## Summer 2022 **Camp Hope for Kids**



The closing ceremony for the Summer 2022 Camp Hope for Kids took place on a pristine August afternoon on the grounds of Camp Sertoma in Kirkwood. It was one of those days where the vivid blue of the sky and the white fluffy clouds looked more like a dream than real life. The water in the pond so still it reflected even the smallest buzzing bee in flight. Colored canoes in bright reds, greens, and blues lined the shore. The birds shared their song as an offering to this idyllic scene along with the laughter and chatter of children. All campers and counselors came together and joined their voices at 3:00 pm, as the ceremony was called to order with "3 cheers for Camp Hope!" This year's theme was 'Reach for the Stars'.

Started in 2006, Camp Hope for Kids is a day camp and was fashioned after the Central NY bereavement camp model. At the time, there were few resources in the Greater Binghamton community to assist children with their individual grief journey. Each year the camp is staffed by social workers from Lourdes Hospice and UHS as well as many devoted volunteers. All campers are between the ages of 6 through 14 and each child is referred from Hospice. This three-day camp provides a safe sanctuary for participants to grieve openly, learn how to deal with emotions, and share their journey with other children going through similar loss.

For each of the three days, the campers meet twice daily for Healing Circles. Lead by licensed social workers, these healing circles give children a chance to share about their loss. Along with healing circles, the campers get to enjoy all that a traditional summer camp has to offer; swimming, arts and crafts, meals together, and lots of laughter! Intentionally providing creative and educational elements for each of the three days takes careful planning and coordination by experienced staff.

The campers of Summer 2022 enjoyed activities and learning opportunities provided by local resources like Pet Therapy Dogs, Owl Pellet dissection with Discovery Center, a mobile observatory with the Kopernik Observatory Center and, also, arts and crafts projects like memory boxes and calming jars. There was a magician and a bounce house with a water slide. Campers also enjoyed time in the pool.

As the closing ceremony of the Camp Hope for Kids Summer 2022 came to ts conclusion, campers were each awarded a certificate of participation. aughter and tears mixed as each counselor read off the names of the children in their group and handed out their certificates. After all certificates were given out, the campers and their counselors grouped together at the pond's edge. Gradually, chatter quieted down and each camper was given a container of bubble solution and a wand. On cue, they waived their wands and watched their bubbles ascend, rising upward toward that blue, blue sky.

The 2022 Camp Hope for Kids is a memory, but the lessons and healing from those precious three days will have an immeasurable impact. Thanks to generous donors, Camp Hope for Kids and the Lourdes Hospital Foundation can continue to provide a healing and loving respite to children suffering the loss of a loved one. Please consider making a gift today.

> The Lourdes Hospital Foundation 187 Riverside Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905 (607) 798-5684 Hours of Operation: Mon – Fri 8:00AM to 4:30PM

www.lourdeshospitalfoundation.com



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www.lourdes.com/about-us/foundation



### Please remember the Lourdes Hospital Foundation in your will or estate. Information about Planned Giving is available on our web-site.

When you reach the age of 72, you are required to withdraw a certain amount of funds from your retirement accounts.

- Not taking this distribution in a timely fashion could bring penalties of up to 50% of the RMD.
- **RMD**s are taxed and may result in a higher tax bracket.
- A Qualified Charitable Distribution to the LHF could reduce the tax impact. Please call the Foundation for more information about **RMD**s & Qualified Charitable Distributions



187 Riverside Drive Binghamton, NY 13905

> A guaranteed dollar amount each month is always a comfort as the Lourdes Hospital Foundation relies on the generosity of donors like you to meet the needs of so many. Every dollar matters and every dollar is a gift to those in need. As a monthly giver, you provide steady and reliable financial support for the acquisition of state-of-the-art technology and treatments as well as providing for everyday needs like groceries, gas,

Foundation GEM!

utilities.

# **Be a GEM** (Give Each Month!)

Giving a large amount all at once may not be a good fit for your budget, but if \$25, \$50, or \$75 per month is affordable, please consider becoming a Lourdes Hospital

The Lourdes Hospital Foundation supports the Hospital by raising funds for the benefit of all its various programs, projects, and individual needs. Your faithful monthly giving allows the Foundation to help those most in need when they need it the most

Please visit our website and become a monthly sustainer today. BE A GEM!! www.lourdeshospitalfoundation.com

Thank you!



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- Patient Testimonials



### www.lourdeshospitalfoundation.org

## **Our**Mission

**Rooted** in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we commit our-selves to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Our Catholic health ministry is dedicated to spiritually centered, holistic care which sustains and improves the health of individuals and communities. We are advocates for a com-passionate and just society through our actions and our words.

For almost 100 years, Lourdes Hospital has faithfully served the Binghamton area with spiritually based, high quality medical care. Thanks to the contributions and commitment of our donors, this culture of "Inspired Care" can continue for our patients and their families.

The Lourdes Hospital Foundation was founded in 1981 to support the Mission and sustain the vision of Lourdes Hospital. The Founda-tion relies on public support and individual philanthropy to assist Lourdes in its mission.

We are deeply grateful to our donors on behalf of all those who have been served in their time of need.

# **A Hospice Story**

Cathy Jo had been caring for her dad along with the help and support of her two brothers. She had no idea about the services available through Lourdes Hospice. In fact, she like so many, had always thought that hospice care was only available when end-of-life seemed imminent. It was during a trip to South Carolina to visit relatives when, during a discussion, she first learned that her dad, Bert, might be eligible for hospice. She made the call to Lourdes Hospice when she returned home.

Cathy Jo learned of the Lourdes Hospice Admission Criteria:

- Patient lives in the geographic service area: Broome County, Tioga County, and bordering parts of Chenango and Delaware Counties.
- Patients of any age with a life-limiting disease with a prognosis of 6 months or less.
- Patient has decided to no longer seek aggressive treatment and is agreeable to symptom management and supportive
- The Hospice team will support, educate, and assist the family in caring for the patient through intermittent visits to their residence and a patient specific physician ordered Plan of Care.
- The family/significant others are still responsible to provide or arrange for patient custodial care on a 24-hour basis.

She scheduled an evaluation for him. His condition was approved for hospice care, and he was soon introduced to his care team.

Her Dad's care team included May, Lisa, Crystal and Christa. Each had an important role in Bert's care. This team included 2 RN's, a Home Health Aide, and a Social Worker. These women provided expert care and comfort to not only the patient, but to the family as well.

Cathy Jo says that she never felt rushed or that she was a bother to the care team. She says they always gave her and her dad their complete attention and focus. She looked at it as a partnership because they worked together, along with her two brothers, on her dad's care plan. Her dad, Bert, was very receptive to the way in which his team communicated with him. He trusted them completely and he confided in them

During her dad's time with Lourdes Hospice Cathy Jo realized the fact that she could have a daughter/father Lourdes Hospice – A Special Kind of Caring – relationship with him again because she had help with his *We want to help you through this journey.* 



care. Bert was in the Lourdes Hospice Program from August thru November of 2022.

Lourdes Hospice helps individuals with terminal illness live life to its fullest, up to the final moment. Lourdes Hospic care teams help patients receive comfort and care when cure is no longer possible. Both in-home and in facilitie Hospice care teams focus specifically on comfort, digni and pain control by responding to the symptoms, needs an wishes of patients and their families. The goal of Hospic is to help each patient live each day to its fullest enablin them to remain in a familiar and supportive environme surrounded by people they love and possessions the cherish.

Some specialty services offered by Lourdes Hospice include:

- General Inpatient Care: Hospice contracts with Lourdes and area hospitals to provide "General Inpatient Care" – it is used for short term hospital admissions for pain management or symptom control that cannot be managed at home.
- Respite Care: Hospice contracts with Lourdes and area Facilities to provide "Respite care" – A short term hospital or Nursing Facility inpatient stay provided to a patient to relieve the caregiver who is providing regular care in the home. Family may visit while in Respite Care.
- Bereavement Program: follow-up is offered, with periodic contacts with the primary care person for 13 months after the patient's death. Hospice provides Bereavement Group sessions throughout the year.

Cathy Jo and her brothers are like so many families who must make difficult decisions and choices regarding the care of a loved one. If you have questions about Hospice, please visit the Lourdes Hospice website https://healthcare. ascension.org/locations/new-york/nybin/vestal-lourdesspice to find out more.





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## **Lourdes Hospital Foundation Board of Directors Interview** with **Michael J. Dobransky**



The Lourdes Hospital Foundation has a gifted and professional Board of Directors. These men and women selflessly give of their time, talent, and life experience in service to this community. The Foundation is able to help those in need and to function smoothly in that capacity in large part because of the dedication and commitment of its Board. Michael J. Dobransky is Secretary of the Lourdes Hospital Foundation Board of Directors

His story is just one example of the kind of people who serve on this Board.

After graduating from Colgate University, Michael served 5 years in the US Air Force overseas with assignments in West Germany, UK, Libya, Turkey and

Iran. During this period, it was a very "dicey" time with the Soviet Union. He considers his military service to his country was a privilege and truly the greatest honor in his life.

Michael was a successful multi-disciplined senior executive for Kraft General Foods International for many years. His diverse worldwide career in international business development, with a focus on export development, licensing, and joint ventures, has taken him to just about every continent. He worked to establish business relationships in developing market areas throughout Central and Eastern Europe plus Germany, Austria, Belgium, Portugal, Greece, Egypt, South Korea, and Japan.

Throughout his career, Michael applied his business skills, knowledge and extensive understanding of foreign cultures, customs, and traditions towards each project and assignment. It is that expertise in worldwide business relationships that Michael brings to the Lourdes Hospital Foundation Board.

Though Michael is a world-traveler, his heart remains close to home and to his church. He comes from a deeply committed and faithful family. Michael is an active member of St. John Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the church where his parents were married and where he worshiped while growing up. Both his paternal and maternal grandparents were among the founding member families. Michael's maternal grandfather and a cousin were building contractors who assisted in constructing the original St. John Church in 1926.

Originally located on Virginia Avenue in Johnson City, it is now located at 1 St. Johns Pkwy in Johnson City. Michael also brings his vast business experience in service to his church. He was elected to serve on the Parish Council and as Chairman of both the finance and investment committees. Michael is also helping St. John's with preparations for the upcoming celebration of its 100th anniversary!

Michael is deeply committed to his Ukrainian heritage as demonstrated by his faithful relationship and service to his church, but also through his work for the Ukrainian American Veterans Inc. (UAV) He is Commander of UAV Post 43 in Johnson City and is actively working with its members to support the Ukrainian people as they defend themselves from the Russian invasion. They have sent donated funds and medical supplies to Ukraine and continue to do so as they work with other UAV Posts throughout the United States.

Wherever life's journey has led Michael, the common thread has been that of service to others. His devotion to the greater good and his willingness to serve are extraordinary. Michael could have chosen to live anywhere in the world when he decided to settle down, but he chose to come back to his roots – his community – his church. The Lourdes Hospital Foundation Board of Directors is truly fortunate to include Michael J. Dobransky.

Thank you, Michael!

## Center of Excellence for Spine Care

Lourdes Hospital made great strides to becoming a Center of Excellence for Spine Care when it acquired an O-Arm and StealthStation imaging system. The system, pictured here, is installed in the Lourdes Hospital Operating Room and has been in use since Spring of 2022.



The Medtronic StealthStation is an advanced surgical navigation platform that integrates with the O-Arm surgical imaging system. Together, these two pieces of equipment allow our doctors here at Lourdes Hospital to offer advanced and minimally invasive interventions to patients. Because of the precision placement availed by the StealthStation and the clear comprehensive imaging produced by the O-Arm, Lourdes doctors can offer their patients the highest industry standard of treatment for the best outcomes.

Two grants of \$100,000 each were approved and paid by both the Dr. G. Clifford & Florence B. Decker Foundation and the George A. & Margaret Mee Charitable Foundation. These grants made it possible to purchase this life-changing equipment which will enable Lourdes doctors to provide the Greater Binghamton community with world-class healthcare close to home.

The Lourdes Hospital Foundation, along with help from other charitable foundations like the Decker Foundation and the Mee Foundation, can fund the many projects and programs of Lourdes Hospital because of our donors. With your generous giving, we can continue to say YES to funding and acquiring the most advanced medical technology for Lourdes Hospital. Please consider making a gift of any size to the Lourdes Hospital Foundation. Your gift will help continue to bring the best treatment options to this community.



For secure online giving, open the camera *app on your phone – hover – click.* 

## Some of the Ways In Which We Help Lourdes Hospital Patients

This hospice patient, a lifelong artist, could no longer sit at an easel. Funds from Hospice were used to purchase a table-top easel which allowed this patient to continue painting.

Gas cards and grocery cards purchased with Sock Out Cancer funds and the Geller Oncology Fund are an essential part of ongoing assistance to cancer patients and their families.

The Lourdes Hospital Foundation purchased a foot stool for the comfort of a Hospice patient suffering with edema.

## Thank You to Our Donors ourdes Heros

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Ms. Patricia Ann Miles

## **Coaches vs. Cancer!**

Local Schools Make Generous Gift to the **Lourdes Hospital Foundation** 



A proud day to be a coach! On October 25, 2022, Coach Matt Wilson of Chenango Valley Cross Country contacted the Lourdes Hospital Foundation and informed them that money raised from their Coaches vs. Cancer Run would be given to the Foundation to be used in the fight against cancer. The STAC Cross Country Central Division teams (Chenango Forks, Chenango Valley, Owego, and Seton) banned together in the second annual XC Coaches versus Cancer run. Together, the teams decided to donate the proceeds locally and they spent the season asking for donations in memory and in honor of those affected by cancer.

The meet featured a series of relay races, and the theme was pink. The teams raised a total of \$2,093. This gift was accepted by a representative from the Lourdes Hospital Foundation during the opening ceremony. Thank you, Students! And thank you, Coaches! Thanks to all who were a part of this extraordinary event! Your generosity has truly made a positive impact on your community.

## Some of the Ways In Which We Help Lourdes Hospital Patients

A patient was recently having difficulty paying the balances on household bills. Cancer treatments and their side effects had left this patient unable to work a fulltime schedule. The Geller Oncology Fund provided payment for these balances and with that payment, peace of mind.

A patient recently diagnosed with cancer has had to miss work and was unable to pay his NYSEG bill. Funds from Sock Out Cancer were used to pay the bill for this patient.

A patient with low income was fighting cancer and didn't have a bed to sleep in, only a recliner which was very painful for her. The Lourdes Hospital Foundation used funds from Sock Out Cancer and purchased a bed for her. It was delivered and set up. Having a bed made all the difference for the comfort of this patient.

A single mom, out of work due to multiple cancer and surgeries, was left wondering how she would be able to pay her household bills. The Lourdes Hospital Foundation paid her many bills and she is no longer in arrears. She was very grateful.

A lady who had cancer, undergoing chemo, had very little income. Her son had to go into rehab and her mom had Covid. She was navigating these difficult issues while she herself was undergoing chemotherapy. The Lourdes Hospital Foundation helped alleviate her financial burden by helping her with some of her bills.



