

Angela Hospice founder inducted into Hall of Fame

12:03 a.m. EST November 13, 2014



(Photo: Karen)

Sister Mary Giovanni, founder and CEO Emeritus of Angela Hospice in Livonia, was one of five people recently inducted into the National Association for Home Care & Hospice's Home Care and Hospice Hall of Fame.

The induction took place at the association's annual meeting and exposition in Phoenix

"It was a surprise to learn that I was inducted into the Hall of Fame," Sister Giovanni said. "And it is an honor to be listed there alongside some of my own personal heroes –

Mother Theresa, Senator Frank Moss, and Ted Kennedy."

Sister Giovanni, a registered nurse, spent a decade researching aspects of pain control, alternative comfort measures, and the daily needs of dying patients and their families. Influenced by the work of England's Dame Cicely Saunders, who pioneered the modern hospice movement in England, and inspired by the compassionate hands-on care provided to the aged Sisters in the Felician infirmary, Sister Giovanni founded Angela Hospice under the sponsorship of the Felician Sisters in 1985.

She continued her pioneering spirit, opening Michigan's first free-

standing inpatient hospice facility in 1994, the same year Angela Hospice began operating a specialized pediatric hospice program. In 2000, Angela Hospice launched the first prenatal hospice program in the Midwest. Her recent work has included developing a mobile clinic to reach the underserved mountain populations of Jacmel, Haiti.

Sister Giovanni has received numerous honors and awards, and last year was named one of 30 “Visionaries” by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She credits her colleagues as the source of her success.

“Everything reflects back to the dedicated employees and volunteers,” Sister Giovanni said. “Without them, Angela Hospice would not be the quality program that it is.”

Sister Giovanni’s fellow inductees to the Hall of Fame were Ann Armstrong Dailey, Founding Director, Children Hospice International, Alexandria, Va.; Rosemary Johnson Hurzeler, President and CEO, The Connecticut Hospice, Branford, Conn; Susan Levine, Executive Director, Hospice of the Valley, Phoenix; and Ron Wyden, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Portland.

Past inductees into the Home Care & Hospice Hall of Fame include a number of other famous names, such as President Bill Clinton, Sen. Claude Pepper (D-FL), Lillian D. Wald, Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), Sen. Robert J. Dole (R-KS), Hon. Rosalyn Carter, Dame Cicely Saunders, and Mike Vance.

<http://www.hometownlife.com/story/news/local/livonia/2014/11/13/angela-hospice-founder-inducted-hall-fame/18883667/>