



Hospice walk full of ‘uplifting spirit’

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Judy Halpert remembers being encouraged to walk in the Angela Hospice Walk of Remembrance by a friend back in 2009.

And Halpert hasn't missed once since.

The Plymouth Township resident will again be on the grounds of the Felician Sisters in Livonia Saturday for the seventh annual walk, hosted by Angela Hospice to benefit its free community outreach programs for grieving children and adults.



The reason so many walkers – organizers are expecting some 1,000 people this year – walk the 2.3-mile path: To honor and celebrate the loved ones they've lost.

“It gives you an opportunity to take some time and recall the good times,” said Halpert, who lost both her parents within 10 months of each other in 2008. “The whole idea of walking was appealing to me. That communal spirit of a big crowd ... It was very uplifting.”

The walk begins at Madonna University, and continues through the peaceful, idyllic property of the Felician Sisters, including Ladywood High School, the Sisters' Central Convent, and concluding at the beautiful Angela Hospice grounds.

“The Walk of Remembrance continues to grow each year, and it's a testament to how powerful this event is,” said Bob Alexander, Angela Hospice Business Development Manager. “Many people return year after year to take part in it, and it has even become a tradition for these families.”

That sort of “community” spirit is one of the things that attracts Halpert. She said the event gives walkers a chance to see, and be part of, the cycle of life.

“When you’re in a group of people all walking together, it’s a comforting thing,” Halpert said. “Despite the losses, these people are still living their lives. The spirit is so uplifting.”

Individuals and families of all ages are encouraged to attend the event, which also includes live music, a hot dog lunch and rock painting activity. Some families are even forming fundraising teams to pay tribute to their loved ones, while helping to support Angela Hospice’s charitable work.

Angela Hospice’s grief support services include general and special topic grief support groups; individual and family counseling; and holiday workshops for children, teens, and adults.

Registration for the Walk of Remembrance includes a T-shirt and is \$25 in advance for adults (increases to \$35 on day of event), \$15 for children ages 6 to 12, and free for 5 and under. Walkers can register online, and get more information about Angela Hospice’s programs, by visiting www.AskForAngela.com, or calling 734-464-7810.

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