CORNER**



David, Debra and Steven



Leslie, Len, Irena and Sheila



Bill



Chase and Susan

New Volunteers

Bill Goebel: Bill is a native of Massachusetts. He worked as an engineer for his own company for more than 30 years. He and his wife have now retired to Meredith. Bill enjoys sports, the lake, and spending time with his family.

Bill Scott (not pictured): Bill is a native of Massachusetts. He spent his career as an insurance underwriter for Liberty Mutual in Boston. Bill and his wife now reside in Moultonborough. Bill enjoys spending time with his family and traveling with his wife.

David Lowman: David is a U.S. Army veteran, retired from Verizon, and a doting grandfather to his 4-year-old granddaughter. He and his wife Dyan reside in Meredith and Manchester. He enjoys spending time with his family and is excited to get to know Neighbors in our program.

Debra Swingle: Deb is a resident of Meredith. She is a busy Mom to 4 adult children but would also like to give back to the community. She enjoys crocheting, crafting, scrapbooking, and ice skating.

Steven Konjoian: Steve is a part-time resident of Meredith, and a part-time resident of Port Charlotte, Florida. He is a retired Merchant Marine. He enjoys golfing, boating, and hiking. He is excited to spend time volunteering when he is in the area.

Susan Rozelle: Susan is a resident of Center Sandwich. She was a previous educator and day care director. Her interests include

cooking, stained glass, reading, hiking, and traveling. She is very excited to give back to the community. She also volunteers at the library.

Chase Rozelle: Chase is a resident of Center Sandwich. He was a former professor of literature and theater. His interests include carpentry, woodworking, writing, and photography.

Len Wetherbee: Len is a resident of Center Ossipee. He was a police chief in Concord, MA, and Moultonborough. He enjoys snowmobiling and camping. He is looking forward to giving back to this community.

Leslie Muscanell: Leslie is a resident of Moultonborough. She and her family are originally from Massachusetts. She was an IT Director for Tadeka Pharmacy. She and her husband enjoy traveling and spending time with friends and family. She previously cared for her elderly father and is looking forward to helping others in similar situations.

Irena Lavin: Irena is a resident of Meredith. She lost her husband 6 months ago, after being his caretaker for several years during his illness. She has a wonderful caring spirit, and genuinely wants to help other people.

Sheila Grad: Sheila is a resident of Meredith. She worked for LRVNA for 27 years before retiring. She now does private home health care part time and is looking forward to helping as her schedule allows.

New Board Members



Evelyn Lamprey



John Valpey



Diane Poh



Wendy Pelczar Bagley



Marc Fils-Aime

To learn more about our board members, services and how you can volunteer, visit interlakescares.org

ICCI Board of Directors

Chris Kelly, President
David Hughes, Vice President
Dyan Lowman, Secretary
George Jewell, Treasurer
Susan Gutchess
Hank Offinger
Will Speers
Merron Treadwell
Evelyn Lamprey
John Valpey
Diane Poh
Wendy Pelczar Bagley
Marc Fils-Aime

Meredith
Center Harbor
Meredith
Meredith
Sandwich
Sandwich
Sandwich
Moultonborough
Madison
Meredith
Meredith
Meredith
Epsom

A TIME TO REMEMBER



Charlotte Leavitt

A time for reflection and remembering. Anniversaries, especially 25th anniversaries, are milestones that remind us to think of all the steps taken to get to the present. Fortunately, at Community Caregivers, Charlotte Leavitt, who was there at the beginning, can fill in the whole story of what is now known as Interlakes Community Caregivers, Inc. (ICCI).

Back in 1998, a small group of members at the Center Harbor Congregational Church were looking for service opportunities in the community. Rides for neighbors to medical appointments, grocery stores, and pharmacies was a recurring theme. But how to make this happen? There was a lot to consider: who would use the service; how would rides be scheduled and completed; how many volunteers would be needed? And all of this before the regular use of computers and cell phones! Much planning and discussion ensued to finally get a program in place in November of 1998.

Over the years requests increased, the administration of services moved to office space in Moultonborough, and ultimately ICCI became an official 501(c)3 organization. With the exception of some paid part-time help added after 2 years, all services were provided by many generous volunteers who answered phones and coordinated and delivered services. Charlotte notes that "people responded because they could see that they were helping someone." She feels that the organization followed a regular growth process that now encompasses four towns, a training program, and computerized scheduling. A lot happens in 25 years.

Charlotte still keeps her hand in at ICCI, leading parts of the volunteer training up until Spring of 2023. She admires all that the staff and volunteers do to keep Caregivers a strong resource for the community. She says that ICCI had a "small country beginning that is now a bigger country."

- Deb Thiboutot

I am pleased to have been promoted to Executive Director last November. Since then, I have been working diligently to increase awareness of Interlakes Community Caregivers and our services. I am listening to our volunteers and am very appreciative for all that they do. I admire their dedication and willingness to give their time to their Neighbors.

We have an amazing Board of Directors helping ICCI to be successful. I cannot thank them enough for their never-ending support and willingness to help.

I would also like to thank all our donors. Each and every donation enables us to continue to provide our services free of charge. With everyone working together, we are able to help our Neighbors remain in their homes. I look forward to continuing to lead this organization in the right direction.

Sincerely, Kathryn Holt



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
NOTE**

April 16 - Free Cone Day!



Tuesday, April 16, Noon to 8 pm

Free Cone Day at Mill Falls Marketplace, Meredith
We partner with our local Ben & Jerry's on April 16 when they give out free ice cream (one scoop).

May 3 - Join us at The Mug!



Friday, May 3, 11:30 am – 9 pm

Have a great time at The Mug and support ICCI! We receive 10% of the proceeds from this event.

MISSION STATEMENT

Interlakes Community Caregivers provides rides, other direct support services and community resource information to assist our neighbors to remain independent.

PO Box 78, Center Harbor, NH 03226

If you would like to receive the ICCI Newsletter via email, please email Amy Blongy at ablongy@interlakescares.org to be added to our email list.

JUNE 15 - SAVE THE DATE!



June 15 at 7:30 pm in Tamworth, NH.

We are excited to announce that we are partnering with The Barnstormers Theatre to present *Barrymore's Ghost*. This exciting production features ICCI Board Member and Barnstormers Alum Hank Offinger.

If you would like to support this event, buy tickets at barnstormerstheatre.org or become an event sponsor by contacting us at 603-253-9275.