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100 Years of Caring for the Greater Binghamton Community



1925 - 2025



Lourdes Hospital Foundation
187 Riverside Drive
Binghamton, NY 13905

(607) 798-5684

Monday - Friday
8:00AM-4:40PM

www.lourdeshospitalfoundation.org

The Lourdes Hospital Foundation approves \$7 million for support of Capital Projects within GUTHRIE LOURDES HOSPITAL including:

- New cardiac monitors for the Emergency Department, ICU, Telemetry, and Anesthesia
- 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 Dept. and the OR
- Replenishment of vital sterile medical supplies for Hospital surgical needs

The First 100 Years



The walls leading to the cafeteria in Guthrie Lourdes Hospital show static, stained-glass images and oil-painted portraits of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise DeMarillac. Who were these people and why do they matter? During this 100th anniversary year of Lourdes Hospital, it is important to understand the history of how it all began. A good place to start is to know a little bit more about these two saints and also, the Daughters of Charity.



Both St. Vincent and St. Louise came from humble circumstances. Louise was born out of wedlock and never knew her birth mother. Her father cared for her but when he chose to marry, she was rejected by her stepmother and had to go live with an aunt. Vincent was born

to a poor farming family who could not provide for him. He was sent away to become a priest so that he could get an education, be fed, and eventually, be able to earn wages.

Perhaps it was because of the hardships endured by Vincent and Louise that they grew to be empathetic and compassionate adults. Vincent was ten years older than Louise and was already a priest when they met. Louise had become a nun and was working with the poor and helping them as best she

could by feeding them with food she had collected with the help of volunteers. Vincent and Louise discovered they were like-minded in their care for the sick poor. They had an extraordinary capacity to see each human being, regardless of social status, as having dignity and worth. Their heart for service was what they had in common and it was also what set them on their life's path.

St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise DeMarillac emulated the example of Christ himself by caring for the sick and poor, pilgrims and strangers. In the 17th century, only the very wealthy had access to medical care and usually, that care was provided by their private family physician in the comfort of their own homes. There were no social services or programs for the less fortunate and the sick poor. The compassion and vision of St. Vincent and St. Louise to physically go out to the streets and minister to the sick and poor was extraordinary and courageous.



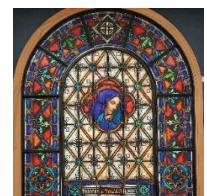
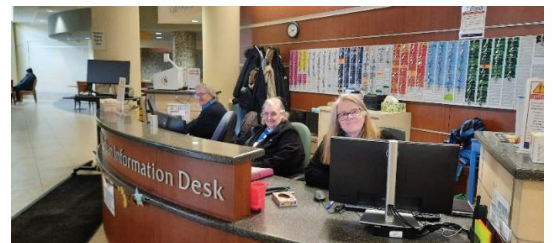
As citizens of the 21st century, it is not difficult to understand why these two people born 400 years ago are still remembered today. Their dedication to providing comfort, whether it be food, shelter, or medical care to the sick and poor is still a source of inspiration. In 1925, Bishop Daniel Curley assigned 4 Daughters of Charity to come to Binghamton to open a hospital. Sr. Martina Disney, DC, Sr. Gertrude Eisle, DC, Sr. Rose Anna, DC, and Sr. Louise McParland, DC opened Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital to serve the poor and modeled their patient care following the examples of St. Louise DeMarillac and St. Vincent de Paul.

For 100 years, Lourdes has grown and evolved in line with the needs of the community. Now known as Guthrie Lourdes Hospital, the quality of care instituted by the Daughters of Charity is still in practice today. What started out as a 25-bed hospital for the poor located in the old Corbett Mansion on Riverside Drive has grown to be a modern hospital offering state-of-the-art technology, clinical excellence, and compassionate care to the greater Binghamton community.

Though the Daughters are no longer serving the Hospital, their mission is reflected in the care given by dedicated doctors and nurses, social workers, nurse navigators, clinical and administrative staff, and a dedicated roster of volunteers. The Daughters' model of compassion, empathy, respect, determination, and optimism to help all people, still resonates in 2025. The four Daughters of Charity who bravely came to Binghamton 100 years ago to start a hospital for the poor would surely be able to recognize their mission as well as that of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise DeMarillac in our dedicated caregivers today.



HERE'S TO THE NEXT 100 YEARS!



The Daughters of Charity: A Legacy of Comfort and Care

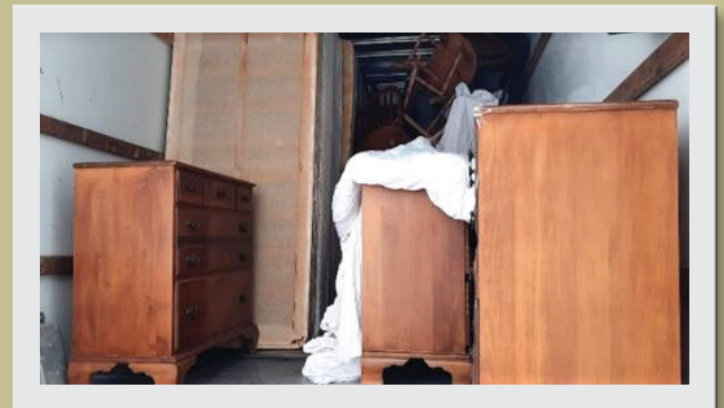
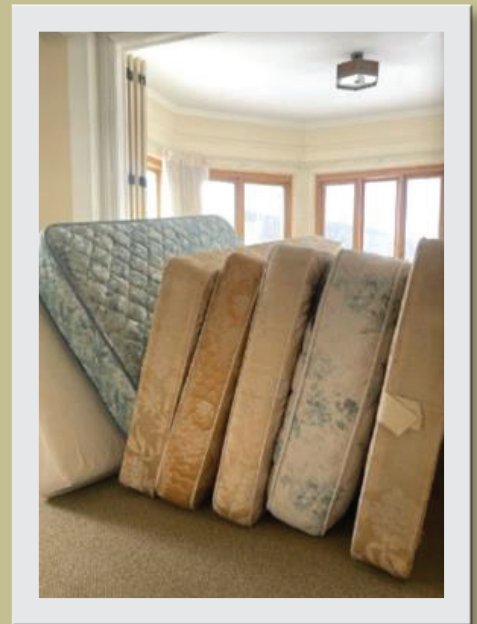
The Lourdes Hospital Foundation offices are located on the first floor of 187 Riverside Drive. The building has had many different inhabitants over the years including its original owner, Mr. Willis Sharpe Kilmer. When Mr. Kilmer owned it, the house was a clubhouse for Sunbriar Court & Stables which housed the 1918 Kentucky Derby winning horse, *Exterminator* and other prize-winning horses. The Clark family were the next to live in the house until 1957 when John C. Clark, Sr. left it to the Daughters of Charity to live in close proximity to the Hospital.

The Daughters lived at the Clark Residence and worked in the Hospital until May of 2017 when the four remaining nuns moved to Albany to retire with others from their order. The house remained empty until June of 2021 when the Lourdes Hospital Foundation moved from offices within the Hospital over to the first floor of the Clark House. The second and third floors are divided up into many individual small rooms that used to be the personal spaces for the nuns. These rooms still contained beds, dressers, desks, and chairs. There were 8 complete sets of bedroom furniture now owned by Guthrie Lourdes Hospital, just waiting to be needed and used.

In this 100th year anniversary of the founding of Lourdes Hospital, the spirit and work of the Daughters of Charity lives on through the donation of their furniture to the Binghamton YWCA's Journey DV (Domestic Violence) Survivor program. With permission from the Hospital, the Lourdes Hospital Foundation facilitated the move of this furniture.

The YWCA's Chief Operations Officer Theresa Bovier, arrived with her husband, Keith to pick up the nuns' furniture. They'd rented a U Haul truck for the move and, along with Foundation staff, began the process of filling the truck.

All the furniture was moved down from the 2nd & 3rd floors to the 1st floor and then, it was loaded onto the truck. It would eventually be moved into apartments reserved for the YWCA's Journey DV Survivor Program. The donation of this furniture will serve as a comfort to members of the Greater Binghamton community. We're sure the Daughters would approve.



To find out more about the Binghamton YWCA's Journey DV Survivor program hover here:



Left: YWCA COO, Theresa Bovier Middle: Foundation President, Robert O'Connell Right: Keith Bovier

Cancer Care Tote Bag Initiative

By: Susan Sherrill, Foundation Staff Member

I began my new position with the Lourdes Hospital Foundation in February 2023. From my first week, I was receiving request after request and wrote check after check to assist patients who were currently undergoing cancer treatment. Increased medical expenses and missed work due to appointments or the effects of treatment caused patients to struggle paying their bills or buying groceries or gas. I wrote checks for rent, car payments, electric bills, and more. I was humbled at having a meaningful, fulfilling purpose in helping these patients.

With my new insurance in hand, and being only two doors down from the hospital, I decided to pursue a nagging feeling I'd been having and scheduled my annual mammogram. I had just had my previous mammogram one year prior, so, although some real or imagined symptoms led me there, I certainly wasn't expecting anything significant.

Yet, here I was, less than two months after starting my new role which included supporting cancer patients, becoming a cancer patient myself. Although the irony was palpable, I also felt that I was exactly where I was supposed to be and therein started down a new and frightening path.

While undergoing different treatments, I had many resources to help answer the questions, concerns, fears, and symptoms I faced. It was through experiencing the entirety of a cancer diagnosis, from chemotherapy, to surgery, and finally radiation, that together with my teammate, Jackie, we developed the idea of patient tote bags filled with comfort items to help cancer patients at the hospital.

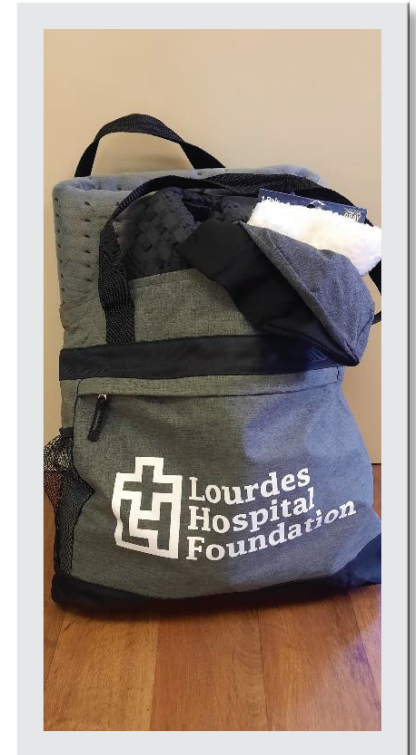
It was Jackie who facilitated the consultations and collaboration with nurse navigators, social workers, and department leaders at the hospital, and most importantly, secured approval for funding this initiative. These efforts ultimately led to the creation of the Lourdes Hospital Foundation's Cancer Support Bags. The contents (in addition to the tote bag itself) were items that I found helpful and necessary along the way during treatment: cold therapy packs to prevent neuropathy during chemo, cotton beanies for when I lost my hair, a blanket and heating pad to keep me warm during infusions, and so many other small but absolutely necessary over-the-counter and comfort items that helped to get me through it all.

I gained great satisfaction in finding a way to provide these items to other cancer patients. Unfortunately, most insurances will not cover these over-the-counter products and buying them can be not only a burden for some, but simply unaffordable to others.

To date, we have distributed over 75 bags to Broome Oncology and Guthrie Lourdes Hospital for distribution to all cancer patients coming through their doors. And we haven't stopped there. We have expanded

our outreach to address specific needs for radiation patients including specialty lotions, ointments, soaps, and deodorants. We've included specific nutritional items at the request of the oncology dietician. With funding from generous donors, the Lourdes Hospital Foundation will continue to provide these bags to cancer patients.

I feel privileged to continue to assist cancer patients as part of my job every day. I am especially lucky to do so side-by-side with my teammate, Jackie. Together, we unpacked countless boxes and filled many, many tote bags. We will continue to further the Foundation's mission of supporting the hospital and its patients, one tote bag at a time.



To find out more, please call the Foundation offices and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this initiative.

***Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm
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Guthrie Hospice Vestal Thanks the Lourdes Hospital Foundation

We are so thankful that the Lourdes Hospital Foundation can help us to assist our Hospice patients during this end-of-life journey. Emotionally and financially worn out from dealing with long chronic illnesses and treatments, families take comfort knowing the Foundation is a beacon of hope for both the patient and their caregivers.

Transportation costs to Mercy House, an End-of-Life Shelter. Hospice is only allowed, by regulation, to provide payment for transportation to and from Respite or an authorized General Inpatient stay at a hospital. Mercy House is an End-of-Life Shelter in Endicott. By the time a patient qualifies for a stay there, they usually require medical transport that is outside of many family's budgets. The Foundation helps!

Baby Monitors – Many times just a simple Baby Monitor system is enough to help caregivers get a better night's sleep, not to mention to help prevent falls for our Hospice patients. Many of our families do not have the resources to invest in this equipment, and we are able to provide it through the Lourdes Hospital Foundation.

Camp Hope for Kids – A 3-day camp for children aged 6-14 that have lost a loved one. This camp gives children a chance to work through their grief with others that have also experienced a loss. The Foundation helps with supplies, entertainment, food, and the cost of Camp Sertoma for 3 days.

Heating bills/ rent – many times a family has had so many unexpected costs with a loved one dying. Perhaps they have had to take unpaid time from work, etc. Often, we can help by paying an overdue heating bill, or a rent payment to keep a patient from being evicted.

Bus tickets / Gas cards – Many times, the Foundation has provided gas and grocery cards to family members of hospice patients residing in a nursing home or Mercy House.

Washer dryer and bill for rental furniture – The Foundation covered the expense of the rental fees for a pediatric Hospice patient's family. We had the patient for over a year, and he was able to spend most of that time in the only home he ever knew before moving to Mercy House.

Bereavement group facilitators – The Foundation has paid for professionals skilled in meditation and grief movement to aid in the grieving process for individuals attending bereavement groups.

Home emergency response systems- Personal response systems that allow patients to remain safe in their homes for longer periods of time. The system alerts an emergency contact that the patient has fallen or needs assistance.

Volunteer appreciation luncheons – The Foundation funds the venue, and the food related to thanking our Volunteers on an annual basis for all the work they contribute to the Hospice program.

Baskets of Love- The Foundation provides funds for the volunteer office to create birthday and anniversary bags to celebrate the patient's special day. Also, the costs of supplies for our Volunteers to make hospital gowns for patients in need and quilted Veterans Squares to recognize our Veterans for their service

Hand mold – Social Work staff worked with the Foundation to purchase a cast mold so that a young child of a patient could have a lasting keepsake of his hand entwined with his mom's hand before her passing.

Your gift
truly makes a difference!
On behalf of all
Hospice patients
and their families, thank you!



Thanks to many generous donations, the **Lourdes Hospital Foundation** has provided funding to **Guthrie Lourdes Hospital** to obtain state-of-the-art technology. Our doctors are able to offer timely surgical options for the best outcomes in patient care.



The O-Arm & Stealth Station: enables real-time intraoperative tracking of skeletal structures and affords the surgeon precise visuals for trajectory and screw placement during spine surgery. This technology reduces the instance of repeat surgeries and results in faster recovery.

The Da Vinci Robot: provides minimally invasive surgical options including laparoscopic and robotic-assisted surgery. These options result in shorter hospital stays and faster recovery.

The Foundation also supports individual patients and their families. Since July of 2024, the Lourdes Hospital Foundation has disbursed \$254,771.40 in assistance from its various funds to help 2,000 patients in need. Some of the ways we have helped include gas cards, grocery cards, rent/mortgage payments, NYSEG bills, car repairs, urgent home repairs, and many other necessity- of- life expenses.

Patient Stories:

- A patient is wheelchair-bound due to a condition that resulted in major surgery. The Lourdes Hospital Foundation paid for a wheelchair ramp to be installed at the patient's home. Having this ramp installed allowed this patient to remain at home in comfort, surrounded by family, instead of recovering in a rehab facility.
- Due to the side effects of chemotherapy, this patient had to be on a strict low-sodium diet. The Lourdes Hospital Foundation paid for a meal service for this patient. The meals are delivered to the home and are microwave ready. They are prepared by a registered dietician and are prepared to meet the nutritional needs of each patient. These ready-to-eat meals are a big help to this patient who lives alone.
- The Foundation paid three months' rent and car insurance for a cancer patient who couldn't pay mounting bills due to not being able to work a fulltime schedule during cancer treatment.
- The Lourdes Hospital Foundation paid for new bedding for a recently homeless patient who was accepted into a permanent housing situation.

The Lourdes Hospital Foundation proudly supports the various programs, projects, and community outreach of Guthrie Lourdes Hospital. The Foundation relies on public support and individual philanthropy to continue to support the mission and the vision of Guthrie Lourdes Hospital.

Sudden illness, injury, or disease can happen to anyone at any time. The Lourdes Hospital Foundation can help the patients of Guthrie Lourdes Hospital by paying for monthly living expenses like rent, mortgage, utility bills, tax bills, insurance payments, groceries, car repairs, travel expenses and urgent home repairs. The Foundation pays these living expenses so the patient and their loved one can focus on healing instead of the worry of unpaid bills.

The Foundation has many different funds available for many different needs. A particular fund like the **Sock Out Cancer Fund** or the **Geller Oncology Fund** can provide much needed assistance to cancer patients. In addition to the funds designated for cancer patients, there are many other funds available through the Foundation.

If you are a Guthrie Lourdes Hospital patient in need, you may be able to have some of your bills paid by the Foundation. Please ask your Nurse Navigator or Social Worker to request assistance for you from the Lourdes Hospital Foundation. It is our mission to support patients when they need it the most.

On behalf of all those who have been assisted in their time of need:

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

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The **Lourdes Hospital Foundation** understands there is no 'one-size-fits-all' when it comes to giving. All donors large and small, one-time givers or monthly supporters, have different reasons and capacities to give. The Foundation appreciates givers of all levels and frequency and provides many giving opportunities throughout the calendar year:

- **ANNUAL FUND APPEAL** – this end of calendar year appeal is perfect for those needing to satisfy RMDs or QCDs distribution for tax credit during the current calendar year.
- **ONGOING** – Gifts of any size are securely accepted on the Lourdes Hospital Foundation website. Simply use the drop-down menu on the Giving Page to access all of the giving options available. You can make a gift to a particular fund or, to the Foundation's area of greatest need. Gifts can be made in honor of a loved one or in memory of someone dear.

When you make a gift to the Lourdes Hospital Foundation, you are supporting countless patients in need. Your gift also directly supports the projects, programs, and upgrades at Guthrie Lourdes Hospital.

THANK YOU!

National DOCTOR'S DAY

March 30

Recognize your favorite
doctor by making a gift in
their name. With every gift, a
personal note of thanks is given
to your favorite doctor.

What a wonderful way to
show appreciation for all
that your doctor does for
you and your family!

Doctor's Day is March 30