Inside:
A Life’s Work

Marie Beaghan shares a photo of her children and their families.
Honor a loved one by helping others

At Angela Hospice’s Walk of Remembrance many families come out to walk together in memory of their loved ones who have passed away. This year’s walk will take place Saturday, September 19, but there is a way to make the event even more memorable: by forming a Walk of Remembrance team.

“Our teams are extra special to us, because not only do they come to celebrate their loved ones on the day of the walk, but they do some fundraising for Angela Hospice’s programs as well,” said Events Coordinator Helen Balmforth, who explained that fundraising can be easier than it sounds – and it’s also very important.

“Our grief support services are not reimbursed at all, so events like the Walk of Remembrance provide the vital funding that makes these programs possible,” Helen said. “Team members go the extra mile by asking friends to support the event, holding bake sales, lemonade stands, garage sales, asking their co-workers to sponsor them, and coming up with other fun and creative ideas.”

Helen will host two Team Kick-Off meetings Tuesday, June 30, at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., where guests can learn more about starting a team, and decide if they’d like to rally their friends and family for the cause. To RSVP, or to have an info packet sent to you, call Helen at (734) 953-6045.

Quilter’s capture memories

When Cheryl Barowski looked at her finished quilt, she was moved to tears. Cheryl brought in her husband’s old T-shirts to be used as the materials, and volunteers in Angela Hospice’s Quilter’s Grief Support Group were able to create a one-of-a-kind quilt that tells the story of her husband’s life, and provides a tangible way to remember him.

Janet Walker and Angela Hospice Bereavement Social Worker Joan Lee created the Quilter’s Grief Support Group to help grieving individuals make memory quilts. This group of experienced quilters will help novices at every step of the process, from choosing and piecing fabrics to sewing the finishing touches. For those unable to attend the meetings, like Cheryl, the quilters can even create a quilt for them.

“Using the clothing that belonged to that person makes the quilt so much more meaningful,” said Joan, who added that if relatives have already disposed of the deceased’s clothing, store bought fabrics can be chosen that reflects the person’s interests and personality.

The quilts meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at Angela Hospice. For more information, call Joan at (734) 953-6012.

Volunteer Services Manager Syndie Best presented Marie Beaghan with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of service as an Angela Hospice volunteer.

Call it poetry, or fate, or simply coincidence, but Marie is now being cared for by one of the people she mentored years ago.

Denise Grabowski was a volunteer with Angela Hospice before entering nursing school. Marie offered her guidance then, and now Denise is Marie’s primary nurse.

“I always felt like she was kind of like my guardian angel,” Denise said of her former mentor. “She was just really special to me. She’s such a special lady.”

Denise and the team are taking good care of Marie, who said she’s begun to slowly feel better during the past several weeks. She even took a trip to Missouri in May. And while she misses her volunteer work, she still keeps in touch with many of her hospice volunteer friends who continue to visit and call.

Marie was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual volunteer dinner in April, an honor which she said she still can’t believe. She’s never done it for the accolades, and she doesn’t really think about her legacy.

“I just want them to like me and think that I did a good job,” she said. “Because I think I did a good job... because I wanted to. Because I think it’s important.”

So many people she has touched would undoubtedly agree. Congratulations, Marie, on a job well done.
A ngela Hospice was happy to present Georgia Scappaticci with the 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award. Georgia has been a volunteer for 17 years, and is well-known for her lemon tarts at the weekly high-teas, as well as her kindness and dedication.

With true humility she told the crowd, “I would never dream I would have this. There are so many more qualified volunteers. Thank you, thank you.”

Georgia has volunteered a lifetime total of 4,953 hours with almost 300 of those hours during 2014, which is over six times the national average for hospice volunteers.

A ngela Hospice supporters came out to celebrate the 27th annual Golf Outing on Monday, May 11, at the exclusive Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville, MI. Despite having to trek the course without carts due to the rain that flooded the course over the weekend, over 70 golfers took on the challenge, and all foursomes were granted a certificate to golf again on the day of their choosing.

Even with the day’s challenges (and despite a tornado watch that evening), the dining room was packed for the dinner reception, where guests bid on exciting auction items, participated in multiple raffles, were treated to a delicious dinner of steak and vegetables, and enjoyed a rich cream puff for dessert.

Proceeds will be directed toward patient care programs, including the “My Nest is Best” Pediatric Program, and the Good Samaritan Program, which provides charitable care to those without insurance.

Pictured: Karen Richter; board members Sister Felicity Marie Madigan and Sister Mary Francis; and Maria Siciliano Mueller.

In regards to the families that come into the kitchen Bea said that they are there to forget their problems, and that she and Susan enjoy their company as much as they enjoy hers and Susan’s.

“We always go away very pleased that we were able to help and to be there for them that night,” Bea said.

“And we always go home smelling like strawberries,” Susan laughed.

Some might think that volunteering at the ice cream socials is simply scooping ice cream and delivering it, but to Bea and Susan it is so much more than that.

“When I’m going around there are some patients you have to sit with for a minute and talk with them because this is very important to them,” Susan said.

“Sometimes you come back the next month and they’re not there. Then I’m so glad that I did sit with them the time before.”

Every Friday two volunteers head to the Care Center kitchen with a key in hand. It’s the key that unlocks a specially reserved refrigerator, where half-gallons of chocolate and vanilla ice cream await them each week.

“Every time we come in the kitchen, the freezer is stocked, the fridge is stocked, and everything is there for us to function,” said Bea Brandt, an Angela Hospice volunteer.

“We never have to worry about anything.”

Bea, and her ice cream social better-half, Susan Dey, have worked together for six years, since being partnered up by former Volunteer Services Manager Donna Kolod sick. They are one of the rotating duos that work the ice cream socials each week.

“We didn’t know each other before but what a friendship it has turned into,” Susan said.

While Bea and Susan’s friendship has grown over the years so have the weekly ice cream socials.

“Sometimes we go through six half-gallons,” Susan said. “That’s a lot of scooping.”

“They either come in one at a time and then we wait 15 minutes or they’ll come in 12 at a time,” Bea laughed.

During their Friday of the month Bea sets everything up in the kitchen before Susan gets there. Once there, Susan goes around to all three Care Center wings, takes ice cream orders and delivers them, while Bea runs the kitchen.

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Car enthusiasts supporting hospice care

Camaros and hospice aren’t two words you often hear together, but they will be a combination heard at this summer’s Camaro Superfest.

The 24th annual event selected Angela Hospice as this year’s charity to support during the three-day event due to its personal connections to Angela Hospice. The charity was chosen by Camaro Superfest sponsor, Scott LaRiche of Lou LaRiche Chevrolet, whose mother recently passed while under Angela Hospice care. Former Camaro Superfest Treasurer Russ Sarns was also helped by care from Angela Hospice before losing his battle to cancer.

The Superfest hopes to raise over $10,000 for Angela Hospice. This will be done through 50/50 raffles, silent auctions, the Saturday Cruise, and donations at the spectator gate.

Held during Fourth of July weekend, the Camaro Superfest will have events the whole family can enjoy. There will be a tour of SLP Parts, lunch, and a visit to the Henry Ford Museum on Friday (registration is required for this event). On Saturday and Sunday there will be show hours to check out all the cars at Riverside Park in Ypsilanti. Saturday evening’s main activity will be the cruise to Lingenfelter Motorsports Collection in Brighton, where there will also be activities to participate in and prizes to win. Sunday’s big event will be the awards, which will be judged for the sixth year by the Michigan Firebird Club.

For more information feel free to check out the Camaro Superfest website, www.camarosuperfest.com, or contact Randy Martin at (734) 368-8726, bicycledoctor@sbcglobal.net.

MISSION IN ACTION

Compassion is a core value of the Felician Sisters, and one of the tenets by which Angela Hospice operates. The Felician Sisters’ foundress, Blessed Mary Angela, said: “It is important that we are there for one another; bearing one another’s burdens.”

We see this carried out day-by-day in so many ways at Angela Hospice. The most obvious example is in the compassionate care provided to patients, whose physical burdens are eased, as well as the emotional and spiritual. But it is also seen in the peace of mind that family members experience, knowing their loved one is in good hands; in the caring way our volunteers do whatever they can to help; and in the way our staff looks out for one another, lending a helping hand or a word of support.

This reverence for compassion is just one of the ways the spirit of Blessed Mary Angela lives on today through the work of Angela Hospice.

BENEFACCTOR SPOTLIGHT:

Lillian Durham, a cheerful giver

It is written that “God loves a cheerful giver.” Lillian Durham is the embodiment of that concept. She met Sister Giovanni in 1985 and began a relationship with Angela Hospice that continues to this day.

As an account executive with Griffin Smalley & Wilkerson, Lillian brought her professional expertise to bear in the development of an insurance program tailored to the needs of Angela Hospice.

“It enjoyed watching Angela Hospice grow and become the hospice it is today,” Lillian said. “I am thankful that Sister Giovanni had the vision to create Angela Hospice and give people a place to have comfort at the end of life.”

Lillian knows from personal experience the value of hospice care. In 2013 her father, who suffered from Alzheimer’s, took a fall and broke his hip. Once her father came home from the hospital, she and her brother took turns spending the night at their parents’ house to care for their father and to help their mother. Eventually, they made the decision to put their father in a nursing home, visiting every day to care for him. In early 2014, when he took a turn for the worse, Angela Hospice provided her father with hospice care at his nursing home.

“It was the comfort of...having someone help us through this transition,” she said.

Beyond her professional relationship with Angela Hospice, Lillian is also an active volunteer. She works with the development team, serving on committees and working at the events.

“One day during that Christmas season, Lillian and her husband, James, were working the Tree of Life together. They saw a man come to the tree and look around. Lillian and her husband approached him and helped him find an angel on the tree.

“He was so happy,” Lillian said. “That angel was for his son who had been cared for by Angela Hospice.”

Lillian helps Angela Hospice in yet another impactful way. She and her husband are financial contributors.

“I want to give back and help Angela Hospice meet their mission and values to help the community. I’m on their team,” Lillian said. “My company allows me to also support Angela Hospice through funds given by Griffin Smalley & Wilkerson. It is so important for businesses to give back to the community and to help non-profits like Angela Hospice.”

Lillian says that her professional and personal involvement with Angela Hospice has been a gift.

“It taught me to emulate their values and mission statement. I was surprised how contagious volunteering can be. The more I do, the more I want to do. It’s been humbling. It’s shown me how to live my life as though heaven was here on earth.” She smiles as she explains, “I love that I have a connection with Angela staff, volunteers, and families.”

Lillian recalls an auction at an Angela Hospice Christmas party. James encouraged her to bid on something for herself. She hesitated as she looked around. She noticed him successfully bidding on an electric saw/drill. She couldn’t imagine why he wanted it. She asked him about it and he told her that one of the Felician Sisters who was an artist had wanted it for her work but had to back out as the price kept rising. So he bid on it for the Sister and gave it to her as a gift.

As Lillian said, volunteering is contagious. And clearly, volunteering and compassion run in the Durham family.
In May we announced that Angela Hospice had been selected as one of 124 charities competing in this year’s Art Van Charity Challenge. Now, nearly four weeks later, we are about to enter the final leg of the competition and are hoping for one final push before the challenge ends June 22 at 1:59:59 p.m.

If you haven’t seen our posts about the challenge on Facebook and our website, here’s a brief summary about the challenge. For the past six years Art Van Furniture has held this challenge. Participating charities compete for five weeks to raise as much money as they can for their charitable work through their online CrowdRise page. The top ten charities will then be awarded bonus grants from Art Van, ranging from $7,500 to $75,000.

So how can you help us get into the top ten? If you go to our CrowdRise page at www.crowdrise.com/ahhc-artvan2015 you will see a red “Donate” button on the right. Or you can scan the QR code on the bottom of this page, which will also take you to our CrowdRise page. Your donation will go to support our compassionate bereavement services, which are provided free-of-charge to all those in need.

“We’re grateful to be a part of the Art Van Charity Challenge, not only to raise funds so that Angela Hospice can continue to provide this exceptional level of care, but also to advance the discussion of critical issues that people encounter at the end of their lives,” said Barb Hendrickson, Angela Hospice Board of Directors Chair. “Hospice is so misunderstood. People perceive that it’s about dying, but it’s really about proactively choosing to live on your own terms, as comfortably as possible, surrounded by the ones you love... Not a bad way to live every day.”

You can also help us by spreading the word about our participation in the challenge. Tell everyone you know (and we mean everyone) that we are competing. Share our CrowdRise page link on your Facebook page, or email your friends, family, and co-workers.

Thank you so much for participating in support of our cause! If you have any questions about the challenge please contact Angela Hospice’s coordinators for this project: Dana Casadei, (734) 953-6053 or Dcasadei@angelahospice.us; or Lisa Norton, (734) 953-6008 or Lnorton@angelahospice.us.