

FALL 2019

MONARCH

Broadcasting the Journey



We'll take you under our wing.

INSIDE: 2019 Annual Report
PLUS...Introducing Angela Palliative Care

Pictured: Patient Joel Zelle and his wife Lynne experience the comforts of Home Care.

YOUR CARING SUPPORT PROVIDES SERVICES FOR PATIENTS IN OUR CARE CENTER, PATIENTS LIKE ANNIE...

FILLED WITH Joy & Peace

When Annie Dawson was admitted to the Angela Hospice Care Center in May, her granddaughter Robin began coming every day to visit.

"I don't plan on leaving," Robin said. "Until she goes home, then I'll go home."

Going home has spiritual meaning for Annie.

"I have always been religious and I have always asked the Lord to make a way for me and my family," Annie said.

At 99-years-old, she has seen a lot in her life, but faith and hard work have always been important for her. Born in rural Tennessee, the third of 11 children, Annie was married with two children by the time she was 20. She worked as a washerwoman to help support her parents and siblings too. After her first husband died, Annie came to Detroit to stay with family and began working for the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

"I just loved working there. They were real nice to me," she said. And over the 33 years she worked for the Sisters, Annie's faith continued to grow.

"Some of the nuns were close to her because they would come visit at her house after she retired," said Annie's nephew Joe. He said in the last few years, he

and his aunt Annie have grown closer. "That's been a beautiful experience and that's been uplifting in my life..." he said.

You see, Annie is the kind of person who leaves an impression on the people she meets, with her vibrant spirit that shines through even in times of darkness. She was twice widowed and has outlived all of her children. But despite experiencing so much tragedy, she always remained faithful, and her resilience has been an inspiration to others, including Robin.

"She's strong," Robin said, looking at her grandmother. "She said I'm strong, but I see where I get most of my strength from...I get most of my strength from her."

Robin's mother died when she was very young, so Annie has always been an important figure in Robin's life. "She's my grandmother but I call her my mom because that's all I've known all my life," Robin said.

Throughout all the challenges Annie has faced – illness, the loss of loved ones, and her disability caused by polio – Annie's faith sustained her, and her cheerfulness and gratitude shone through.

"God has been good to me," she said, with all the force of her frail body. "And He's let me know He was good to me. Because He's left joy...here for me."

Annie and her family have been happy with the care she's received at Angela Hospice's Care Center.

"There's a lot of love around here," Robin said.

And Annie, with her charismatic optimism and gratitude, concluded, "I just thank God that everything is going on smooth and real nice."



L to R: Joe Brooks, Annie Dawson & Robin Spinks-Cooper



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

We are so grateful to you for your compassionate support over the past year, and the kindness you have shown to the families we were honored to serve.

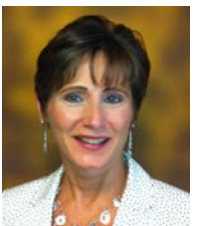
Your generosity provided critical program funding, including \$200,000 worth of charitable Good Samaritan care for patients with limited financial means. Your contributions made all the difference for these individuals, enabling them to receive the comforts of hospice care at a crucial time.

You blessed us with continued growth, including the expansion of our telehospice program, and the opportunity to partner in providing a children's grief camp. You helped provide Christ-like hospice care to over 2,000 individuals, and brought advocacy to Lansing that was instrumental in protecting hospice patients' access to pain medication.

As we embark on our 2020 fiscal year, committed to our mission and core values, we hope you will consider the ongoing needs of patients and families in our community, and join us in supporting this charitable work:

- Inpatient Care Center
- Good Samaritan Care
- Grief Support Services
- Complementary Therapies
- Pediatric & Prenatal Hospice
- Support for Veterans at end-of-life

Thank you for forging ahead with us and striving for excellence in end-of-life care and support. Peace and All Good!



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BOARD CHAIR

Peggy Cummins



MARTI COPLAI
PRESIDENT & CEO

Marti Coplai

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS
IN HOSPICE CARE 2,092

HOSPICE HOME CARE*

2014

ANGELA HOSPICE CARE CENTER*

673

MY NEST IS BEST PEDIATRICS

27

*Patients who transferred between programs were counted in the totals for both programs.

TOTAL DAYS OF CARE

2019 107,700 10% increase over 2018

VETERANS SERVED 387

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS 354

VOLUNTEER HOME CARE
VISITS 1,432

TOTAL MILES DRIVEN BY
VOLUNTEERS 115,954

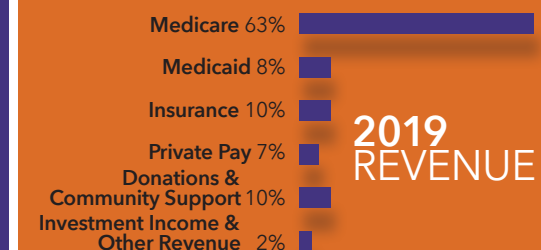
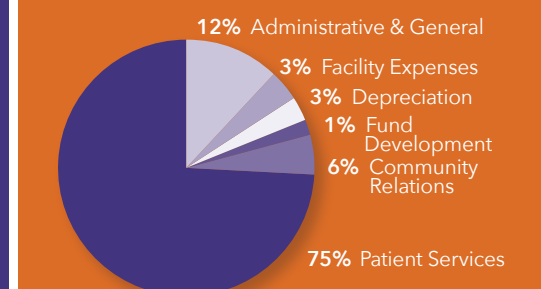
TOTAL VOLUNTEER
SERVICE HOURS 29,662

BEREAVEMENT
ONE-ON-ONE GRIEF
SUPPORT SESSIONS 1,952

GOOD SAMARITAN
CARE PROVIDED \$198,459

BEREAVEMENT
EXPENSE \$245,052

2019 EXPENSES



2019 REVENUE



I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices... Psalm 16:8-9 ESV



Broadcasting the Journey

If you're from the Metro Detroit area, Joel Alexander might sound like a familiar name. He was a reporter on WJR for 34 years, and spent many mornings and afternoons flying the Jetcopter 760 across the skies of southeast Michigan.

For so many years, Joel Alexander Zelle watched over all of us, helping to direct our route and make our journey a little bit easier. Now Angela Hospice hopes to return the favor.

Joel started hospice care in late April when he learned that his brain tumor had come back after surgery.

"That is when he decided that he didn't want any more chemo," said Lynne, Joel's wife of 43 years. "It's been 20 months since his diagnosis. That's longer than what they told him – they told him 11 to 18 months."

When he decided to forego further treatments, Joel's physician recommended hospice.

Lynne decided on Angela – but that wasn't the first time Joel had heard of Angela. Years ago he had met Angela Hospice's foundress, Sister Giovanni, and took her up for a ride in his helicopter. Joel donated helicopter rides for Angela Hospice's raffles in years past too, to help support hospice care. Now he is receiving that care himself, and it's a help both to him and his wife.

She's been caring for Joel in their home, where they receive regular visits from the hospice team through Angela's home care program.

"Everybody we've met through Angela Hospice

When Joel retired in 2015 he said, "That is the one thing that I am going to miss, something different every single sunrise and every single sunset."



has been very nice," Lynne said. "With the help of the hospice team and our home care aides, Joel is doing well at home."

Having care at home not only allows Joel to be more comfortable, it also makes it easier for his family to visit. In fact, they've been enjoying Sunday dinners as a family ever since Joel signed on to hospice, with their daughters Jennifer and Ashley, sons-in-law Tom and Jason, and grandchildren Ava and Jack.

Joel met Lynne in 1975 when he was working at KDKA radio in Pittsburgh. He was out with a friend at Stouffer's Grog Shop when he saw Lynne walk by and invited her and her friend to come sit with them.

"He had just gotten his private pilot's license so he had it out and he just kept looking at it," Lynne remembered. "He got it that day. He was just so proud of that."

They talked and danced that night, and just under a year later, they were married on Valentine's Day.

LEFT: Joel was recently inducted to the WERS Radio Hall of Fame at his alma mater, Emerson College, where he studied broadcasting.



TO WATCH A VIDEO OF NICK IMPROVISING ON PIANO, VISIT OUR BLOG AT [HTTP://ANGELAHOSPICE.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://angelahospice.blogspot.com/).

KEYS to comfort

When Nick Fishman was a little boy, he saw an orchestra play and decided he wanted to take piano lessons. He had recently moved to Los Angeles from Russia with his family, so paying for piano lessons certainly didn't fit the budget. But a few years later, Nick's family moved to Kentucky.

"There my parents decided to fulfill their promise to me and start piano lessons under the assumption that I'd try it for a little bit and then give up," Nick explained. But at 9 years old, Nick had discovered a true passion.

"You know some people run, some people write, some people read — for me, music is an important way for me to feel more at ease," he said.

And while Nick decided not to pursue music as a career, becoming a software engineer instead, playing piano is both a way of letting go and expressing himself. His love for piano recently provided a special way for him to connect with his mother, Vera, while she stayed at Angela Hospice's Care Center.

Vera had brain cancer that affected her long-term and short-term memory. As her illness progressed, it became more difficult for her to communicate.

"But when I sat down to play for her, I could see in her face recognition of what I was playing," Nick said. While he loves to improvise, he chose classical pieces that he had played for his mother in the past. "She couldn't tell me what it was," he explained, "but it felt comfortable to her. And that was so meaningful



for me, to be able to let her feel more comfort, which is what hospice is about in many ways."

Nick and his father, Naum, both took an extended absence from work to be with Vera, spending days and evenings with her in the Care Center.

"This place was a wonderful way for her to spend her last week here on earth," Nick said of the Angela Hospice facility. "I wish that she were here sooner... everyone here was so nice and friendly, and they cared. It's hard to imagine a better place."

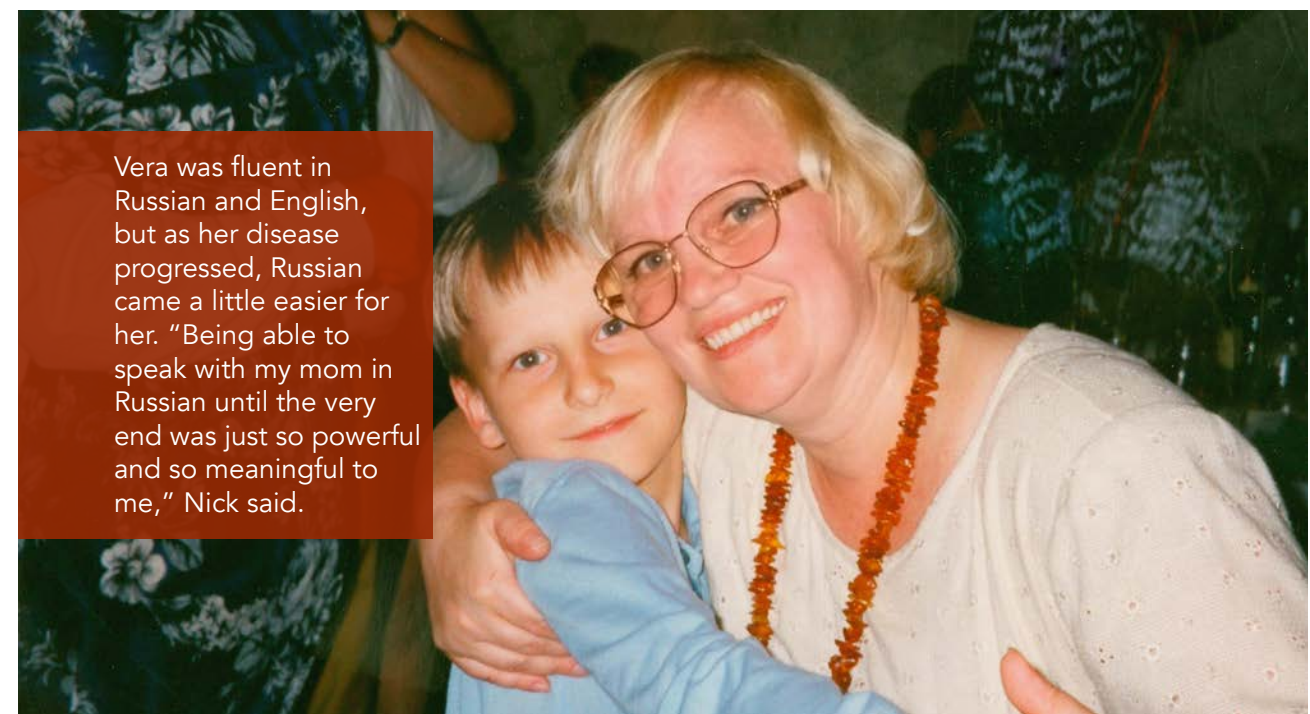
Nick demonstrated how donor support for the Care Center enables families to experience beautiful moments together. He recounted how they spent his mother's first day at the facility: Nick playing piano for her in the Great Room, then wheeling Vera's bed outside in the courtyard so she could experience the sunshine. He said when they came back inside, "She took an extended nap and then woke up and said something like, 'Ah, that was incredible.' And I said, 'What, Mom, what was that?'... And I couldn't tell if it was a dream or she was talking about our time together, but that memory will stay with me forever."

Vera spent a week in the Care Center and died on July 1. A week later, Nick came back to the Care Center with his wife and spent about an hour playing

piano in the Great Room in honor of his mom.

"I hope it won't be the last time I come here," he said. "I'm based in California...but I suspect I'll be back to play some more."

Vera was fluent in Russian and English, but as her disease progressed, Russian came a little easier for her. "Being able to speak with my mom in Russian until the very end was just so powerful and so meaningful to me," Nick said.



Helping to Heal

Your support for Angela Hospice's grief support programs has deep and far-reaching impact for children and adults in the community who are struggling to cope with loss. Whether or not a loved one received hospice care, our compassionate support groups and counseling sessions are available to all who need that support to get through difficult times.

Your continued generosity will afford these new groups beginning in 2020:

- Suicide Loss Support Group
- Music Therapy for Kids
- Parents Who Have Lost a Child

We also invite you to spread the word about this year's holiday grief workshops:

GETTING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS ADULT WORKSHOP

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

Sunday, Dec. 1, 2-4 p.m.



Therapy dog Piper at the Children's Holiday Workshop

Angela Hospice's bereavement team serves families and individuals of all ages. For more on these services, to RSVP, or to be updated on the schedule of these new groups, call 734.779.6690, or visit askforangela.com.



MAXIMIZE IMPACT with your MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION

It's usually young children who measure their age in half birthdays, but if you've turned 70 ½ years, your half birthday can be a big deal too. Starting at 70 ½, owners of traditional IRAs must take a required minimum distribution (RMD). But what if you don't want that distribution added to your taxable income?

Some IRA owners choose to take their RMD as a qualified charitable distribution instead. That means instead of taking the required distribution as personal income, they make all (or a portion of) that distribution to the qualified charity of their choice *directly* from their IRA. This strategy maximizes the impact of that money on the charity because it is not taxed, so the full distribution can be utilized by the charity for their good work. The donor doesn't pay taxes on the money either since it is distributed right from the IRA to the charity.

"We're seeing more and more savvy donors take advantage of the qualified charitable distribution," said Bob Alexander, Director of Development for Angela Hospice. "It allows them to give heartfelt support to a worthy cause while reaping the tax benefits of deferring that income."



To learn how your qualified charitable distribution could support the work of Angela Hospice, call Bob Alexander at 734.953.6009 or consult your IRA manager.

LOVE in an Unlikely Place

Justin Eades didn't believe in soulmates...until he met Noelle Mayer.

It was June 17, 2018, and Justin and his family were at the Angela Hospice Care Center where his aunt Rebecca was being admitted. Just down the hall, Noelle was with her grandmother, Viola DeFelice, for their Tuesday night tradition, watching *America's Got Talent*.

After six months of visiting her grandmother nearly every day, the Care Center felt like home to Noelle. She remembered she was wearing sweatpants that day and had thrown her hair up in a bun, but Justin thought she was adorable.

"She was very noticeable," Justin said. "Very cute, very rushed." Plus her grandmother kept yelling her name whenever Noelle would leave the room.

"It wasn't appropriate for me to be like, 'Hey, can I get your number?' I don't even think she would have heard me," Justin said. "She was like the Energizer bunny every time she walked by."

But they ended up leaving at the same time that night, and Noelle helped him use the keypad on the front door.

"He asked if he could give me a hug," she recalled. "He said it looked like I had a really hard night."

"I don't know why, I said, 'Welcome to hospice, we're all here together,'" Noelle laughed. "I thought in my head, *You are so weird! Why would you even say that?* And after I gave him a hug I'm like, *What the heck, I'll give everybody else hugs.*"

So after hugging Justin and his whole family, Noelle drove home thinking she had really embarrassed herself. But Justin's family was amused.

"My cousins were like, 'She's cute, you should have asked her out,'" Justin remembered. "I was like, 'I'm not asking, your mom is in the other room right now.'" But when he went back the next day and saw Noelle's grandmother's room empty, Justin assumed the worst. He looked Noelle up on Facebook and sent her a heartfelt message, letting her know he was there if she wanted to talk.

It was a month and a half later that Noelle found the message filtered into a separate folder since they weren't Facebook friends. But she messaged him back and within 20 minutes, he had asked her out.

In the weeks since they had first met at Angela Hospice, Justin's aunt Rebecca and Noelle's grandmother passed within a day of each other. And Justin, who didn't believe in soulmates or fate, said he had some "pretty cosmic things" happen.

"I had a lot of pretty crazy dreams afterward, of my grandma and Noelle's grandma and my aunt," he said. (His grandmother had passed in Angela's home hospice care years before). "In those dreams I had some revelations of my grandma telling me that she was waiting for my aunt to pass, but she was also waiting for Viola to pass too."

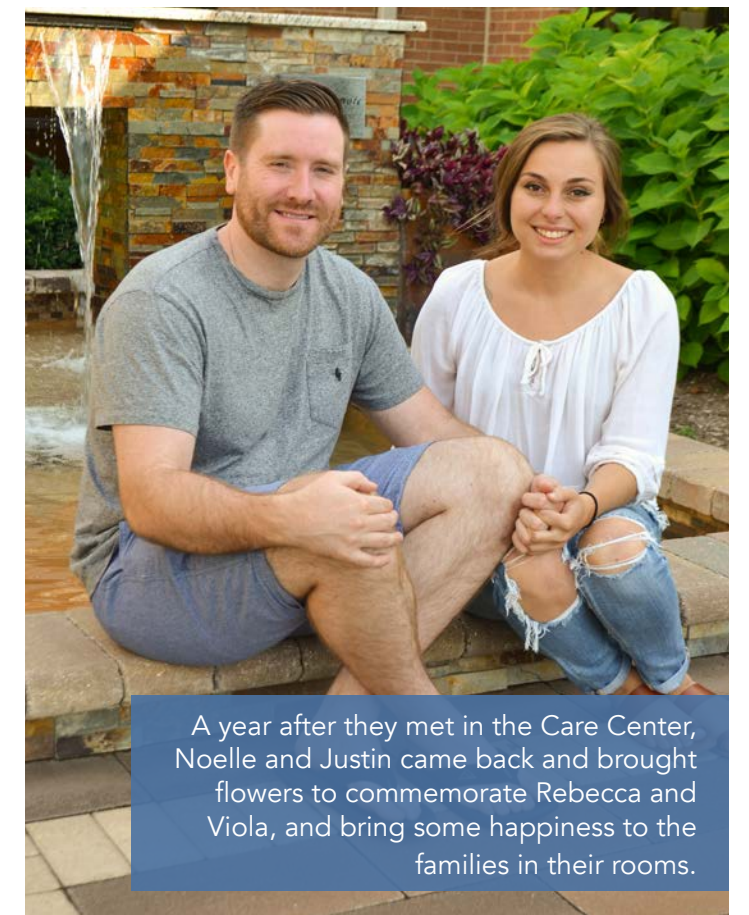
Looking back, Noelle and Justin realized how many things had to come together for them to meet. Noelle's grandmother lived months longer than expected, but died just days after Noelle met Justin and his family.

"It was just enough time for us to cross paths and it was like her job was done," Noelle said. "God had a plan."

"That was pretty crazy how we met," Justin said. "Still to this day, I still don't really believe that that's the way you meet the person you're going to marry, but you don't question it."

"I just know that that night will be probably the most important night of my life," he said.

"Mine too," Noelle replied.



A year after they met in the Care Center, Noelle and Justin came back and brought flowers to commemorate Rebecca and Viola, and bring some happiness to the families in their rooms.





What is Palliative Care?

It's a question we hear often, and you may have wondered yourself. The simplest answer: **it's about comfort.** So you may not be surprised to hear that Angela Hospice has been piloting a Palliative Care program to expand comfort care to more individuals. The program has been officially greenlighted to expand its capacity.

"The idea of Palliative Care is to provide symptom management, the skill that hospice has, to a patient population beyond the last six months of life," said Chief Medical Officer for Angela Hospice, Dr. James Boal. "There may be people who are not hospice eligible according to Medicare/Medicaid guidelines, but still want a community-based approach – or there may be people who are perfectly eligible for hospice, but they're a little too nervous to sign up for it yet."

Palliative Care also offers a way to provide continued support for Angela Hospice patients who must be discharged from hospice care if their condition has improved to the extent that they no longer qualify as hospice eligible.

Palliative Care is not meant to replace emergency care or a patient's primary physician, but is designed to enhance quality of life for patients with advanced illnesses. Through home visits, Angela's physicians and nurse practitioners provide coordinated care planning and symptom management for patients, decreasing the need for disruptive office visits or hospital stays.

"Palliative Care is an important piece of the care continuum – especially for people with serious or chronic illnesses," said Marti Coplai, Angela Hospice President and CEO. "Our Palliative Care program is one more way we can serve members of our community, bringing peace and comfort to those with pain and symptoms, to improve quality of life."



**PALLIATIVE CARE IS AVAILABLE TO PATIENTS IN ANGELA HOSPICE'S PRIMARY SERVICE AREA.
TO INQUIRE ABOUT SERVICES, CALL 866.464.7810.**

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هاتف الصم والبكم (TTY: 711)

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