Inside:
Small in size, big in heart

Care Center guest Andrea Herbolsheimer visits with volunteers Maizie and Sandy Canzoneri as hospice aide Andrea Garner looks on.
When Maizie started volunteering for Angela Hospice last December, she immediately caused a stir. Her first assignment was working at Angela Hospice’s Tree of Life fundraiser at Laurel Park Place. It was there that Maizie’s good looks began to catch the eyes of passersby. As fellow volunteer Sandy Canzoneri reports, children even began asking to have their pictures taken with beautiful Maizie, whose big brown eyes and soft hair is so mesmerizing. You see... Maizie is a dog.

At 21 pounds, and measuring just 12 inches at the withers, Maizie is Angela Hospice’s smallest volunteer. She’s so short that her name badge brushes the carpet as she walks through the halls of the Care Center. But this little package has made a big impact on those she volunteers to help.

Sandy brings Maizie to visit with Angela Hospice patients. The laid back, easy-going Beagle/Basset Hound mix is indeed a “working dog.”

“They’re pretty happy to see her,” Sandy says. “What’s not to smile about this silly face?”

Sandy has noticed how people light up when Maizie enters a room, and patients and their visitors are both surprised and impressed by Maizie’s calm demeanor and gentle personality. Maizie is so calm, in fact, that one patient asked Sandy, after observing Maizie for a bit, “Does she move?” Maizie surprised them both a few moments later by hopping up on the patient’s chair.

“We both chuckled about that,” Sandy said.

Sandy has been volunteering herself for 13 years now. She says after her mother passed away in the Care Center the first year it opened, “I could see the effort and care that was given to her, and that’s how I ended up back here.” She helps out mostly in the Care Center, often working with ALS patients, assisting them with meals and other tasks.

“My favorite part about volunteering, especially after 13 years of doing this, is it has completely and totally transformed my perspective on life.”

Sandy says working in hospice has made her so grateful, and has helped her to find more balance in life. And as for Maizie, Sandy says her favorite part of volunteering is, “The treats! She likes the patients too, though!”

Sandy adopted Maizie 2 years ago, and trained her to become a certified therapy dog through Dr. Paws. She is seeing the great value of what Maizie brings to those she visits at Angela Hospice.

“It just brings a smile to their face – anybody who loves animals – and of course they’ve got to tell you about their dog adventures, which is fun in itself just to hear that...I think it brings people back to their own memories. It’s not only this dog, but the feeling it gives them that reminds them of other times,” said Sandy. “This is a pretty special dog.”

Small in size, big in heart.

During the summer months at Angela Hospice, the work of maintenance team member Ron Szalay also includes tending the vegetable garden. Established in 2007 through the generosity of the Taglioli family, the garden provides fresh produce for our Care Center chefs, including tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, eggplant, and peppers, as well as basil, parsley, and rosemary.

Besides being new additions to the Angela Hospice staff, these ladies all have something in common: they are also Angela Hospice volunteers! These volunteers turned employees are a great fit for our hardworking team. Back, from left: Sharon Patke is working with our medical records department, and Kathy Tomaszewski is the new spiritual care supervisor. Front, from left: Margaret Levine is working in our bereavement department, and Nancy Schiffman is helping out in billing. Welcome to the team!

Hospice staff was treated to a cool break by Tim Horton’s when their mobile Cafe & Bake Shop visited Angela Hospice in July. Iced Capps, backyard games, and Tim Horton’s giveaway gear made for a fun afternoon. The visit was Tim Horton’s way of saying “thank you” for Angela Hospice’s contributions to the community.
Get social and win with Angela Hospice!

Have you seen Angela Hospice’s online presence growing with social media? Last year we began ramping up our Facebook page, and created a Twitter page as well to better connect with our supporters.

It’s been a great way to get the word out about our programs and events, and to share more news about the organization.

We’d love to connect with you on social media, so we’re offering a special incentive over the next month. All new “likes” and “follows” will be entered into a drawing to win a fun gift basket including gift cards to Barnes & Noble and Kohl’s, Angela Hospice swag, and more! So log on and like Angela Hospice! If you’re already following Angela Hospice on Facebook or Twitter, share or re-tweet one of our posts and you’ll also be entered to win. One winner will be drawn on October 10, Angela Hospice’s 29th anniversary.

Mission in Action: Caring for Individuals

As caregivers, we are driven by compassion to serve others in need. We want to help, to make sure people are comfortable and happy. In hospice this involves making sure a patient’s symptoms are under control, and helping to rid them of pain, so that they can make the most of their days, and enjoy time with their loved ones.

But what happens if a patient does not want to have their pain removed?

Some patients worry that with pain medications they won’t be as alert as they like. For others, pain and suffering can actually be interpreted as an opportunity for spiritual growth.

Spiritual Care Coordinator Julie Schaffer spoke of a man who did not want to take pain medication.

“IT was his choice to suffer, because he wanted to suffer as Jesus did,” said Schaffer. Though it was hard on his family to see him in pain, and while it was opposed to the natural instincts of his caregivers to let him struggle, the patient was firm in his decision not to accept the medication.

“It was his choice, so we respected that,” Schaffer said. Respect for human dignity is part of the core values of the Felician Sisters, and it guides the work of Angela Hospice. Part of this respect means preserving for others the right to make their own decisions, realizing that each person is an individual, and approaching all people with understanding.

Letters to Hospice

Angela Hospice is privileged to care for over 1,700 patients a year, and to work with their loving families at a particularly precious and sacred time of life. Many of these families express to us their gratitude for the compassionate care their loved one was given, either through kind words, supporting our programs and events, or composing poignant letters that reflect their thoughts. Here are two of those letters.

Dear Sister Mary Giovanni,

Angela Hospice was such a major component in John’s final journey home — it was challenging!

All the nurses, nurses aides, office staff were so professional; patient, comforting, understanding, knowledgeable, instructive and available day and night. Karen Cafee, the case nurse, won over my husband’s respect and heart. She was his earth angel and a true professional with warmth, even taking time to attend his funeral Mass. Everyday John would ask me, “Is Karen coming today?” “Can I call Karen?” Her presence gave him assurance that he was well taken care of.

John was a man of faith and family — a good person who deeply trusted in Jesus (Divine Mercy) and who deeply loved his wife, children and grandchildren. He always thanked God for his successes and showed us all how to handle difficulties because of his trust in God.

Our family is so grateful to all those who helped us through this hardship of losing John.

May you continue the CARE AND COMFORT to others as they navigate through the dying process of a loved one. We want you to know how your entire team helped us to understand what hospice really means — CARE, COMFORT AND COMPASSION, both for the patient and his family.

Fondly,
Margy (his loving wife)
and his children
Katie, Russ, Michael, Midge, Julie

John R. Gnaau
Prepar ing for the Holidays

Did you know all of Angela Hospice’s grief support programs are funded 100-percent through charitable donations? Your support enables our bereavement team to do wonderful work to help families and individuals of all ages as they travel through their grief journey.

This fall, our bereavement staff will be holding special workshops centered on coping with holiday grief. For adults, “Getting through the Holidays” will be held on Sunday, November 3, 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the Angela Hospice Care Center. The workshop will offer education, literature, and an opportunity to ask questions and participate in group dialogue.

“During a time when everyone else is happy and cheerful getting ready for the holidays, you can be with other people who may be experiencing similar feelings,” said Rebecca DeRaud, Angela Hospice’s social work and bereavement manager. “This workshop helps to validate people’s feelings, giving them permission to do what they need to do to take care of themselves.”

Workshops for children and teens also help by normalizing feelings of grief. Participants will have the opportunity to craft a special holiday wreath in memory of their loved ones, as they are encouraged to incorporate their memories into the holiday season and into their lives in a new way.

Both workshops are free, but pre-registration is required. They will take place at the Angela Hospice Care Center at 14100 Newburgh Rd, Livonia 48154.

RSVP to (734) 464-2683 for Teen and Children’s Workshops

Fountains of blessings

Installation has been completed on two beautiful large scale fountains donated to Angela Hospice.

The Fonte d’Amore [above], a symbol of love and hope, was most recently added just north of the Care Center entrance, honoring the memory of Tino DelSignore. Including attractive slate bricks and adjacent planters, the fountain also features a color changing LED accent light that adds soft illumination once the sun sets.

This spring saw the addition of a fountain landscape [left] just outside the Care Center’s A-Wing family patio. Dedicated to the memory of Jane Kluczynski, the contemplative setting includes a seating area and lovely Our Lady of Grace statue, a perfect space for peaceful reflection.

A few of the items to be featured in the gala’s silent auction include this versatile cross-body Coach purse, a beautiful angel pendant from Orin Jewelers, a U of M tailgating package, and a charming Brighton vase.

Spend a Night in Tuscany...

The upcoming “A Night in Tuscany” gala is a special evening to benefit Angela Hospice’s programs of care. Held on Friday, October 25, 6-11 p.m., at the elegant Laurel Manor in Livonia, the event will treat guests to fine dining, wine tastings, live music, and more.

Tickets may now be reserved for $100 per person. Guests will also have access to our grand silent auction, featuring a wide array of unique items, including an Italian vacation, diamond jewelry, sports memorabilia, and a variety of other desirable packages.

“Everyone is looking forward to this event,” said Mary Beth Moning, executive director. “Our supporters can expect a really special evening, while knowing that they are helping our patients and their loved ones to get excellent care.”

The event is being organized by a committee of volunteers, guided by Angela Hospice’s new event coordinator, Larry Kralowski.

For more information about the event, sponsorship opportunities, or to be mailed an invitation, call Larry at (734) 953-6045, or visit www.AskForAngela.com.
New at this year’s Walk of Remembrance

The 6th annual Walk of Remembrance to benefit Angela Hospice will take place Saturday, September 21. Walkers will once again have the opportunity to take part in this special day, beginning with an opening ceremony at 9 a.m. at Madonna University, and including a 2.3-mile route through the serene and beautiful grounds of the Felician Sisters.

Returning participants can expect a few new features to this year’s event as well. While enjoying music at the grotto, you’ll also have the chance to light a devotional candle in memory of a loved one. We’ll be serving a hot dog lunch following the walk, along with the rock painting activity. Guests will also have the chance to peruse the gift shop, with exclusive items such as Angela Hospice hoodies, teddy bears, and a hospice angel ornament. Face painters will offer designs for children too.

You may register in advance for the walk by calling the Angela Hospice Development Office at (734) 464-7810, or register the day of the event beginning at 8 a.m. For more information, visit www.AskForAngela.com.

▼ Amanda Trotter, Vicki Trotter, and Dave Chapdelaine at last year’s walk.