SPRING 2019

MONARCH

THE
POWER
OF
MUSIC

Angela Hospice
We’ll take you under our wing.
When Margot Parr succeeded Angela Hospice’s foundress, Sister Mary Giovanni, as President and CEO in 2015, her goal was to strengthen and prepare the organization for a strong future. Four years later with that goal accomplished, Parr had passed the torch to Marti Coplai.

Marti, who has served as Executive Director since October 2015, took over as President and CEO on March 1, 2019, equipped with a rich history of experience in hospice and elder care, and a passion for the Angela Hospice mission.

LIVING THE MISSION

“When I read the mission it caused me to pause. I thought, ‘Wow, “Christ-like.”’ That’s a big statement to make. Can we deliver on that? Can we actually provide Christ-like care?” she said. But when she continued to read about the core values of the Felician Sisters, they really resonated with her. “So I said yes,” she said. And she didn’t regret it.

When I got to Angela Hospice, and I was in the Care Center working with the team, I saw examples of Christ-like care happening,” she said. “Our team delivers on that Christ-like care every day.”

In 2017, Marti had the opportunity to travel to Rome and Assisi with other lay leaders from Felician organizations across the country for a pilgrimage, learning about Saint Clare, Saint Francis, and Blessed Mother Angela, foundress of the Felician Sisters.

“It was truly transformative for me,” Marti said. “Clare, Francis, Blessed Mary Angela, and the Felician spirituality have really provided the foundation for the leadership that I will need to provide for Angela Hospice going forward.”

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Inspired by the mission, and the legacy Angela Hospice has created over the past 35 years, Marti is looking forward to collaborating with team members and continuing to nurture Angela Hospice’s positive influence in the community.

“The vision of one Felician Sister, Sister Mary Giovanni, who was determined that this community receive better care at end of life…and has come to fruition in what Angela Hospice is today…” Marti said.

“Our success going forward, although it lies on the shoulders of the president and CEO — it’s our whole community working together, our Angela Hospice community of course, and then our partners in the community…. It’s so important that we all continue to focus on the need for quality end-of-life care, and support, and education in our community, and that’s really going to require all of us working together.”

The Bennett family employed the Care Center for their mother Susie in 2017, and brother Frank in 2018. L to R: Minnie Mayes, Gloria Williams, Barbara Rosemond, Susie Bennett, and Frank Bennett at Susie’s 100th birthday.

As a former trustee for Madonna University, Barbara Rosemond knew of Angela Hospice’s distinguished reputation. So when her mother’s doctor said Angela Hospice would be the best place for her mother, Barbara and her family agreed.

Her mother, Susie Bennett, had raised Barbara and her siblings in the Catholic faith, and worked in the rectory at Santa Maria in Detroit to make sure they could attend Catholic school.

“To be able to bring her in her final hour to a Catholic institution was very important to us,” Barbara said. “And we were never let down. Everyone took excellent care of her. They tried to make us feel at home.

Susie was 104 years old when she came to the Angela Hospice Care Center in January 2017. And the Care Center provided her family a comfortable place to gather as they said “goodbye” to their beloved mother.

“She was loved by everyone,” said Gloria Williams, another of Susie’s six children, “beautiful inside and out.”

The care provided to Susie helped give her family more confidence, when in November 2018, her son Frank came to the Care Center after a stay in the hospital.

Gloria, who would come to visit her brother every day, explained how important it was to know he was “in a good place.”

“Watching the brother I grew up with now declining, the laughter, was the difficult reality that their brother would soon be leaving them.

“Watching the brother I grew up with now declining, that’s the hardest part,” Barbara said. “The saving grace is that I know that he’s comfortable and he’s not suffering.”

When I go home, I don’t have to worry about him…that’s really number one for me,” Gloria said.

Once again, the Care Center provided a place for the Bennett family to come together, where the whole family could feel cared for. Visiting Frank in the Care Center, they talked about how much their brother loved his wife Ella and daughter Sharon, and reminisced about what made their brother so special.

“The kids loved him,” Gloria said. “He had a swimming pool and he taught all his nieces and nephews how to swim – the neighborhood kids too.”

Barbara explained how he had a landscaping company. “If he went to your house and did your lawn, the whole block would want him,” she said.

“He went to high school with Smoky Robinson,” she continued. “They were friends.”

“They grew up in our neighborhood,” Gloria added. “All of them, Diana Ross, he knew them all, Aretha Franklin…. He was quite popular.”

“And he loved to dress. You know what I remember most? His blue suede shoes – they were the most beautiful shoes!” Barbara laughed. But intermixed with the laughter, was the difficult reality that their brother would soon be leaving them.

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A LEGACY OF LOVE

CATERINA COMO was beloved by many – her late husband, four children, grandchildren, and friends too. So, when she passed away after spending her last week at the Angela Hospice Care Center, Caterina’s children wanted to do something special to honor their mother.

“All of our friends loved my mom,” her daughter Roberta Modes explained, “And people gave us donations. So we decided to take them and make them in memory of our mom.”

Roberta and her siblings chose a glass pane featured on Angela Hospice’s donor wall to honor their mother’s legacy. Roberta attended the annual Arbor Day Ceremony in April for the dedication.

“For me, it was a nice kind of closure,” Roberta said. It was poignant for her to be with others who had also experienced loss, either recently or in the past.

Roberta said having the pane to honor her mom is a reminder that her mother’s memory will live on. Coming to see it at the Care Center also provides an inviting place for her to pay her respects.

“It’s peaceful there and you’re always welcome,” Roberta said.

MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Angela Hospice offers a variety of ways to commemorate loved ones, with donation amounts beginning at $125.

All donations are directed to Angela Hospice’s charitable programs for patients, their families, and community members.

When Barbara Jean McClellan was a teenager and her old school closed, she found a place that felt like home at the Felician Sisters’ Ladywood High School. She was crowned Ladywood Queen her first semester, served as Vice President, and was part of Ladywood’s inaugural graduating class in 1953. Her time at Ladywood would have a big impact on her future as well.

Though Barbara was being groomed to become a Dominican nun, her plans changed when she met a young Korean War veteran, the brother of one of her Ladywood classmates. Barbara married Ron Quinkert on April 24, 1954.

“I think she knew when she met my dad...that her calling wasn’t there,” said Barbara’s daughter Lynn Ditri.

Roberta Modes chose a glass pane to honor her mother who was cared for by Angela Hospice.

You could say that Barbara found her true calling as a wife and mother. She and Ron went on to have six children, and were married for 54 years before Ron’s passing in 2008. And while Barbara didn’t go through with her plan to become a nun, her faith always remained an important part of her life.

“She would get us all ready for church and we would make it to church every week,” Lynn remembered. Barbara continued to attend church services until a series of health challenges beset her.

“By the grace of God she’s gotten through them all,” Lynn said. “Breast cancer, bladder cancer, melanoma – it was on her head, then traveled to the neck, and a couple years later it was on her lung – COPD, removal of part of her lung...She had to be strong to get through all of that.”

“She always went back to her faith,” Lynn added. “That’s where she drew her strength from.”

Barbara would call on the Felicians again, first seeking care at Marywood Nursing Care Center, and then at Angela Hospice. Barbara spent her final days in the Angela Hospice Care Center, visited by her children and grandchildren, and being treated like the queen they knew she was.

“Mom loved music,” Lynn said. “My mom taught us how to harmonize. She just had an ear for it.”
Toni Bufe was one of Angela Hospice’s first volunteers, joining the effort in 1986 when Angela Hospice was providing home care services and operating out of a small house on the property of the Felician Sisters. Toni was heavily involved in fundraising for the young non-profit, and organized Angela Hospice’s first silent auction.

“The biggest goal at that time was to get the Care Center built,” said her husband, Bill Bufe. He remembers how eventually all their friends knew if they went out to dinner with Toni, she was going to ask the manager for a donation.

“I hated it,” Bill laughed, citing his distaste for rejection. “But I got used to it. She had no fear of asking anybody.”

Toni was a natural, and helped raise thousands of dollars for Angela Hospice. Bill described her technique: “Gentle persuasion, relentlessly applied — with a smile, and kindness and appreciation.” Toni’s enthusiasm spread to Bill as well, and over the years he took on projects to help the cause — including his stint as “the cookie man,” picking up leftover cookies from Mrs. Fields every week and delivering them to the Care Center — although he admits a cookie or two may have disappeared on the drive over. That was one of his favorite memories of Angela Hospice. Another is when the Care Center was finally built.

“When it was the grand opening, I walked into it and I said, ‘This is like the Hyatt Hotel!’ I was awestruck,” he recalled.

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It’s emotional for him, thinking of all those memories. Especially now that Toni is gone. In 2017, she passed away in the Care Center non-profit, and organized Angela Hospice’s first silent auction.

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Toni was the first volunteer to ever receive a 20-year service award, back in 2007.

Sister Giovanni said on the occasion: “Toni Bufe has been a true inspiration to me personally over these 20 years. Her dedication from the very beginning to take care of our patients led Toni to be a catalyst in getting a number of our fundraising efforts going... Of course she always made it a family affair — her infectious dedication spread to her husband, Bill. They have been a great asset to Angela Hospice and exemplify all that Angela Hospice has striven to be for terminally ill adults and children.”

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At first glance, music therapy might simply look like entertainment. A young woman with an angelic voice pops in and asks what kind of music you’d like to hear. Her guitar in tow, she’s ready to fill your song requests. But beyond the pleasant sounds, music therapy has clear therapeutic benefits.

“The research tells us our preferred music is the most effective music for therapeutic goals,” said Heather Dean. A certified music therapist, Heather has been working with patients in the Care Center since October when Angela Hospice first added music to its menu of complementary therapies.

Heather has been using music therapy to help patients with coping skills, anxiety, restlessness, pain management, life review, and family cohesion.

“Music therapy really covers the whole person: spiritually, mentally, and physically,” she said.

Studies have shown that music therapy can have a significant impact on quality of life, from mood, to spirituality, to the perception of physical pain.

With donor support, Angela Hospice hopes to be able to expand this valuable program help home care patients as well — including those in nursing homes, where one study has shown that music therapy can actually increase the length of life for hospice patients in nursing facilities.

“Music can transform the end-of-life experience,” said Teri Schmitchen, Director of Volunteer Services. “Having witnessed this firsthand with my Auntie Jo’s hospice experience, we knew this modality would be the perfect extension of our Complementary Services programming. The responses from patients and families have been overwhelming, from bringing peace, to laughter, to family healing. It’s very cathartic not only for the patient but for family members as well.”

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“People don’t often realize that music has been a part of their life the whole time.... People start reliving those memories and it can become kind of a celebration. “ - Heather Dean, Music Therapist

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Anyone who has experienced the loss of a family member or friend has probably noticed that people have different ways of coping with loss. These differences can seem especially pronounced when comparing males and females.

Angela Hospice’s newest grief support group was designed with those differences in mind, to create a space where men can grieve in their own way, without pressure or outside expectations.

“There’s a need out there,” said Mike Conway, Director of Social Work and Bereavement, who facilitates the monthly meeting for men. “It gives them an opportunity to talk man-to-man.”

While women are often very verbal in expressing their feelings, men who are grieving may appear more silent and solitary. They may throw themselves more into work, fitness, or planning for the future. But this doesn’t mean they’re not grieving – they just process their grief differently.

The Men’s Support Group is designed to be informal and free from judgement. It meets the third Friday of each month from 2-3:30 p.m. in Angela Hospice’s Day Room B.

“Whatever the guys feel the need to talk about, that’s what we talk about,” said Mike.

FOR MORE ABOUT ANGELA HOSPICE’S GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS, CALL 734.779.6690 OR VISIT ASKFORANGELA.COM