



Hospice patient Josephine Paolucci with Social Worker Carolyn Konig

The Community Hospice and the “Cookie Lady”

Hospice patient Josephine “Josie” Paolucci has always been known for her warmth—and her cookies. Married to her beloved husband John for 75 years, Josie lived happily with him in an assisted living facility until last October, when her pancreatic cancer diagnosis required more care. She moved to Eddy Village Green Cohoes and entered into care with The Community Hospice.

Soon after, John—at age 100 and battling lung cancer—suffered a seizure and also required nursing home care. He joined Josie at Eddy Village Green. Unlike traditional nursing homes, Eddy Village Green offers small, ranch-style homes each accommodating 12 residents called

Elders. For a brief time, Elders Josie and John were reunited, sharing meals and the comfort of being together again. Sadly, John passed away in November. Josie is grateful for that extra time she had with John and for the compassionate support of her Hospice team as she mourns his loss.

One thing that keeps Josie going is her long passion and love for baking. With help from a social work intern, Josie’s cherished recipes were turned into a 78-page cookbook, *Bake with Love*. Josie had baked for decades – for family, friends, fundraisers, and folks at the Jewish Community Center. She became known all over as “The Cookie Lady.”

While she doesn’t bake anymore, Josie still loves to talk about her recipes and offer tips to others.

“I think talking about cooking gives her purpose and meaning,” says Carolyn Konig, Josie’s Hospice social worker. “She’s doing better and working through her grief. Our entire Hospice team—from nurses and chaplains to music and massage therapists—is working together to support her.” In John’s obituary, Josie’s family kindly asked that donations in John’s memory go to Hospice. ***If you’d like to help patients like Josie receive extra comfort services, such as music and massage therapy, please visit givetocommunityhospice.org.***



The Community Hospice Foundation Welcomes Two New Board Members

The Community Hospice Foundation proudly welcomes two new board members whose leadership and

dedication will help ensure our programs continue to meet the evolving needs of patients and

families. We deeply value their commitment to advancing our mission of care.

Liz Bishop is a broadcasting legend whose face has graced TV screens across the upstate New York region for an incredible 52 years. An Albany native, Liz began her career in 1973 as a weekend sportscaster for WRGB CBS6 News -- a groundbreaking role for women at the time. While still a sophomore at UAlbany, she quickly proved herself to be a versatile and fearless journalist even making history in a widely recognized first all-woman newscast. Liz also broke other barriers becoming one of the first female reporters allowed into the New York Yankees locker room after a landmark court ruling.

Throughout her career, Liz covered countless historic moments in the news, from broadcasting the first transcontinental live remote in the Capital Region for the inauguration of George Deukmejian of Menands as Governor of California to reporting firsthand on the New York Search and Rescue Team's recovery mission at Ground Zero on 9/11.

Liz's dedication and talent have earned her an induction into the New York State Broadcasters' Hall of Fame alongside legends like Walter Cronkite, Mike Wallace, and Barbara Walters. Her reporting on the Schoharie limousine crash won a National Edward R. Murrow Award, and her impressive list of honors includes: 5 Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards, 3 New York State Emmys, more than three dozen Emmy nominations, several NYS Broadcasters Association awards, induction into the NYS Women's Press Club Hall of Honor, and many more. Liz has also made extensive contributions to the community - as a telethon host, emcee, and board member for numerous local causes. For more than 20 years, she served as emcee for "Cuisine Magic," a fundraiser for Eddy Visiting Nurse & Rehab Association (Eddy VNRA), and most recently, she served as emcee for "Swinging on a Star," an annual gala to benefit The Community Hospice and Eddy VNRA.



Liz retired in June 2025 closing an extraordinary chapter in broadcast history. We are thrilled to welcome her leadership and passion to The Community Hospice Foundation Board. Liz, thank you for all you've done and all you will continue to do for our community!

Save the Dates for Upcoming Hospice Foundation Events

The Community Hospice Foundation raises money year-round to help support vital programs for patients and families, including extra comfort services such as massage and music therapies, the Hospice Wish Fund, Camp Erin bereavement for children and teens, and grief counseling for individuals and families in the community—all provided FREE of charge. Please

save the dates and join us for the following events!

- “Glimmer of Light” - Friday, April 10, at The Wire in Coxsackie.
- “Swinging on a Star” - Saturday, May 1, Rivers Casino in Schenectady.
- “Walk for Hospice” - Saturday, June 13, Siena University in Latham.



Judith DiLorenzo had her first experience with Hospice when she was just in her 20s. Her great uncle was seriously ill and entered into care at St. Peter's Hospital. Judy would go spend time with him and through those visits, she first learned what Hospice was and "was really impressed with the care he received."

Fast forward to October 2023. Suffering from dementia, Judy's 97-year-old father fell seriously ill and was admitted into care with The Community Hospice. "It was the most amazing care," says Judy. "I tell everyone who will listen to me. My sister and I were with him for the week. We were immersed in it there. It was such a difficult time, and that's when I made the decision I wanted to be involved and to give back," recalls Judy.

In December, Judy announced she would be retiring after a

remarkable 33-year career in education at Hudson Valley Community College where she served as Vice President of Academic Affairs. Embracing a new chapter, Judy joined The Community Hospice Foundation Board and its Education Committee. "You get asked to be a part of things many times and this was the one I wanted to be a part of. It was important to me and meaningful. I wanted to give back this way. It's a good fit for me."

Reflecting on her mother's passing in July, Judy looks forward to more time "to take a breath" in retirement, play with her grandchildren, and enjoy her fitness activities. She also wants to use her experience to help educate the community that Hospice is not just end of life - but about comfort, dignity, and support when it matters most. "I wanted to involve



Hospice," Judy says of her mother's passing, "but she wasn't ready. It would have made everything so much better," she notes. Judy, thank you for your dedication to helping others understand the true mission of Hospice. Welcome!

Meet The Community Hospice Foundation's New Executive Director: Francesca Casaregola



The Community Hospice Foundation welcomes Francesca Casaregola as our new Executive

Director. Francesca has 20 years of experience in the non-profit setting. She formerly served as Director of Leadership Annual Giving for the American Cancer Society (ACS) since 2022. She joined the ACS as community events coordinator in 2019 before being promoted to philanthropy manager in 2020.

"The past few months orienting at The Community Hospice Foundation have been truly inspiring," says Francesca. "I've had the privilege of learning about the many ways we support those living with serious illness and bring comfort to their families through Hospice care and bereavement

services. The depth of compassion and commitment in this work is remarkable, and I am proud to represent this incredible community across the nine counties we serve."

Francesca looks forward to working with Hospice donors and supporters as well as the volunteer Board Members who dedicate their time and leadership to help guide the Hospice Mission. Welcome, Francesca!

To contact Francesca, please call (518) 525-8854 or email Francesca.Casaregola@sphp.com.



Serving patients and families in nine counties:

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Making a Difference: Dedicated Volunteer Helps Transform Young Lives With Generous Donation for Camp Erin



Joan Alexander had seen early on in life just how important hospice services were to seriously ill patients and families, and those at the end of life. That's because she had witnessed it all firsthand when her mother in Maryland suffered from cancer and went on hospice care. That experience would stay with her. Years later, in 2006, Joan still felt the tug of hospice in her heart and decided to become a volunteer for the hospice in Arizona where she lived.

In 2019, Joan relocated to the Capital Region and underwent

training to become a volunteer for The Community Hospice just before the COVID pandemic. Since then, she has been giving her time working weekly with the Saratoga Hospice office for more

than three years now. Through volunteering, Joan learned about Camp Erin, Hospice's annual weekend bereavement camp for children and teens who have lost a significant person in their lives. Held in the beautiful Adirondacks, Camp Erin offers a safe nurturing environment for children and teens ages 7-17 to enjoy fun camp activities while also learning essential skills to cope with loss. The camp also allows children to meet and connect with others their own age who are also grieving a loss.

For Joan, who had chosen to donate to local charities that help children, this was a perfect match. She quietly decided to donate \$17K to cover the cost of hosting the camp for all the youths who attended last fall. On behalf of all the campers who participated, our heartfelt thanks to Joan for touching so many young lives! We are truly grateful for your generosity.

