

Goshen Community Care

News and Notes | June 2025



A Note from the President

Greetings from Goshen Community Care!

It has been a wonderful year for our small (but mighty) organization. Our two newest employees, Lauren Marano, our dedicated marketing and communications coordinator, and Janice Connor, our enthusiastic program coordinator, have enjoyed many successes since joining us. We are thrilled with their personal drive, positivity, innovative ideas, overall cooperative attitudes, and the support they provide to our mission daily. I would also like to recognize the efforts of our longtime employee, Laurie Mosley, who continues to be a reliable and helpful member of our team.



To share some background on how I became affiliated with this dynamic organization, a neighbor asked me in 2021 if I would be interesting in joining, after I assisted my grandmother through her journey with hospice care. Always a volunteer, and a lover of all things Goshen, I jumped at the opportunity.

I am astounded by the amount of time and effort our board members and coordinators have put in throughout the last year to provide better services to the individuals of our community that need us most. As you'll learn in this newsletter, we have a broad range of offerings.

Thank you to our volunteers, attendees, donors, board, and all those unsung heroes in the Town of Goshen. You've paved the way for us, and we are beyond grateful!

If you would like to join our mission in helping neighbors in need, have a suggestion, or would like to assist our organization in any way, reach out to us at 860.491.4673 or find us online at goshencommunitycare.org!

Stay tuned for more INCREDIBLE things to come from Goshen Community Care.

With Appreciation,

~Sarah

Board of Directors

Sarah Leonard
President

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Vice President

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Treasurer

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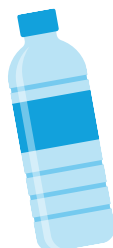
Staff

Janice Connor

Lauren Marano

Laurie Mosley

Our Annual Water Sale Fundraiser at
the 2025 Goshen Fair
will be taking place
August 30-September 1, 2025.



Volunteers
needed



We are looking for volunteers to sell
water at our booth. Please email
imarano@goshencommunitycare.org
if you are interested in helping this
year!

PO Box 202, Goshen, CT 06756 | 860-491-HOPE (4673)
goshencommunitycare.org

Outreach Coordinator's Corner



It has been such a great pleasure to have just – as of this writing- concluded my 7th month with *Goshen Community Care*. Like most things nowadays, that flew past! I have met many new friends and traveled on back roads of Goshen I did not know existed while delivering a hot meal, sharing a holiday treat bag, or taking someone home after a visit to the Emergency Room. I am proud to say that we continue to be here to support you.

At the same time in the Parish Hall Community Room at 5 Old Middle Street, we continue to hold old favorites but with new twists.

Our **Tuesday 1-3 pm Socials** are “**Coffee, Connections and Company**” – as we realize the importance of connection and socialization in our lives – this gives us all a chance to come for coffee and stay awhile. We have jigsaw puzzles, card games, Dominoes, Scrabble and will feature discussion groups once a month too to get us thinking aloud!

2nd Tuesday of the Month join us at **12 noon “Table Talk Hot Lunch”**- these meals, cooked by a local restaurant are delicious and free to all who attend. We have a speaker who will inform, educate, and make us think! We welcome approximately 40 neighbors to these lunches each month.

3rd Wednesday of the Month (NEW) 12 noon “Good Company Box Lunch”**- come and grab a box and fill it with a sandwich from a local restaurant or caterer, chips, fruit, coffee, and water, at no charge. There is a speaker who will have a topic which could be anything from recycling to how to spot a scam. We enjoy a nice roomful of neighbors- typically 35 - ready to enjoy a fun couple of hours.

We loan out durable medical equipment from our Loan Closet. In the last six months we have loaned out **35 items**. We accept gently used pieces. Usually, these articles are used short term and are then returned to us so it's a win/win. We also accept gently used donations of these items! Simply give us a call to arrange.

We offer a **Balance Class** with our instructor Robyn Centrella.- there is no charge for these classes. We also offer a **Grief Support Group** thanks to our facilitator Karen Jax Giarnese- and again there is no charge to attend.

Thanks to our incredible volunteers we have supplied **2 dozen hot dinner meals** to those in need this year. We have also provided numerous rides to the doctors/hospital, or helped arrange for the bus to transport. **Since Thanksgiving we have visited over 50 individuals** who are mostly solitary during the Holidays with a gift and a remembrance that we are there for them.

If you would like to attend any of the programs mentioned about please reach out to me and if you need a ride we can perhaps help with that also- jconnor@goshencommunitycare.org or call and leave a message **860-491-4673 (HOPE)**.

~Janice

Follow Us!



facebook.com/GoshenCommunityCare



<https://www.instagram.com/goshencommunitycare/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/goshen-community-care>

SAVE THE DATE

Goshen Community Care will host the annual **Light Up A Life** celebration on **Sunday, December 7th** at Goshen's Church of Christ Congregational. There will be a non-denominational service where we will recognize and honor loved ones who are no longer with us. The evening will conclude with a festive tree lighting and reception.

Sources of Income

As a small community-based nonprofit, Goshen Community Care relies largely on the generosity of our neighbors and local businesses. Many contributions are sent in memory of a loved one, to celebrate someone special or as general support for our work.

We extend a special thanks to:



- **Sepples Tree Service** for hanging lights on our festive holiday tree.
- **Local foundations** that provide grant support: Berkshire Taconic, Civic Family Services, Connecticut Community Foundation, Crosswicks Foundation, Rona Jaffe Foundation, and Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.
- All who purchased water at the Goshen Fair, with special appreciation for the **American Legion**, who graciously sells water annually to benefit our organization.
- **Rhonda Gelormino** for generously donating to our families in need during the holiday season.
- These generous donors during the recent **2025 Give Local Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills** Campaign:

Judi Armstrong
Deborah and Simon Ellis
The Cole Family
Cindy Barrett and Paul Collins
Martin Connor
Betty and Chris Cosgrove
Adam Cruz and Chelsea Donaldson
Wilrose Duquette
Jason and Christina Emery
Michael and Lida Exstein
Catherine and Richard Felten
Eileen Finnan
Pamela Hicks

Janet and Carl Hooper
The Kelly Family
Frances Krozek
Darlene and John Krukar
William P. Lane
Lance Leifert
Sarah and Mike Leonard
Vicki and Jack Lynch
The Marano Family
Marc and Tracy McCarthy
Judy Motel
Shirley Pedone
Lynn Perlotto

The Poirier Family
Michelle Pratt
Krista Rizzo
Mary Steinberg
Marianne Arancio Stilson
Erin and Will Strouse
Sean and Brandy Summerlin
Monika Visokay
Dawn and Don Wilkes
Tim and Kit Wright
Lu-Ann Zbinden

Thank you supporters!

These next pages include a list of all our supporters between **April 2024 – March 2025**. If we have mistakenly omitted your name, please forgive us and kindly let us know.

Thank you to all who support Goshen Community Care!

\$10,000+

Rona Jaffe Foundation

\$1,000 – \$9,999

American Legion Auxiliary
Archbishop Annual Appeal
Berkshire Taconic
Connecticut Community Foundation
Stephen and Kathryn Connolly
Crosswicks Foundation
Goshen Stampede
Ken and Anne Green

Josephine Jones
James Mazzarelli
Michael and Barbara McPhee
Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation
Torrington Concessions LLC
Richard and Laurie VanDuyne
Lu Ann C Zbinden

\$500-999

Civic Family Services
Tim and Lora Cermola
Michael & Lida Exstein
Goshen Garden Club
Karen Newton
Thomas ODell
R.W. Commerford Sons, Inc
Charles and Molly Roraback
Heather Turri

\$200-\$499

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Melissa and Paul Bennett
John Burek
Laura Carey and Jason Lee Dimukes
Jeanne K. Carlsen
Carl and Leslie Contadini
Ann Marie Crossman
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Valeria Goodwin
Goshen Wine
Glen Guilman
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James and Diane Johnson
Roger and Kathy Jorgensen
James and Christine Kell
John Kelley
Patricia LeShane
Samuel and Carolyn Mazzaelli
Michael and Susan McKay
Gennady Mikhelzon and Bela Sojina
Donald and Nancy Moore
Northern Farm and Flowers LLC
James O'Leary
Ryan and Michelle Pepin
Joyce Raffone
Janice Riley
Richard and Lynda Robinson
Felix and Catherine Sambuco
Sepples Tree Service LLC
Sterling Metals, LLC
Sandra and James Thibault
Thorncrest Farm LLC
Charles and Rosellen Waiveris
Ann Walla
Burton and Leni Welte
Robert Wolven

\$100-199

Beth Anstett
Ricky and Gail Berglund
Big Y
Audrey and Matthew Blondin
Thomas Borden
Robert Burns and Gary Schiro
Anthony Cocchiola
Burton Cohen
Steven and Carol Cohen
Martin and Janice Connor
David and Joan Corwin
William Michael Coyne
James and Candace Davis
August Dellaghelfa
Leya and Michael Edison
Fay and Wright Inc.
Marc and Myra Feldman
Kevin and Eileen Finnan
James and Gail Fortin
Elizabet R. Fowler
George Givens
Edward and Kathryn Goodhouse
Gregg Grahn and Launa Lemriux
Joan Hall
Donald Henderson Jr.
Russell and Holly Herold
Henrietta Horvay
HTH Automatic Sprinkler LLC
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Charles Hurwitz
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Allen and Vicki Kinsella
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Catherine and Anders Nygren
Charles and Ann Orsillo
Harold and Deborah Pattisons
Howard and Kathie Pease
Marilyn Perlotto
Phalen Funeral Home, Inc.
Lori and Keith Phalen
David and Patricia Poirier
Joseph and Michelle Pratt
Josephine Radocchio
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Karen Ross
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Karen Senter
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Arlene Stewart
Stop and Shop
Torrington Savings Bank
Raymond and Jane Truting
Michele Veseskis
Fredric and Darleene Wadhams
Allan Walker
Whitehall Construction LLC
Bruce and Jackie Whitford
Don and Dawn Wilkes
Janice Zampaglione

Up to \$100

Michael and Linda Alfano
Nancy Amoroso
Don and Beth Andersen
Helene and Howard Andrews
Kim Andrusia
Judith Armstrong
Ernesrt and Lorraine Barker
Joseph and Margaret Barra
Bryan and Dawna Beausoleil
Caroline Bennett
Deborah Bernard
Cathy and Richard Binkowski
Alan and Ann Booth
Martine Bouton
Edward Budzyn
John and Joanne Buslewicz
Charles and Lorraine Calder
George and Linda Castro
Debra Catuccio
Kathleen Celadon
Elizabeth Charter
John and Sandra Christensen
Robert and Ginette Clement
Wendy and Jonathan Costa
Robert and Mary Damon
Ginny Davidson
Laura Day
Donna Devanna
Gillian Drezen
Theresa Fay
Catherine and Richard Felten
Barbara Fraser
Shilo Garceau
John and Linnea Garvey
Michael Goldstein
Francis and Maureen Goodhouse
Joseph and Paula Gregoire
Gregory and Monica Griswold
Kenneth Hall
Vanden Handel

Bernard Harrington
Carl and Janet Hooper
Steven Hurwitz
Alfred and Karen Jennings
Dennis and Lorraine Karagannis
Elizabeth Ann Kelly
Christopher and Mary Ellen Kennavane
Dexter Kinsella and Lauri Szpak
George and Pat Kral
John and Josephine Leary
Theresa and James Lefevre
John and Ann Marie Maffeo
Katharine Malanca
Kathy Mango
Tarrie and Steve Marhefsky
Lawrence Mashburn
Richard and Cindy Mastrocola
Zachery and Danielle Mastrocola
Peter McEachern
Michael and Susan Michaud
Pamela Miller
Kenneth and Sandra Munson
Steven and Debra Nadaskay
Suzanne Nicoletti-Krase
Jeffrey and Laura Olanoff
Maureen Oumano
Bruce and Kathleen Palmer
Shirley Pedone
Phyllis Perillo
Craig Potter
Paul and Gertrude Prosperi
Carolyn and Rubin Ptak
Sandra and Patrick Reilly
Anthony L. Renzullo
Robin Rosenfield
Martha Russell
Richard and Eleanor Schibi
Christian and Patricia Schumacher
Josephine Scognamiglio
Alfred and Marilyn Shull
Jane Skargensky
Kathe Skibisky
Beth Skonieczny Breakell
Barbara Smith
Vanessa Spino
Leonard Stein
Marianne and Devin Stilson
Susan Strano and James Borla
Lauren Strickland
Erin and Will Strouse
Jeanne Vaill
Monika Brendel Visokay
Kathleen Vitiello
Mathew and Susan Wheeler
Pam and Wink Wilson
Marilyn and Hervey Wright



Volunteer Spotlight- An Interview with Linda Castro



Sarah: We're so happy to have you as one of our newer volunteers! How did you hear about us, and what made you want to get involved with Goshen Community Care?

Linda: I originally heard about it through other town residents and local publications. I attended the meeting (Friendraiser) at Woodridge Lake Clubhouse and felt the information presented displayed a wonderful community organization. I have had several family members (my mom, aunt, and mother-in-law) who required support with health issues and dementia. Though it is difficult for a caregiver to provide positive help to the elderly, they deserve love and respect as life becomes more complicated. Plus, it's rewarding to give to others that have given so much to you.

Sarah: What do you enjoy most about helping within our organization?

Linda: I enjoy chatting with and serving the lunches to our local residents. I have met so many lovely individuals. I think it's wonderful that residents who are unable to attend can get a "take home" meal. Also, the monthly speakers provide info to the community that they may not be aware of.

Sarah: What are some of your hobbies outside of volunteering?

Linda: I enjoy exercising (functional strength training and walking). I love reading and frequently borrow books from the Goshen library. Not exactly a hobby but I have 2 grandchildren Jack and Grace. I love spending time with them. I need to keep fit to keep up with them!

Sarah: Can you share a memory from your time volunteering thus far for our readers?

Linda: The fellow volunteers have been helpful "showing me the way" in how the monthly luncheons are organized. I enjoy seeing the participants interacting with each other and enjoying the cards/board games. It's so important to engage in social situations as much as possible. One funny story, the first week, I was serving in the buffet line. The experienced volunteer was serving meatloaf with one hand and potatoes in the other. I could barely keep up with her just serving a ladle of corn! I thought I better pick up the pace!

Our Amazing Volunteers

We thank ALL of our wonderful volunteers who have: given rides to those who were unable, visited shut-ins, assisted with our monthly programs, participated in our fundraising, and helped in so many, many ways to enhance our work!

Thank you to:

Helene Andrews, Judi Armstrong, Randy and Pam Carocci, Linda Castro, Chris and Betty Cosgrove, Laura Day, Rose Demaria, Donna Devanna, Rita Dziedzic, Jordana Hood, Janet Hooper, Josephine Jones, Johanna Kimball, Alan Kinsella, Jean Korner, Louise Krozek, Darlene Krukar, Janice Martin, Cathy Nygren, Mary Orlando, Ed Osborne, Lynn Perlotto, Pat & Sandi Reilly, Erin Reilly, Jan Riley, Jo Radocchio, Donald Sage and American Legion, Holly Simpson, Katheryne Spallone, Lynn Steinmayer, Mary Tracy, Jim Withstandley, and Kit Wright.

We'd also like to acknowledge Rhonda Gelormino for her amazing Christmas Drive, Sepples Tree Service of Goshen for hanging our holiday lights, Kristen Orr of CHORE Service, Charlene Dutka of Ciesco Catering Services, Goshen Pizza, Anita from Milk and Honey Grill, Greg from Goshen Wine and Spirits, Cara and Richard Weigold Northern Farm and Flowers, Village Market of Goshen, Kimberly Thorn of Thorncrest Chocolate and Mark Dalke – Just Tents LLC for supporting our work throughout the year!

To anyone who has helped our organization recently that we have mistakenly omitted... we thank you and appreciate you!

Catching Up... **with Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County**



Hospice Care has always been a priority for Goshen Community Care. We are proud that our very own Outreach Coordinator, Janice Connor, has recently completed the training to become a Hospice Volunteer through **Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County, Inc.** Janice joins many wonderful volunteers in our area who were inspired by GCC and have also completed their Hospice Care Volunteer training.

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County offers a comprehensive Hospice Program that goes beyond basic care to provide an all-encompassing approach tailored to the unique needs of each patient and their families. This program emphasizes compassionate physical care, ensuring patients are comfortable and supported during their final stage of life. In addition to expert pain management, which utilizes state-of-the-art techniques to minimize discomfort, they also prioritize emotional support through regular interactions with skilled professionals who understand the complex feelings that can arise in such challenging times.

Specially trained volunteers play a critical role in delivering warmth and companionship, addressing the emotional needs of patients and their loved ones. These volunteers are selected for their empathetic nature and commitment to providing comfort, often becoming a cherished presence during this sensitive period.

To support families in coping with the loss of a loved one, **VNHL** also offers bereavement support for up to a year following the patient's passing. This support provides an opportunity for family members and friends to come together in a safe environment to share their experiences, learn about the grieving process, and receive comfort from trained facilitators, thereby easing the burden of loss.

The hospice care offered by **Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County** is versatile, allowing patients to receive services in various settings, including the comfort of their own homes, in assisted living communities, within long-term care facilities, or even while hospitalized. Medicare, Medicaid, and many private insurance plans cover hospice care. Financial help is available from the local community and generous donors.

To learn more about Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County, call (860) 379-8561 or visit www.vnhlc.org.

Goshen Community Care provides referral assistance to any and all local Hospice Care facilities. We are here for you in your time of need. If you should need assistance in inquiring about Hospice Care for a loved one, please call our office at **(860) 491-HOPE (4673)**. We understand that initiating these services can be an overwhelming and emotional process, and are here to help alleviate some of those difficulties.



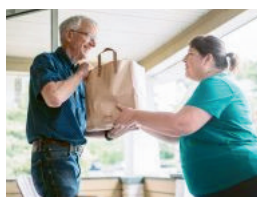
Looking Ahead...

Goshen Community Care has been focused on making investments in our small organization that will allow us to grow and expand our community impact. We are excited about the small but significant changes we have made this year and are looking forward to the year ahead and what we will accomplish!

- **New Hires:** In Fall of 2024 we hired two new staff members who have each brought newfound energy to GCC. Our Outreach Coordinator Janice Connor has a wealth of experience with the aging population and is recently retired from *Western CT Area Agency on Aging* as a Resident Services Coordinator. Her warm and positive personality is a wonderful asset to leading our Outreach Programs and Services. Lauren Marano joined us in a newly formed position as Development and Communications Coordinator, with a strong background in non-profit marketing and development. Lauren's priorities are ensuring we are effectively communicating all the wonderful services GCC provides to our local community, and identifying opportunities to grow our funding and support.
- **Community Partnerships:** We will continue to partner with our local town organizations, including co-sponsoring some events with **Goshen Recreation Department** such as weekly yoga classes, as well as the **Goshen Fire Department** which passes out Goshen Community Care magnets with our contact information and *File of Life* magnets to those who may need them.
- **Strategic Planning Initiative:** We will be conducting a Strategic Planning Initiative in the later part of 2025 thanks to a generous grant from the *Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation*. The priority of this project will be to determine opportunities for GCC to expand its impact in the community and identify any gaps in community needs that GCC could fulfill.
- **Grant for New Community Program:** As part of our goal to grow our impact within the community, and with support from grant funding through *Northwest Community Bank*, we are excited to offer a new family community dinner program, beginning this Fall. Details will be shared at a later date!
- **Board of Directors:** Our board volunteers are committed to the growth and impact GCC has in our local community. We have welcomed several new board members this year and are excited about the new ideas generated at each meeting we have.

Our Services

Outreach to Homebound



Weekly Senior Socials



Bereavement Support



Medical Loan Closet



Monthly Lunches

