

# Newsletter

Winter 2024  
#58



## Reflecting on the Last Year

Interlakes Community Caregivers, Inc., is not the same organization it was one year ago. This year has been full of many changes and successes. Last November we hired a new Executive Director, and a lot has been accomplished since then. We have added new fundraising events, a Volunteer of the Month program, and our presence in the communities we serve has grown exponentially. We also hosted three Open Houses, trained 16 new volunteers, and started friendly visits again. We have a full Board of Directors with varied backgrounds and they are all excited to contribute to the great work of our organization. Our Birthday Brigade program continues to bring smiles and happiness to each Neighbor we serve. Our Neighbors are thrilled to be remembered on their special day and our volunteers enjoy being a part of this program. ICCI also continues to help ease the social isolation felt by many of our Neighbors.



Bill and Alice

In 2023, ICCI volunteers provided over 2,400 services, donated over 3,300 hours and drove 46,700 miles to ensure our Neighbors could visit their doctor, pick up groceries, fill prescriptions and other necessary personal errands.

We can't do all this without support from people like you. If you have already donated to our Annual Appeal, we thank you for your support. If you haven't donated yet, you can donate on our website at [interlakescares.org](http://interlakescares.org), scan the QR code on the back page of this newsletter, or mail your check in the enclosed envelope. Please also consider making a monthly donation so we can continue to provide our services free of charge to our Neighbors.

In the coming year, our goals include updating our strategic plan and having gatherings for our Neighbors. We need your help to be able to accomplish these goals and keep ICCI strong.



Summer Newsletter Stuffing



Caroline, Birthday Brigade Recipient

ICCI • 603-253-9275



Marie and Pauline, Birthday Brigade recipient

Winter 2024 - Newsletter

I often say, "This is a simple yet important organization that fills a great need in our community." The work we have done over the past twelve months has not all been simple, but it has been positive and successful. In the past twelve months we promoted Kathryn Holt to Executive Director - success. We have empowered Amy Blongy to oversee the volunteers - success. We have enacted programs that help us shine - success. Over the past twelve months we have brought new Directors to the Board creating a full and diverse group to oversee the organization - success. From where I sit, I see we are having fun at the Interlakes Community Caregivers and as we have fun, we are thriving.

As you can imagine, it's easier when you have good management; however, we are always in need of your assistance. As we get closer to the winter season when many of our volunteers travel to warmer climates, we need to fill our volunteer base with reliable, local talent. Do you like to drive? Do you like to share your time with others? Do you see the value of helping your neighbor? We would really appreciate hearing from you if you believe that you would make a great volunteer for our organization.

Finally, as the end of the year is near, we are always looking for financial support from our community. Please consider making a financial gift so we can continue to help our community.



**CHAIRMAN'S CORNER**

*I thank you... Chris Kelly*

## New Volunteers



Maryjane D. lives in Moultonborough and moved here permanently 2 years ago from Hampton, NH. She retired from her career in sales after 34 years. She's looking forward to volunteering for ICCI.

Lynn S. is from Moultonborough and retired from a lifelong career in the Early Care and Education field. She enjoys walking, reading, playing flute, and spending time with her family and friends.

Eytan W. lives in Meredith and is retired after 38 years as an Engineer and Project Manager in large Industrial Plant Construction. He has worked in 10 countries and visited more than 35 countries. Hobbies are wildlife photography and woodworking.

Janice J. is a 45-year resident of Moultonborough. Her last job was at Golden View Health Care Center. She was an LNA for 12 years. She's been married for 51 years and has three children and five grandchildren. After retiring, she wanted a meaningful way to give back to her neighbors.

## Volunteers of the Month



July: Deb T. (with Amy Blongy)



July: Dee J. (with Amy Blongy)



August: Sally S. and Nanette B.



September: Peter W. and Deb S.



## New Board Member

### Peg Gavenonis, Moultonborough

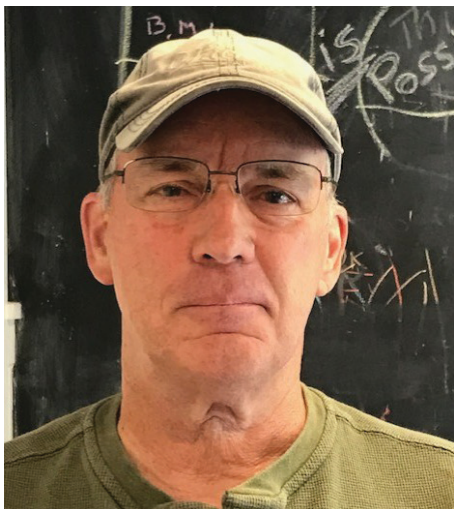
After beginning her career at Coopers & Lybrand in Boston, she joined Polaroid and was a Financial Controller across many divisions, traveling extensively worldwide. Upon retirement she and her husband settled permanently in Moultonborough. She then offered her services to St. Charles Church, where she still operates as Chair of Finance, Chair of Fundraising, Director of Communion Ministers, Leader of the Book

Group, Chair of the annual Blessing of Animals (in conjunction with four other churches), Minister to Meredith Bay Colony Club, Official Wedding Coordinator and warbles often as soprano cantor! Peg has a B.S. in Accounting (Penn State), an MBA (Boston College) and her CPA (MA).

Peg's joys and passions range from opera, symphony and Broadway, to kitties of any kind, wine and politics. She has volunteered at the NH Humane Society and is mom to six geriatric and dearly loved darlings of the feline variety.

She is delighted to have recently been welcomed as a board member and looks forward to many new friendships and exciting adventures!

# INSPIRATION AND DEDICATION



Len Wetherbee

**“Wherever you turn, you can find someone who needs you. Even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it.”**

— Albert Schweitzer

Interlakes Community Caregivers, Inc. (ICCI) relies on many people who give their time for “the privilege of doing it.” But our volunteers are also rewarded in other ways.

Len Wetherbee became an ICCI volunteer in early 2024. He had formerly been a police chief in both Concord, Massachusetts and in Moultonborough, NH. A resident of Ossipee, Len knew when he retired that he still wanted to stay connected with the Moultonborough community and to give something back. A conversation with a friend who volunteers put him in touch with Community Caregivers. Len has found that he gets so much more back from his experience than he ever expected.

“I find volunteering to be inspiring and humbling. I’ve never had a bad ride.” He speaks of the Neighbors he’s met and the great conversations they’ve

shared traveling to appointments or running errands. “There’s always commonality” when volunteer and Neighbor meet, Len notes.

When asked what Len would tell someone who is considering becoming a volunteer, he replies that the reason “to give back” when one signs up will be repaid many times over. Most rides become a chance to meet and make a new friend. Neighbors are eager to share their stories and bring you into their lives. He advises potential volunteers not to be apprehensive about the process. Selecting rides is based on the volunteer’s schedule and can be as frequent or infrequent as availability allows.

Treat yourself, and be a good neighbor.....the rewards will be yours.

*~ Deb Thiboutot*

## Birthday Brigade



As I reflect on the past year and my time as Executive Director, I am very proud of everything that has been accomplished. When I was growing up, whenever I was asked what I wanted to be, I always answered, "I want to help people." Every note, every card from Neighbors and others that support our program, makes me smile knowing I am helping people. New programs have been implemented, communication has increased, and I feel fortunate to be a part of this organization. I am happy to see the Birthday Brigade continuing since Audrey Wedick, previous Lead Coordinator, suggested the idea and started the program. Our current Program Supervisor, Amy Blongy, keeps this program going strong. Implementing the Volunteer of the Month Program and having "Social Hour" have been wonderful additions to our organization. I enjoy getting to know our volunteers better and being engaged with the program on many levels. I am happy with the connections I have made to be able to have more successful fundraisers and Open Houses. The community support is amazing. I am excited to have a full and active Board of Directors with diverse backgrounds and a variety of experiences. It is an absolute pleasure to work with them. I am impressed with the progress that has been made and look forward to continuing on this successful and rewarding path. For those who are able to, thank you for donating to our Annual Appeal so we can continue the critical and vital work we do.



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

*Sincerely, Kathryn Hott*

## 2024 Fundraising Appeal



Peter and Frank P.

### Please donate to our Annual Appeal.

I know we can count on you to help us continue to provide rides free of charge to our Neighbors. You can donate on our website at [interlakescares.org](http://interlakescares.org), scan the QR code below, or mail your check in the enclosed envelope.



*I thank you... Chris Kelly*

## WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY



A scheduled service is canceled if schools are delayed (if the service is in the morning) or closed (service at any time of that day) in the Inter-Lakes School District, or Moultonborough School District or at the destination of the service.

In addition, if the volunteer assigned for any reason feels it is unsafe to drive, then the service will be canceled. Volunteers are encouraged to make the decision the day before a ride if possible. The volunteer assigned, must contact the Neighbor and the Service Line at 603-253-9100 with the cancellation information.

### ICCI Board of Directors

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

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

### OUR MISSION

Interlakes Community Caregivers, Inc. supports the independence, safety, comfort and dignity of our adult neighbors within our designated communities through the services provided by our volunteers.

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](mailto:ablongy@interlakescares.org) to be added to our email list.