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'Lighting the Way for Lucia' fundraiser set

CRAZY BABY PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
Light the Way
Benefit for Lucia Spiritosanto
Sunday, November 23rd, 2025
1pm-8pm

Live Music
Basket Raffle
50/50
Food

Live Music by:
Ed Kobay, Mark Porter, Even Odds
No Computer, No Show

Special Musical Guests To Be Announced
\$12 PRE-SALE • \$15 DAY OF BENEFIT
PLEASE SCAN QR CODE TO PURCHASE
@Lucia-Spiritosanto

THE EVENING STAR
8810 NIAGARA FALLS BLVD. NF 14304
716.940.5391 | ALL AGES SHOW

"Light the Way for Lucia," a fundraiser for Lucia Spiritosanto, will take place Sunday, Nov. 23, at the Evening Star, 8810 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls. The event begins with a basket raffle at 1 p.m., and continues with all-ages music from 2-8 p.m. The benefit also will include food and a 50/50 drawing.

Lucia's friends and family are coming together to host "Lighting the Way" to support Lucia on her journey of healing and recovery.

On Aug. 1, 2024, Lucia suffered an occipital lobe ischemic stroke (a blood clot in the brain) while at work. The stroke caused her to lose the left field of vision in both eyes, profoundly changing her daily life. Neurologists placed her in vision therapy, but progress has been limited so far. She is unable to drive, must rely on others for transportation, and needs assistance with daily tasks such as shopping, cooking, and home maintenance.

Lucia will soon begin treatment with a neuro-optometrist who specializes in stroke recovery. Through specialized

glasses and vision training, there is hope her brain can relearn to detect objects in her missing visual field. This could allow Lucia to regain independence, possibly return to her work as a graphic designer – she has worked for the Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel • Island Dispatch, designing ads for many local businesses – and restore a sense of normalcy to her life.

In addition to these challenges, Lucia is a devoted mother of four and grandmother of four, who also is grieving the loss of her fiancé just one year prior to her stroke. Despite these hardships, she continues to show strength and determination, holding onto hope for brighter days.

Your support can make a lasting impact on easing the financial burden of medical care, therapy costs, and lost income. Every contribution, no matter how large or small, will help Lucia focus on her health and healing journey.

For more information, call 716-940-5391.

Personalized, compassionate care at home provided by HART

Guest Editorial by Patricia E. Berggren
Chairperson, Board of Directors, HART Inc.

A 45-year-old man calls in a panic after failing to get his terminally ill wife out of bed to a chair. He is emotionally spent and calls HART (home assistance referral team). Within an hour, a caregiver is at his door to help this couple.

After a trip home to visit elderly parents, their daughter realizes that living in their home without assistance is no longer safe or smart. She calls HART seeking 24/7 care to help manage their medications, meals and daily living. A team of three caregivers is selected to assist her parents, allowing them to remain in their home with their beloved dog and avoid admission to a skilled nursing home facility.

A construction worker suffers a bad fall resulting in a broken hip and has no one at home to care for him upon discharge. His neighbor has heard of HART, and just one call matches him with a caregiver to help manage his recovery.

A veteran, having lost his wife

with no family nearby, suffers from depression and longs for daily companionship. He calls HART.

A family caring for a loved one suffering heartbreaking struggles with dementia is burned out and needs to take a much-needed break. HART provides the respite care they so badly need.

These stories represent just a few of the thousands of individuals and families who have received personalized and compassionate care from HART, a not-for-profit organization serving Niagara and Erie counties. Located in Lewiston, this essential community asset has been providing care to seniors and others, allowing them to remain safe and independent in their own homes for over 40 years.

Whether it is a senior asking for companionship or a fulltime, 24/7 case requiring health care assistance, HART's caregivers range from home care aides to registered nurses, all of whom have been fully vetted with background checks.

The care model provided by

HART is unique and personalized for each case. The requestor or a family member interviews caregivers matching their needs and they make a choice. That caregiver or team, if needed, will remain with the person throughout their case, thus providing a sense of safety and familiarity.

Much has been written about the value of helping vulnerable seniors and those with special needs to "age or recover in place." The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines aging in place as: "the ability to live in one's own home and community safely, independently and comfortably regardless of age, income or ability to pay."

Today, someone turning 65 has almost a 70% chance of needing some type of long-term care services and support in their remaining years, according to the U.S. Administration for Community Living.

These statistics are having a direct impact on HART's operation. Requests for care have dramati-

cally increased in both Niagara and Erie counties and, thankfully, our dedicated roster of caregivers has grown considerably to meet this need.

As a not-for-profit organization – that does not charge those in need for referral services – HART operates solely on the generous donations of individuals, businesses, grants and community events.

If you have received home care from HART for a family member, passed our information along to a friend, or simply realize that one day you may need us ... please consider a gift to HART or include us in your estate planning. We promise to be here for you well into the future – and hope you will be there for us as we continue to grow.

For information about our services, to become a caregiver or to make a donation, please contact HART at 716-754-8313 or go to our website at hartprogram.org. You can also check us out on Facebook.

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