

Corning area comfort home project gets huge boost

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The family of a man who died last year is working to create an alternative to nursing homes for terminal patients. Jeff Murray / Staff video



(Photo: PROVIDED IMAGE)

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A planned "comfort care home" for hospice patients in the Corning area got a huge boost with news that it is getting a \$100,000 grant from the Lions Club International Foundation.

Bampa's House is named in memory of Jim Dugan, 68, of Painted Post, a former Corning Lions Club member and president who died of cancer last year.

"Bampa" was a nickname bestowed on Dugan by his grandchildren.

After Dugan died, his family realized there was a gap between nursing home care and at-home care for terminally-ill patients.

The comfort home concept will involve volunteers who will provide round-the-clock care and support for two hospice patients and their families, while professional staff from CareFirst will provide all clinical services.

A location for Bampa's House has been selected, according to Dugan's sister, Pat Dugan, and the organization is in the fundraising stages of the project.



Jim Dugan (Photo: FILE PHOTO)

That effort got a big boost last week when the Corning Lions Club, which is partnering with the organization formally known as Corning Comfort Care Inc., got news that the Lions Club International Foundation is awarding the local club a \$100,000 matching grant.

That money will be added to more than \$100,000 that's already been raised locally for construction of the new building.

Corning Lions Club member Dr. Edward Cordes wrote the grant proposal, along with club President Joan Wilson, who is also Jim Dugan's sister.

Construction at an as yet undisclosed location will hopefully start later this summer, Pat Dugan said.

[Corning area 'comfort home' closer to reality](#)

The group hopes to raise \$750,000 to build the house and provide operating funds for the first year, she said. Bampa's House will be free to hospice patients, and the Corning Comfort Care Inc. board will rely on fundraisers to maintain the service.

Future fundraising events will include a five-kilometer run and family walk Sept. 9, and a dinner in cooperation with the Corning Lions Club on Oct. 7 at the Corning Country Club.

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- For information about upcoming fundraisers and other plans for Corning's new comfort care home, go to bampashouse.org.