

SUMMER 2018

# MONARCH



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AMIYA  
THE BABY WHO STOLE OUR HEARTS

  
*Angela*  
Hospice

We'll take you under our wing.

# AMIYA

TO SUPPORT OUR PRENATAL AND PEDIATRIC PROGRAMS,  
PLEASE DONATE WITH THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE OR  
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## baby in the Care Center steals hearts

Charlita Bell, a young mother with a ten-year-old boy is facing the stress of taking care of both her son, David, and his sister, four-month-old Amiya – virtually on her own. Besides the challenges (and joy) that come with any children, Amiya was born with a life threatening disease.

Trisomy 18 is a genetic condition caused by an error in cell division. It creates an extra chromosome 18 in the developing baby and disrupts the normal pattern of development that can have life-threatening significance, even before birth.

Only 10 percent of these children survive more than one year, and those who do will require significant care and ongoing screening during their lives.

"I couldn't sleep, I didn't know what to do. I needed a mental break," Charlita said of her non-stop demands at home. Amanda Davis, Amiya's Angela Hospice Social Worker, recommended a 5-day respite stay for Amiya at our Care Center.

It was difficult for Charlita to let Amiya go, even for a few days, but then she learned that there would be a 24-hour stream of dedicated Angela Hospice volunteers and staff, along with the regular Care Center team of nurses, aides, and physicians, to take good care of Amiya.

Teri Schmitchen, Director of Volunteer Services, created a spreadsheet of two-hour shifts, and they filled up quickly. It seems that everyone of every age and discipline wanted to take care of this amazing child.

"If we love on this baby, she's gonna be alright," Charlita exclaimed. "I really do believe she can beat the odds."



"SHE'S A SUPERSTAR IN THE CARE CENTER," SAID JENNIFER CAMPBELL, RN, BSN,  
HOME CARE CASE MANAGER • PICTURED ABOVE IS AMIYA WITH HER MOTHER CHARLITA.

## PLENTY OF LOVE FOR THIS CHILD

**Maureen Mullins**, Angela Hospice Medical Records Supervisor, took the 6:00 until 8:00 morning shift before her regular workday started. "Amiya was very popular," Maureen said. "Everyone stuck their head in."

"We excel at compassion," Maureen explained. "Whether the patient is a newborn or 101 years old, we absolutely take joy in caring for them."

**Chris Andrews**, a Care Center Volunteer, took two 10:00 until midnight shifts. "The staff transformed the room into a baby's room, with a basinette, rocking chair, and changing table," said Chris. "I was glad I went at night, it was just lovely, such a warm quiet place. When the baby was sleeping I just sat there peacefully."

"I believe I get way more out of coming to the Care Center than even families do," Chris revealed. "I am honored to be a volunteer at Angela Hospice."

**Kristy Hunley**, Angela Hospice Employee Relations Coordinator, volunteered a Sunday morning 6:00 until 8:00 shift after a Saturday "girls' night out."

"It was worth it, it was the right thing to do," Kristy said. "All Amiya needed was some more love. Plus of course feeding, rocking, and changing. The aides and volunteers did the bathing. I couldn't help thinking that her mother was going to have a spoiled little girl when she got home."



"I ROCKED HER AND SANG, 'THEY CALL THE WIND MARIAH,' BECAUSE IT RHYMES WITH AMIYA." ~CHRIS ANDREWS, CARE CENTER VOLUNTEER.

# SACRED WISHES



**KATIE MACKNIS' WISH** was to have a St. Patrick's Day party with her family surrounding her. We brought in a bagpiper and had a television camera crew film the event. Jodi wanted to tell her story and dress up for her pictures in our newsletter. Another patient longed to play the slots at her favorite casino. A mom looked forward to attending her only daughter's wedding.

So many of our patients have a wish to fulfill while they still are able. Angela Hospice honors these wishes and finds every resource available to turn them into a reality.

**WE NEED YOU** to help us continue this and all of our caring programs to make the end of life as joyous as it can be.

[ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/DONATIONS](https://www.angelahospice.org/donations)

# FELLOWS

## MDS ROTATE INTO HOSPICE CARE

**MELISSA DOSER**, Angela Hospice Care Center Nurse Practitioner, facilitated the fellows' rounds in the Care Center. "The Fellows are physicians that are aiming toward a specialty in palliative care and hospice beyond medical school," Melissa said. "They are used to chronic disease management as opposed to a plan of care based on the needs of the patient that is the hospice model."

"These fellowships are tough to get into," Melissa explained. "Detroit Medical Center and Henry Ford Hospital hand select these doctors and only two per term usually make it into the specialty program."

"We are fortunate here to be able to guide these doctors and see their tremendous growth in the knowledge of the needs of the terminally ill," Melissa said. "Hopefully we will see them again as Angela Hospice physicians like our own Karishma Fatabhoy, who started as a fellow and is now a vital part of our team of physicians."



**DR. VICKI TARAZI** learned a lot from her fellowship at Angela Hospice. "Going through this Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellowship program has improved my capacity for empathy and my ability to communicate with other people. I have also grown in my understanding of disease processes and how they lead to one's death, and in how to help patients and families through the dying experience," Vicki explained.

"The Angela Hospice staff conveyed a commitment to their mission through their actions and words with patients and their families. I felt that the atmosphere was one that fostered collegiality so that staff consistently served patients and their families in a compassionate way," Vicki went on to say.

"I enjoyed getting to know a patient's unique story and find ways to support them through hospice care."

Vicki's mentor was Dr. Jim Boal, Angela Hospice Chief Medical Officer. Vicki said. "He shared his insights into the hospice approach to patient care, and I enjoyed observing his communication with patients and their families."

"A fond memory was when an elderly male patient with metastatic cancer had a Bible on the table next to his bed, and he allowed me to read his favorite Psalm to him even though he knew it by heart," Vicki said. "It was a privilege for me to be able to read it to him, and I think both of us enjoyed the experience."

ABOVE, VICKI TARAZI OUR MARCH 2018 FELLOW. OTHER RECENT FELLOWS INCLUDE ALEXANDRA CHIC, KAI DENSKI, PRYIA MURALI, AND KARISHMA FATABHOY WHO NOW WORKS ON OUR TEAM AS A PHYSICIAN FOR ANGELA HOSPICE HOME CARE.

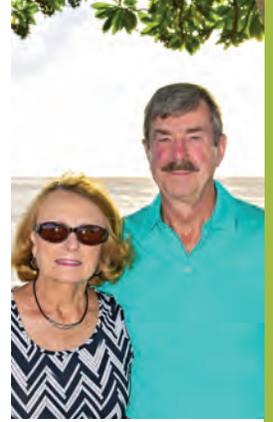


MELISSA DOSER, CARE CENTER NURSE PRACTITIONER, MADE THE ROUNDS WITH THE FELLOWS.

# JOHN & CAROLYN

## TRUE DEVOTION

RIGHT, CAROLYN & JOHN IN HAWAII. THEY LOVE TRAVEL, WHETHER IT'S INTERNATIONAL OR TRIPS TO SEATTLE OR BUFFALO TO VISIT THEIR CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN.



**IT WAS JUST ONE DAY**, but it started a decades long relationship. When John's mother was dying of pancreatic cancer, Angela Hospice was there to help.

"She ended up in Angela Hospice's service," he said. "Unfortunately it was only for a day. But I was impressed with the level of empathy provided."

John's mother was among the first patients served by Angela Hospice, just after it was founded in 1985. John and his wife Carolyn, who live in Livonia, have shown true devotion to Angela Hospice ever since.

"My wife and I have for many, many years made charitable donations. And we would spend a fair amount of time looking for charities, looking at overhead expenses," he said. "Then we started looking at things that were important to us personally. Angela Hospice certainly made a good impression on us."

"My wife and I keep making a small donation periodically," John said. To date, after all these years of giving, John and Carolyn have donated 214 gifts to help Angela Hospice patients and families.

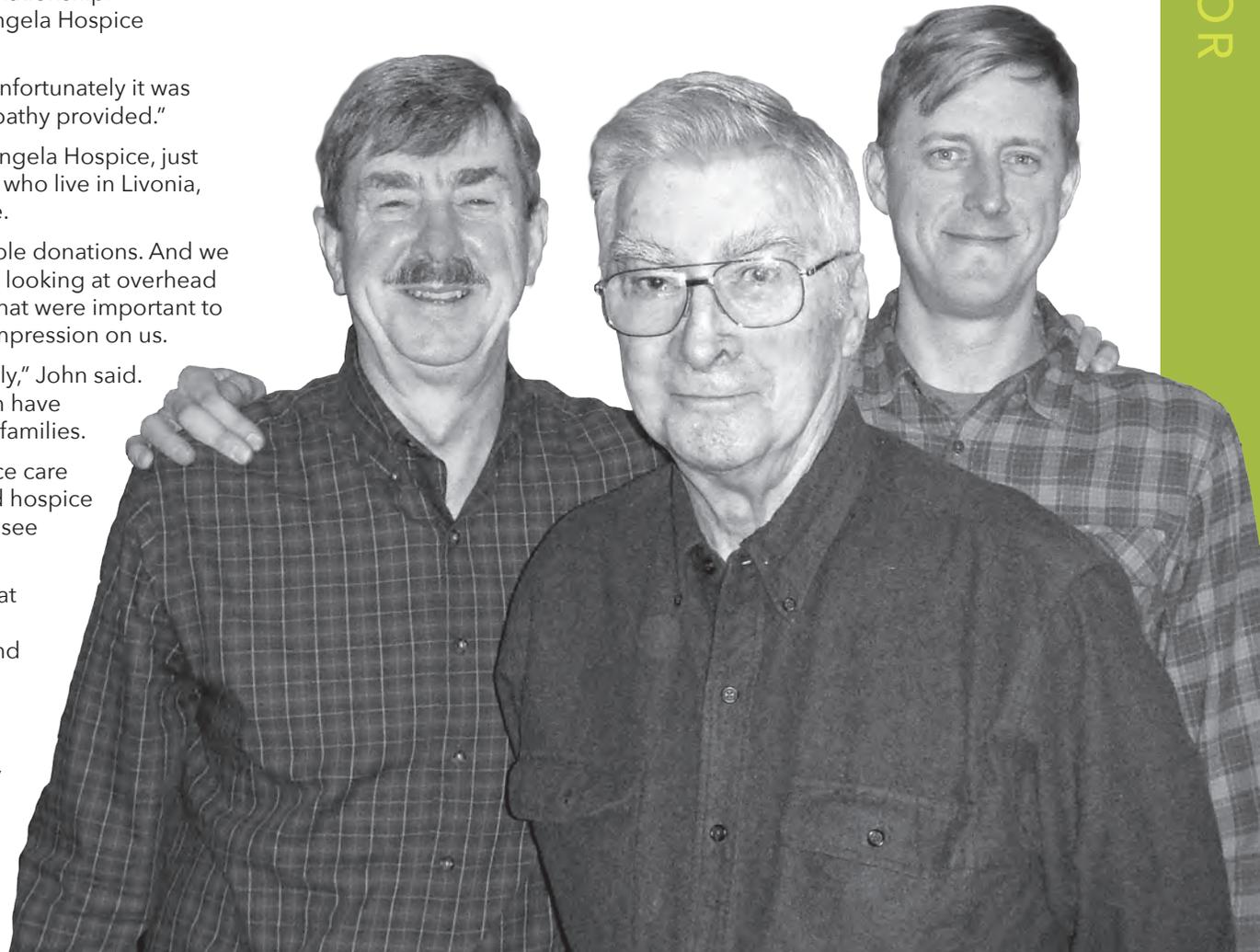
John and his family had another experience with hospice care more recently when John's father passed away. He used hospice care for a longer period of time, which allowed John to see more of the breadth of services hospice provides.

"I really appreciated the explanation to the family of what was to be expected, and how it was going to progress," John said. "Not only the clarity, but also the empathy, and the care that was given to my father in his last days and weeks."

This experience helped solidify John and Carolyn's connection to hospice. "When people are having family members who are towards the end of life," John said, "I always sing the praises of hospice."

JOHN WITH HIS FATHER JACK AND OLDEST SON DAVE.

JACK WAS IN HOSPICE CARE BEFORE HE PASSED AWAY IN 2013.



# AVA

## CONNECTING TO A LEGACY

LEAVE YOUR OWN LEGACY, MORE AT [ASKFORANGELA.COM](http://ASKFORANGELA.COM)



**RALPH C. WILSON, JR.**  
(1918 – 2014) WAS AN AMERICAN  
BUSINESSMAN AND SPORTS  
EXECUTIVE, BEST KNOWN AS  
THE FOUNDER AND OWNER OF  
THE NFL BUFFALO BILLS.

### MORE ABOUT AVA

(Angela's Virtual Assistant) AVA was a source of comfort for Alice Chorkey's family. Alice was in an assisted living facility and experiencing severe anxiety and agitation. The certified nurse assistants at the facility were able to use AVA to show Alice's symptoms to the nurses at Angela Hospice so they would know when to administer the medicine to keep Alice comfortable. The family was grateful to see Alice calm and we were thankful AVA could help once again.

When Sharon Bartalucci was diagnosed with stage 4 bile duct cancer of the liver she didn't want aggressive medical treatment.

"There are too many uncomfortable side effects, and I can't eat what I want. It's been wonderful having Angela Hospice beside me," Sharon said. "They really like me!"

Angela Hospice provided Sharon and her husband Ron an **AVA** (Angela's Virtual Assistant), giving them the comfort of knowing they could reach a nurse face-to-face when they needed to.

"I showed the nurse my swollen ankles so she knew what she was up against when she visited," Sharon said.

When the Bartalucci's first turned the AVA device on there was a welcome from Margot Parr, CEO and President of Angela Hospice. Margot explained how the AVA came to us through a \$2.1-million grant from the **RALPH C. WILSON JR. FOUNDATION**, a Detroit-based grantmaking organization committed to improving the lives of people in southeast Michigan.

Margot said, "The grant was in part for our telehospice program, AVA, which provides a powerful tool to ensure that the needs of our patients are addressed in the most caring, effective, and efficient manner possible, allowing for optimal pain and symptom management. The technology benefits caregivers and patients with an increased sense of comfort and reassurance, knowing they have immediate access to the support of their hospice team whenever they need it – any time, day or night."

Ron, a retired engineer and Army veteran, said, "When I saw this introduction I recognized the name of my baseball coach!"

Thirteen-year-old Ron started playing baseball in the Babe Ruth League in Grosse Pointe, MI. His team was called the "Tigers," and 37-year-old Ralph Wilson was the coach. "He took us out for ice cream, and even to real Detroit Tigers games!" exclaimed Ron.

After Ron's first year in the league, Ralph traded Ron to the "Chicago White Sox." By then Ron had grown 5 inches. He won titles, played against Ralph's team, and helped beat them. Ralph came up to Ron after the game, hugged him, and told him how proud he was of him.

"What a great guy," Ron said. "Someone you could never forget, and now his legacy is helping my family when we need it most."

Sharon passed away in April of 2018, leaving Ron, their grandchildren, and daughters Anne, 42, and Amy, 40.



ABOVE, RON & SHARON BARTALUCCI  
SHARON CALLED RON "THE SALT OF THE EARTH."  
RON PLANTED BULBS IN THE YARD THAT SHARON  
WILL NEVER SEE COME UP. SHARON SAID,  
"I WON'T NEED TO SEE THEM, WHERE I AM GOING  
THE STREETS ARE PAVED WITH GOLD, AND THE  
TREES ARE LADEN WITH RUBIES AND DIAMONDS."

# CATHY

## LOVING, LOSING & FINDING JOY

"I know my husband, Chuck, is proud of me. After his death in 2016 from large cell neuro endocrine cancer, I am back at my antique store and going to one-on-one counseling with Debbie Vallandingham, Bereavement Social Worker at Angela Hospice," Cathy confided. "I was falling apart again. With Debbie it makes sense, it's logical, and that's what I need."

Cathy and Chuck met at Oakland Community College in 1968 and fell in love. They were about to marry but something told them both it wasn't the right time. In 1995 they got back together and married in 2005. "Chuck was the love of my life, but now, with him gone, I have to continue to find the joy in every day," Cathy said.

"I tell anyone who comes into my shop who I know are grieving, 'You will always feel the grief, but it lessens. The first holiday, the first baseball game you attended, it hurts,'" Cathy tells them. A woman who frequently comes into the shop lost her husband and Cathy has been using what she's learned in counseling to help her as well.

"Debbie gives me tools and I share them – I pass out so many of her cards. One of her tools is journaling – the grief goes right from your heart onto the paper," she said.

"I believe in counseling, you have to get through the pain to get to the joy," Cathy said.

Cathy said, "I love old treasures, and I feel that my antique store is a healthy – addiction and a place to help others, and myself, find a reason to live."

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Donors to Angela Hospice grief support programs provide transformational care to grieving people throughout the community. One-on-on counseling and grief support groups are all provided free of charge thanks to generous supporters.

### ANGELA HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT

#### PEER SUPPORT GROUP

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

#### EIGHT-WEEK THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT GROUP

Providing education and emotional support related to the grief process.

#### INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For 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 by suicide.

#### GETTING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS WORKSHOPS, ADULTS & CHILDREN

For anyone who has lost a loved one.



CATHY KEELER, OWNER OF CLAWSON ANTIQUES, "A TINY SHOP PACKED WITH TIMELESS TREASURES." SHE USES HER SHOP TO SPREAD THE GOOD WORD ABOUT ANGELA HOSPICE GRIEF SUPPORT.

GRIEF SUPPORT SERVICES ARE FREE OF CHARGE  
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CALL 734.779.6690.

Helen Balmforth, Development & Special Events • 734.953.6045 • [angelahospice.org/events](http://angelahospice.org/events)

WE'LL TAKE YOU  
UNDER  
OUR  
WING



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# WALK WITH US

## WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

Saturday Sept. 15 • Madonna University

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



*"Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will  
continue in others." Rosa Parks*

Sights, sounds, smells - so many things can trigger memories. Our Angela Hospice Walk of Remembrance combines all of these senses as walkers take in the splendor of nature while walking to honor those they have loved.

Beginning at Madonna University, the 2.3-mile route weaves throughout the beautiful Felician campus, culminating with a loop around the Angela Hospice Care Center and gardens. This year's walk will take place on Saturday, September 15, beginning at 10 a.m. Refreshments and a rock painting activity will be available for everyone at the end of the route.

**"The walk is an excellent opportunity to remember those we've loved and lost while reminiscing of the good memories we have of them," said Development & Special Events Coordinator Helen Balmforth. "It's a really special day to spend with family and friends."**

To register or for information on how to start a team in honor of your loved one, visit [AskForAngela.com](http://AskForAngela.com).

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