A Woman with a Vision
How one patient’s determination will improve the lives of many
Having your office filled with piles and piles of books would make some feel slightly claustrophobic, but it makes Angela Hospice Executive Director Marti Coplai feel nostalgic. “My mom owned a bookstore so I basically grew up in one,” she laughed. “So I just think it’s ironic that I keep getting all these books dropped off. There are books piled up all around me.”

But why does Marti have all these books in her office and where are they going? Well, as with any good idea, let’s start at the beginning.

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Lisa noticed that there were often spouses of loved ones at the Care Center 24/7. One told her that he had been reading a book, let’s start at the beginning.

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Lisa Erdelyi with the first book donation she received, The Fall of Freddie the Leaf, from the Leo Buscaglia Foundation.

A LEGACY
As fate would have it, Lisa passed away the morning the library opening ceremony was scheduled to take place.

“J just envision someone being down and discouraged, going to the library, picking up the perfect book, and opening to the right page that gives him hope and courage and inspiration for that day with their loved one,” Lisa said.

Instead of cancelling though, the opening ceremony became more of a dedication to Lisa, where people were able to gather and talk about what an inspiration she was. Lisa’s two daughters, Katie and Ellie, read the speech and poem Lisa had written for the occasion. A few staff members spoke about the kind of impact a patient like Lisa had left on them. Marti said Lisa stretched them to think about what it means to really provide individualized person-centered care, and how to meet a person where they are in their life journey. Lisa also showed them how much hope a person can have – even when faced with a terminal illness.

“She used to say to me that she was going to be in the two percent [of patients that survive cancer], and that she was going to be working here in a year after she recovered, and that she and I would go on Oprah to talk about our story,” Marti laughed.

At the dedication, guests enjoyed smoothies (Lisa’s favorite) and checked out the books Lisa had put so much effort into collecting. You could tell that Lisa’s legacy is going to be one that lives on for some time.

“The day before the dedication, Lisa and I were in the library putting the last of the books that we had on the shelves and she looked at me and said, ‘Can you believe that we did this?’” Marti said.

“I said, ‘I can’t believe that we did this in this amount of time,’” Marti continued. “Then Lisa leaned back in her wheelchair and said, ‘It’s zen-like.’ And really, it is a zen-like experience to just sit in the library.”

Since the library opened a few months ago, Marti has seen people relaxing on the couch, reading books, and taking them back to a room. Marti said one woman told her that she was on her fifth book from the library.

“I just hope that it continues to be a place for our patients and families and visitors to find the words that they need to bring them comfort,” Marti said. “And what better place than in a book?”

A LIFE LESSON
With so many problems in the world, sometimes it seems overwhelming to imagine how one person can make a difference. But Lisa’s story shows us that anything is possible.

After suffering a traumatic head injury, and then being diagnosed with cancer, she continued to inspire change in the world around her, and inspire people she met to do the same. Faced with serious personal challenges, she brought light into the lives of many through her faith and perseverance. Even now, her legacy lives on through the library she was instrumental in creating. So we all must ask ourselves:

“What can I do today?”

To learn more about the ways you can help impact the lives of Angela Hospice patients, or to donate today, visit AskForAngela.com or call us toll free at (866) 464-7810.
Meadowbrook Country Club members make monumental gift

When Meadowbrook Country Club announced Angela Hospice as one of the four local charities that would benefit from its 100th anniversary celebration, the club was hopeful that each of the charities would receive $25,000 through the generosity of its members. When a grand total of $145,000 was pledged to the local charities, everyone involved was more than pleased.

“The staff and members at Meadowbrook were so happy with the outcome of this unique endeavor,” said Bob Alexander, Angela Hospice’s director of development, who offered the invocation at the Meadowbrook Centennial Celebration gala. “They celebrated their great longevity by making a new powerful impact on the community. Coming together, they did something really remarkable.”

Angela Hospice’s portion of the money pledged totaled $37,500. The funds will be used to support specialized elements of care for military veterans, services for terminally ill children and their families, as well as free bereavement and counseling programs for any and all in the community struggling through the anguish of loss.

Great room becomes greater room

Angela Hospice’s Care Center great room has gotten a bit of a makeover. In an effort to make the Care Center even more welcoming and comfortable for patients and their guests, we’ve installed a new refreshment station stocked with cookies and beverages, and added café seating with a view of the atrium garden. The real showpiece of the room though is the stately grand piano, generously donated by Jeff and Diane McDonald, who encouraged the pianist to continue performing for the Care Center patients and visitors.

When a music teacher entered our care, her son – a professional pianist – found the perfect opportunity to serenade his mother. He sat down and began to play for the woman who taught him how so many years before. Mrs. Prince happened to walk by while he was playing too, and was so happy to see the piano she donated being put to use so beautifully.

“I told the family that I believed that the piano was gifted by divine providence so that their mother would be able to hear the gift she had given them before she passed,” said Angela Hospice’s Director of Spiritual Care Diane McDonald, who encouraged the pianist to continue performing for the Care Center patients and visitors.

Telehospice program prepares to launch

Plans are underway to progress with Angela Hospice’s Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Telehospice Program and Triage Center, which will allow patients and caregivers to experience face-to-face interaction with hospice team members anytime – day or night – through telecommunication devices.

Angela Hospice’s computer training room is being re-purposed to house the new center, which will begin a pilot program for a limited number of patients at the end of October. Full implementation of the program is scheduled for January 1, 2017.

More than just a pretty necklace

As a loyal Angela Hospice supporter, you now have a new way to show your engagement in Angela Hospice’s caring mission: by sporting an Angela Hospice logo charm or pendant.

Our friends at Orin Jewelers designed the exclusive collection, which features the Angela Hospice logo – a meaningful symbol for so many. The cross represents our Christian heritage, which brings hope in the midst of suffering; the butterfly symbolizes resurrection and transformation to new life; and the oval represents the complete continuity of holistic care between the individual and family.

This emblem, adopted by Angela Hospice in 1991, is now available in sterling silver as a charm ($55), pendant necklace ($95), or Alex and Ani charm bracelet ($78). They can be purchased at Orin Jewelers’ Northville and Garden City locations, or online at orinjewelers.com. A portion of the sales are donated back to support Angela Hospice’s charitable programs.

Save the Date! Tree of Life at Laurel Park Place

We hope you’ll join us as we return to Laurel Park Place this holiday season for our annual Tree of Life fundraiser. We’ll also have trees on display at our Care Center. Both locations will offer the opportunity to honor and remember loved ones by including their name on a personalized angel ornament.

An opening ceremony for the Tree of Life will be held at Laurel Park Place near Carson’s on Saturday, November 19, 11 a.m., and will include singing with the Angela Hospice Choir. For more about the event, visit our “News and Events” page at AskForAngela.com.
Martin on his first international trip to Ireland, which they went on a month after his diagnosis. Amy’s mom, Marsha (center), often travels with the family to help with Martin.

“He’s the most relaxed when he’s on an airplane or in the car. I think he knows we’re going somewhere,” Amy said about Martin.

One of Amy’s favorite trips is when they went to Tampa, where Martin got to go in the pool for the first time. They were in the pool so long she started to prune up, but she didn’t mind because he was so happy!

### Toddler Globetrotter

The Huschka’s living room is filled with some unique items: Star Wars pillows, a giant stuffed BB-8 toy, and their son Martin’s medical equipment. But the medical stand with a disco ball hanging from it probably isn’t the only shiny object you’ll notice in the living room. There are also balloons covering the ceiling.

“We keep balloons on the ceiling because he responds to light and movement so we’ll turn the fan on sometimes and they’ll move around,” said Martin’s mom, Amy. “He loves the colors.”

The two-year-old with the giant blue eyes and curly blonde hair also loves being on a plane. Or in a car. Or on a boat. He’s already been to three countries and a variety of states.

“When we got pregnant we just always knew that the child would go with us on all of our travels,” Amy said.

Traveling may have always been part of the plan, but now they have to do it a little differently than expected, and bring a lot more equipment and support.

Martin had been developing normally when he was first born but then Amy started noticing things – like how he would try to reach for things and not grasp them, or wouldn’t tolerate tummy time. Their pediatrician sent them to Children’s Hospital when Martin was six-months-old in October 2014. Children’s Hospital did an MRI of his brain to find out that he had very little brain matter. The doctors weren’t sure if his brain had developed and then regressed, or never developed at all. Then they met with Dr. Nadia Tremonti, who was the Medical Director of the Pediatric Palliative Care Team at Children’s. (Dr. Tremonti is now Angela Hospice’s Pediatric Medical Director.)

“She just said, basically, ‘You’re going to outlive your son,’ Amy said. “His prognosis is not good and here’s what to expect.’ At that moment she said that he has weeks to months to live. So it’s pretty devastating news because when you have a child you expect them to live long after you’re gone.”

Dr. Tremonti suggested that they look into Angela Hospice’s My Nest is Best program, which is for children with a life-limiting illness. Martin was signed on soon after, and their journey with Angela Hospice began.

“It’s comforting to know that if I pick up the phone someone’s going to answer my question and come to see us,” Amy said.

Their hospice team also helps the family when they travel. First, they tell their social worker where they’ll be. Then a hospice near their destination is contacted and told that Martin will be coming. A travel contract is then put in place just in case something happens with Martin.

“I’ve really challenged [Angela Hospice] a lot as far as getting travel contracts in place because it’s very important that I feel a sense of security,” Amy said. “Even if we don’t use it, I want to know that he’s being taken care of.”

Last summer, the family went on a trip all over the country and their social worker at the time, Joanne Bernard, got everything in place for them. Amy said they really put Joanne through the ringer with that.

Joanne also helped them get a travel contract when the family went to Puerto Rico. They were greeted at the hotel by a doctor from the hospice, who did a full workup on Martin and made sure they had enough supplies.

“I try to bring him as much as possible because I don’t want to be away from him that long,” Amy said. “I thought I was living this moment before Martin was born and all this stuff, but now I really, really am living in the moment.”

Amy said being able to watch Martin enjoy traveling so much is so heartwarming. He isn’t able to communicate in traditional ways but Amy can tell when he’s just enjoying the moment.

“For me, as a mom, I’m like, thank God he’s happy,” Amy said. “Even though he can’t verbally tell me he’s having a good time, I can see it and feel it.”

Others are able to see it too since the family is so open about their story on social media. They’ll also be featured in an upcoming documentary about hospice.

“It’s really easy in the beginning to just want to stay at home and be depressed and feel sorry for yourself and wonder why did this happen?” Amy said. “Oh sure, go through that, you can have that time but don’t make it too long because you’re going to miss out on life and you’re going to miss out on having that time.”

They may not be able to put a name on what is happening with Martin, but for now they’ll keep making as many memories as possible.
**Be treated like a VIP! Hobnob with superstars!**

Who wouldn’t enjoy feeling like a VIP for a night? That’s the theme of this year’s Light Up a Life Gala, benefiting Angela Hospice’s charitable programs. The event will be held at Livonia’s Laurel Manor on Friday, October 28, 6 p.m. Appetizers, an open bar, and an impressive silent auction will start off the evening, with dinner, dessert, live auction, raffles, and entertainment to follow.

“This year’s entertainment will be very unique,” said Events Coordinator Helen Balmforth. “It will truly be unlike anything our guests have ever seen!”

Brandon Styles will perform his one-man interactive variety show, delivering a mix of impressions, comedy, dance, grand illusions, and ventriloquism to entertain Angela Hospice’s 300 plus guests.

“We have such an amazing group of dedicated supporters,” said Angela Hospice President and CEO Margot Parr. “The Light Up a Life Gala is a chance for us all to get together and celebrate what we are able to accomplish together, the blessings we are able to bring to the lives of our patients and their families.”

The location of this year’s event is especially significant, as Laurel Manor’s owners, John and Lina DelSignore, will be honored for their many years of generosity to Angela Hospice – a relationship that dates back more than 20 years.

Tickets for this black-tie optional event are $125 per person. For more about the Light Up a Life Gala, or to make a reservation, contact Helen Balmforth at (734) 953-6045 or hbalmforth@angelahospice.us.

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**Angela Hospice to hold first men’s event**

With Angela Hospice’s Laughter Lifts You Up women’s event being so wildly popular, some men were starting to feel left out. So Angela Hospice is throwing them their own party! **Burgers, Brews, and Bros** will take place Thursday, November 10, 6 p.m., at One Under Craft Beer and Eats in Livonia.

The event will feature beer tasting, a mini silent auction, and comedy from Mike Green. Invitations will be sent in October, but you can call now to make sure you’re on the invite list. For more info, contact Events Coordinator Helen Balmforth at (734) 953-6045 or hbalmforth@angelahospice.us.
Looking back at our 2016 fiscal year, we can say that it was a year of great program and organizational growth. With each change and new endeavor, our team of employees, volunteers, and supporters like you continue to hold true, beyond all else, to the values that Angela Hospice was founded on. We are glad that will never change!

What we can report as we look toward the future, is that we are looking for even more ways to enable more people to be a part of the compassionate care that is at the heart of our mission.

Through the generosity of the St. Francis Fund, we’ve recently completed a study looking at how we can address the disparity in hospice use amongst African Americans, in order to better reach this under-served community. The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation has also provided us with an incredible opportunity to improve our service for hospice patients by funding a brand new telehospice program. And a generous donation from our former board member, W. Michael George, enabled the creation of the Team Angela Education Fund, which will provide scholarships to staff looking to further their skills and enhance their contribution to Angela Hospice’s programs.

We are so grateful for the support of our community, and we thank you for the part you continue to play in our work. Your camaraderie is felt by our entire team. In a recently completed employee engagement survey, we asked our team members what impresses them most about the values and ethics of Angela Hospice. I think you would be proud of their answers, which are reflected in the graphic above. We look forward to your partnership throughout 2017 as well!

Margot Parr, President/CEO
Barb Hendrickson, Board Chair

PROGRAM STATISTICS

Individuals Served
During our 2016 fiscal year, Angela Hospice was privileged to serve 1,922 patients and families through the following care programs:

Hospice Home Care................. 1,679
Angela Hospice Care Center ...... 561
My Nest is Best...................... 31
TOTAL Patients Served*...........1,922

*Patients who transferred between programs were counted in the totals for both programs. The total of 1,922 patients served reflects each patient counted only once.

2016

Total Days of Care

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<th>Days of Care</th>
<th>FYE 2014</th>
<th>FYE 2015</th>
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Our Felician Core Values

Respect for Human Dignity
Our reverence for and commitment to promoting and protecting the dignity of persons.

Compassion
An empathetic consciousness of others expressed in caring service.

Transformation
The process that encourages an open mind and heart, leading to continuous improvement of the person and ministry.

Solidarity with the Poor
Ensuring the needs of the poor and vulnerable are met through advocacy and action.

Justice and Peace
Forging right relationships...recreating a sustainable environment...promoting the common good...all in pursuit of peace.

We empower individuals to make end-of-life care choices, by providing free educational programs, like the advance directives series we co-hosted with St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

The generosity of families, foundations, businesses, and individuals have helped us to improve our care by developing new programs and features.

Engaging relationships with community groups to expand care for underserved populations is just one of the ways justice and peace has been a focus of our mission.

Over the past year, we helped more patients and families than ever before, providing compassionate care for over 1,900 patients and their loved ones.

Angela Hospice spent $373,980 on charitable care programs last year, including Good Samaritan care, free grief services, and pediatric hospice support.
**Good Samaritan Program**
Because everyone deserves quality end-of-life care, this program enables Angela Hospice to provide services for patients who are without insurance or financial resources.

**My Nest is Best Pediatric Hospice**
These contributions provide care for the children and young adults served by Angela Hospice’s My Nest is Best Pediatric Program, as well as their family members.

**Bereavement Care**
Gifts designated toward bereavement offset the cost of non-reimbursed grief support services provided to hospice families and members of the community.

**We Honor Veterans**
Funding for *We Honor Veterans* supports specialized hospice care for veterans, including commemorative services and focused care programs for veterans and their families.

*For more about supporting Angela Hospice’s work, including planned giving information, contact Director of Development Bob Alexander at (734) 953-6009, or visit us on the web at AskForAngela.com.*

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**Staff Achievements**
Congratulations to our hardworking team members who earned new degrees, awards, or certifications in the past year.

- **Bob Alexander**
  Certified Fund Raising Executive

- **Rebecca Margolis DeRaud**
  Doctor of Social Work

- **Heidi Larsen-Lipp**
  Registered Health Information Technician

- **Gretchen Moore**
  Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse

- **Margot Parr**
  Tough Cookie Award, Girl Scouts of America

- **Debbie Vallandingham**
  Academy of Certified Social Workers Certification

- **Michelle Willingham-Tubbs**
  Certified Case Manager

- **Jennifer Beam**
  Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse

- **Lee Brancheau**
  Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse

- **Nikki Karnesky**
  Master of Social Work

- **Debbie Vallandingham**
  Certified Social Workers Certification

- **Jessica Womack**
  Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse