

SUMMER 2022

MONARCH

LIVING A LIFE *of service*

Harry Tatigian spent more than five decades serving the city he calls "home."

Now in hospice care, home is exactly where Harry wants to be.


Angela
Hospice®
We'll take you under our wing.®

Living a life OF SERVICE

Harry Tatigian's devotion to public service helped make Livonia what it is today. As a city attorney, Harry served his community for over 50 years. Livonia has been home to him and his wife, Betty, since 1963, and these days "home" is just where Harry wants to be.

"Harry was in the hospital in February or March. And it was an uncomfortable situation," Betty said. "He wanted to come home. We agreed it would be better to have the hospital come to us – to be able to have a doctor come out to the house and nurse to come up, rather than to be a patient in the hospital. Our goal is to be at home."

Angela Hospice was able to make that goal a reality, providing hospice care for Harry in their home, so he and Betty could celebrate their 59th anniversary together.

The couple first met while Betty was on a date with someone else. Two months later, they went on their first date.

"He was driving his dad's car, and the car didn't have a radio. So he sang to me!" Betty reminisced.

The couple went on to have five children together, and now have 12 grandchildren.

"We also raised our children [in Livonia]," Harry said. "And I'm very proud of our kids. It's been a good life."

While Harry is more modest about his civic achievements, Betty sees the great impact he has had on the city – especially when it comes to parks and nature preserves.

"When we first came out here in '63, the city had 150 acres of park land," Betty said. "And when [Harry retired] I think they had 1,500 acres of park land. And he was very, very instrumental in obtaining these parks."

In fact, the city even named a park for him: Harry Tatigian Park and Nature Preserve, dedicated in 2018.

"We are a very public service oriented family," said Harry, referring to their children who are teachers, attorneys, and federal agents; and Betty, who served as a public health nurse and a teacher before she retired.

"You never, ever know how many lives you've touched and how you touch them," Betty reflected. "It can just

be an acquaintance that has a big impact on your life. And I think that being in public service, you're inclined possibly to touch more lives. And, you know, this is what life is all about."

Betty and Harry have spent much of their retirement volunteering as well. Betty said her favorite place she's volunteered is Angela Hospice, where she's primarily worked in Grief Care. While many people would find that role particularly difficult, Betty knows she was bringing comfort to those families.

"And I'm a firm believer that grief is a part of love," Betty said. "And, you know, to point out to people that, if you choose to love, most likely you will grieve. But what is life without love?"



BETTY AND HARRY TATIGIAN AT THE HARRY TATIGIAN PARK
AND NATURE PRESERVE DEDICATION IN 2018.

**You too can touch lives through your support of
Angela Hospice's charitable programs for patients and families.**



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IMPACT YOUR DONATIONS HAVE ON OTHERS,
AND TO MAKE A GIFT TODAY, VISIT [ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/DONATE](https://angelahospice.org/donate)

BEING THE *change*

Nikki Scott wants you to know that it's OK to have a bad day.

"We live in a really grief phobic society," said Nikki, who is currently a Grief Counselor at Angela Hospice. "People think that they can't bring up your loved one's name or they can't ask you how you're doing because you might get sad, and then they fail to realize it's good to be sad. It's healthy to talk about it. You can be sad and have bad days."

Nikki commented that her clients – who use **Angela Hospice's free grief support programs, which are fully funded through donor support** – are often shocked to hear that they're allowed to have bad days.

"I pretty much say it every week at group... I think the bereaved are the people who are going to change the world, because they are more empathetic and compassionate," she said.

Nikki – who started as an Angela Hospice volunteer at age 19 – just might change the world too. She has been on both sides of the grief journey – serving patients at the end of their life, and those who have lost a loved one. When she started as a volunteer in 2012, she first worked in the Care Center before making the jump to grief care.

She said both areas are really meaningful in their own way, but working with those who are grieving has become a bit more special to her.

"People who've lost someone... They just want someone to empathize with them and have compassion and just sit with – not offer solutions," she said. "People just want to be validated, so when you validate for them, then they validate for others, and then hopefully,

that just keeps spilling forward."

Over the last 10 years, not only has Nikki's role at Angela Hospice changed and expanded, so has her life outside it. For every milestone here – an internship completed, a new job change – there was another milestone outside the walls of Angela Hospice, like getting married, starting a family, and earning her doctorate.

A lot can change over the course of a decade, but Nikki's desire to work in Grief Care never wavered, even when she didn't think she was ready to take on the role. Thankfully, she had a team at Angela Hospice who knew she was ready, and wanted to help her fulfill this dream. She was called about an opening on the Grief Care team first in 2020, then again in May 2021.

After that second phone call, she had a dream where someone told her she should have taken the job. So she ended up changing course and took the position.

"It was always my dream, I was just scared because you're used to something for so long, and then to change it and not know what you're going into..." she said. "I love it though. The dream was right."

"There's no other social work I would want to do," Nikki said. "This is where I'm supposed to be."

Nikki said knowing she's making some kind of difference is the best part of her job.

"I think on a very, very, very micro level, I'm hopefully changing our world, at least for grief, and the way people understand it," Nikki said.



"I KNOW, THERE ARE LOTS OF COUNSELING ORGANIZATIONS, BUT TO BE ABLE TO DO IT HERE, AT SUCH A WONDERFUL, SUPPORTIVE ORGANIZATION, IS WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE FOR ME."



GRIEF COUNSELORS AMANDA GLAZE & NIKKI SCOTT

**YOU CAN HELP CHANGE THE LIFE OF SOMEONE WHO IS STRUGGLING THROUGH GRIEF.
TO MAKE A DONATION, VISIT [ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/DONATE](https://angelahospice.org/donate)**



heavenly care

Thinking about the care her parents received, Anne Marie Hurley is pretty convinced their caregivers from Angela Hospice were heaven sent.

"They were just some of the most compassionate people I've ever met," Anne Marie said about the Angela Hospice team. "I wish I could just take them all home."

Her family's Angela Hospice journey began with her mom, Maria – who had Parkinson's and dementia. Maria's nurse practitioner recommended the family begin looking into hospice, and at first, Anne Marie said she felt like her world was ending. But when she and her dad, Frank, were asked which hospice they were thinking of, they both simultaneously said Angela Hospice, which they had heard wonderful things about over the years and driven past often.

And when her dad began to decline, Anne Marie said that Angela Hospice was always in the back of her mind. She contacted Angela Hospice for him as well before he passed in April 2022.

"Every single person that we came in contact with was so compassionate and so loving, and so kind," she said. "I thought, maybe somebody went up to heaven and yanked them down to put them back on Earth, so we could have these really great people to help the people who are at the end of their lives."

Needless to say, Anne Marie would absolutely recommend Angela Hospice to anyone. Having now

gone through the hospice process twice, Anne Marie would tell everyone to fully utilize the services that are offered, and one more thing:

"I would say for the type of experience it was, Angela Hospice made it beautiful, because they treat people with dignity, kindness, and compassion," Anne Marie said.

**TO HELP MORE FAMILIES TO RECEIVE
ANGELA HOSPICE'S CARING SUPPORT, VISIT
[ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/DONATE](https://angelahospice.org/donate)**



ANGELA EXECUTIVE TEAM

Marti Coplai, President & CEO
Dr. James Boal, Chief Medical Officer
Mark Hibbard, CFO
Jamie LaLonde, Executive Director
Rev. Diane Smith, Dir. Ministry Engagement

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Deborah Dunn, Vice Chair
Esther Acosta
Najah Bazy
Bryan Besco
Sister M. Ramona Dombrowski
Dr. Terri Mack
Neran Shaya
Sister Mary Clarette Stryzewski
David Ward, Senior Ministry Advisor
Marti Coplai, President
Mark Hibbard, Secretary

ANGELA ANSWERS

Angela Hospice launched Angela Answers, a new educational speakers series that seeks to empower community members by engaging them in rich discussions that are both practical and intriguing. Our hope is to share insight into the often neglected edges of the human experience, providing tips and information to help individuals as they navigate experiences related to end of life, grief, health, wellness, spirituality, and family dynamics.

**WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US AS WE
EXPLORE THESE TOPICS:**

JULY 20, 1 P.M.

When a Parent Loses a Child
Presented by Debbie Vallandingham, LMSW-ACSW

AUGUST 17, 1 P.M.

Palliative Care vs. Hospice: What's the Difference?
Presented by Jordan Richter, AGPC NP-BC

SEPTEMBER 21, 1 P.M.

The Hospice Journey: What to Expect
Presented by Angelica Reid, MSN, MBA, RN

OCTOBER 19, 1 P.M.

Making Connections Through Storytelling
Presented by Jennifer Dale, CNM

**Register online for these free virtual
events: angelahospice.org/events**