

Newsletter

Summer 2025
#60



ANNUAL MEETING & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Volunteers, Board Members, donors, community members and staff gathered at the Center Harbor Congregational Church to celebrate 27 years of providing services to our Neighbors in need. We were fortunate to have co-founder Charlotte Leavitt speak about how much ICCI has grown. Awards were given to volunteers that drove over one thousand miles, provided the most trips (Pauline P.), most hours (Board Member Evelyn L.), and drove the most miles (Paul H.) in 2024. We also presented Frank B. with the Charlotte A. Leavitt Award and recognized Heather Bishop of Lakes 101.5 FM with our first Community Partner Award. It was a wonderful way to spend an afternoon celebrating our volunteers and all they do for ICCI.



Interlakes Community Caregivers just celebrated our staff, our Board, and of course, our volunteers for another year of success. When I think about all the opportunities that ICCI brings to the people of Meredith, Center Harbor, Moultonborough, and Sandwich, it helps me smile. On June 26, 2025, we celebrated 27 years ICCI has been helping our Neighbors. It was a fun celebration held outside (just before the rain) at the Center Harbor Congregational Church, the birthplace of this great organization. This day we brought together over 55 people. We are thankful to our grill masters, who shared their time and talent - thank you Tim, Patrick, David and Jason. We are thankful to Kathryn as our organizer, and Amy and Karen who assisted Kathryn in making this event a success. They also did a really nice job with getting our Board and other volunteers to help set up so when our guests started to arrive, we were able to engage, chat and have fun. We saw many longtime friends and we met some new volunteers and Board members as well.

We are very thankful for the work our outgoing Board Members Susan Gutchess, Hank Offinger and Merron Treadwell offered to our Board while they helped to guide this program. We now have three new Board Members: Peter Whelley, Danielle Bertagna, and Jennifer Williams join us as we move forward to stay strong and continue to thrive. We are fortunate to have such a diverse and talented Board.

As always, I am blessed to be in the position that I am with this organization. As we continue to help our Neighbors, we continue to help our community. As we celebrate volunteers and staff we build a stronger bond with our community. I say "Thank you" to all who work to keep Interlakes Community Caregivers active and able to serve those in need. I look forward to what the future brings.

I thank you... Chris Kelly

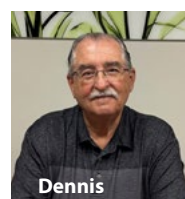


CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

New Volunteers



New Volunteers (L to R) Cindy, Laura, Sandy



Dennis

Cindy D. grew up in New Boston, New Hampshire. She then lived in Holderness for 36 years, where she worked as an accountant and business owner. Cindy now resides part time on Cow Island, and part time in Meredith. She is excited to give back to the community and connect with people.

Laura P. was a resident of Littleton, Massachusetts, until January 2025, when she and her husband moved to Moultonborough. She worked at Biotech for 35 years. She is an avid dog lover and returns to Massachusetts frequently with her dogs for classes and competitions. She also enjoys gardening, cooking, skiing, and snowmobiling. Laura would like to give back to the community that has helped her family, as well as get to know new people.

Sandy P. is originally from Framingham, Massachusetts. During her career, she worked in retail and owned a business. She and her husband moved to Meredith in 2019. Sandy volunteers for Heart and Hands Thrift Shop three days a week. She spends winters in Florida and enjoys gardening and reading. She is excited to give rides to Neighbors in need.

Dennis D. grew up in Massachusetts and settled in Texas to raise his family. He owned and operated several McDonald's franchises, as well as working closely with Ronald McDonald House. In the winter, he travels between Texas and New Hampshire. In the summer, he resides in Moultonborough and enjoys spending time with his family. His hobbies include pickleball, travelling, hiking, and collecting baseball cards and memorabilia. He has been to every major league baseball stadium in the United States! Dennis and his wife are dedicated to giving back to the community, and he is very excited to volunteer for ICCI.

ICCI • 603-253-9275

Volunteers of the Month



March: Susan R.



April: George J.



June: Rose R., with Amy Blongy




208 D W HIGHWAY, MEREDITH, NH, 603-279-0079

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Summer 2025 - Newsletter

Three's the Charm



Good things come in threes. So maybe that's why **Amy Watkins** serves three roles at Interlakes Community Caregivers (ICCI). Her first encounter with Caregivers was as a Neighbor, then she became a volunteer driver and is now also a Volunteer Coordinator.

Amy moved to the Lakes Region after living for many years in Massachusetts and Connecticut. She was declared disabled in 2016 due to a rare genetic disease called Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. This illness affects joints and connective tissue, and is difficult to diagnose. After years of seeing physicians who weren't able link her symptoms to a specific disorder, her diagnosis was finally confirmed. Moving to Meredith in 2022 and needing transportation to her medical

appointments led her to ICCI. She was so grateful for the service and her own positive experience that she decided that, when she was able, she would volunteer herself.

She has benefited from being on both sides of an ICCI ride. As a Neighbor, it has been extremely helpful to have access to transportation when she needs to travel to medical appointments to treat her illness. As a driver, she can see how appreciative Neighbors are to have the service. She says "It's not just the ride, it's the humanness, the connection." It provides a chance for both the Neighbor and the driver to spend time getting to know each other.

Beginning in the Fall of 2023, Amy volunteered to be a Volunteer Coordinator after Community Caregivers sent an email request for assistance. She notes that her disability is no impediment to her volunteering. Schedules for both drivers and coordinators are flexible and can be as many days or hours per month as one prefers. She strongly encourages anyone who is interested or has questions to call and learn more. Amy calls her ICCI experiences "a gift to my soul." That's worth a few hours a month!

By Deb Thiboutot

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Peter Whelley joined ICCI in May of 2023 as a volunteer driver. Although a native New Yorker, he spent much of his childhood in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, before coming to New England to earn a BA in Psychology from Boston University. He has a Masters in School Psychology from the University of Dayton and worked in the public

school systems in Ohio and West Virginia. In 1988 he relocated to New Hampshire to work with public and private schools here, for over 30 years. Peter has been an adjunct faculty member at Shepherd University in West Virginia, and Rivier University and Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. He has been actively involved in the leadership of State, National and International School Psychol-

ogy Associations advocating for the Education and Mental Health for all children. In retirement he and his wife enjoy their children and grandchildren, kayaking, and travel whenever possible. Peter comes to ICCI with the mission to assist our Neighbors to live and age with dignity and respect.



Danielle Bertagna was born in Wolfeboro and has lived in the Lakes Region most of her life. She graduated from Brewster Academy and Colby College, with a Bachelor's degree in English. She spent much of her career working in Public Relations and Marketing in healthcare and education, but in the last 15 years of her career, found her

professional calling working with seniors and their families. She recently retired from her role as Director of Admissions for Assisted Living and Memory Care at Taylor Community. Danielle lives in Sandwich with her husband, Pete, and they have two adult children, Luke and Teagan.



Jennifer Williams brings over a decade of experience in the accounting and finance industry. She owns a financial planning practice based in Gilford and is passionate about the mission of ICCI. Having witnessed the challenges her own grandparents faced as they aged, Jennifer understands the vital role community plays in supporting

older adults. A proud Lakes Region native, Jennifer lives in the area with her husband, Matt, and their loyal (and slightly spoiled) goldendoodle, Oakley. Outside of work, she enjoys gardening, hiking, and soaking up lake life in the summer—then trading it all for ski boots, good books, and hot tea when winter arrives.

ICCI Board of Directors

Chris Kelly, Chair	Meredith
John Valpey, Vice Chair	Meredith
Dyan Lowman, Secretary	Meredith
George Jewell, Treasurer	Meredith
Wendy Pelczar Bagley	Meredith
Danielle Bertagna	Sandwich
Marc Fils-Aime	Epsom
Peg Gavenonis	Moultonborough
Jason Hall	Sandwich
David Hughes	Center Harbor
Evelyn Lamprey	Madison
Diane Poh	Meredith
Will Speers	Sandwich
Peter Whelley	Moultonborough
Jennifer Williams	Center Harbor

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

The Annual Meeting & Volunteer Recognition event was exactly what I had envisioned. I was excited to have the event where Interlakes Community Caregivers began 27 years ago. I was thrilled to have a relaxed, fun barbeque outside, and that more people were able to attend this year. Recognizing and thanking our volunteers, Board Members, and community supporters is one of the best parts of my job. I appreciate everyone's support of our organization and that we all work together to make ICCI successful. This year I decided to establish the Community Partner Award. Heather Bishop of Lakes 101.5 FM has been instrumental in increasing awareness of ICCI and the services we provide by creating a public service announcement and regularly covering our events on her "Good News Story of the Day." As Chris mentioned, we also had three Board Members leave and three new Board Members join us. I would like to thank Susan, Hank, and Merron for their contributions that helped make ICCI a better organization. I have enjoyed getting to know Peter, Danielle and Jennifer and look forward to working with them. I am happy that we continue to have a full and active Board of Directors.

The need for our services continues to increase as we receive new Neighbor applications on a weekly basis. However, we continue to need more volunteers to meet the requests of our Neighbors. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in volunteering, please contact us. I am always happy to answer any questions you may have about our organization.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Sincerely, Kathryn Holt

TO BECOME A SPONSOR OF THE
ONCE AN OUTLAW
PERFORMANCE AND FUNDRAISING
EVENT, VISIT **INTERLAKESCARES.ORG**
OR CALL KATHRYN HOLT
AT 603-253-9275 EXT. 3

*Many thanks to Ben & Jerry's
and The Mug for supporting ICCI!*

BEN & JERRY'S at the Mill Falls Marketplace in Meredith will be celebrating its 30th anniversary on **Sunday August 10th from 12- 3 pm**. Special appearances by co-founders, Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, live music by Craig Jaster, complimentary face painting and FREE sprinkles for all the kiddies is just some of the fun planned! The event also highlights local charitable organizations. Ben & Jerry's will be doing a dollar donation for an additional scoop like they do on Free Cone Day to benefit ICCI.

Spring Newsletter Correction: Edward Sonn, donor for 15+ years

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 contact Amy Blongy at ablongy@interlakescares.org to be added to our email list.

MCCARTHY LAWN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
PRESENTS AN ICCI MUSICAL EVENT BENEFIT

ONCE AN OUTLAW

OCTOBER 23 AT 7:00 PM



THE SOUTHERN ROCK SUPERGROUP FEATURING
Chris Anderson (formerly The Outlaws)
Chris Hicks (Marshall Tucker Band)
Tim Archibald, (Michael McDonald)
Mike Kach (The Dickie Betts Band)
A.J. Vallee (The Southern Rock All-Stars)
Chuck Farrell (James Montgomery)

MOULTONBORO ACADEMY AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL GUESTS:

NASHVILLE REVUE

**FEATURING JONATHAN SARTY
& THE NEW COUNTRY GENTLEMAN**

TICKETS: [INTERLAKESCARES.ORG](http://interlakescares.org) OR CALL 603-253-9275