

SPRING 2018

MONARCH



- COVER: JOE GILLEN AND OSCAR BRING JOY TO HOSPICE PATIENTS • INSIDE: A 37-YEAR-OLD MOTHER LEAVES A LEGACY FOR HER TWO CHILDREN • DONOR PROFILE: GRATEFUL DAUGHTER GIVES BACK TO HOSPICE
- ALSO: SUICIDE LOSS PROGRAMS AT ANGELA
- MY NEST IS BEST: A PEDIATRIC HOSPICE LOVE STORY • FRIENDS: RALLY AROUND A DYING CLASSMATE • AND MORE


Angela
Hospice
We'll take you under our wing.

ERICKA HOLMAN LEAVES A LEGACY TO HER CHILDREN FROM HER HEART



ABOVE: The Holman children, one-year-old Christina (left) and three-year-old Charrise. Ericka will be remembered by her kids through the heirlooms such as Ericka's voice in their teddy bears, messages from their mother in personalized books, and her thumbprint and inscription on the silver necklaces shown above right.





"SO WE HAVE BEEN FACED WITH THIS CANCER. We are not defined by it, we are no less blessed, but we are more than conquerors. We have a God who loves us. He brings peace when we are in pain, He brings strength when we feel like we can't make it! God is our very present help in our time of great need. God has eternity under control!" **ERICKA HOLMAN**

ERICKA and her husband Chris were both attending the International Gospel Church in Ecorse when Ericka's godmother set them up on a blind date. They fell in love, and married on June 7, 2014. In 2015, they brought their first little girl, Charrise, into the world and the following year, the second girl, Christina, was born.

Before the girls came along, Ericka was a private home care assistant. She cared for a woman with dementia. The only person this woman would talk to was Ericka — and that says a lot about Ericka's loving, kind, selfless personality.

When the girls arrived, the Holman's had plans for their family — taking the kids on vacation, maybe to Disney World — but fate had other plans for Ericka.

Ericka began to notice symptoms, a small lump on her breast. She thought it had something to do with childbirth, even though her Grandmother had breast cancer that was non-life-threatening. When Ericka's legs became swollen, Chris had to take care of the children and Ericka as well because she could hardly walk. One evening at home she almost fell, and Chris took her to the hospital. That was in August of 2017. By October she received a diagnosis of terminal breast cancer. She was just 37 years old.

Ericka came to the Angela Hospice Care Center late in October and remained there until her death in December. Right after admission, our volunteer department, with volunteer coordinator Melayna Morio taking the lead, started on planning the legacy Ericka would leave for her children.

Together, Ericka and Melayna used voice-enabled teddy bears and personalized books to leave messages for the children to hear throughout their lives. They also took Ericka's thumbprint and put it on a silver pendant for each of the girls and Chris, with a message of love.

Any one who knew Ericka, however briefly, could see that she was a woman of great faith in God. She never blamed anyone for her fate and never doubted that God would take care of everything.

Ericka died knowing that she was leaving something for her children to remember her by, and knowing that they would always be held in the hands of the Lord.



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THERAPY

OF THE FURRY KIND

OSCAR, is a 12-year-old Chihuahua and Jack Russell mix, rescue dog. Joe Gillen, Oscar's "dad," is an Angela Hospice volunteer. Joe wanted this story to be about Oscar and Brenda, Joe's wife who died at the Angela Hospice Care Center in 2015, with Oscar by her side. Brenda was the one who rescued Oscar when he was on the streets. She thought he was a black dog until she bathed him and saw that he was white!

Excerpts from Brenda's "Oscar Blog": "Oscar was officially trained at Therapy Dogs, Inc. He doesn't shy away from people. He seems to think his lot in life is to be fondled by strangers in a public place. Having Oscar as a therapy dog is good for him and me. When we got home after his first client visit he was so happy — all those hands touching his face and ears — I think I need to pick up some sanitizing wipes today!"

JOSIE, a 4-year-old Golden Retriever is part of our Volunteer Therapy Dog program. Her "mom," Beth Judd, says, "Josie gets by on her looks. Being a Golden is an asset because people really respond to her beauty."

Josie's calm temperament, obedience, and patience soothes and comforts patients and families, often by climbing into bed with them if they like. Beth says, "It's a wonderful sight to have patients see Josie and recall their own dogs. She evokes a lot of emotion and happiness from people who are in a difficult situation."

Josie's schedule, besides volunteering in the Angela Hospice Care Center, involves going to nursing facilities on behalf of Angela Hospice, visiting local elementary schools, and helping young hockey players relieve stress. Beth was called to this work and she got Josie specifically for the privilege of volunteering to help hospice families in this special way.

REGGIE, a 10-year-old Multipoo visits the Angela Hospice Development Department almost every day, and is a mascot, friend, and a real comfort to anyone having a difficult day. Reggie is one of the special perks to working at Angela Hospice (and he kind of knows it.) Lisa Norton, Development Department Coordinator, is Reggie's "mom." She says, "Reggie brings down the stress level in the office, plus he is great when you need a hug."

PIPER, a one-year-old Toy Fox Terrier, is new to the therapy business. Her "mother," Debbie Vallandingham, is a Bereavement Social Worker here at Angela Hospice. Deb says, "Piper is a great breed to train for becoming a certified therapy dog — she loves people, has spunk and tenacity, and a 'can-do' attitude." Piper was a big hit at "Getting Through the Holidays" (an Angela Hospice workshop for children who have lost a loved one). The kids loved her! Piper is a Canine Good Citizen, and knows basic commands, including a very useful one, "leave it!"

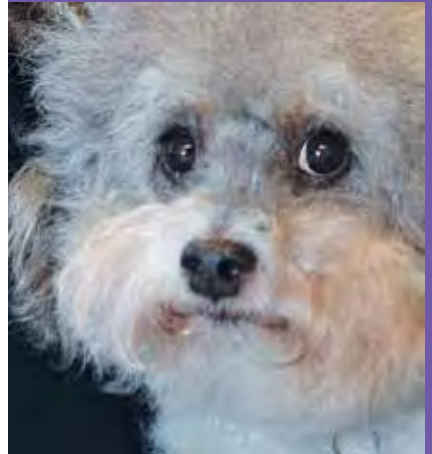
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JOSIE



REGGIE



PIPER



WE'LL TAKE YOU UNDER OUR WING

CARRIE Yessler lost her cousin to suicide this past June. Mia was like a sister to her. They were close to the same age, their kids and husbands were close. It was a major loss for Carrie. Mia was 51 years old when she died. She left a son, Stephen, 20, and a daughter, Anna, 17.

The cautionary tale Carrie tells is that suicide can happen to any family. Mia had a wonderful husband and two beautiful children. They were living a social, family-centered life. Carrie and Mia even had planned a girls trip to Sedona, Arizona, just a month after Mia's suicide. They were going there to celebrate Carrie's daughter Paige turning 16.

As unexpected and shocking as it was, there is a genetic component to this tragedy. Mia's mother attempted suicide several times when Mia was a young child. Carrie remembers Auntie Dee being in and out of the hospital. Although her mother didn't die from suicide (she lived into her 80s), Mia was still greatly affected.

After Mia died, Carrie wanted a way to help her own children and Mia's daughter cope with the shock of what happened. Carrie went online to look for answers and Angela Hospice Suicide Loss came up in the search.

Carrie now works with Sheri Katz, one of our professional grief counselors. Sheri has encouraged Carrie to open up and talk freely about Mia's death with her children, Mia's daughter, and the extended family.

Carrie says, "It was like I was telling them about the suicide all over again, but this time as their trusted adult ready to help them. I learned that depression and suicide cannot be swept under the rug as it was when Mia's mother was suffering all those years ago. I had a lot of blame and regret and Sheri taught me that the best possible thing is to talk openly — it helps everyone involved to understand and cope.

About a month after Mia's death, Carrie, her daughters, and Mia's daughter took the planned girls trip to Sedona and spent a lot of time reflecting on Mia's life. "We shared stories and special meals that Mia loved, we toasted, and honored her life," says Carrie. "It was what Mia would have wanted us to do."



CARRIE YESSLER

SUICIDE is the country's 11th leading cause of death, and the 3rd cause of death for American youth. For every suicide, at least six family members, friends, and coworkers are directly affected.

Angela Hospice provides individual and family services to anyone affected by a suicide — spouses, parents, siblings, children, or friends.

We provide a safe environment where individuals can gain support and education regarding grief and suicide. All services are offered free-of-charge. In the event of a crisis call **SUICIDE PREVENTION: 800.784.2433**

OUR BEREAVEMENT PROGRAMS ARE 100-PERCENT DONOR FUNDED. TO SUPPORT THESE SERVICES AND MORE, PLEASE DONATE WITH THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE OR AT ASKFORANGELA.COM

A black and white photograph of a bride and groom. The bride is on the left, wearing a white wedding dress and veil, looking towards the groom. The groom is on the right, wearing a dark suit, looking at the bride. They are standing close together.

MARCELLA AND JEAN D. LAREVITZEAR
ON THEIR WEDDING DAY JUNE 20, 1953

"I WISH WE HAD CALLED EARLIER"

THERE ARE ANGELS OUT THERE

WHETHER SHE WAS MAKING HOMEMADE
BREAD, OR SEWING MATCHING PAJAMAS
FOR ALL 10 OF HER GRANDCHILDREN,
MARCELLA WAS FRIENDLY, FUNNY, AND
ALWAYS ELEGANT.

RIGHT, MARCELLA & CYNDIE
FAR RIGHT,
CYNDIE & JOHN DEERE



MARCELLA wasn't just a great mother to Cyndie. She was a role model, an inspiration, and her best friend. "There was never a day that we didn't talk," Cyndie said. "We had our hair done together, did our grocery shopping together....It was always the best to be with her."

So when Marcella got sick, Cyndie and her husband, John, invited Marcella into their home so they could care for her. But with Parkinson's accelerating her Alzheimer's, Marcella eventually needed around the clock supervision.

"It was really hard for me to keep her safe in the house," Cyndie said. She couldn't leave her mom alone for even 15 minutes. She had to sleep in her mother's bedroom to make sure she didn't get up and fall or wander off. But it was important to Cyndie to keep her mom at home.

So when Cyndie found out about Angela Hospice, having that extra help right there in her own home was an amazing relief. Her mom loved the visits from staff, and for Cyndie, having a few hours to herself each week gave her the break she needed.

"It was a whole world of difference," Cyndie said. "It was just amazing...everyone was so nice."

Marcella had hospice care at home for five and a half months, but when she fell one Tuesday morning and broke her hip, Cyndie called Angela Hospice and they admitted her mom to the Care Center right away. Marcella was unconscious for several days as Cyndie stayed with her at the center. Cyndie's brothers and children flew in to be with her too. Then for a moment that Friday night, Marcella woke up.

"She opened her eyes and she acted like she knew all of us," Cyndie said. "I couldn't have asked for her to have a more peaceful passage. Even though it was the worst thing that ever happened in my life... the feeling of having everyone there, it was pretty incredible."



FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT
LEAVING YOUR
OWN LEGACY
AT
ASKFORANGELA



FORE HOSPICE. In the nine years since Marcella's passing, Cyndie and John have been organizing a golf outing each summer. The Two Moms Golf Outing honors Marcella, and the mother of a close family friend who passed away around the same time. Through these outings, the Deere's along with their friends and family have raised \$40,000 for Angela Hospice programs.

"To be able to help other families go through what we went through, it just seems like it's a good way to give back and be thankful," Cyndie said.

In addition to honoring Marcella, the Deere's make a great impact through the Two Moms Golf Outing, both through the important funding the outing raises for Angela Hospice, and the awareness it brings to their community about the help hospice provides.

"I wish we had called earlier," Cyndie said.

"We had already known that there wasn't a cure. I wish that people had known that there were angels out there."



TO SUPPORT OUR PRENATAL AND PEDIATRIC PROGRAMS, PLEASE DONATE WITH THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE OR AT ASKFORANGELA.COM



PRECIOUS TIME

ABOVE (LEFT) JANIE
WITH AMANDA & CALEB

CALEB ZERVOS is a pediatric patient with Angela Hospice. He is an adorable 2-year-old, and it's hard to believe that he has a life-threatening illness, called Walker-Warburg syndrome. This is an inherited disorder that affects development of the muscles, brain, and eyes. Caleb was born blind. It is the most severe of a group of genetic conditions known as congenital muscular dystrophies, which cause muscle weakness and wasting (atrophy) beginning very early in life. The signs and symptoms of Walker-Warburg syndrome are present at birth or in early infancy. Because of the severity of the problems caused by Walker-Warburg syndrome, most affected children do not survive past age 3.

Janie Arambula, Caleb's mom, thought Caleb had hydrocephalus, which is a buildup of too much cerebrospinal fluid in the brain, because Caleb couldn't hold his head up the way a child at 3 months should.

Dr. Nadia Tremonti, a pediatric specialist and Pediatric Medical Director for Angela Hospice, was brought in on Caleb's case. Tremonti diagnosed Caleb's Walker-Warburg syndrome. She treated Caleb at Detroit Medical Center, and she was able to stay on as Caleb's pediatrician through hospice.

This diagnosis was a blow to Janie who already suffered the loss of a little girl to the same syndrome. As a single mom, she balances taking care of Caleb, and his two brothers. Hospice social worker, Amanda Davis, says, "Janie is doing a great job taking care of Caleb — she loves him so much. Angela Hospice gives her 24/7 on-call support. She has to get used to her 'new normal,' taking care of all her children plus working. I'm really proud of her." Amanda makes sure Janie and the family have the emotional support they need, and encourages Janie to take care of herself, so she can take care of Caleb and the other boys.

Janie says, "I have a great support team with Angela Hospice plus my family, friends, and especially my friend Sarah Hottle who babysits Caleb twice a week while I am at work. Sarah loves Caleb, and is amazing with him."

"We take Caleb out as much as we possibly can because he has to live his life, however long it is, and make memories we can cherish," Janie says. "The worst will come when I don't have him to take care of anymore, but I know Hospice will help me cope with that loss as well."

FOR WE ARE GOD'S HANDIWORK, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO GOOD WORKS,
WHICH GOD PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR US TO DO. EPHESIANS 2:1

MERCY GIRLS

LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

It's often during the hardest times that the strength of true friendship shines most brightly.

Susan O'Neill is experiencing the genuine love of friendship thanks to a vibrant group of women she's known for more than three decades. They were "Mercy Girls" together, class of 1981 at Mercy High School. And now at 55, as Susan battles brain cancer, her friends have rallied around her, often using Facebook to share updates and encouragement about their kind-hearted, loving friend.



"WONDERFUL VISIT WITH SUSAN TODAY," Mary Margaret Gulowski posted, "joined by my daughters AND our dog. Susan loved the dog! We also gave her a manicure. Now her nails shine just like her."

Another classmate, Katey Devine wrote, **"AT OUR AGE, WE'VE EXPERIENCED THE REALITY OF SUFFERING** that comes with being human and living in this world. God is good in that He has brought us together through Susan's illness. How beautiful that we have banded together with the common purpose of loving Susan, giving her moments of joy and happiness while making sure she knows that she is not alone."

There have been many happy moments for Susan, buoyed up by her friends who have organized parties, dedicated Masses, baked cookies, brought gifts, reminisced, and made each other laugh. When Susan transferred to the Angela Hospice Care Center in December, the visits and celebrations continued, with more festivities being planned.

"SUSAN AND HER STRENGTH SHOULD BE AN INSPIRATION to all of us," said friend Cheryl Latier-Mercer, "to be thankful for the short time we are given on this earth. May God continue to hold her in His gentle arms."

2018 EVENTS

TO SUPPORT OUR EVENTS, CALL 734.953.6045
VISIT ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/EVENTS

SPONSOR JOIN VOLUNTEER

EVENTS PROMOTE
our mission outside our walls.

EVENTS PROVIDE
100% of prenatal hospice.

EVENTS ENABLE
our Good Samaritan program
to support uninsured patients
and their families.

EVENTS FUND our extensive
bereavement program so anyone
who needs support can come,
free of charge.

OUR MORE THAN 400
volunteers play a huge role
in our events — but we need you!

SAVE
THE DATE!



NEW THIS
YEAR!



LAUGHTER LIFTS YOU UP

2018 was fabulous! See you FEB 2019

Girls' night out with dinner, a comedy show, and much more!

ARBOR DAY CEREMONY

Friday April 27 • Angela Hospice

Honoring those remembered with a memorial stone,
brick, plaque, or tree on our grounds in the past year.

30TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Monday June 11 • Western Golf & Country Club

A chance to golf 18 holes at this exclusive course. Open
driving range, lunch, open bar, dinner, raffles and more!

GARDEN TEA PARTY

Wednesday June 20 • Angela Hospice

Tour the Felician campus and gardens of Angela Hospice,
followed by a delightful garden tea party!

WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

Saturday Sept. 15 • Madonna University

All ages are invited to participate in this meaningful event.
Refreshments and activities follow the walk.

LIGHT UP A LIFE AUCTION & GALA

Friday Oct. 26 • Laurel Manor

A time to celebrate with our friends and supporters.
Gourmet meal, raffles, live entertainment, and dancing!

BURGERS, BREWS, & BROS

Thursday Nov. 8 • Location to be determined

Men only! Including a comedy show, beer tasting,
and great food!

TREE OF LIFE OPENING NOV. 17

November & December • Laurel Park Place

Honor or remember a loved one by placing an angel on
one of our trees in the mall or at our Care Center.



ABOVE: Women enjoying the comedy of Karen Mills
at our 2018 Laughter Lifts You Up event.



HOSPICE JOY

Thanks to the care of the "B" Wing staff (Angela Hospice Care Center), my mom was well cared for and alive to see me get married. That was a priceless gift.

Jennifer Strandbergh, caregiver & daughter to Rose Strandbergh

ONE OF THE FIRST ANGELA HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
VOLUNTEERING CALL
734.464.7810
FOR MORE INFORMATION

JEAN O'BRIEN, mother of nine children, born 9.3.18 (that's 1918) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is now just shy of 100 years old.

In the early days of Angela Hospice, she was one of the first volunteers, but now she is receiving our hospice care as a patient in the Wellspring Lutheran Home, a nursing facility in Livonia. She's had a priest perform her Last Rites more than once, but it hasn't stopped her amazing spirit.

Carol Beals, RN, says of Jean, "She is a resilient, intelligent woman, not just because of her life experience, but you can tell she has been that way all her life. It is a blessing to know Jean and be her hospice nurse."

Jean and her husband Regis moved to the Detroit area in 1950 in search of better jobs.

After the death of her husband in 1978, Jean pursued her dream of graduating from college. She graduated from Madonna University in Livonia at the age of 60, surrounded by all her kids, with a degree in gerontology (the study of aging).

JEAN O'BRIEN TALKS ABOUT THE
EARLY YEARS OF HOSPICE.

BELOW,
SISTER GIOVANNI
IN 1985,
THE FOUNDESS OF
ANGELA HOSPICE.



In her 70s, Jean, armed with that gerontology degree, jumped in with both feet to volunteer with Angela Hospice. During her Madonna college days Jean had met Sister Giovanni, the Felician Sister who founded Angela Hospice. This was before hospice was an accepted way of end-of-life care in the U.S., and Jean was excited to spread the word of this new, caring way to help people die with dignity.

"My very first patient as a volunteer, I did everything for her, I even hemmed her dresses." Jean tells us.

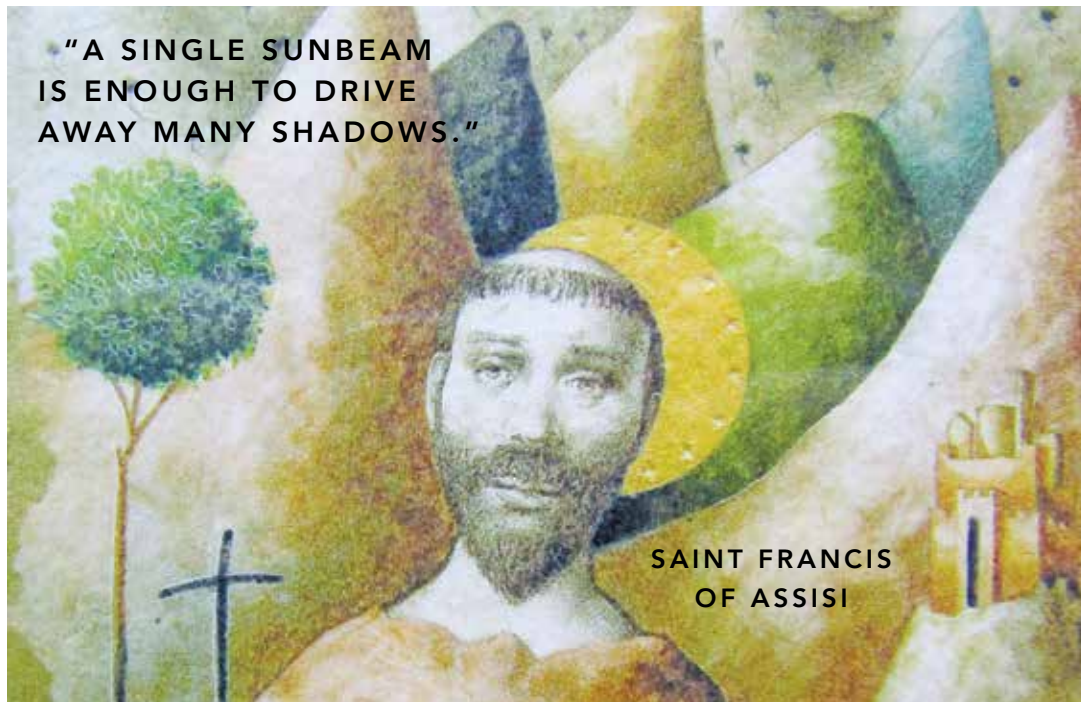
Jean from provided loving care and comfort to many of our patients over the years. She kept on volunteering at Angela Hospice until her health no longer permitted. We are grateful for her service, her stories, and her wonderful outlook on life.

MEN

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN JOINING AN ALL-MALE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP?

We would like your feedback on a men only, male facilitated support group from Angela Hospice. Send us your thoughts on time, frequency, specific kinds of groups that would interest you. Reply via email mconway@angelahospice.us or call 734.779.6690. We look forward to hearing from you!

"A SINGLE SUNBEAM
IS ENOUGH TO DRIVE
AWAY MANY SHADOWS."



SAINT FRANCIS
OF ASSISI

WHERE THERE IS DEEP GRIEF, THERE WAS **GREAT LOVE**

2018 GRIEF SUPPORT SCHEDULE



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Marti Coplai, Executive Director
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Peer Support Group

A "drop-in" group open to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm.

Eight-Week Therapeutic Support Group

Providing education and emotional support related to the grief process.

Individual Support Services

Available to anyone of any age who has experienced the death of a loved one.

Suicide Loss Support Services

For anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one through suicide.

Getting through the Holidays Workshops (adults & children)

For anyone who has lost a loved one.

Adult: Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018. 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm.

Children: Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018. 2:00 pm.

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Grief Support • Spiritual Care • Education • Veteran Care • A Felician-Sponsored Ministry

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