

## END-OF-LIFE CARE

# Group seeks to open comfort care home

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Of the many decisions surrounding a loved one's end-of-life care, among the toughest is how to provide comfort in a way that also maintains dignity.

Work is currently under way to establish a comfort end-of-life care home in the Corning area.

Joan Dugan Wilson, president of the group raising funds for the project, said

several towns have established a comfort care home model, but the closest one to the Corning area is about 45 minutes away.

"We felt very strongly that people need another option for end-of-life care," Wilson said. "If someone can't keep a loved one in their home for whatever reason, or they don't have a nursing home option, this will be another alternative."

Wilson said the Corning area needs a home

where residents can find end-of-life care in a nearby, noninstitutional setting, surrounded by caregivers 24 hours a day.

A comfort care home is defined as a home with two private bedrooms, where a person who has three months or less to live can go when neither their own home nor a nursing home are good options, according to a letter written by Wilson to The Leader. Hospice care is provided to the residents

by CareFirst, the provider for Steuben, Chemung and Schuyler counties and all other care is provided mostly by trained volunteers, the letter said.

"We felt very strongly that people need another option for end-of-life care if they can't keep a loved one in their home," Wilson said.

The Dugan family of Corning, in memory of Jim Dugan, hopes to find either an existing home that could be retrofitted or land where a home could be

built.

There is no cost to the resident, Wilson said. The end-of-care location will have few paid employees beyond a full-time director, volunteer coordinator and fundraising coordinator.

The Corning Lions Club, where Jim Dugan was a past president, is overseeing a fundraising drive. Donations are now being accepted by writing a check to the Corning NY Lions Foundation, P.O. Box 1096, Corning, NY 14830.