

# Caring connections

ANDROSCOGGIN HOME CARE & HOSPICE • SPRING 2010

## Helping Veterans at Home.

### AHCH's Supportive Care makes a difference

Sometimes a little extra help is all you need to stay in your own home. That's what AHCH's Supportive Care Program offers. Through our Supportive Care program, clients receive services from trained Personal Care Attendants (PCA) or Personal Support Specialists (PSS) who can provide light housekeeping, meal preparation, transportation to appointments, respite, personal care and companionship.

"Most services are paid for privately or through long-term care insurance as they are not generally covered by traditional health insurance", explains Elaine Lawrence, LPN, Supportive Care Supervisor. "However, the Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes the importance of this type of home-based care and offers coverage for many veterans. In fact, just over one-third of our current clients are accessing services through their VA benefits", notes Lawrence.

The VA eligibility criteria takes into account such things as income, length of active military service and character of discharge to determine if a veteran qualifies for benefits. Generally, veterans need to enroll in the VA health care system to use their VA benefits for Supportive Care services. To learn more, veterans can call the VA at 623-8411 x5688.



### A Personal Viewpoint

Norman Duguay, a veteran of World War II is receiving help from AHCH's Supportive Care program thanks to benefits offered by Veteran's Affairs.

Sitting in his Livermore Falls home with his wife, Pauline, Norman explains, "I was not aware I could receive this help. Following a visit with my doctor at Togus, a representative from the VA visited us at home and we completed a questionnaire. During the discussion he said he thought I qualified for help at home.

"AHCH Supportive Care staff have been visiting ever since and I am so thankful for the help. Without AHCH, it would not be possible for me to stay home. We are celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in June, and with the help of AHCH we will be celebrating right here at home, where we have lived for the past 54 years."

# AHCH's Philips Lifeline Service offers New Safety Feature

AHCH has added the new Auto Alert feature to its suite of Philip's Lifeline services. Worn as a pendant with a push button like the traditional Lifeline, Auto Alert has the added benefits of built-in sensors that can detect when a person has fallen and will automatically call for help. If the person gets up within 30 seconds the alert is canceled.

"The added features Auto Alert provides will bring peace of mind to many of our Lifeline clients and their family members", explains Elaine Lawrence, LPN, Supportive Care/Lifeline Supervisor. "Along with the fear of falling, many of our clients worry that following a fall they would not be able to push the button to call for help. For a small added monthly fee, the new Auto Alert takes that worry away."

AHCH offers Lifeline services in Franklin, Oxford, northern Cumberland, and parts of Kennebec, Sagadahoc and Somerset counties. To learn more about AHCH lifeline services and the new Auto Alert contact AHCH's Supportive Care Program at 777-7740 ext. 1472.



## AHCH Welcomes New Board Members



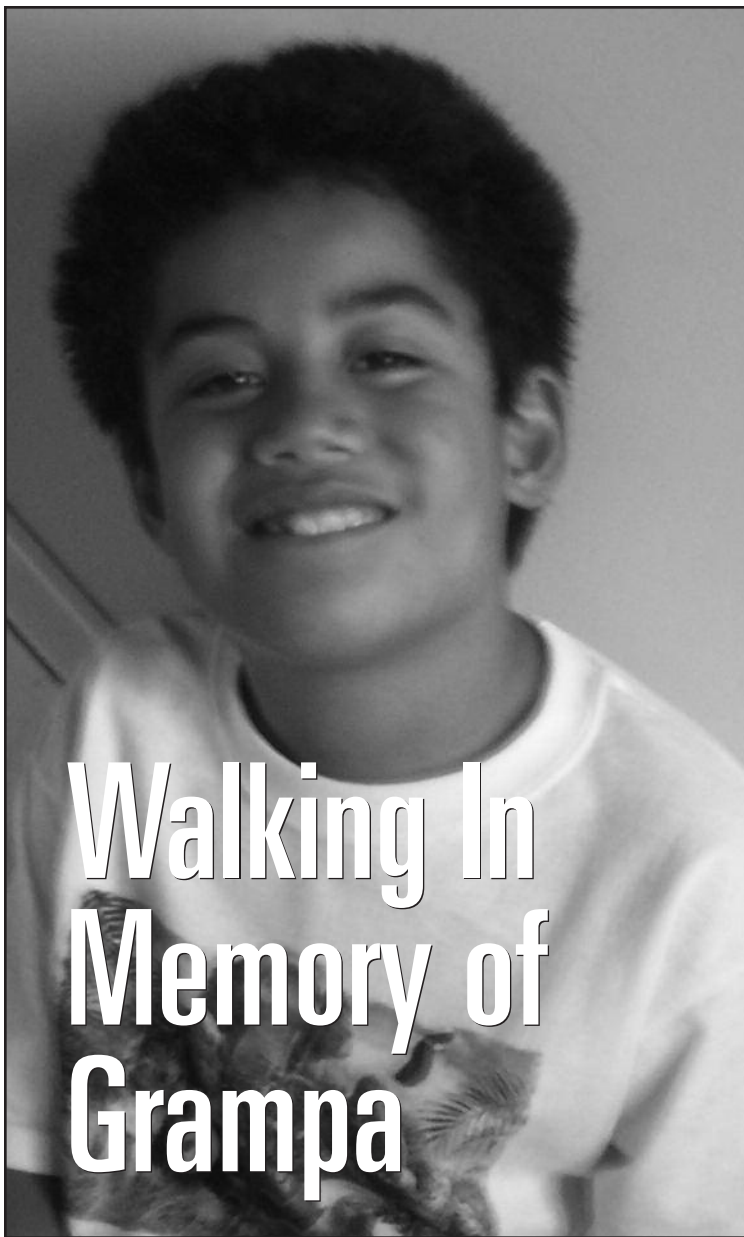
### **Miles Hunt**

is a resident of Oxford and is a practicing attorney with Dow Law offices in Norway. Miles specializes in estate planning and elder law. He is a Board Member of the United Way of Oxford County, and as a board member will serve on the AHCH Foundation Committee."



### **Reverend Don Mayberry**

is a resident of Norway and is currently serving as the senior pastor with the First Congregational Church of South Paris. He has experience in the healthcare arena through his board service with Western Maine Healthcare. As a board member Reverend Mayberry will serve on the agency's Professional Advisory Committee.



## Seth Ferguson, age 8 is joining his parents, brothers, grandmother, aunts, uncles and 8 cousins at the Hospice House 5K and Remembrance Walk May 23.

Seth's team, Grampa Fergie, is participating in memory of his grandfather, Norman Ferguson who was cared for at the Hospice House earlier this year.

**"Our experience at the Hospice House was wonderful, explains Dawn Ferguson, Seth's mother. "The staff understood the whole rollercoaster of emotions and concerns, and helped us through them. They cared and supported more than just Grandpa, they cared for all of us."**

Seth visited his grandfather at the Hospice House several times. Shortly before his last visit, Seth asked his mother what he should say to his grandfather. "I told him to tell Grampa you love him."

That last visit, explains Dawn was very special. "Seth did tell his grandfather he loved him, and Grampa told Seth how much he loved him and how proud he was of Seth. That is something Seth will never forget."

"When Seth's grandmother suggested we participate in the Hospice House 5K Race and Remembrance Walk as a family, Seth jumped on board."

So far, team Grampa Fergie has 14 members and is growing. A friendly challenge has begun between members to see who can collect the most in pledges. Judging by Seth's pledge form, he will win.



**Sunday, May 23rd, 2010**  
**AHCH Hospice House,**  
**Stetson Road, Auburn**

**Registration starts at 8:00 am**

Registration forms and information on forming a team for the Hospice House 5K and Remembrance Walk can be found on our website [ahch.org](http://ahch.org) or by calling 795-9428.

### **The Story Behind the Hospice House 5k & Remembrance Walk**

The Hospice House 5K and Remembrance Walk began in 2009 and net proceeds benefit the KMW Fund of AHCH. The Fund was established by the family of Kathleen Whalen who was cared for at the Hospice House. While at the facility, Kathleen noticed that there were patients whose health insurance was not as generous as hers and she wanted to find a way to help. Following her death, her family established the Fund to assist in providing the same high quality care to those with limited health insurance.

# New Donor Choices

Individual philanthropy makes a powerful statement about what a person values most.

When patients and family members think about making a gift to AHCH, they frequently want to support a specific program or initiative that they have benefitted from or find compelling.

Beginning this year, we are pleased to offer our donors the opportunity to direct their gift to one of six areas of need:

- Subsidized Patient Care
- Hospice House
- Bereavement Support
- Volunteer Services
- Patient Care Technology
- Continuing Education for Clinical Staff

## Online Giving Enhancements

Early this summer we will be enhancing our website to make online giving more user friendly. The changes will:

- make it easier to navigate the site
- process your gift immediately and will provide real time feedback if there is an error
- include our new gift designation options
- enable you to set-up a recurring gift

## Take Note!

### Making a recurring gift

With the enhancements coming to our website, you will have the opportunity to set up a recurring gift. It is a very easy process. Through our secure website you will give AHCH permission to charge your credit card account a certain amount each month. And you have the opportunity to designate your gift to the program and service that most interests you.

Recurring gifts offer benefits for you and AHCH. A recurring gift can stretch your giving dollars, take the hassle out of writing checks, provide you receipt information for tax purposes, decrease the amount AHCH spends on mailings, and provide AHCH with a consistent source of support.

# 2010 Annual Appeal

Each and every gift makes a difference

## GIFT LEVELS:

\$5000+ - Ambassador      \$250 - Sponsor  
\$1000 - Patron              \$100 - Associate  
\$500 - Founder              \$35 - Friend

## GIFT AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My company matches charitable gifts (form enclosed)

## Please direct my gift to the selected fund:

- Community Bereavement Support
- Continuing Education for Clinical Staff
- Hospice House
- Investments in Patient Care Technology
- Patient Subsidized Care
- Volunteer Services
- Where needed most

This gift is [ ] in memory of [ ] in honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the following person(s) of my gift

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Checks are payable to **Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice.**  
You may make your gift by **VISA or MasterCard**  
(courtesy of TD Bank).

[ ] VISA [ ] MasterCard

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also make your gift online through our website at [www.ahch.org](http://www.ahch.org).

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 819  
Lewiston, Maine  
04243-0819

## DONOR INFORMATION

I wish to remain anonymous in agency donor lists and publications

NAME (MR./MRS., MS., MISS, ETC)

\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I have remembered AHCH in my will

Please send me information about volunteer opportunities at AHCH



[www.ahch.org](http://www.ahch.org)

207-777-7740 • 1-800-482-7412



**ANDROSCOGGIN**  
**HOME CARE & HOSPICE**

15 Strawberry Avenue  
Lewiston, Maine 04240

Non-Profit Org.  
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Permit #3

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# 2010 UPCOMING events

More information can be found about events on our website [ahch.org](http://ahch.org) or by calling the AHCH Development Department at **777-7740**

**July 24**

**Butterfly Release Celebration**  
AHCH Hospice House, Auburn

**October 22**

**Autumn Night Out** - annual dinner and auction to benefit  
AHCH Hospice Program-Martindale Country Club, Auburn

**November 20**

**National Survivors of Suicide Teleconference**  
AHCH Lewiston Office

**go to**  
[www.ahch.org](http://www.ahch.org)

for updates on these events



## Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice

is a nonprofit, State licensed and Medicare-certified agency providing skilled home care, supportive care and hospice care.

AHCH is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Our mission is to care for the health, independence, and quality of life of residents in central and western Maine in the comfort of their home and community.