



HAND-IN-HAND COMFORT FROM GATEWAY HOME!

Providing dignified comfort, care and support for our residents and their families.

DIRECTOR'S Corner

As the summer months have flown by, we have been reflecting on the incredible support and love received from our community.



This season has been bustling with activities:

from our busy concession stands at Darien Lake, to our two spectacular golf tournaments, a fantastic car show, and a touching memorial brick dedication. These events have not only enriched our summer but have also been crucial in supporting our mission.

Inside our walls, we have had the profound privilege of caring for and supporting seven beautiful souls and their families. Fundraising is a continuous effort, vital to fulfilling the pressing needs of our community. Without this support, we wouldn't be able to continue providing the compassionate care that is so essential.

Our community is truly remarkable. Whether it's a need for paper towels or sponsorships, you always step up. This summer, even our mayor joined in the effort, working alongside our volunteers to install memorial brick walkways at Gateway. Your unwavering commitment is something we cherish deeply, and we are grateful beyond words.

We have been honored to care for several beloved members of our hometown this season. Each moment spent caring for your loved ones is a privilege we don't take lightly. Our dedicated volunteers, who undergo thorough background checks and rigorous training, approach their roles with immense respect and commitment. They treat every resident as if they were their own family, and their dedication truly makes them the best of the best.

Once you become part of Gateway, you are embraced as family. We hope that this love and care are felt deeply by all who come through our doors. Thank you for being the heart of our mission and for allowing us to be a part of your lives during your most challenging times.

As the days get shorter and the temperature gets cooler, I pray you find light and warmth with each other. May God bless each of you and may God continue to bless Gateway.

Sara Brunner, Director

DID YOU Know?

The distinctions between comfort care, hospice care, and palliative care can be quite confusing, especially when you're navigating end-of-life care for a loved one.

To help clarify these terms and their purposes, here's a breakdown of each:

Hospice Care:

Hospice cares for individuals suffering from life-limiting illness, with a prognosis of six months or less. Hospice care provides comprehensive physical, emotional, social, and spiritual care that is tailored to an individual's and family's needs and wishes when seeking comfort versus curative treatment.

Palliative Care:

When faced with serious illness, a palliative care team works with patients' physicians to help manage symptoms and related issues to reduce stress and improve quality of life. Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any point during a serious illness and can be provided at the same time as curative treatment.

Comfort Care:

We collaborate with hospice services to ensure that the prescribed care plan is followed accurately. While hospice manages the medication regimen and its administration, we focus on delivering comprehensive 24-hour care for your loved one. This includes assistance with cleaning, feeding, toileting, and providing emotional support.

Gateway Home is a comfort care home. We are a not-for-profit 501C(3) organization that does not charge for any of the services provided, nor does it take any federal or state aid (i.e. Medicaid /Medicare /Insurance). Operational costs equate to approximately \$250,000 annually. Funding is solely accomplished through volunteer efforts, donations, bequests, and community support. Admission is based solely on need and Gateway Home has a working relationship with regional hospice offices, hospitals, and nursing homes that assist families and residents in transitioning to a comfort care facility such as Gateway Home. For more information on Gateway Home please contact [Sara Brunner at 585-708-4331](mailto:Sara.Brunner@gatewayhomeattica.org).

PRESIDENT'S Message



Can you believe fall is here already?

The array of colors and the sparkle of dew drops glistening in the sunlight each new morning introduces God's immeasurable powers. I cannot help but think how this relates to all our teams here at Gateway Home. Each staff member, nurse, aid, resident care giver, event volunteer, communicative writers, donors, and board members sparkle with their own unique gifts and talents. Each person provides a colorful and very important role in allowing Gateway Home to move forward each and every day. It is so beautiful to witness how each person steps up to manage situations and challenges with professionalism to ultimately provide creative caring solutions.

Residents and their families and friends have also brought sunshine to each of us as well. Their level of comfort and gratitude is reflected in their ease of truly embracing the feeling of home at Gateway. Whether it is preparing home-cooked meals in our kitchen, baking treats to share, or even bringing in their special furry friend to meet and greet everyone adds a playful remembrance to their loved one's hearts and the joy is reflected on their faces.

As the seasons change with those colorful falling leaves dropping and driven away by gusts of colder winter breezes and brilliant white snow crystals falling outside, there is a cold chill in the air outside. However, when you step through the door at Gateway Home you are greeted by a caring smile, the smell of brewed coffee, and the aroma of freshly baked cookies or brownies. It is the best remedy to chasing away those winter blues. It is an invitation to stay and share memories, a new day to make friends, share the news of the day, or reminisce with loved ones. The sound of laughter and joy are very much a part of each day.

Even though seasons change, the door at Gateway Home is always open for you to visit, take a tour, meet our volunteers, and staff or explore how your "sparkling" gifts or talents would enhance the lives of our residents and their family members. You would add a colorful addition to our Gateway Family!

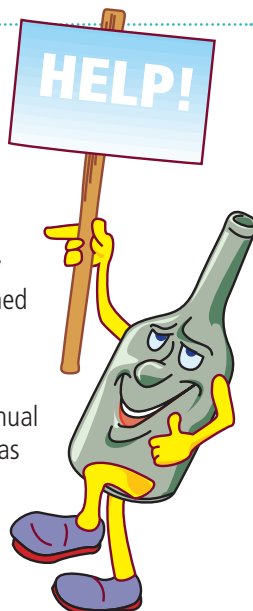
Doug Domes, Board President

"CAN" You Help Us!

This is a fundraiser that assists Gateway Home year-round!

Collect your redemption items (glass bottles, cans and plastic) and drop them at Gateway Home in the bins located near the storage shed behind Gateway Home.

Our business partner will pick up all donated redemption items at our location. Your continual support really adds up; last year Gateway was able to use the funds generated to cover all utility costs for the year!



IN My Words

Hi, my name is Betty Burry and my husband was a patient at Gateway in Attica NY. We were married for 64 years and promised each other to never be put in a nursing home. This place is definitely NOT that!

When we arrived by ambulance on the morning of January 8th, Monday, we were greeted at the door as if we were family. It's a beautiful, modern, huge home! His room was very spacious with windows, lots of lighting, and a large TV. It had an adjoining bathroom and ample seating for visitors and family! A local florist had even sent a beautiful bouquet of fresh flowers for him. The whole place smelled like freshly baked cookies... just like home!!

The gracious staff gave us a tour and showed us all of the things available to us. Kitchen, washer and dryer, bathroom with shower, and a guest bedroom! Just like home! Even if you wanted to make a turkey dinner with your family you could do so! This place and the staff are unbelievable!

The patient is never bored. My husband and I have 3 sons! In the 10 days he was at Gateway he was never left alone. Our sons and daughters in law took turns staying with him day and night. They were provided with a bed, blankets, pillows, and BREAKFAST! He was taken care of physically, mentally, and spiritually with qualified, experienced personnel 24 hours around the clock!

Being introduced to Gateway home was a true blessing. My husband had terminal bladder cancer that had already metastasized to his lungs. He was given 10 months to "maybe" a year to live. I took care of him for over 2 years at home. He required a LOT of care. The Gateway staff did it all in the blink of an eye. Everything was done to make the patient and their family comfortable.

Taking my husband to Gateway was the hardest decision I ever had to make. God took him on January 17th at 10:30pm. When he started to go "down hill" a nurse actually asked me if I would like to get in bed with him. I refused stating there was not enough room. She said she could make it happen, but instead, had another idea. She brought in a chair and pillow, lowered the head of the bed, placed the pillow by his head and pushed the chair as close as possible. IT WORKED! I was able to put my head on him and did so until he took his last breath. That moment I will never forget. As I write this, I can't hold back the tears. I am so grateful to the Gateway employee for making this moment possible.

And... that's not all! A member of the staff came in and opened up a window. Why? To let his spirit go to Heaven. I had heard of this, but at the time it was the furthest thing from my mind. So wonderful. So thoughtful! Can't thank her enough ever!

AND THERE'S MORE! We never received a bill for their service. Not a penny! Unbelievable! The employees are mostly volunteers... trained and qualified and available 24 hours a day. They become your family. Spread the word! God bless you all and God bless Gateway Home!

Thank you, Betty Burry

SPOTLIGHT *On two of our wonderful caregivers!*



Sheila Springer is our regular Tuesday and Thursday morning volunteer!

She can usually be spotted making delicious breakfast for our residents. She began volunteering with residents four years ago after hearing one of our presentations at her church. She admits she spent some

time wondering if she would be able to handle the duties required of a resident care volunteer before agreeing to sign up. According to the woman herself, she's awfully glad she did! Four years later she wouldn't change a thing. Before retiring Sheila worked as the bank manager of HSBC for thirty years! Thank you, Sheila, for all that you do for Gateway Home every day!

Cathy Sacco can be found at least twice a week working diligently at Gateway Home.

The floors are spotless, the wood polished, and the residents are happy as clams! Cathy first heard about Gateway Home at a church benefit two years ago. She knew she would be a natural as she is a retired CNA. Cathy spends some of her time helping at Charlotte House comfort care home as well. We are so happy to have her knowledge and her calming presence in our home! Thank you, Cathy, for your giving nature!



WISH List

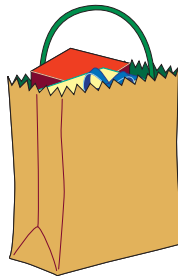
At this time Gateway Home has received wonderful support and is only in need of the following specific 'items'. Continue to check our Facebook page for wish list item updates!

- Stamps (always needed and appreciated).
- Brother Printer Ink Cartridge: LC3033PKS

Needs List

As many of you know, the Gateway Home Fund-raising Team is always working hard on upcoming events and planning for new events. Key to the success of these fundraisers are raffle baskets, gift cards, and volunteers to staff the events. Over the fall and winter months several events are planned that will require items for event raffles. Maybe you received a gift card that you may not use... or perhaps you wish to 'regift' a few items. We are happy to take these and use them toward one of our many fundraising events!

Please keep Gateway Home in mind throughout the year and help us achieve our fundraising goals!



Thank you to our donors!!!

Platinum Donors

Attica Package Company, Inc.
Attica Lions Club
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Donna Ferry

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Jeff & Elizabeth Clark

EVENTS Calendar



- Sept. 8th: **Russell's Famous Chicken BBQ***
(Attica Elementary School / Drive Thru)
- Sept. 28th: **Meat Raffle** (Alexander Fire Hall)
- Oct. 1st: **Holiday Cash Raffle** - Tickets sales start
(drawing at Winterfest in Attica)
- Nov. 1st: **Homemade Soup Sale** - Begin taking orders
(pick up at Winterfest in Attica).

**Shout out to an anonymous 'bag lady' donor for the takeway reusable bags for our BBQ.*

Stay tuned for more 2025 Fundraising Events:

- February: **Superbowl Squares** - Watch for information (Go Bills!)
- March: **'Free Will' Pancake Breakfast** (in Alden)
- Spring: **Russell's Famous Chicken BBQ** (Attica Elementary)

As always, we welcome any and all hands to assist with the above fundraising events! Whether it is selling tickets, making baskets, flipping pancakes, or chopping veggies for soup we believe that 'team work makes the dream work'. Contact Gateway Home for more information.

Upcoming End of Life Doula Training at Gateway Home

We are excited to announce an 8-week End of Life Doula training course at Gateway Home, beginning Wednesday, September 18th. This immersive program is designed to empower caregivers with the skills and wisdom to offer compassionate support to those nearing the end of life.

The class will take place every Wednesday for eight consecutive weeks, providing both practical and spiritual tools to help those in their final days live fully until they pass.

Course Overview:

This training will be an in-depth exploration of what it means to be a supportive presence in the dying process. Our sessions will include:

- **Creating Sacred Space for the Dying:** Learn how to transform the environment into a sanctuary that fosters peace and comfort for those transitioning.
- **Holding Space:** Develop the ability to sit with others in their most vulnerable moments, offering quiet, attentive presence without the need to "fix" anything.
- **Building a Legacy:** Discover techniques to help individuals craft a lasting legacy, documenting and preserving their precious memories, stories, and lessons for loved ones.
- **Holding Vigil:** Learn how to lead a vigil, a time-honored tradition of gathering loved ones to witness, support, and honor the dying person during their final moments.
- **Reprocessing the Death:** Gain tools for helping families and friends reprocess the passing of their loved one, finding closure and peace after the loss.

- **Preserving Precious Memories:** Delve into methods for documenting and safeguarding the stories and moments that define a life, creating cherished keepsakes for loved ones to hold onto.
- **Processing Unfinished Business:** Learn to assist individuals in addressing any unresolved issues, facilitating emotional and spiritual healing before they pass.

Why Attend?

This training will be transformative for caregivers who feel called to accompany others during life's final chapter. Whether you are a professional caregiver, family member, or someone seeking a deeper understanding of the end-of-life process, this course will provide you with the tools and mindset needed to navigate this profound journey with grace and compassion.

Classes will take place at Gateway Home each Wednesday evening starting September 18th from 6:00-8:00 pm. Space is limited to ensure a personalized and intimate experience for all participants.

To register or learn more about this program, please contact **Sara Brunner at (585) 708-4331** or email sara@gatewayhomeattica.org. We hope you'll join us in this meaningful work of supporting others in living fully until their last breath.



It hurts to lose someone.

Grief Share is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences.

You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Find a Grief Share support group or event near you: www.griefshare.org

Sara Brunner, Director
Sue Herman, Office Manager

Contact us:

Phone: 585-708-4331 | Fax: 585-708-4333
91 Main Street, Attica, NY 14011
Email: info@gatewayhomeattica.org
Web: gatewayhomeattica.org



Gateway Home Mission Statement

Gateway Home is established to give comfort care to people who are medically determined to be in their last stages of life (three months or less). Our organization will provide both medical and spiritual care to support the residents as they pass from this life to the next. Gateway Home staff and volunteers are committed

to provide dignified care, comfort and support for our residents and their families. Gateway Home is a nonprofit organization and does not charge for services provided. Funding is accomplished through donations, bequests and community support. Admission is based solely on need.