

the Monarch



Inside:
**Amazing
Grace**

Amazing Grace

Kaye Herdoiza always had a close relationship with her parents. She was close physically, living just one town over, but also emotionally. And while her father didn't have the spiritual faith that she and her mother shared, she now has a spiritual bond with her father that is stronger than ever before.

Ken Kowalske cherished life. He had no intention of leaving his loving wife and daughters, and ten beautiful grandchildren. So he chose to do whatever he could to fight off his cancer. Even when the prognosis was grim, he was determined to stay around for as long as he could.

But one day, on his way to a radiation appointment, he simply collapsed. His physical strength had run out, and he was admitted to the emergency room. It was there that he said, "I'm ready. I'm ready to go to Angela Hospice."



▲ Ken Kowalske and his family. It wasn't until after this photo was developed that they noticed the glow on Ken's face. Back row: Bob, Kaye, Ken, Pat, Kathy, Hans. Middle row: Seth, Josh, Anderson, Daniel, baby Holden. Front: Megan, Nathan, Anne, Simi, Jop.

His daughter Kaye had worked at Angela Hospice in the early 1990s, so it was natural that Ken would chose Angela. He was admitted to the Care Center where his family decorated the bulletin board with pictures of his grandchildren, and helped create a warm, loving environment for Ken. Family, friends, and even Kaye's dog came to visit. "That room became like a cocoon of comfort," Kaye said.

Her family marveled at the attention and care given to her father, and noted the way he was honored with every touch and gesture. But the family was cared for as well, and received all of the support and answers they needed.

"I'm a nurse, but I think sometimes the staff didn't know how much I wanted to be a nurse," Kaye said. "But I always would say, 'I'm not a nurse now. I'm a daughter. This is my daddy.' And that's what I got to be."

Ken spent about three weeks living in the Care Center, with his family visiting every day.

The day before Ken passed away, Kaye and her mother had a nice peaceful day with him. She noted her father was wearing a yellow collared shirt that with his pale complexion didn't look so great on him. But she was glad he was dressed like himself, and not wearing a hospital gown. The sun was beginning to set, and a beam of light shone through the window onto her father. Kaye and her mother both noticed the warm glow that came over him.

"We said, 'Boy, Dad looks really good,' and the shirt all of a sudden gave this amazing look to him and he looked healed and he looked *young*. I mean he looked like he was in his thirties. It was just a transformation before our eyes," said Kaye.

Just then a hospice aide came in and said, "Mr. Ken, you look so handsome. No – you look *beautiful*."

His wife Pat would later think of that moment as the Holy Spirit wrapping her husband up with new life and healing.

That night, Kaye stayed in her father's room, and snuggled up against him so he could feel her presence and know that she was there. Kaye didn't think she'd been really sleeping until she had a dream that she would never forget.

"My dad's spirit came to me in my dream and I looked at him...what I said in my dream was, 'Do you need me?' And all he did was nod."

Kaye said she woke up and noticed her father was struggling a bit harder to breathe. She called the nurse in and medicine was given, and her dad began to breathe easier again.

"I was just kind of singing in my awful voice 'Amazing Grace' to him and he took his last breath," Kaye said.

Her father had a difficult time with faith, and his not believing was something Kaye struggled with. She had always wished she could help him see the sacred moments in life, like those she witnessed so poignantly working with her pediatric hospice patients. She wished she could give him the gift of belief. But when she saw him in her dream, that all changed.

"I know that my dad was showing me that he *knows now*," said Kaye, "because he was in spirit form and he revealed himself to me. He could have just died and I wouldn't have known that. But it's this connection now that I know that he discovered. That *I am now spirit and you can know that too*."

"I sought all my life to give him that gift," said Kaye, "and he ended up giving it to me."

Since then, Kaye said that the staff and volunteers at Angela Hospice have brought healing to her and her family. And she considers her dad's time here a gift.

"I was a child who worried about my parents every day of my life and how I would survive after their death. I was so close to my parents, to my dad and my mom, and I feel this amazing closeness to my dad now," she said.

"Because I was here and I was able to listen to my spirit and my dad's spirit... my dad gave me the most amazing grace in his dying. I have this comfort and this peace that I am so thankful for, and I feel like I wouldn't be here without Angela Hospice."

Staff Promotions

Angela Hospice announced in March that Sister Mary Giovanni, Angela Hospice's foundress, was named CEO Emeritus. Along with that news came the promotion of Mary Beth Moning from Executive Director to Interim President/CEO; Paul Rogers from Care Center Clinical Manager to Director Of Clinical Services; and Grace Adams from Care Center Nurse to Care Center Clinical Supervisor.



Sister Mary Giovanni
Foundress/CEO Emeritus
After a sabbatical allowing her to travel and participate in international ministries, Sister Giovanni will return to Angela Hospice on July 1. She will begin working more directly with patients, families, benefactors, and the community.



Mary Beth Moning
President/CEO
"It is an honor to be following in the footsteps of Sister Giovanni, and to be leading a staff that is so passionate about the caring work they do."



Paul Rogers
Director of Clinical Services
"Having worked previously in both home care and the Care Center, I'm looking forward to working with this great group of employees as we continue to fine tune our services."



Grace Adams
Care Center Clinical Supervisor
"It is both an honor and privilege to oversee the day to day activities of the Care Center."

"One of my dad's favorite songs was 'Amazing Grace' and I feel like that is exactly what I would call Angela Hospice." ~ K.H.

Peace *from* within

What spiritual care offers hospice patients, whether they are religious or not, can be summed up in one word: Peace.

Spiritual care is an essential part of hospice's holistic care model, and is even required by Medicare. All patients have the option of spiritual care visits, and it doesn't mean they have to be religious.

"We do what we can to meet their spiritual needs while they're under our care," said Kathy Tomaszewski, Spiritual Care Supervisor. Patients are offered the opportunity to receive Communion or the Sacrament of the Sick, to share prayers or readings, or simply a reassuring presence, and someone to talk to.

Often it is companionship that brings comfort at first.

Kathy remembers a patient who was resistant to her visits, until they found a common ground: Polish recipes. "We began to converse and she opened up and began to share her story," said Kathy. She knows this patient came to a sense of peace through their talks.

Mary Jane Baker's daughter Mary Ann Valade noted that Kathy always had a way of popping in to offer a hug and smile, whenever her mom was feeling anxious or having a tough day.



"Her presence lent us a calmness," said Mary Ann. "I know mom appreciated that, and we did too."

Spiritual Care Coordinator Julie Schaffer calls it a "ministry of presence," and it can also lead to something deeper.

"I like to start by talking and getting to know each other," said Julie. "Once you develop trust, then they can begin opening up. Some patients want to tell me things that have been burdening them, and they know I'm someone who is not going to judge them."

Julie visited a World War II veteran who wanted to talk to her about his experiences during wartime – things he had never told anyone about, and the guilt he felt about so many of his friends dying, while he lived. Julie encouraged him in a prayerful state to close his eyes and imagine what God would say to him. In a moment, a smile crept across his face and he said he knew God would forgive everything. Julie saw his anxiety give way to a complete sense of peace.

"I left feeling, 'This is why I do this,'" said Julie.

"It is my helping them reach a sense of peace, whether it is their belief in God, thoughts about the afterlife, or reconciling with family," said Julie. "I help them find peace from within – I can't give it to them."

For Kathy, too, helping her patients come to peace is the most important gift she can offer. "It may strengthen them for the journey that is to come."

◀ Kathy Tomaszewski visits with Care Center resident Rita Fry.

Blessed Angela Mobile Clinic expands in Haiti

It was just this year that the Blessed Angela Mobile Clinic began caring for the under-served population in the mountain region of Jacmel, Haiti. The staff there currently serves four parishes in four different villages, and is slated to begin visiting two more.

"The need is so great and people are asking us to come and help them," said Sister Giovanni, who traveled to Haiti at the end of March.

Donations to support the outreach in Haiti can be made out to **Blessed Angela Mobile Clinic, c/o Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd, Livonia, MI 48154.** You can also follow the work of the Felician Sisters in Haiti at <http://feliciansistershaiti.wordpress.com>.



▲ A young boy is treated for a wound on his arm.



▲ The clinic currently employs two local doctors, two nurses, and a pharmacist.

◀ Sister Giovanni takes a patient's blood pressure.

MISSION IN ACTION

The articles featured in this issue of *The Monarch* showcase how Angela Hospice embodies the Felician value of *transformation*: the process that encourages an open mind and heart, leading to continuous improvement of the person and ministry.

Transformation is the healing outcome of our spiritual care work; it is the way we grow as an organization, always striving to improve our programs and services; and it is in the way we look at our experiences and the world.

Transformation happens when we take in the richness of life and decide to make every day meaningful. And this is at the heart of what Angela Hospice does.



Ladies, laughter help hospice

Comedienne/ventriloquist Lynn Trefzger and her bevy of puppet friends entertained at Laughter Lifts You Up, Angela Hospice's annual women's event. Both a luncheon and a dinner event were held, with proceeds benefitting Angela Hospice's grief support groups and one-on-one counseling programs – services that are offered free of charge and available to anyone in the community who has experienced a loss.



Lynn Trefzger with ▶ Camelot the camel.



▲ Always a popular event, Laughter Lifts You Up is a great time to get the girls together. Pictured above: (back row) Debra Fawkes, Cherie Lessig, (front row) Marilyn Creighton, Sharon Knoll, Eileen Sharp, and Janis Murfey.



Join us for Walk of Remembrance

It's not too early to start planning for the Walk of Remembrance! This year's event will take place Saturday, September 20. Registration will begin one hour later this year at 9 a.m., with the opening ceremony taking place at 10 a.m.

If you'd like to get a team together, you can honor your loved one's name while helping to fundraise for Angela Hospice. Call Events Coordinator Larry Kralowski at (734) 953-6045 for a team planning packet including sample letters, fundraising ideas, and more.

"What makes the teams so special is the personal touch given to each honoree," said Larry. "Everything from tailgating, to personalized t-shirts, costumes, and face painting...all this makes for a very special morning."

The beautiful 2.3-mile walk will begin at Madonna University, weave throughout the peaceful grounds of the Felician Sisters, and finish at Angela Hospice. A hot dog lunch and rock painting activity for all ages will follow.



Letters to hospice

I want to clearly extend my family's most sincere thanks to the B-wing staff during my Mom's stay. Our road to you from November 2013 through January 2014 was a bit rough, but that all ended when you called. During the last days of her life, she was treated like a queen. The staff was comforting, and genuinely concerned for her well-being. She was always clean, with her hair combed, and resting comfortable in her bed. I often compared her care at Angela to the level of care that my sisters and I would provide if we could. It was that phenomenal. The spiritual support, the volunteers, and the activities that the families could join were greatly appreciated. Also, I will never forget the guitar-playing gentleman that joined us one afternoon. He played and sang her favorites. The look on her face was priceless.

In closing, I want to thank you for the dignity you gave my Mom during her last days. It is profoundly appreciated as she was a beautiful and wonderful woman. Thank you.

Martha Smoly



Martha Smoly as a child, being held by her mother, Rosemarie Mussill.

During the last days of her life, she was treated like a queen...

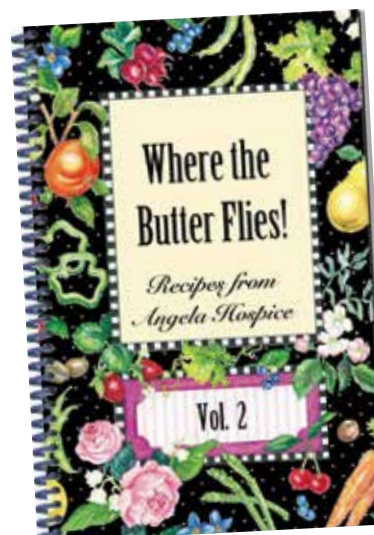
Call for recipes!

New Angela Hospice cookbook in the works

Angela Hospice is excited to be launching volume two of its successful *Where the Butter Flies* cookbook. Angela Hospice's friends are invited to submit their recipes this summer by **July 16**, in anticipation of the book's printing for the 2014 holiday season. You can also reserve your copies in advance for holiday gift-giving.

"Our cookbook proved to be very popular, and after selling out twice, we've already had requests for a second volume," said volunteer Mike Cuba, who coordinated the production of volume one. "If you love baking as much as I do, you're always looking for new recipes to try."

You can submit your recipes to Angela Hospice by using our online system at www.typensave.com. Login with the username *AngelaHospice2* (case sensitive) and password *walnut274* to enter your recipes. You can also mail a recipe to: Angela Hospice Volunteer Office, 14100 Newburgh Rd, Livonia MI 48154. To reserve cookbooks for purchase, call Lisa Norton at (734) 953-6008.



▲ All cookbook sales benefit programs for patients and families



Respect. Dignity. Peace of mind.

14100 Newburgh Road
Livonia, Michigan 48154
Toll Free (866) 464-7810
www.AskForAngela.com

The Monarch is published by Angela Hospice to keep our friends and supporters informed of our latest news and events as we continue to provide quality care to people in need.

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Angela Hospice Home Care, Inc. is dedicated to provide comprehensive, compassionate, and Christ-like care to adults and children in the communities we serve.

Angela Hospice is a Felician-sponsored ministry



◀ **Angela Hospice I.T. Manager Russ Hardy works with Josh Radzwion and Bernadine Hillman who will be the first hospice aides to test out the new tablets.**

Angela Hospice receives grant from The UPS Foundation

In April, Angela Hospice was honored to receive a generous contribution from The UPS Foundation, the charitable arm of UPS. The \$25,000 grant will be used to purchase new tablet computers and software that will improve efficiency, and result in better patient care.

The tablets will enable home hospice aides to complete their charting on-the-go, and get the most

updated patient care information when making their visits to patients.

“The less time our home care staff is spending traveling to and from the office to turn in or retrieve paperwork, the more time they have to spend with their patients,” said Mary Beth Moning, Angela Hospice President and CEO. “That means they can focus their time on what is most important: giving the hands-on personal care that is so appreciated by our patients and their caregivers.”

In addition to their financial support, The UPS Foundation also enables local UPS staff to make an impact by volunteering at Angela Hospice, working to help beautify the Care Center grounds.

“The UPS Foundation is honored to support Angela Hospice’s efforts,” said Eduardo Martinez, president of the The UPS Foundation. “Our goal is to fund powerful programs that make a lasting difference to the global community.”



▲ **UPS Great Lakes District Manager Stefan Wilson presents Sister Mary Giovanni with a check for Angela Hospice.**