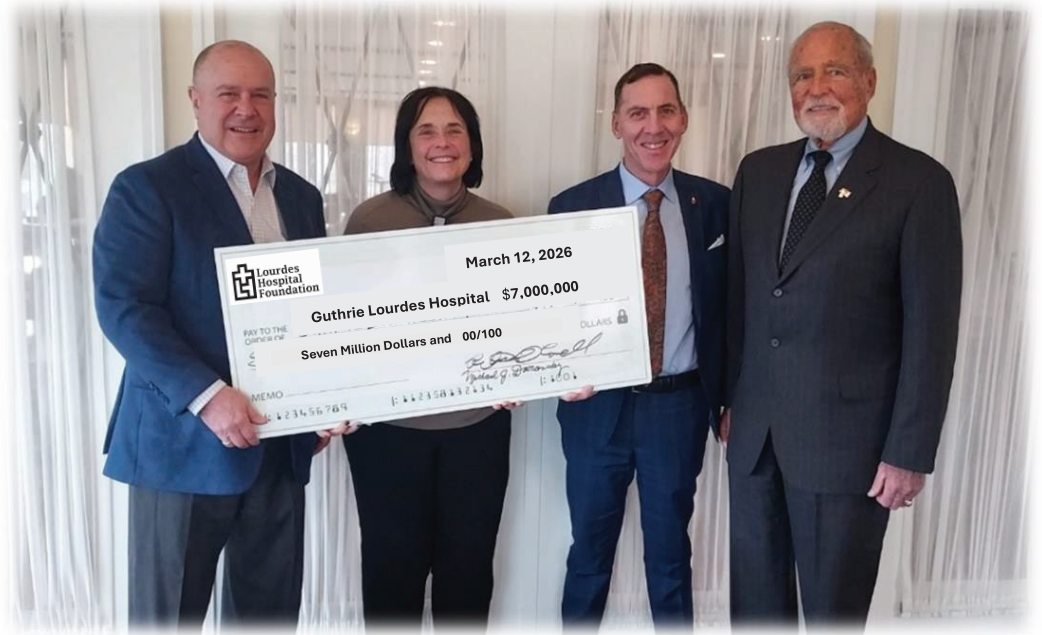




**The Lourdes Hospital Foundation Grants \$7 Million for support of Capital Projects within Guthrie Lourdes Hospital including:**

- Upgrades to the Operating Rooms, Birthing Rooms, and the ICU
- Updated Equipment for state-of-the-art patient care.
- Refurbishment of floors and lighting in the Emergency Department and the OR
- Replenishment of vital sterile medical supplies for Hospital surgical needs.



left to right: **John Mirabito**- Chairman, Lourdes Hospital Foundation Board  
**Kathryn Connerton**-SVP/President Guthrie Lourdes Hospital  
**Robert O’Connell** – President Lourdes Hospital Foundation  
**Michael J. Dobransky** – Secretary Lourdes Hospital Foundation Board

**The Lourdes Hospital Foundation recently granted \$7,500 to fund Spinning Babies®. This training will be given to all Labor & Delivery Nurses at Guthrie Lourdes Hospital. The Spinning Babies approach offers innovative, non-invasive techniques that promote optimal fetal positioning, reduce the need for interventions, and improve birth outcomes.**



**The Lourdes Hospital Foundation recently funded \$179,026 for new Nihon Kohon Cardiac Monitors. This upgrade will standardize monitoring systems across all departments and is critical for the consistent, safe, efficient, and compassionate care provided throughout Guthrie Lourdes Hospital.**

## From Our Clinicians:

*As a nurse, it's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day tasks of a shift — moving from one responsibility to the next, focused on getting everything done. In those moments, you're working hard, but sometimes you're simply trying to make it through the day without lifting your head to look at the bigger picture.*

*In my role as an Oncology Nurse Navigator, I've learned the importance of slowing down. I've learned to stop, sit, and truly listen. To understand who my patients are beyond their diagnosis; who they are as parents, spouses, grandparents, workers, friends. To recognize how cancer doesn't just affect their body, but their future, their family, and their sense of stability.*

***The Lourdes Hospital Foundation has given our oncology patients something incredibly meaningful—the ability to focus on their health and their treatment without carrying the full weight of financial strain.***

*Whether it's assistance with basic cost-of-living expenses, transportation, comfort items, or head coverings they otherwise could not afford, the Foundation's support has made a tangible difference in their lives. It allows patients to preserve dignity and concentrate on healing. It gives us a way to ease burdens that medicine alone cannot address. There are times in*

*nursing when you feel helpless, when you wish you could fix everything. The Foundation gives us an opportunity to truly make a difference in ways that extend beyond clinical care. Assistance from the Foundation gives us, as nurses, a way to ease burdens that medicine alone cannot address.*

*Brittany Greenfield, RN  
Oncology Nurse Navigator*

*Some of our patients are unable to eat by mouth because of their cancer or the treatment they must undergo. For them, even the simple act of nourishing their bodies becomes a daily struggle. Thanks to the Lourdes Hospital Foundation, we have been able to provide the specialized supplies needed for patients to continue their tube feedings at home.*

*This support does more than meet a medical need—it restores dignity, independence, and comfort at a time when so much feels out of their control. Your generosity helps patients to stay mobile, remain in their own homes, and maintain the best possible quality of life during an incredibly difficult journey.*

*Elizabeth Peters, RD, CDN  
Clinical Dietitian, Oncology*



Every day I see how deeply transportation challenges affect my patients. Many must come for daily treatment, Monday through Friday, for several weeks. For some, the cost of driving back and forth is overwhelming; for others, they simply have no reliable way to get here at all.

Because of the Foundation's support, we can remove this barrier. Whether through gas cards or covering taxi and Lyft rides, we are able to ensure that patients can access the cancer treatment they desperately need. The relief on their faces when they learn help is available is unforgettable.

**Your generosity makes this possible. You quite literally help bring patients to the care that can save their lives.** Being able to identify these needs and offer a solution is one of the most meaningful parts of my work—and it wouldn't be possible without the Lourdes Hospital Foundation.

Thank you for making such a profound difference for our patients!

Sarah J. Howell, LCSW, MSW, BS, OSW-C®  
Oncology Social Worker  
Guthrie / Lourdes Hospital

I think for me the biggest thing is to help people through their cancer diagnosis and treatment journey. I try to make it as easy and as timely as possible, so, if there is anything I can do to assist, then that is my goal. I try to provide a calm, positive, yet realistic approach. I try to meet people where they are. I hear thank you every day from patients on the ways the Foundation assists. **The Lourdes Hospital Foundation eases a very real financial burden for many patients, when they already have the worry of cancer, having to worry about finances can be extremely stressful. So many patients have shared that financial help is very much appreciated.**

Colleen M. Gelatt  
Oncology Nurse Navigator  
Hemo/Oncology Service Line

As an oncology social worker at Guthrie Lourdes, I have learned that building rapport and connection with our patients is imperative, not just at diagnosis, but through treatment and into survivorship. When people feel safe

and supported, they share their fears, not just about their diagnosis, but about the other things that keep them up at night. So often, fear isn't only about the cancer itself; it is about how to pay their rent, keep the lights on, and the house warm and being able to afford the nutritious food that is vital during treatment.

**That is where the Lourdes Hospital Foundation is able to step in. They do so much more than pay bills; they lift a burden so that patients can focus on their treatment.** Every need is different. One of my patients, who was a janitor at a local church, had to have surgery, forcing her to stop working. Initially she was hesitant to have the surgery, due to what the loss of income would mean for her and her family. The Foundation was able to step in and pay her household bills during that time. This allowed her to focus on healing.

Another patient I worked with had his car break down just as he was about to start treatment. Once again, the Lourdes Hospital Foundation was able to help, covering the cost of his car repairs so that he wouldn't miss his treatments. Many of our patients do not have transportation, and the Foundation will pay for taxi trips to and from their oncology appointments. I have had patients that are too exhausted to prepare their meals, and the Foundation has paid for Meals on Wheels, Mom's Meals and other meal services.

I am often asked why I work in oncology, and the answer is simple. It is my calling. Even on the long and emotionally draining days, there is comfort knowing that my presence and support matter to our patients.

**There is also joy in oncology that I witness each day. For some patients, it is ringing the bell once treatment ends, and knowing what it really symbolizes- resilience, perseverance and courage. As I leave work each night, I feel the truth settle in: time and family are everything – and our patients, without knowing, teach me that again and again.**

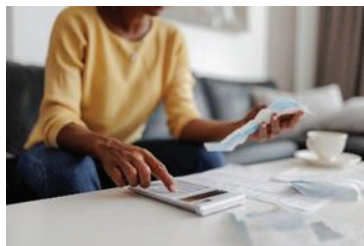
Heather Pancoast, MSW  
Oncology Social Worker  
Guthrie / Lourdes Hospital



# Your compassionate generosity provides real help to real people. Here are some of their stories.

## Keeping a Warm Home During Cancer Treatment

While bravely undergoing cancer treatment, one patient found herself unable to afford basic utilities. Winter temperatures made the situation even more urgent. Thanks to donor generosity, the Lourdes Hospital Foundation stepped in to cover her heating bills, ensuring she could focus on healing in a safe and warm home.



## Car Loan Payment

Reliable transportation is essential for patients receiving ongoing cancer care. When another patient fell behind on her car loan payments due to the financial strain of treatment, the Foundation paid the installment on her behalf. Donor support ensured she never missed an appointment during a challenging and uncertain time.

## Honoring a Life

When a patient without family passed away, there was no one to provide for a proper memorial. The Lourdes Hospital Foundation, with help from donors, purchased a headstone to ensure this individual was honored with dignity and remembrance.

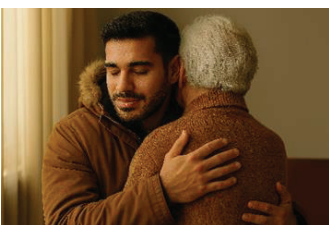


## Loss and a Cancer Diagnosis

Following the death of her spouse, a patient was diagnosed with cancer and immediately faced overwhelming financial hardship. The Foundation provided comprehensive support by paying her electric and heating bills and purchasing new tires for her car—ensuring she could travel safely to treatment. YOUR gift helped restore stability when she needed it most.

## A Family Rebuilds After Losing Everything

One patient and her family experienced the unthinkable when their apartment house burned to the ground, leaving them homeless and living in their car. During this already devastating time, the patient's spouse passed away. With urgent needs mounting, the Foundation stepped in—covering the security deposit and rent for a new apartment. Thanks to generous donors, this patient and her family received help when they needed it most.



## A Warm Coat at Discharge

For a patient who was preparing to leave the Hospital without a proper coat for winter weather, the Foundation stepped in to provide one. A simple, heartfelt gesture—made possible by donors—ensured the patient left the Hospital warm, supported, and cared for.

# A Night to Remember: Celebrating Sponsor Generosity

On Saturday, February 28, 2026, the Lourdes Hospital Foundation hosted *Denim & Diamonds* - a midwinter dance party fundraiser at the Riverdale in Endwell. This special fundraiser was presented in place of the Annual Auxiliary Ball. Since 1955, the Guthrie Lourdes Auxiliary has raised more than \$4.2 million to advance patient care and support countless hospital programs and projects.

This year, the Auxiliary made the thoughtful decision to pause their long-standing event as they focused on modernizing their digital infrastructure—a significant undertaking after nearly 70 years of continuous service. While their decision was entirely understandable, it created a gap in the Hospital’s fundraising calendar. The Lourdes Hospital Foundation proudly stepped in to bridge that gap.

The staff at the Riverdale in Endwell most certainly added to the event. Their professionalism and service were seamless. The décor was tailored perfectly to the theme of ‘*Denim & Diamonds*’ as was the menu. Chef Jimmy, one of the owners, created two signature cocktails for the evening and a delicious menu that blended elevated luxury with approachable warmth. Thank you to all who made this event a night to remember!



**The Lourdes Hospital Foundation relies on both personal and corporate gifts to sustain the mission and vision of Guthrie Lourdes Hospital. The proceeds from this event directly support the Hospital’s projects and programs thus providing the very best care - close to home. The generous sponsors who supported this new event so enthusiastically are recognized in the following pages of this newsletter.**



Lourdes Hospital Foundation Board Members:  
Joe Carosella, John Mirabito, Armond George

As you read, remember: these individuals and businesses are the heart of our community. They raise the walls that protect us, keep our roads safe, power our days, and care for the details of life that so often go unnoticed. They enrich the spirit of Binghamton in countless ways—and above all, they stand with and support our Hospital.

It is through the commitment of corporate leaders like these that we are able to uphold the mission and vision of the Guthrie Lourdes Hospital, strengthen vital services, and ensure exceptional medical care for the Binghamton community.

Corporate sponsorship is an investment in our community. Their contribution makes a measurable difference in the health and well-being of those we serve. **On behalf of all who benefit from their leadership and generosity, thank you!**

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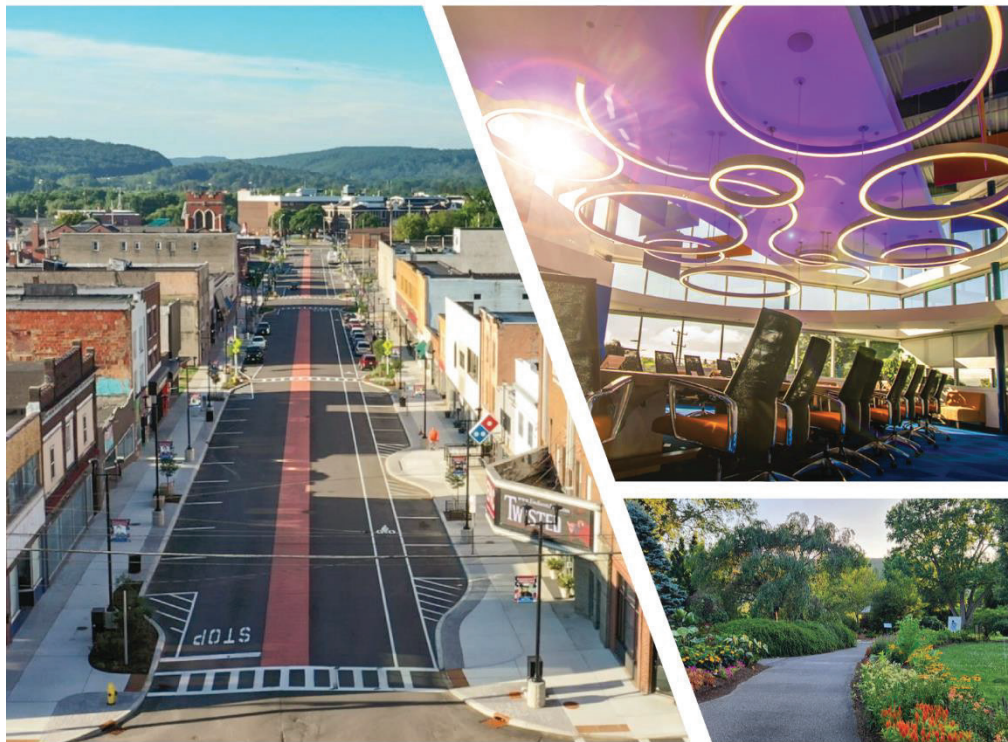
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## Giving Back



For Dave Conklin and his wife, Lynn Potenzi, giving back is deeply personal. Both Lynn and Dave experienced the loss of a loved one in hospice care. Lynn lost her father in 2019 and Dave lost his 1<sup>st</sup> wife in 2016.

After losing his wife Barbara to cancer in 2016, Dave transformed grief into action. In the Spring of 2017, a few months after Barb's death, Dave joined 'Real Men Wear Pink'. Across the nation, *Real Men Wear Pink* campaign ambassadors step up to raise awareness about breast cancer.

Dave became the first local ambassador for the national *Real Men Wear Pink* campaign, raising awareness and speaking publicly about breast cancer. As an ambassador, Dave was called to do many interviews and speaking engagements. Though his story was certainly a compelling one, Dave started to feel that he would rather focus his energy on supporting the fight against cancer on a more local scale.

Dave & Lynn realized they wanted their efforts to have a direct impact right here in the greater Binghamton community. They decided to give locally and focused their fundraising efforts into the local community. Dave and Lynn realized the assistance to patients and families would be felt close to home.

Inspired by their own experiences with end-of-life care, the Conklins now champion local causes like **Hospice** and **Camp Hope for Kids** with funds raised from their annual golf tournament.

"Hospice doesn't just care for patients—it cares for families," Dave says. Camp Hope for Kids extends that care to children coping with loss, offering comfort and community when they need it most.

Their commitment to supporting hospice shines through with the **Barb Conklin Memorial Golf Tournament**, now a beloved tradition. The 10th annual event in 2025 welcomed players of all levels. Dave and Lynn are hard at work planning the 2026 Barb Conklin Memorial Golf Tournament! For more information on how you can be a part of this great event, please reach out to Dave or Lynn at: [dconklin27@gmail.com](mailto:dconklin27@gmail.com)

The Conklin's story reminds us that even in the greatest sorrow, there is always HOPE.

The Lourdes Hospital Foundation  
187 Riverside Drive Binghamton, NY 13905  
Mon – Fri 8:00am – 4:30pm (607)798-5684