

The Healthcare Consortium

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 4, 2025

### A Note from the Executive Director

Greetings! I hope you will enjoy this edition of our quarterly newsletter—this time capturing the activities and accomplishments of this past fall, including our brief report on the reach and impact of select programs in the last quarter, and one last heartfelt “THANK YOU” to all those that sponsored, attended, or donated to our Annual CARTS Fundraiser in October. You’ll also find an announcement about our end-of-year campaign, the “Match for Mobility,” that aims to leverage the generosity of the Rip Van Winkle Foundation in offering a \$25,000 challenge grant in support of CARTS, and a report on our expanding role in Greene County. Don’t miss reading about the Network Member in our spotlight this issue, Columbia-Greene Community College, or the other tidbits about our valued members in the Network Member News section.

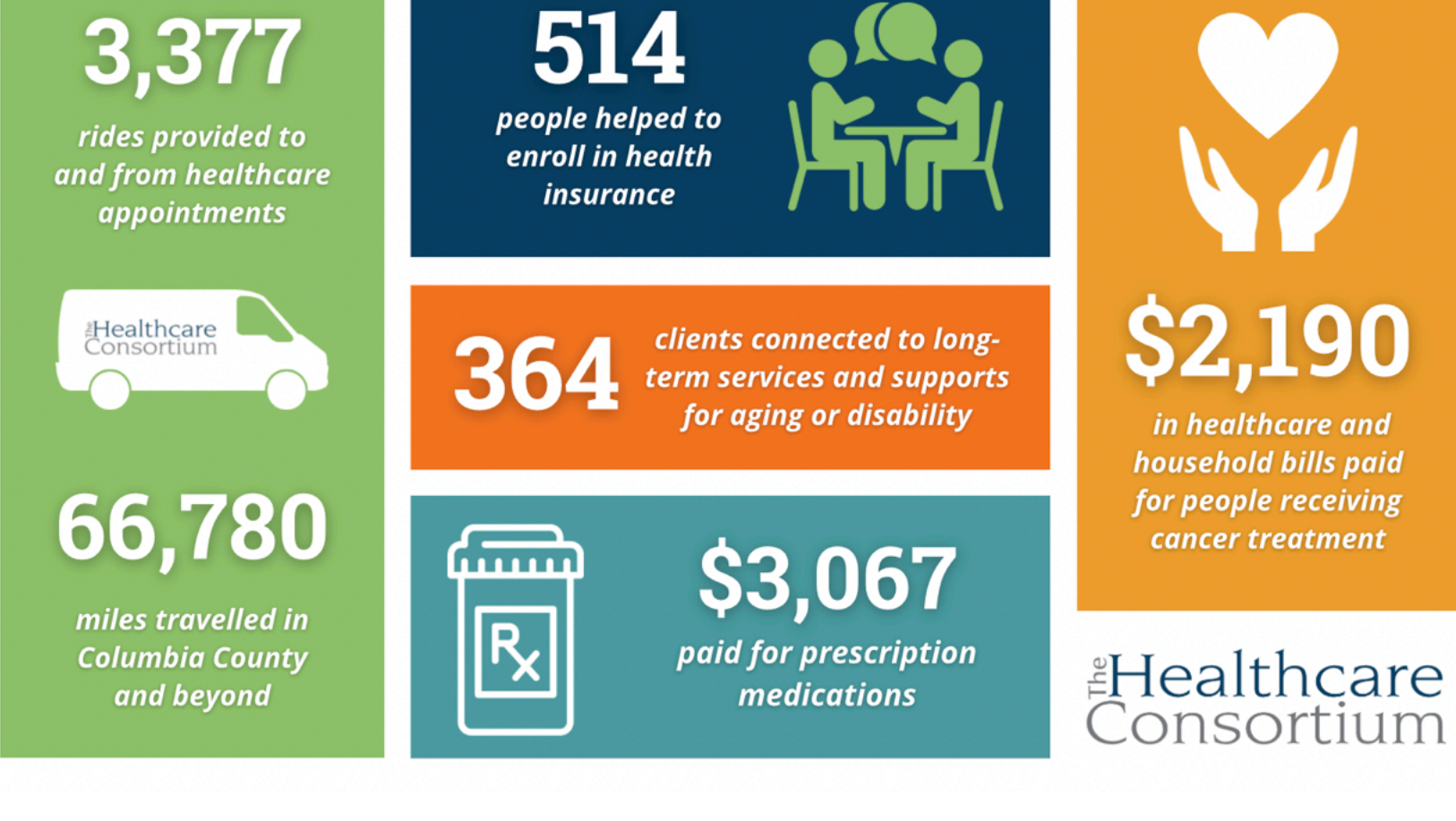
As I often do when we are about to send out a newsletter, I revisit prior versions to refresh my memory about what we’ve been doing and saying at various points throughout the year. In doing so this time, I was reminded of my comments in the very first issue of the year, when I was struggling to find some optimism at what felt like a dark time. So much has happened since then, and so much of it has been worrisome because of its harm, both real and potential, to the people we serve. And yet...for every challenge that has either already landed or been forecasted, I have seen an interest in meeting it. You’ve seen it too...plastered all throughout the comments on community Facebook pages, and likely heard it, maybe in a coffee shop or from the pulpit. It seems everywhere I turn, I find people writing and talking about their worries for their neighbors and, more importantly, how to help them, whether with time or tender. It’s been remarkable to witness and got me thinking: though there are undoubtedly hard times ahead, this place we all call home has a great strength and asset in the people who live here—in their caring, compassion, and community spirit. I think our job, in the helping professions, is to think about creating and sustaining ways for neighbors to help neighbors, whether directly through their volunteer effort, or through giving, at any level. No matter how a person is able, our job in the charitable sector is to make sure that we figure out how to put all that good will to good use. I think that’s the great opportunity ahead of us and one that I very much hope the Consortium’s broader community will be a part of...

But that’s next year’s work. In the meantime, I sincerely hope that you all enjoy good health and happiness in these last few days of this calendar year. From all of us at the Consortium to all of you...Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Best wishes,  
Claire

### Impact Report for Quarter 3:

July - September 2025



### Highlights & Announcements



We are delighted to announce that the Rip Van Winkle Foundation has generously offered to donate a dollar to CARTS for every dollar the Healthcare Consortium raises—up to \$25,000!

Whether someone doesn't have a vehicle, can't afford to fill the tank, or is unable to drive safely after a treatment or procedure, the Healthcare Consortium's Children and Adults Rural Transportation Service (CARTS) is there to help them access the care they need to get and stay healthy....Our Motto is **“Our Cars, Our Drivers, Our Pleasure”** and we mean it!

**Help keep our clean and well-maintained vehicles and compassionate drivers on the road connecting our neighbors to their care. Every gift—no matter the size—brings us closer to meeting our match!**

Donate

### — Now Managing the Greene County Senior Angels — and Veterans Relief Funds

We are proud to announce that the Healthcare Consortium is partnering with the Greene County Department of Human Services to benefit Greene County's seniors and veterans.

For many years, the Greene County Senior Angels Fund and the Greene County Veterans Relief Fund have provided emergency financial assistance to eligible Greene County residents experiencing financial hardship. Monies from both Funds have been used to pay for health-related expenses, like health insurance premiums, co-pays, coinsurance, and deductibles, and for household expenses, like rent, utility payments, and transportation. The financial assistance provided through the Funds has been a very welcome relief to cash-strapped seniors and veterans at those times when just a little bit of help goes a long way.

Now, we are proud to report that we were invited by the Greene County Department of Human Services to take over the management of these two financial assistance funds—work that is very familiar to us given that we have long had the Community Cancer Funds, which function in much the same way. Effective October 1st, Greene County residents seeking financial assistance from either the Greene County Senior Angels Fund or the Greene County Veterans Relief Fund must complete a simple application, which can be picked up at the Greene County Department of Human Services located at 411 Main Street or found on our website at the following webpages:

- Senior Angels Fund: [www.columbiahealthnet.org/programs/senior\\_angels](http://www.columbiahealthnet.org/programs/senior_angels)
- Veterans Relief Fund: [www.columbiahealthnet.org/programs/veterans\\_relief](http://www.columbiahealthnet.org/programs/veterans_relief)

Inquiries about the Funds can be made to Ashling Kelly by phone at 518-719-3556 or in person at the Greene County Department of Human Services at 411 Main Street, Catskill, NY. Donations to either Fund—100% of which are committed to Greene County residents—can also be made on our [website](#), by mail, or in person.”

### — Thank You for Supporting the 2025 CARTS Fundraiser —

We want to thank everyone who was able to join us for our Annual CARTS Fundraiser on October 9th and hope you had as much fun as we did—eating, drinking, and enjoying the company of good folks doing good work together! Thank you to everyone who supported this effort, with a particular nod to our incredible sponsors; whether you sponsored, donated or attended, you helped ensure that the Children and Adults Rural Transportation Service will keep helping connect our neighbors to care!

We want to share one final thank you to our incredible sponsors, [seen here](#). Your support doesn't just make this event possible—it helps keep CARTS on the road year-round for all the people who rely on it.



### — We're Hiring —

The Healthcare Consortium is currently seeking to hire another **full-time Navigator** to complete the team providing health insurance enrollment services through our Navigator Program. No prior knowledge or experience is required; we offer extensive training in addition to excellent benefits. To find out more, please visit our employment opportunities page by clicking the button below.

Learn more and apply

### Network Member Spotlight

*As the Rural Health Network for Columbia County, The Healthcare Consortium convenes health and social care providers to ensure that we foster positive and productive working relationships, exchange information, and promote collaboration on a regular basis. Each newsletter, we profile one of our Network Members, highlighting their work in our community.*

### — Columbia-Greene Community College —

**Columbia-Greene Community College** fosters learning and personal growth by providing accessible, high-quality educational opportunities that serve the diverse needs of its students and community. The college is dedicated to preparing individuals for successful careers, lifelong learning, and engaged citizenship while supporting the economic and cultural vitality of the Hudson Valley region.



**C-GCC joined The Columbia County Healthcare Consortium to strengthen connections between education and community health. As a network member, the college aims to promote wellness, expand access to local health resources, and support the overall well-being of students, faculty, and the surrounding rural communities.**

Columbia-Greene Community College is excited to launch their Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program in the spring of 2026, expanding local opportunities for students to enter the growing healthcare field. This new program will prepare graduates with the knowledge and hands-on experience needed to provide compassionate, skilled care in a variety of clinical settings.

### Network Member News

*In this section, we share news about our Network Members, celebrating their achievements, promoting their events, and supporting their initiatives.*

- Columbia County Office for the Aging** celebrated their 50th Anniversary! Congratulations on reaching this milestone and continuing to assist older citizens to remain in their own homes and to actively participate in family and community life.
- The Mental Health Association of Columbia Greene Counties** is hosting their annual **Adopt-a-Family Program** for the holidays! Sign up and transform the holidays for a local family facing hardship.
- Columbia-Greene Community College** and **Columbia Kitchen** are partnering to provide students with locally sourced, freshly prepared meals. By ensuring access to healthy, reliable food, this collaboration helps remove a barrier to student success.
- Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood** is hosting an **Activist Training** on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM ET. Learn about how to get involved with UHPP in Albany, Rensselaer, Columbia & Greene Counties!

### Staff Member Spotlight

As we close out 2025, we want to use the final Staff Member Spotlight of the year to celebrate our *entire* team — from the program staff that deliver our services to the administrative staff that support their work. Whether in the office, out in the community, or on the road, everyone who works at the Consortium shares a strong sense of purpose—a commitment to helping others—and plays an essential role in advancing our mission. The staff are what distinguish the Consortium, and we are endlessly grateful for them.

Our clients have some words of gratitude, as well:

**"Rachel has been absolutely amazing!! Not just a massive help with practical things, follow ups and knowledge but the mental / emotional help of being supported is invaluable."**

**"CARTS is wonderful. All your drivers are very friendly. We chat the entire ride...The drivers are very helpful, and on time! No problems ever."**

**"Thank you to the Consortium and all the navigators — Doreen has been an ANGEL to me over many years, helping me with the complicated task of continuing medical coverage. She has been so very kind, caring, professional and calming!"**

### In the News

Throughout the year, Consortium staff write articles that highlight a program or current health issue. Some of these are published as columns called "For Your Health" in Hudson Valley 360 while others are simply posted to our website and shared via social media.

**Catch up on our latest articles:**

[Be Part of the Effort to Prevent Suicide](#)  
September

[This Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Learn the Signs and Schedule Your Screenings](#)  
October

[Celebrating the Power of Rural this National Rural Health Day](#)  
November

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The Healthcare Consortium

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