

spotlight

AUTUMN 2025

GUTHRIE LOURDES AUXILIARY NEWS

Auxiliary to expand online presence

Members of the Auxiliary board are working with Guthrie Lourdes Communications Specialist Julie Weisberg and experts at Guthrie in Sayre, PA, to make the Auxiliary web page more accessible and functional. Visitors will be able to view our mission, history, current leadership, programs and events, and also complete forms, make online donations, and pay for dues, event sponsorships, tickets, etc. The target completion date for this upgrade is the end of this year. Details to follow in our spring 2026 *Spotlight* newsletter. We look forward to greatly enhanced communication with the community! ●

Barb Palmer honored as 2025 Auxilian of the Year

Barb Palmer was recognized as Auxilian of the Year at a breakfast on October 14, 2025. She has been on the Auxiliary board since 2011, serving as co-vice president and co-president as well as co-chair of Guthrie Lourdes Ball 2017, 2018 and 2025 and committee member on many other Balls over the past 15 years. She currently heads the Patient Cheer program. She has also coordinated the Auxiliary's WHALE™ initiative and been on the Membership, Caregiver Appreciation, Jr. Volunteer Scholarships and Annual Dinner committees. She has a talent for quietly organizing people and getting things done.

The Auxiliary presented Barb with flowers, restaurant gift certificates and a "Gift of Words" jar full of affectionate descriptors, comments and memories. ●



Diplomatic • Kind • Patient
Detail-oriented; her numbers always add up!
Creative • Constructive thinker • Encourager
Her presence is a steady source of reassurance
Always steps up • Offers thoughtful insights
Willing to ask (sometimes tough) questions
Gentle but feisty • Reliable • Calm under pressure
Great mentor to new team members



Inpatients receive tray favors

The Auxiliary distributes Patient Cheer tray favors to inpatients four times a year. This summer's favor, hand sanitizer in a cloth bag, was delivered to 150 patients. One hundred twenty bags of sweet treats were distributed in October. Thank you to Patient Cheer coordinator Barb Palmer and her assistants Denise Consol, Phil Knapp, Nancy LaRose, Kate Newberry, Pam Previti and Bonnie Zulick. ●



Celebrating caregivers

This year's celebration of Guthrie Lourdes caregivers was hosted by the Auxiliary on June 13. First shift was invited to an ice cream social. Second and third shifts received novelty ice creams. Off-site offices were given cookies.

Thank you to Caregiver Appreciation chair Barbara Simonds. Special appreciation, also, to Guthrie Lourdes Hospital's food guru Bob Weslar for supplying the goodies! ●

Below, L-R: Kate Newberry, Pam Previti, Denise Consol, Barb Palmer, Phil Knapp and Caregiver Appreciation chair Barbara Simonds with cookie platters for off-site offices



Books donated to pediatric clinics

In May, the Auxiliary's Pediatric Books chair Annette Varcoe delivered about 100 children's books to Guthrie Lourdes' two pediatric practices — Guthrie Vestal Pediatrics and Binghamton Riverside Drive Pediatrics. She makes these deliveries three times a year. Children are able to select a book to take home, perhaps creating a more positive association with a visit to the doctor.

The Auxiliary is thrilled to have the financial support of Visions Federal Credit Union for this community outreach project! ●

“We Care” bags provide comfort items for cancer patients

Since March, “We Care” bag chair Pam Previti has assembled and delivered 78 bags of comfort items for patients undergoing initial chemotherapy or radiation treatments at Broome Oncology, Guthrie Lourdes Radiation Therapy and Guthrie Lourdes Medical Oncology. The bags contain a bottle of water, lip balm, ginger candy, hand sanitizer, Aquaphor ointment, a notepad, a package of tissues, an inspirational card, peppermint tea and a pen. ●

WHALE™ child identification kits aid first responders in an emergency

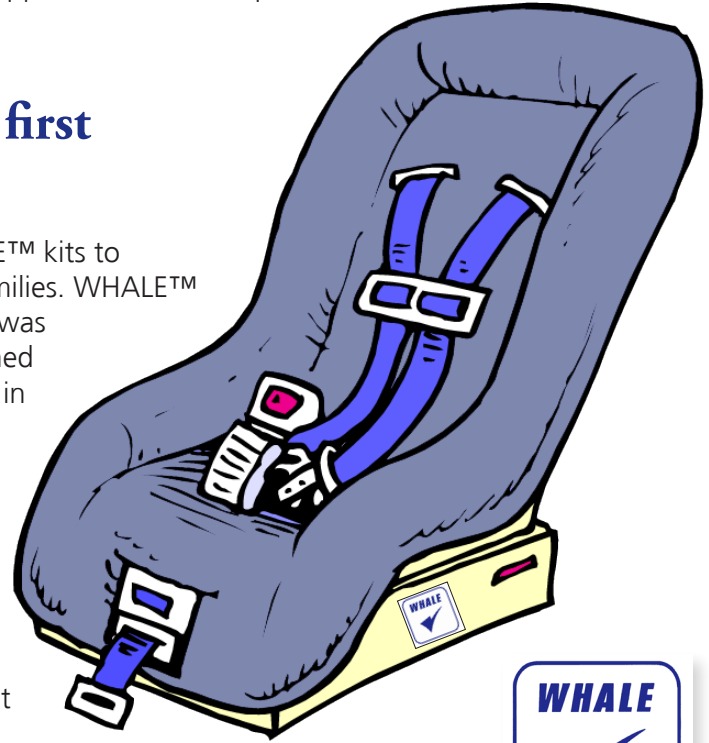
The Auxiliary’s WHALE™ chair, Nancy Boushie, delivers WHALE™ kits to local agencies that provide services to children and young families. WHALE™ is an acronym for We Have A Little Emergency. The program was developed in the 1990s by a caregiver in Virginia who was concerned about the welfare of children involved in auto accidents, especially in situations where the vehicle’s driver is incapacitated. Organizations across the United States continue to promote this initiative, distributing WHALE™ kits to families in their area and educating local emergency personnel about the program.

WHALE™ kits include:

- a child information sticker with space for the child’s photo, name, date of birth, medical information and emergency contacts, which goes on the rear or underside of the safety seat
- four checkmark stickers — two for the rear side windows of the vehicle to alert emergency personnel that the child inside is a WHALE™ participant, and two for the sides of the child safety seat
- an instruction sheet

Nancy has distributed a total of 330 kits so far this year to the Broome County Health Department, HCA (Helping Celebrate Abilities) and Binghamton City School District’s PACT (Parents & Children Together) program.

Many thanks to Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 112 for funding production of WHALE™ kit contents. ●



Place
photo
of child
here

WHALE™
"We Have A Little Emergency"
NOTE: Guardians assume full responsibility for the
information and photo on this label and must update
them as necessary. Remove this label if safety seat is
sold or transferred.

Child's DOB: ____ / ____ / ____

Child's Name: _____
First Middle Last

Child's Medical Info: _____

Guardian's Name: _____

Home: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____

Guardian's Name: _____

Home: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____

Emergency Contacts (other than guardians):

Name / Relationship Phone(s) Name / Relationship Phone(s)



Checkmark stickers
for sides of safety seat
and rear side windows
of vehicle

Information sticker goes
on rear or underside of
safety seat

Vendor sale proceeds support Auxiliary projects

On-campus sales by local vendors are a source of revenue for the Auxiliary. A percentage of proceeds from each sale of custom jewelry, popcorn, wreaths, soaps, candles and other artisanal goods helps fund Auxiliary activities. We are pleased to assist these small businesses by providing them with a venue to offer their wares. And, of course, we appreciate the income we receive in return. We have long-term relationships with some enterprises, but are always on the lookout for purveyors of new products as well.

Volunteer Services Supervisor of Office Operations Jennifer Gates coordinates sales on our behalf, for which we are endlessly grateful. Thank you, Jennifer! ●

Guthrie Lourdes Auxiliary Board 2025-2026



- 1 Bonnie Zulick
- 2 Barb Palmer
- 3 Jaclyn Boushie-Bombard
- 4 Kate Newberry
- 5 Denise Consol
- 6 Phil Knapp
- 7 Pam Previti
- 8 Carole Hagopian
- 9 Julie Weisberg
- 10 Beth Taylor
- 11 Brittanie Bishop
- 12 Ellen Burns
- 13 Nancy Boushie
- 14 Nancy LaRose
- 15 Barbara Simonds

Not pictured:
Francine Butler Groat
Annette Varcoe

Executive Board

President: Denise Consol
Vice President: Phil Knapp
Secretary: Bonnie Zulick
Treasurer: Pam Previti
Immediate Past Co-Presidents: Kate Newberry & Barb Palmer

Ex-Officio Members

Kathy Connerton, Guthrie Lourdes Hospital President
Amy Pratt, Guthrie Lourdes Manager of Accounting and Reporting
Jennifer Gates, Supvr. Office Operations Guthrie Lourdes Volunteer Services

Members at Large

Brittanie Bishop
Jaclyn Boushie-Bombard
Nancy Boushie
Ellen Burns
Francine Butler Groat
Nancy LaRose
Barbara Simonds
Beth Taylor
Annette Varcoe
Julie Weisberg

Thanks and farewell, Marina & Carole!

Thank you to Marina Resciniti and Carole Hagopian, both of whom recently stepped down from the Auxiliary board. Marina's youthful perspective was a breath of fresh air and Carole's 20 years of dedicated service in numerous roles — vice president, Ball co-chair, vendor sale coordinator and many more — were priceless. We miss you, Marina and Carole! ●

spotlight
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Guthrie Lourdes Auxiliary
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Binghamton, NY 13905



Spotlight Staff

Beth Taylor and Nancy LaRose, with assistance from Larry LaRose

Want to go paperless?

If you would like to receive *Spotlight* by e-mail, please contact Beth Taylor at beth.rose.taylor@gmail.com.

Join us!

New Auxiliary members are always welcome. For a membership form, contact Nancy LaRose at nancyalarose@gmail.com.

Dues support Auxiliary projects.