

SUMMER 2023

MONARCH

angels
IN THE
NIGHT



We'll take you under our wing.®

THREE ANGELA HOSPICE NURSES
SHARE HOW THEY'VE FOUND
PURPOSE AND FULFILLMENT ON
THE NIGHT SHIFT.



angels IN THE NIGHT



Making peace on the night shift

For 10 days, the Crowley* family sat vigil. Their patriarch was living out his last weeks at the Angela Hospice Care Center, and they were with him 24/7, even staying overnight. They brought groceries and prepared meals. His daughters, son, and their spouses shared all sorts of remembrances with the caregivers on staff.

When Mr. Crowley passed away, it was almost like his family didn't want to leave. The Care Center had been such a welcoming home-away-from-home for them and their father. They felt nurtured and cared for.

This is why nurse Lisa Udell does what she does.

"They were just so incredibly appreciative.... Everyone is just so wonderful here, and you guys took such great care of him. We just feel so blessed that this is where he wound up spending his end of life, it couldn't have been better.' It's nice to hear that," Lisa said. "To know that we were appreciated, I think that is all anyone wants to know, that your work was noticed."

Lisa has been with Angela Hospice for 17 years. Now on the midnight shift, she's found her true calling.

"I think the midnight shift can be a very peaceful and intimate exchange of knowledge and feelings," said Lisa, who often finds herself providing reassurance for family members facing complex emotions.

"This is an emotional, turbulent journey, and all your feelings are valid," she said. She lets families know it's OK to feel what they are feeling, and they won't be judged for it.

Like Lisa, nurse Marie Diffenderfer is grateful to be



"We really do work hard to make sure they're aware that we're here to help them, however they want their journey to be."

LISA UDELL

able to support families as they cope with a loved one's illness.

"I just try to bring them some sort of peace, some sort of happy remembrance," she said.

Marie has been working the night shift at the Care Center for seven years now, and she tries to notice little things she can do to help make families feel supported and cared for.

"They're always so delighted with the care we give here," she said. "Our care standards are high... I don't think there's anywhere as nice as here."

But what about those tough cases? For Marie, it's seeing the youngest patients, who don't feel like it's their time to go yet, that are the hardest.

"I mean, it's sad, regardless of how you shake it, but I can't look at the sadness. I'm here for something else. I'm here to make it peaceful," Marie said. "One of my favorite parts about hospice nursing is I really feel like I'm making a difference."

Erica Bradford joined the team just a year ago, but she's been a nurse for 17 years. At Angela Hospice, she knows she's found something really special.

"I've always had a passion for taking care of people," Erica said. "I found a place where my purpose and my passion as a nurse can come as one, and that's never happened before."

Erica, Lisa, and Marie hope they can help families find the blessing, to see something positive in their experience.

Lisa said whenever she tells someone she's a hospice nurse, they assume it must be depressing, but it's actually the opposite.

"It's so much more rewarding when you have time





"Connecting with people, especially during that time that's so vulnerable... to be able to be a comfort to them, it's so rewarding."

ERICA BRADFORD

to spend with families, to be able to help them cope with all these things that are happening – and they so badly want to control it and you just can't. It is just a great feeling... when you know you finally have given them an analogy that they get, that makes this process something that they can see as a positive thing," Lisa said

After Mr. Crowley died, one of his daughters came to Lisa with a request. She wanted to take a cutting from a plant that was in the hallway near where her father stayed.

"She was like, 'I just would really like something to remember my dad by,'" Lisa recalled. She handed her the scissors. "It was going to bring her some kind of relief, of knowing that this was a great experience."

If you've ever visited the Angela Hospice Care Center at night, there is a certain hallowed peace that permeates the halls. But while all may seem quiet, it's actually the tireless dedication of the caregiving team that makes the Care Center such a comforting haven for patients and families. Perhaps that's why the caregivers on duty are often called "angels" by those who witness their caring and compassion.

That's not the whole story though, because without generous donors and community supporters, this wonderful place would not exist.

Most hospice organizations don't offer an inpatient facility like the Care Center, because of the added expense. But at Angela Hospice, we've seen what a godsend the Care Center is for families who need that specialized care.

Your donations toward the Care Center help fund room and board fees not covered by insurance, as well as hospice care for the uninsured/underinsured, and those without financial resources. Your gift can help make the end of life a peaceful time for patients and the people who love them.



GIVE TODAY AT
ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/DONATE

JOIN US AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

WALKING TOGETHER GRIEF GROUP

Fridays at 10 a.m.

Join our grief professionals for fresh air and exercise as you walk the beautiful grounds of Angela Hospice in a supportive environment.

DINE 'N DONATE

July 13

Rusty Bucket at Sheldon & Five Mile Rd., Northville

Present our flyer at the time of your order for dine-in or carryout and 15% of your bill will be donated to Angela Hospice. For online orders use code Angela13 at order.myrustybucket.com.

CAMP MONARCH

August 3-4 (see page 8)

ESTATE PLANNING 101

August 15, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. or August 17, 6 - 8 p.m.

Angela Hospice Care Center

Attorney Esther Acosta will share three easy steps to planning and securing your future at this free workshop.

PREPARING THE SPIRIT

August 16, 1 p.m.

Angela Hospice Grounds

As part of our free Angela Cares Speakers Series, Deacon Jenny Ritter will present Preparing the Spirit. Spiritual issues often come to the forefront as someone approaches the end of their life. Deacon Jenny will delve into these spiritual concerns, what it means to be a hospice chaplain, and ways to support individuals grappling with life's most important questions.

WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

September 16 (see page 7)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE, ASKFORANGELA.COM,

FOR MORE ABOUT THESE AND OTHER EVENTS,

OR CALL 866.464.7810.



ONE MORE salute

There was a salute, a pause, a moment in time no one in the room would forget as Corporal Michael Kloian did his best to salute back to Angela Hospice volunteer Margot Parr, a fellow veteran.

Tucked away in a quiet room at Fox Hills Senior Living, Michael's family came together to watch as Michael was honored for his time in the Air Force, a fitting tribute to a man who had spent so much time as a veteran.

"For me, just having him honored in a different way, as a veteran, by a veteran was special... I think he enjoyed that too," said Terri Koller, one of his nieces who attended the We Honor Veterans ceremony.

Michael was someone who was proud to have served, and happily shared his knowledge to Terri and her sisters, giving them an education that couldn't simply be taught in the classroom.

He was not only an Air Force veteran but a World War II veteran as well, having survived the crash of a B-29 Bomber plane during a test pilot landing, leaving over 60 percent of his body burned as he tried to save

his comrades and escape. He was one of only four survivors, something that weighed heavily on him, knowing he hadn't been able to save every one of his Air Force brothers that day.

Because of this weight, Terri Schmitchen, Angela Hospice Director of Integrative Therapies & Volunteer Services, also performed a Fallen Comrade ceremony for Michael's fallen comrades, something that meant the world to him and his family, relieving him of a burden Michael had been carrying around for decades.

"It was very powerful," his niece said.

The We Honor Veterans program provides such a significant benefit to veterans at the end-of-life. Nearly one in four hospice patients is a veteran, and many have never been thanked for their service. We Honor Veterans at Angela Hospice honors their service, providing a formal recognition for each veteran, as well as addressing any emotional or spiritual needs that may be related to their time in the military. The program also connects veterans with volunteers, such as Margot, who served as well, providing a deeper understanding few others can grasp.

"As a veteran myself, I'm so grateful to be able to recognize veterans for their commitment and service to our country in this way, especially during their final journey," Margot said. "Being able to salute my fellow veterans, as both a sign of respect and honor, is quite meaningful and powerful, a moment that I'm honored to take part in."

Since its inception almost a decade ago, the Angela Hospice We Honor Veterans program has served thousands of veterans from all branches, and is currently at Level 4 status as defined by its founders, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Department of Veteran Affairs. A team of Angela Hospice volunteers and staff are currently working toward Level 5, the top tier for the program.



VOLUNTEER MARGOT PARR WITH
CORPORAL MICHAEL KLOIAN



TO SUPPORT VETERANS IN
ANGELA HOSPICE CARE AND SAY
"THANK YOU" FOR ALL THEY'VE
SACRIFICED FOR US ALL, VISIT
ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/DONATE
TO GIVE TODAY.

JEFF McCONNELL
12/19/1949-10/5/2020
BELOVED HUSBAND,
DAD, GRANDPA

honoring THE MEMORY

Karen McConnell and her husband, Jeff, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary the same year he passed away. Angela Hospice helped Jeff and his family through that process, and it's something that Karen won't forget.

In fact, since Jeff's death, Karen has placed two memorials for him on the Angela Hospice grounds. A bronze butterfly graces the walls of the Care Center, where Jeff received respite care for a time while he was under home hospice care.

And the brick, placed along the Angela Hospice memorial walk, now provides a place where Karen can go and remember Jeff and all they experienced together.

"The grounds are so beautiful that I sometimes will just go early in the morning," Karen said. "It's just so peaceful, and it really gives you time to kind of reflect."

It was thinking of the good care her husband received that led Karen to dedicate the memorials in Jeff's honor through Angela Hospice's commemorative giving program, a way that also gives back to help other families.



KAREN AND HER DAUGHTER, STACY, VISITING
JEFF'S MEMORIAL BUTTERFLY

"I donate to Angela Hospice because I know the good that they did for Jeff, and I want people that are in like situations to have that available to them if need be," Karen said. "So that's why I'm a very big supporter of Angela Hospice."

For individuals looking to honor a loved one while supporting hospice patients and families, Angela Hospice offers a variety of options.



BRASS WALL
PLAQUE
\$130



MEMORIAL
WALK BRICKS
\$300+



VETERANS
MEMORIAL
PLAQUE
\$850



BRONZE
BUTTERFLY
\$900+

More memorial items are available online.

For details, or to order a memorial for someone special, contact Pat Squires at 734.521.0488 or visit angelahospice.org/commemorative-giving



PROTECTING YOUR WISHES

We are a charitable nation, with more than an estimated 80% of households making charitable contributions annually.

However, only about 21% have an up-to-date estate plan that outlines their wishes.

Estate plans protect you and your family, as well as the communities and causes closest to your heart. If you have chosen to include Angela Hospice in your estate planning, please let us know, so we can ensure you are a documented member of the Angela Hospice Legacy Society.

The Angela Hospice Legacy Society commemorates, supports, and educates donors who have an interest in

planned giving. Members of the Legacy Society receive special commemorative plaques in the beautiful Angela Hospice Care Center courtyard. Contact Jennifer Dale, Director of Community Outreach & Philanthropy at 734.953.6009 or jdale@angelahospice.us for more information on Legacy Society gifts and membership.



To learn more about estate planning, RSVP for our free Estate Planning 101 seminar. Being held August 15 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., as well as August 17, from 6 - 8 p.m. Visit angelahospice.org/events for details.



Completing THE MAP

Around Valentine's Day a very special gift arrived for John Moore while at the Angela Hospice Care Center, but it wasn't chocolate or flowers or anything one might usually associate with the holiday. It was a box of dirt.

Up until this point John had literally touched dirt in every state in the U.S. except for one, Idaho, which is where that very special delivery came from.

"It was really awesome," said Paul, one of John's three sons. "I think from our perspective, it was just something that was great that we could give him."

John's original plan was to go stay with his granddaughter in Washington, then for the two of them to drive to Idaho. But with John's health declining, that was no longer a viable option. She spoke with a friend who worked in hospice about her grandpa's dream to touch dirt in all 50 states, then her friend called her dad, who called an army buddy in Idaho, and then a box of dirt was shipped to Michigan.

The family was able to share this moment in the Angela Hospice Care Center, where John received compassionate around-the-clock care for about two weeks before he passed in February.

"All the staff was fantastic," Paul said. "All of the nursing staff, everybody."

This was one of the special moments the family was able to have during John's time at the Care Center, and one they could add to their own memory box, already full of adventures together.

And while John's last stop was the Care Center, his goal to make it to all 50 states wasn't a lifelong one, but one set after he went to Hawaii in 2020, his 49th state visit.

Throughout his life John was able to see so many states through family road trips. There was one to Las Vegas, which was originally a trip to Disneyland until

the weather took a turn. Then there was another that went through the East Coast, starting in Virginia at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and working their way up to Maine, covering all the states along the way.

He took each of his three sons on individual trips after their mom died, traveling to Alaska for a fishing trip; a tour of baseball stadiums which included Cooperstown; and the trip Paul took with him to Gatlinburg.

"I think it was his way of saying, okay, I'm going to do this with you boys, and then it will kind of close the door on the time with your mom," Paul said.

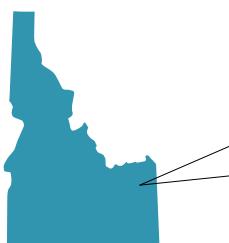
Paul couldn't say for certain what sparked his dad's love for travel, but he believed it was due to John's humble beginnings, growing up in small town Missouri, and being part of a family that wasn't able to travel much when John was growing up.

As an adult, John shared his love for travel not only with his sons, but also with his own mom, who joined the family on that east coast trip, where she touched the Atlantic Ocean for the first time.

"He got to be able to do that for her, which was great," Paul said.

The family was able to make all kinds of dreams come true.

JOHN TOUCHING DIRT FROM IDAHO, HIS 50TH STATE



YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR CARE CENTER ALLOWS FOR FAMILIES LIKE THE MOORES TO CREATE LASTING MEMORIES, BRINGING QUALITY OF LIFE TO THE VERY END.
TO SUPPORT THIS MISSION, VISIT ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/DONATE



loving ONE & ALL

When Courtney Loving's mom, Karen, was admitted to the Angela Hospice Care Center last fall, she was expecting her mom to be in a hospital-like setting.

What her family was greeted with – kind faces and a room full of warm touches placed just for Karen – couldn't have been further from what she had expected.

"They make it very personal," Courtney said. "That's what I really appreciated; it was like there were no other patients in the facility."

Courtney said that level of quality care made her mom and their whole family feel so important, another personal touch that made their hospice journey a little easier to handle.

Karen Loving was just 64-years old when she chose the Care Center, with a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

"Loving" was the perfect name for her. She had such a big heart, constantly sharing and loving her whole family. She was a poet and graduated high school at only 16-years-old, and led a life that encouraged her children to follow their own endeavors, leading to careers in politics and entrepreneurship for them all.

Karen simply liked to help people and was crazy about her family, many of whom showed up at the Care Center from out of state to say their goodbyes.

Everyone on shift at the Care Center made Karen's family feel special while visiting.

"They went above and beyond," Courtney said.

The team at Angela Hospice made sure Karen was as comfortable as possible during her time in hospice, and also helped her family feel loved, reassured, and best prepared for every moment that came with Karen's hospice journey.

Given how much she appreciated the care her mom received, Courtney now recommends Angela Hospice based on her experience, telling everyone she can think of that Angela Hospice is where they need to be if someone they know is eligible for hospice.

Taking after her mother, Courtney hopes she can help others too, by sharing her story, helping others who may not know about hospice, and emphasizing that it might not be what they're envisioning – that it can be truly beautiful.

Warm and supportive experiences like these are made possible in our Care Center because of the support of people like you. To help provide more families with around-the-clock care in a home-like setting, make a donation at angelahospice.org/donate.



KAREN WITH HER SON,
WILLIAM

WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

This year, on Saturday, Sept. 16, Angela Hospice's Walk of Remembrance will ring in its 16th year on the picturesque grounds of the Felician campus.

This family-friendly event is an opportunity to reminisce along the 2.2-mile path, or by walking virtually, while supporting Angela Hospice's caring and compassionate programs.

"The Walk of Remembrance is so much more than just a walk," said Helen Balmforth, Angela Hospice Community Outreach & Event Specialist. "It's a time to get together with friends and family, share stories, grieve together, and most importantly, express love and gratitude towards one another."

The Walk of Remembrance will take place rain or shine, and participants can arrive any time between

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Angela Hospice. After the walk, guests are invited to take part in rock painting, provided by the Angela Hospice Grief Care team.



Rocks can be placed in the rock garden on our grounds, a place to visit long after the walk ends.

For those interested in forming a fundraising team for the Walk of Remembrance – a great way to honor a loved one and support compassionate hospice programs – please contact Helen Balmforth, Angela Hospice Community Outreach & Event Specialist at 734.953.6045 or hbalmforth@angelahospice.us.



YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Angela Hospice grief camp for children and teens continues again this summer

For Jasmine Kendrick, Angela Hospice Children's Grief Care Counselor, a place like Camp Monarch would've made all the difference as a young kid after she lost her mother. It would've been somewhere she could have gone to realize she wasn't alone in her grief, that there were other children out there like her who had also lost a loved one.

Now, she's part of the Angela Hospice Grief Care team, making sure no child in a similar situation feels like she did among her peers.

"They're going to come out of this a little bit stronger, I think," Jasmine said. "It's necessary for them to see how normalized it is, instead of being shunned and kind of shielded from it. We need to kind of embrace it [grief]."

Angela Hospice's Camp Monarch will do just that over the two-day camp – taking place on Aug. 3-4 at Madonna University's Welcome Center in Livonia – and is for children and teens between ages 5-17 who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

This year's theme is "Grief is Like a Jungle" to show that grief can be all over the place, a wild animal you have to tame, and will have four areas of focus: grief feelings, coping, remembrance, and moving forward.

Camp Monarch will not only be different in its theme compared to



**GRIEF CARE COUNSELOR
JASMINE KENDRICK**

last year, but a memorial activity has been added to the agenda as well.

"I think that it'll be such a moving component," Jasmine said. "They will really get to personify and see it in person, that we are not going through this by ourselves, there are other children that feel the same way I do."

Compared to similar camps, Camp Monarch will not only have peer-to-peer elements, but have children and teens being provided clinical support from Angela Hospice social workers, a vital element considering how different the grieving process is for children compared to adults.

And a place like Camp Monarch isn't a sad event like some may think; it's an incredibly fun one, for kids and adults.

"It's nice to be able to teach them that they can think about tough stuff and still have a smile on their face," said Debbie Vallandingham, Angela Hospice Director of Grief Care Services.

The two-day camp will be free-of-charge to those who attend, thanks to a grant from the Livonia Community Foundation, who also helped fund last year's Camp Monarch.

As part of the Angela Grief Care team, Debbie and Jasmine have lofty goals, hoping that the program continues to grow to help as many children in the area who are grieving as they can; and with the estimate being that 1 in 12 children in the area are grieving, that's quite a substantial number.

"I want this to be something that we're known for," Debbie said.



**DIRECTOR OF
GRIEF CARE SERVICES
DEBBIE VALLANDINGHAM**

**REGISTRATION FOR CAMP MONARCH IS NOW OPEN ONLINE AT ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/CAMP-REGISTER.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 866.464.7810.**

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