

SPRING 2019

# MONARCH

THE  
**POWER**  
OF **MUSIC**



  
*Angela*  
Hospice

We'll take you under our wing.

# PASSING THE TORCH

When Margot Parr succeeded Angela Hospice's foundress, Sister Mary Giovanni, as President and CEO in 2015, her goal was to strengthen and prepare the organization for a strong future. Now four years later with that goal accomplished, Parr has passed the torch to Marti Coplai.

Marti, who has served as Executive Director since October 2015, took over as President and CEO on March 1, 2019, equipped with a rich history of experience in hospice and elder care, and a passion for the Angela Hospice mission.



MARTI COPLAI

## HER STORY

In 1994, Marti's 54-year-old mother-in-law was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Her family was devastated. They enlisted Angela Hospice to help them provide care at home.

"It was during that time...that I realized I had an ability to be able to support her and the rest of the family in a way that I hadn't realized that I had in me," Marti said. "I also saw the positive impact of hospice care."

Marti's life was busy raising children, running a marketing company, and caring for her grandmother. But when her grandmother passed in 2001, Marti felt like she finally had the time to become a hospice volunteer.

"I envisioned I was going to be supporting families like my family, with younger people dying in tragic situations, but they kept sending me to nursing homes and patients who were quite elderly," Marti said. And it was through that experience that she began specializing in care for patients with dementia.

She left her marketing career and began working for Arbor Hospice, before going on to work in senior living and memory care at Glacier Hills and then Evangelical Homes of Michigan, where she met Margot Parr. During that time she also earned her nursing home administrator's license.

"I was thrilled in 2015 when Margot approached me with the possibility of returning to hospice – what had really motivated me to shift careers, and that I had a lot of passion for," Marti explained. But she wasn't without reservations.

## LIVING THE MISSION

"When I read the mission it caused me to pause. I thought, 'Wow, "Christ-like." That's a big statement to make. Can we deliver on that? Can we actually provide Christ-like care?'" she said. But when she continued to read about the core values of the Felician Sisters, they really resonated with her.

"So I said yes," she said. And she didn't regret it.

"When I got to Angela Hospice, and I was in the Care Center working with the team, I saw examples of Christ-like care happening," she said. "Our team delivers on that Christ-like care every day."

In 2017, Marti had the opportunity to travel to Rome and Assisi with other lay leaders from Felician organizations across the country for a pilgrimage, learning about Saint Clare, Saint Francis, and Blessed Mother Angela, foundress of the Felician Sisters.

"It was truly transformative for me," Marti said. "Clare, Francis, Blessed Mary Angela, and the Felician spirituality have really provided the foundation for the leadership that I will need to provide for Angela Hospice going forward."

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Inspired by the mission, and the legacy Angela Hospice has created over the past 35 years, Marti is looking forward to collaborating with team members and continuing to nurture Angela Hospice's positive influence in the community.

"The vision of one Felician Sister, Sister Mary Giovanni, who was determined that this community receive better care at end of life...has come to fruition in what Angela Hospice is today..." Marti said.

"Our success going forward, although it lies on the shoulders of the president and CEO – it's our whole community working together, our Angela Hospice community of course, and then our partners in the community.... It's so important that we all continue to focus on the need for quality end-of-life care, and support, and education in our community, and that's really going to require all of us working together."

# CARING FOR THE FAMILY

As a former trustee for Madonna University, Barbara Rosemond knew of Angela Hospice's distinguished reputation. So when her mother's doctor said Angela Hospice would be the best place for her mother, Barbara and her family agreed.

Her mother, Susie Bennett, had raised Barbara and her siblings in the Catholic faith, and worked in the rectory at Santa Maria in Detroit to make sure they could attend Catholic school.

"To be able to bring her in her final hour to a Catholic institution was very important to us," Barbara said. "And we were never let down. Everyone took excellent care of her. They tried to make us feel at home."

Susie was 104 years old when she came to the Angela Hospice Care Center in January 2017. And the Care Center provided her family a comfortable place to gather as they said "goodbye" to their beloved matriarch.

"She was loved by everyone," said Gloria Williams, another of Susie's six children, "beautiful inside and out."

The care provided to Susie helped give her family more confidence, when in November 2018, her son Frank came to the Care Center after a stay in the hospital.

Gloria, who would come to visit her brother every day, explained how important it was to know he was "in a good place."

"When I go home, I don't have to worry about him... that's really number one for me," Gloria said.

Once again, the Care Center provided a place for the Bennett family to come together, where the whole family could feel cared for. Visiting Frank in the Care Center, they talked about how much their brother loved his wife Ella and daughter Sharon, and reminisced about what made their brother so special.

"The kids loved him," Gloria said. "He had a swimming pool and he taught all his nieces and nephews how to swim – the neighborhood kids too."

Barbara explained how he had a landscaping company. "If he went to your house and did your lawn, the whole block would want him," she said.

"He went to high school with Smoky Robinson," she continued. "They were friends."

"They grew up in our neighborhood," Gloria added. "All of them, Diana Ross, he knew them all, Aretha Franklin....He was quite popular."

"And he loved to dress. You know what I remember most? His blue suede shoes – they were the most beautiful shoes!" Barbara laughed. But intermixed with the laughter, was the difficult reality that their brother would soon be leaving them.

"Watching the brother I grew up with now declining, that's the hardest part," Barbara said. "The saving grace is that I know that he's comfortable and he's not suffering."



The Bennett family employed the Care Center for their mother Susie in 2017, and brother Frank in 2018. L to R: Minnie Mayes, Gloria Williams, Barbara Rosemond, Susie Bennett, and Frank Bennett at Susie's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

CARE PROVIDED TO PATIENTS IN THE ANGELA HOSPICE CARE CENTER IS FUNDED IN PART THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR FAITHFUL DONORS.

TO SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT WORK ON BEHALF OF FAMILIES LIKE THE BENNETTS, PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED CARD, OR MAKE A CONTRIBUTION ONLINE AT [ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/DONATE](http://ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/DONATE).



# A LEGACY OF LOVE

CATERINA COMO was beloved by many – her late husband, four children, grandchildren and friends too. So, when she passed away after spending her last week at the Angela Hospice Care Center, Caterina’s children wanted to do something special to honor their mother.

“All of our friends loved my mom,” her daughter Roberta Modes explained, “And people gave us donations. So we decided to take them and make them in memory of our mom.”

Roberta and her siblings chose a glass pane featured on Angela Hospice’s donor wall to honor their mother’s legacy. Roberta attended the annual Arbor Day Ceremony in April for the dedication.

“For me, it was a nice kind of closure,” Roberta said. It was poignant for her to be with others who had also experienced loss, either recently or in the past.

Roberta said having the pane to honor her mom is a reminder that her mother’s memory will live on. Coming to see it at the Care Center also provides an inviting place for her to pay her respects.

“It’s peaceful there and you’re always welcome,” Roberta said.

*“She was treated with such respect,”*  
Roberta reflected.  
*“We were all grateful for that.”*

Roberta Modes chose a glass pane to honor her mother who was cared for by Angela Hospice.



# HER ROYAL FAMILY

When Barbara Jean McClellan was a teenager and her old school closed, she found a place that felt like home at the Felician Sisters’ Ladywood High School. She was crowned Ladywood Queen her first semester, served as Vice President, and was part of Ladywood’s inaugural graduating class in 1953. Her time at Ladywood would have a big impact on her future as well.

Though Barbara was being groomed to become a Dominican nun, her plans changed when she met a young Korean War veteran, the brother of one of her Ladywood classmates. Barbara married Ron Quinkert on April 24, 1954.

“I think she knew when she met my dad...that her calling wasn’t there,” said Barbara’s daughter Lynn Ditri.

You could say that Barbara found her true calling as a wife and mother. She and Ron went on to have six children, and were married for 54 years before Ron’s passing in 2008. And while Barbara didn’t go through with her plan to become a nun, her faith always remained an important part of her life.

“She would get us all ready for church and we would make it to church every week,” Lynn remembered. Barbara continued to attend church services until a series of health challenges beset her.

“By the grace of God she’s gotten through them all,” Lynn said, “Breast cancer, bladder cancer, melanoma – it was on her head, then traveled to the neck, and a couple years later it was on her lung – COPD, removal of part of her lung....She had to be strong to get through all of that.”

“She always went back to her faith,” Lynn added. “That’s where she drew her strength from.”

Barbara would call on the Felicians again, first seeking care at Marywood Nursing Care Center, and then at Angela Hospice. Barbara spent her final days in the Angela Hospice Care Center, visited by her children and grandchildren, and being treated like the queen they knew she was.



Barbara and Ron raised their children in Livonia. Lynn remembers a happy home, with the kids singing to American Bandstand and dancing soul train lines while mom and dad watched from the sofa.

“Mom loved music,” Lynn said. “My mom taught us how to harmonize. She just had an ear for it.”

BARBARA VISITED THE DOMINICAN SISTERS’ CONVENT IN ADRIAN WHEN SHE WAS CONSIDERING BECOMING A NUN.



BARBARA WITH HER MOTHER AFTER BEING CROWNED LADYWOOD QUEEN.



BARBARA WORKING ON THE YEARBOOK “THE VEIL” AT LADYWOOD.



BARBARA’S DAUGHTER, LYNN DITRI, SHOWS LADYWOOD’S 1953 YEARBOOK, “THE VEIL,” WHICH HER MOTHER HELPED PRODUCE.



## MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Angela Hospice offers a variety of ways to commemorate loved ones, with donation amounts beginning at \$125.

All donations are directed to Angela Hospice’s charitable programs for patients, their families, and community members.



BRASS WALL PLAQUE



COPPER WALL PLAQUE



MEMORIAL WALK BRICKS



MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN STONE



MEMORIAL TREE & ENGRAVED PLAQUE



BRONZE BUTTERFLY



NEW! VETERANS MEMORIAL



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FOR MORE ABOUT MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND THE ARBOR DAY CEREMONY, CALL THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AT 734.464.7810 OR VISIT [ASKFORANGELA.COM](http://ASKFORANGELA.COM).



# RELENTLESS KINDNESS

Toni Bufe was one of Angela Hospice's first volunteers, joining the effort in 1986 when Angela Hospice was providing home care services and operating out of a small house on the property of the Felician Sisters. Toni was heavily involved in fundraising for the young non-profit, and organized Angela Hospice's first silent auction.

"The biggest goal at that time was to get the Care Center built," said her husband, Bill Bufe. He remembers how eventually all their friends knew if they went out to dinner with Toni, she was going to ask the manager for a donation.

"I hated it," Bill laughed, citing his distaste for rejection. "But I got used to it. She had no fear of asking anybody."

Toni was a natural, and helped raise thousands of dollars for Angela Hospice. Bill described her technique: "Gentle persuasion, relentlessly applied – with a smile, and kindness and appreciation."

Toni's enthusiasm spread to Bill as well, and over the years he took on projects to help the cause – including his stint as "the cookie man," picking up leftover cookies from Mrs. Fields every week and delivering them to the Care Center – although he admits a cookie or two may have disappeared on the drive over. That was one of his favorite memories of Angela Hospice. Another is when the Care Center was finally built.

"When it was the grand opening, I walked into it and I said, 'This is like the Hyatt Hotel!' I was awestruck," he recalled.

It's emotional for him, thinking of all those memories. Especially now that Toni is gone. In 2017, she passed away in the Care Center that she helped to make a reality all those years ago.

Having been involved with Angela Hospice for over three decades, Bill has seen the organization evolve and grow. And supporting Angela Hospice through financial contributions is still important to him today.

"We have to continue this culture of excellence in hospice, and help our community out," he said. "It's pretty special."



Toni was the first volunteer to ever receive a 20-year service award, back in 2007.

Sister Giovanni said on the occasion: *"Toni Bufe has been a true inspiration to me personally over these 20 years. Her dedication from the very beginning to take care of our patients led Toni to be a catalyst in getting a number of our fundraising efforts going... Of course she always made it a family affair – her infectious dedication spread to her husband, Bill. They have been a great asset to Angela Hospice and exemplify all that Angela Hospice has striven to be for terminally ill adults and children."*



DONOR PROFILE

# THE POWER OF MUSIC

At first glance, music therapy might simply look like entertainment. A young woman with an angelic voice pops in and asks what kind of music you'd like to hear. Her guitar in tow, she's ready to fill your song requests. But beyond the pleasant sounds, music therapy has clear therapeutic benefits.

"The research tells us our preferred music is the most effective music for therapeutic goals," said Heather Dean. A certified music therapist, Heather has been working with patients in the Care Center since October when Angela Hospice first added music to its menu of complementary therapies.

Heather has been using music therapy to help patients with coping skills, anxiety, restlessness, pain management, life review, and family cohesion.

"Music therapy really covers the whole person: spiritually, mentally, and physically," she said.

Studies have shown that music therapy can have a significant impact on quality of life, from mood, to spirituality, to the perception of physical pain.

With donor support, Angela Hospice hopes to be able to expand this valuable program help home care patients as well – including those in nursing homes, where one study has shown that music therapy can actually increase the length of life for hospice patients in nursing facilities.

"Music can transform the end-of-life experience," said Teri Schmitchen, Director of Volunteer Services. "Having witnessed this firsthand with my Auntie Jo's hospice experience, we knew this modality would be the perfect extension of our Complementary Services programming. The responses from patients and families have been overwhelming, from bringing peace, to laughter, to family healing. It's very cathartic not only for the patient but for family members as well."

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP BRING MUSIC THERAPY'S SOOTHING BENEFITS TO MORE PATIENTS AND FAMILIES, PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO SEND A CONTRIBUTION, OR MAKE A DONATION ONLINE AT [ASKFORANGELA.COM](http://ASKFORANGELA.COM).

*"People don't often realize that music has been a part of their life the whole time... People start reliving those memories and it can become kind of a celebration."*  
- Heather Dean, Music Therapist



## MUSIC THERAPY CAN HELP:

- Reduce Pain
- Improve Quality-of-Life
- Decrease Anxiety & Depression
- Increase Spiritual Well-Being
- Foster Communication
- Promote Healthy Coping



JOIN US FOR OUR 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
**GOLF OUTING**  
 MONDAY JUNE 10, 2019

Angela Hospice will return to Western Golf and Country Club for our 31st Annual Golf Outing. Western's clubhouse was devastated by fire last June, and while the new clubhouse will still be under construction on Angela Hospice's June 10th event, the reception for our golfers will be held in Western's elegant temporary hospitality pavilion. With 4,500 square feet of dining space, four luxurious chandeliers, and a full built bar, the pavilion also features floor to ceiling windows showcasing Western's beautiful grounds.

For golfer packages and sponsorship information for this fun annual event, visit [AskForAngela.com](http://AskForAngela.com) or contact Helen Balmforth, [hbalmforth@angelahospice.us](mailto:hbalmforth@angelahospice.us), 734.953.6045.



**GARDEN TEA PARTY**  
 Thursday June 26 • Angela Hospice

**WALK OF REMEMBRANCE**  
 Saturday September 14 • Madonna University

# GRIEVING FOR GUYS

Anyone who has experienced the loss of a family member or friend has probably noticed that people have different ways of coping with loss. These differences can seem especially pronounced when comparing males and females.



MIKE CONWAY

Angela Hospice's newest grief support group was designed with those differences in mind, to create a space where men can grieve in their own way, without pressure or outside expectations.

"There's a need out

there," said Mike Conway, Director of Social Work and Bereavement, who facilitates the monthly meeting for men. "It gives them an opportunity to talk man-to-man."

While women are often very verbal in expressing their feelings, men who are grieving may appear more silent and solitary. They may throw themselves more into work, fitness, or planning for the future. But this doesn't mean they're not grieving – they just process their grief differently.

The Men's Support Group is designed to be informal and free from judgement. It meets the third Friday of each month from 2-3:30 p.m. in Angela Hospice's Day Room B.

"Whatever the guys feel the need to talk about, that's what we talk about," said Mike.

**FOR MORE ABOUT ANGELA HOSPICE'S GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS, CALL 734.779.6690 OR VISIT [ASKFORANGELA.COM](http://ASKFORANGELA.COM)**

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