Volunteer Joan McNally used hospice in the care of her husband. Now she’s giving back to help others.
When Joan McNally made the motion for the Garden City Hospital Guild to donate $5,000 to Angela Hospice, their reaction wasn’t what she had expected. “Sometimes we discuss distribution of funds at length,” laughed Joan, who is an Angela Hospice volunteer and on the board of the Guild. “I was really overwhelmed when everyone in the room voted for it to be doubled!”

When Joan told the membership of 40 volunteers about her donation idea they had one question: why only $5,000? A few of them had used Angela Hospice when their husbands died, much like Joan did, and felt $5,000 wasn’t nearly enough.

One woman in particular told the group how she wasn’t able to get to Angela Hospice for grief support because of the condition she was in. So what did Angela Hospice do? They sent someone to her house to work with her until she was able to go. “She said, ’I make a motion that we give Angela Hospice $10,000,’ ” Joan said. “So that’s how that all came about.”

The $10,000 donation will be used for Angela Hospice’s bereavement department, an area Joan knows well.

CARING FOR HERSELF

After Joan’s husband Eugene passed, Joan first went to work with one of the professional grief counselors. Joan said at her first group meeting she didn’t do very well interacting because she was still too heartbroken to express what she was feeling. So she started seeing her counselor one-on-one. In that setting, she was able to explore her feelings surrounding Eugene’s death. “I had always been able to get him better,” she said, “but he couldn’t get better that last time, so I had to work through that.”

Eugene was diagnosed with cancer in March 2007 and died the following August. He had been in Garden City Hospital for six months before physicians suggested that Joan look into hospice. Joan knew of Angela Hospice from people at her church, which is why she chose Angela Hospice to take care of Eugene during his final days. He was on the program for four days before he died.

“I had no hesitation when it was time to make this decision…they made his last days very comfortable,” Joan said. “He was a very positive person so I think he would’ve been pleased with the decision I had to make.”

The next step included going back to work. At her company, Joan was a human resource manager for eight locations, and a payroll manager. Needless to say, she was rather busy. She would tell her bereavement counselor that she couldn’t come in the middle of the day for counseling, so she would stay past five o’clock so Joan could come. “I really knew that she was concerned about getting me through this, and she did,” Joan said. “I’ve met the other social workers in that department and I know that they all care about other people or they wouldn’t be doing that kind of work.”

OTHER SIDE OF THE LOOKING GLASS

Joan gets to help with that kind of work herself now as a volunteer in the Angela Hospice bereavement department. “Sometimes in the meetings people pour out their hearts and you have to be able to know what to say and when to say it,” Joan said. “It’s not easy. ‘They’re dealing with people that are very emotional and not at their best.’ ” She chuckled, remembering herself in that position. “Well, we’re not.”

Joan, who started volunteering at Angela Hospice in fall 2014, first shadowed at bereavement meetings and is now on the schedule for them. She’s able to bring a unique perspective as someone who has been in their shoes before.

Some would think being in a place where you used to talk about your pain and grief would be the last place you’d want to return to, but not Joan. The help she got from her Angela Hospice counselor inspired her to become a volunteer and to help others in the same way. “It’s a blessing to be able to do something for other people,” she said. “I hope that the good Lord will give me many more years to be able to volunteer. I hope I’m given that.”

When asked what Angela Hospice means to her, Joan replied, “I hope that the good Lord will give me many more years to be able to volunteer. I hope I’m given that.”

Angela Hospice was honored to receive a grant of $2,000 this spring from the Livonia Community Foundation, in support of our bereavement programs. The Foundation has been supporting Angela Hospice since 2013, providing funding for grief support services for Livonia residents.

Supporting Angela Hospice’s bereavement programs

Funded 100-percent through the generosity of community donors, Angela Hospice’s bereavement department is grateful to be able to offer an array of free resources for grieving children and adults – services which are open to the whole community, whether or not Angela Hospice was used in the care of a loved one.

Your donations to Angela Hospice provide:

• One-on-one grief counseling sessions for children and adults
• Supportive care and fellowship through Grief Support Group meetings
• Special holiday grief workshops
• Memorial services honoring the lives of our hospice patients
• Bereavement outreach and support for schools and community groups

How does my gift make a difference?

Grieving is difficult, but important. Acknowledging feelings of grief can be the beginning of a healing process. Angela Hospice seeks to assist those who are grieving by creating a safe place where individuals can explore their feelings. Your gifts to Angela Hospice make this possible.

Our trained bereavement social workers walk alongside individuals on their grief path, at a pace that is unique to their specific journey, while providing encouragement, objective feedback, and education.

Without healthy grieving, individuals may be at risk for:

• Severe depression
• Physical health issues
• Long-term emotional or relational problems
• Spiritual isolation
• Behavioral problems
• Substance abuse

By supporting initiatives for healthy grieving, you are helping to improve the quality of life for individuals and families within our community.

To learn more about Angela Hospice’s free grief support services, which are open to the community at-large, call toll free: (866) 464-7810.

A gift of $40 sponsors a one-hour individual counseling session. A donation of $60 funds a grief support group meeting.
Complementary Services:

ENHANCING PATIENT CARE

Caregivers and volunteers know that hospice is life-affirming. Above all else, hospice is about quality of life, and a variety of complementary services can help to impact that quality of life—engaging the senses to bring comfort, relaxation, stress-relief, and even a little fun.

Angela Hospice is actively working to expand our Complementary Services Program in the Care Center through additional volunteers and financial contributions for the following areas:

Aromatherapy
Utilizing essential oils to promote relaxation and pain-relief, aromatherapy can be very soothing to hospice patients.

Care Center Library
Our collection of inspirational books, music, and movies can provide an enjoyable diversion for patients and visitors as well.

Massage Therapy
Administered by certified massage therapists, massage can help patients experience stress-relief and deep relaxation.

Pet Therapy
Visits from certified pet therapy animals can bring pure joy to animal lovers.

Portraiture
Artful portraits capture a moment in time, and may promote emotional healing.

Healing Touch
This nurturing therapy seeks to provide physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being.

Music
Whether played at the bedside to help patients relax and drift off to sleep, or during live performances by local musicians, music can be both entertaining and therapeutic.

This diverse range of services is offered free-of-charge, and can enhance the experience of patients and their families. If you have an interest or expertise in one of these areas and would like to learn how you can impact quality of life for hospice patients as a donor or volunteer, please contact us at (734) 464-7810.

ANGELA HOSPICE IN THE COMMUNITY

Blood Pressure Screenings
Would you like to get your blood pressure checked? Angela Hospice Community Liaison Nurse Pam VerDuin is doing free blood pressure screenings the second Thursday of each month at the Livonia Senior Center. Stop by between 10 and 11:30 a.m. to see Pam.

Engaging Presentations
You can bring an expert speaker to your group—for free! Angela Hospice’s Speakers Bureau members can present on topics such as grief, advance directives and end-of-life planning, spiritual care in hospice, and the Medicare hospice benefit. The Speakers Bureau has presented at churches, businesses, clubs, and other organizations. Call (734) 953-6014 for more information.

You can also check out Angela Hospice Director of Development Bob Alexander presenting about hospice care at the Southgate Rotary Club. The group will meet Thursday, June 9, at the Southgate Holiday Inn at noon. The public is welcome to attend and lunch will be $15.

Keep up to date on Angela Hospice presentations and events; visit www.AskForAngela.com for our events calendar.
One of Bob Huff’s cousins asked him and his wife Carolyn why Angela Hospice always sends out envelopes for donations. He assumed Medicare covered everything. Carolyn didn’t take lightly to that and then her inner prosecutor came out.

“I said, ‘Let me tell you,’” she said. Then she launched into a list of programs that Medicare doesn’t cover, such as bereavement and the My Nest is Best Prenatal Program.

“She shut him down,” Bob laughed.

For Bob and Carolyn, making sure people are educated about what exactly Angela Hospice does is very important. If it hadn’t been for someone taking the time to educate them about hospice, they may not have used it in 2001 for Carolyn’s mom, Mary.

Carolyn called Angela Hospice, which she heard about through a co-worker, and asked if someone could come to her parents’ house to inform them about hospice. They signed Mary up shortly after that visit to the house, where Mary would stay for about a week before entering the Care Center.

“She didn’t want to die in her home,” Carolyn said. “She didn’t want to leave my dad with those memories, and she didn’t want people telling her what to do in her home.”

Mary entered the Care Center on Martin Luther King Day in 2001, and was there for 10 months before passing. During that time Carolyn’s family earned the nickname “The Party Family” from Sister Giovanni.

“Life didn’t stop because someone was in hospice, it continued on,” Bob said. “What’s great about this place is you can get together and gather as a family. You can do activities.”

The family did everything from anniversary parties to bridal showers in the Care Center. They went to ice cream socials on Fridays, and Bob loved volunteer Alberta Karl’s pies.

A few years after Mary passed, Carolyn and her dad, Bob Breen, became volunteers. They would work the Tree of Life together, a tradition that she and her husband still carry on. In 2011, her dad went from volunteer to patient. He was in the Care Center for less than 24 hours before dying.

“When dad got here I told him he was looking at the same view mom had,” Carolyn said. “We told him that and within a couple hours he died. He was where he wanted to be. He waited until he got here.”

Bob and Carolyn said that they can never repay Angela Hospice for the high quality of care that her parents received, so they give in any way they can: time, money, and most importantly, by telling their friends and family about Angela Hospice.

“I think people don’t really understand hospice,” Bob said. “They’re really here to make you comfortable, to ease you into that last breath. People don’t understand the amount of care that they take.”

When asked if they saw themselves as Angela Hospice advocates, there wasn’t any hesitation before both said “yes.”

“All of us who have had experiences have to be Angela Hospice ambassadors,” Carolyn said. “We’re the mouths on the street. I find that our main function with Angela Hospice is to tell people.”

“We have a duty,” Carolyn continued. “We have to help people.”

---

**BENEFACTOR SPOTLIGHT:**

**A Duty to Help**

Orin Mazzoni and his staff at Orin Jewelers hosted “Show Your Heart for Angela Hospice” in April, donating a portion of store proceeds from the event to Angela Hospice. Guests were treated to wine and delicious hors d’oeuvres, and were invited to enter a raffle as well. The event raised $500 for Angela Hospice programs.

Our friends at Orin Jewelers are now working on a custom Alex and Ani charm bracelet for Angela Hospice supporters.

**Congratulations to our choir!**

Music can really touch the heart – especially when it’s coming from the beautiful souls in the Angela Hospice Choir! These caring volunteers were named Volunteer Group of the Year by LeadingAge Michigan.

**Lights, camera, action!**

You may have seen Angela Hospice on the small screen recently. In April, WDIV-TV’s Karen Drew interviewed a Care Center patient about her experience in hospice. You can see the video online here: bit.ly/1XmsSjY

Director of Development Bob Alexander appeared on Waterford’s WTV10, discussing Leave a Legacy and the impact of planned gifts and charitable giving in southeast Michigan. You can find the recording on our website at: www.angelahospice.org/videos

**A sparkling opportunity**

Our friends at Orin Jewelers are now working on a custom Alex and Ani charm bracelet for Angela Hospice supporters.
INTRODUCING:
Our newest additions

Angela Hospice is growing! Thanks to your support and referrals throughout the community of southeast Michigan, Angela Hospice has seen more patients choose hospice care to help them live comfortably and more fully at the end of life.

We’ve been graced with the addition of several new team members who will further our mission to provide the best in comprehensive, compassionate, Christ-like care for hospice patients and their families.

You can read more about these new faces and the rest of our physician and leadership teams by visiting www.AskForAngela.com.

MISSION IN ACTION
Transformation: the process that encourages an open mind and heart, leading to continuous improvement of the person and ministry.

Transformation is one of the core values of the Felician Sisters, which inspires the work of Angela Hospice. It begs us to ask ourselves: How have I been an agent of change? This question helps to prove how you too, as an Angela Hospice supporter, are an instrumental part of the Angela Hospice mission.

What change have you affected? Your support has directly impacted patients and their loves ones, by instituting life-changing programs like grief support, which allows families to walk supported through their grief journey; Good Samaritan Care, which makes it possible for the uninsured to have the same compassion and expertise hospice provides to all its patients; and the Prenatal Hospice Program, which accompanies parents along one of life’s most difficult experiences.

Thank you for being an agent of change, helping to bring light into the lives of others at a profound moment.