

Angela Hospice Tree of Life to open at Laurel Park Place

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



The holidays are a time to be surrounded by and remember loved ones. Angela Hospice's Tree of Life is the perfect time to do both.

The event, which has been held annually since 1986, offers guests a unique way of honoring their loved ones, both living and deceased, in the form of an angel ornament bearing their name.

"I've been involved with the Tree of Life for many years now," said Rebecca DeRaud, bereavement and social work manager for Angela Hospice, "I've seen how meaningful the experience can be for those who participate. It really touches them to honor their loved ones in this special way."

There will be trees at two locations this year, and the ornaments will be on display through Christmas Eve. The Tree of Life at Westland Shopping Center (near JCPenney) will have its opening ceremony at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21. The Laurel Park Place Tree of Life will open at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, near Carson's. Both opening ceremonies will feature Angela Hospice's foundress Sister Mary Giovanni, and include a performance by the Angela Hospice Choir.

Dee Vogel of Livonia has been visiting the Tree of Life annually at Laurel Park Place for over five years. She usually attends the opening ceremony with her niece Michele Cherluck, who travels from Sterling Heights to accompany her. They place angels on the trees for family members including Vogel's sister and twin brothers (one of

whom was Cherluck's father), and Cherluck's mother. They'll usually end up chatting with others who take part in the Tree of Life to remember loved ones as well.

"There is such friendship there with people you don't even know," said Vogel. "I really enjoy that day. It's special for Michele and me."

Vogel said Angela Hospice is one of her favorite charities. She and Cherluck also participated in Angela Hospice's Walk of Remembrance together last September. They are grateful for the help Angela Hospice provided for their family members.

"I think Angela Hospice is such a blessing for so many people," said Vogel. "You miss a loved one, but it's wonderful that they have a place like Angela Hospice, and caretakers that will come to the house and be there when you need someone."

Some of the Angela Hospice programs that will benefit from the Tree of Life include the My Nest is Best pediatric and prenatal hospice programs, and grief support, among many others.

To participate in this holiday tradition, fill out a form online at AskForAngela.com or visit the Tree of Life during mall hours to personally hang your ornaments. There is no specific donation amount required.

For more information, or to fill out an angel form by phone, contact the Development Office at 734-464-7810.

<http://www.hometownlife.com/story/news/local/livonia/2014/11/13/angela-hospice-tree-life-open-laurel-park-place/18886779/>