

SUMMER 2024

# MONARCH

THIS WORK IS

*Love*



  
**Angela**  
Hospice.

We'll take you under our wing.®

HOSPICE AIDES DENISE PIKE-LEHRKE AND RENÉE MASON  
HAVE A PASSION FOR WHAT THEY DO. READ MORE ABOUT  
OUR AIDES ON PAGE 4.



# A LETTER OF *gratitude*

To the staff and care team at Angela Hospice

On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to thank you for the care you gave to my brother, Bruce Soubel. Bruce had Alzheimer's and was in an advanced stage of that disease when his spouse and primary caregiver, Michele (Mickey), passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in late September. As Bruce could not handle most activities of daily living, he moved to a long-term, memory care community in mid-October. Unfortunately, the disease progressed rapidly, and we reached out to Angela Hospice in January. Your staff was incredibly responsive, kind and caring...

I really cannot fully describe how gentle and caring everyone was... Everyone was so kind to our family explaining what hospice does and does not do, familiarizing us with the facility, walking us through comfort care options and checking in with us during Bruce's stay. My brother was proud of his service in the Army, and the Veteran's service that Angela Hospice arranged for was touching. A chaplain stopped by one evening and offered prayers, which one of Bruce's daughters and I were able to share in. Bruce's room easily accommodated a number of family members, and we were each able to have time with him and share memories with each other. The room's furnishings allowed the daughter I mentioned to stay the night. She was with her dad when he took his last breath, and the staff stayed close to her until others in our family arrived. Even with what Alzheimer's takes away from you, I believe Bruce could sense the love from his family and felt the tender care from the Care Center staff. He was not alone when he passed away; he was at peace and without pain.

I wish I had reached out to Angela Hospice earlier. While it would not have changed the outcome, I know it would have made Bruce's journey easier and would have benefited our whole family as well. I have shared my feelings with many people, and I know others in the family have done the same.

You do such wonderful work, accompanying people like my brother and our family with care and compassion during a most difficult time. I wish I had noted the names of all the members of the Angela Hospice staff we came in contact with. Each and every one could not have been kinder and more caring. Thank you for all you did for us and for what you do for so many.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Soubel



## SIX YEARS *later*

In 2018 – then only a few months old – Amiya Bell was stealing the hearts of both Angela Hospice team members and volunteers while at the Care Center.



She wasn't there to visit a loved one though, Amiya was actually on respite care herself.

"It's kind of bittersweet that she's on hospice," said Charlita Bell, Amiya's mom. "But I don't know what I would do if I didn't have Angela Hospice."

Now six years later, Amiya is still in hospice care as part of Angela Hospice's My Nest is Best Pediatric Program, a family-centered program for children and young adults with progressive, life-limiting conditions, such as Amiya, who has Trisomy 18.



AMANDA GLAZE  
SOCIAL WORKER

Only 10-percent of children with Trisomy 18 go on to be more than one-year-old. Amiya turns seven this December, and has had Dr. Nadia Tremonti – who oversees the My Nest is Best Pediatric Program – and Amanda Glaze, Angela Hospice social worker, being there every step of the way. The beginning of their hospice journey began just days after Amiya was born. Charlita was surprised when Amanda and Dr. Tremonti showed up at the hospital, saying that they were there for her and Amiya.

"I felt less scared, not feeling so alone," Charlita said. And while Amiya is the one in Angela Hospice care,



"GOD GAVE US THIS JOB FOR A REASON," CHARLITA SAID. SHE AND HER SON TAKE CARE OF AMIYA IN THEIR HOME WITH THE HELP OF ANGELA HOSPICE.

the team is here to support Charlita and her 16-year-old son as well.

Right now, they are working to get Amiya used to sitting in a wheelchair. The hope is that this will enable Amiya to attend school. It will be a big adjustment for their family, who is used to spending their time together in their home taking care of Amiya, but a new opportunity as well.

"The possibility of her being able to be out in the world and stuff, that's exciting. Like I never even imagined her in school. I can't wait to see that," Charlita said.

Even meeting with the school about what resources would need to be in place for Amiya, Charlita had social worker Amanda by her side, helping to ask all the right questions.

"If it wasn't for Amanda... because of her I can focus on what I need to do, and not get so overwhelmed with all the thoughts in my head," Charlita said.

Angela Hospice has been a continued source of guidance and assistance for Charlita.

"It helps me probably more than they know," she said.



Angela Hospice's My Nest is Best Pediatric Program allows for terminally ill children to receive expert medical care in the comfort of their own home, enabling funding to cover costly treatments, medical supplies, and equipment specifically for young patients. These families are able to stay together without constantly having to visit hospitals because of donations from people like you.

TO SUPPORT THESE FAMILIES, VISIT [ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/DONATE](https://angelahospice.org/donate)





# THIS WORK IS *Love*

Denise Pike-Lehrke was one year into a career change, having left the marketing field to become a certified nurse assistant at Angela Hospice, when COVID hit. She could easily have left, going back to the safety of marketing without a second glance. But instead, she volunteered to work on the COVID unit at the Angela Hospice Care Center.

Why did she do it? For the same reasons she goes to work every day: because she enjoys caring for people, and it is what she hopes someone else would do for her, if she were in need.

"I like just knowing that we're giving the utmost care that we can possibly give...to every patient while they're here, for however long that is," she said.

And she knows the value her work brings, not just to the patients she lovingly cares for, but their families too. Denise took care of her own parents on their journey with Alzheimer's – in fact, it is what inspired her transition to working in health care.

"Families get overwhelmed," Denise said. "I know what that feels like."



**DENISE  
PIKE-LEHRKE**

Now on the other side of caregiving, it's an emotional job she said, taking care of patients at the end of their lives, and grieving families too. But, "You can't just go 'Oh, that's just so sad,'" Denise said. "It is sad. You have to say yes, it's sad, but it still needs to be done. Somebody has to do it."

Megan Bjerk has been answering that call since she was just 17 years old, and began taking care of her grandmother. Megan always knew she wanted to go into healthcare. Her grandmother had been a nurse aide as well, and encouraged Megan to look into hospice.

"Taking care of people at the end of life is one thing that I like, because it gives me fulfillment that I can help people that are passing on, give them the care they need," Megan said.

Since joining the Angela Hospice team two years ago, Megan has enjoyed getting to know her patients, and loves being able to put a smile on their face. Often they'll be surprised that she takes the time to paint their nails or do their hair, but Megan is grateful to be able to show she cares.



**MEGAN  
BJERK**

When she has a hard day, like when someone she had grown close to passes away, it's that gratitude that keeps her going.

"I'll go home and just sit for a little bit and think about it," she said. "And then the next day, I come to work, and I say, 'You know what, I'm glad I got to take care of that person. And I'm glad the family got to have the experience of a happy time...'"

For Megan and her colleagues, it is an honor to take care of someone in their last moments. April Cameron has experienced this many times over as Angela Hospice's most senior nurse aide. She started at Angela Hospice's Livonia Care Center just one month after the facility opened in 1994.

A couple times, she said, she even had patients die in her arms.

"It's just really knowing that they're at peace," she said. "I know that we did everything we could for them, that they weren't in pain..."

For April, this work is about treating people with respect, and bringing peace and dignity. "Treat everybody like they're your family members," she said, patients and their families.

It's something she shares with Megan, Denise, and so many other kind souls who have dedicated themselves to caring for others.

"I love caring for people and helping people out any way I can," April said.

**YOU CAN HELP BY DONATING TO SUPPORT  
PROGRAMS FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES AT  
[ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/DONATE](https://angelahospice.org/donate)**



**APRIL  
CAMERON**



Planned giving is a family matter. It is always important to ensure your family members and loved ones are aware of your financial wishes. Having those hard conversations now is important. One of the ways to make it easier for you now, and in the future, as well as ensuring your wishes are carried out is by establishing a Donor Advised Fund (DAF). Donor Advised Funds are the most popular and fastest-growing philanthropic vehicles of giving.

By establishing a DAF, everything is safe and protected, fees are minimal to maintain, there are tax benefits and less regulations than private foundations, and you can go "shopping" at your leisure to pick your favorite charities.

## **A DAF ACTS AS A PHILANTHROPY PARKING LOT FOR YOU!**

Recommending a gift to Angela Hospice through your DAF is simple. You will need to provide the following information:

### **LEGAL NAME:**

Angela Hospice Home Care Inc.

### **FEDERAL TAX ID:**

38-2755767

### **MAILING ADDRESS:**

14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154

Identify where you would like the funds to be used.



To read more or to enter your information to donate now, visit [angelahospice.org/donor-advised-funds](https://angelahospice.org/donor-advised-funds)



If you have questions about the information you need to provide the sponsoring organization of your Donor Advised Fund, please call Jennifer Dale, CFRE, Director of Community Outreach & Philanthropy at 734.953.6009.



# growing THROUGH GRIEF



JASMINE KENDRICK  
SOCIAL WORKER

Social worker Jasmine Kendrick lost her mother at just four years old. She remembers it was “a confusing upbringing.”

Adults tiptoed around her, afraid of upsetting her or her grandmother. She saw others seem to just put the loss behind them and close the door, and she wondered why she still hurt years later. She

was embarrassed, too. She didn’t want to be “the girl whose mom died.”

Today, as a children’s grief counselor, Jasmine could tell you children are cyclical grievers. They will essentially re-grieve a loss at each stage of their life, just as she did. But young Jasmine didn’t know any of that. She just thought she was broken.

“I don’t think I knew what grief was until maybe high school – like the actual word ‘grief.’ I had to do a lot of picking up pieces by myself,” she reflected.

That’s why the work she does today is so important to her. She helps bring understanding and resilience to youth who have experienced the chaos of loss, and are feeling lost and alone.

**“My biggest give back with what I do here at Angela Hospice, is to make sure that children do not have to endure that by themselves,” she said. “That you do not have to go through this alone.”**

Jasmine is now in the midst of planning Camp Monarch, a two-day camp for grieving kids ages 5-12 to be held at Madonna University, on August 1 and 2. Jasmine was elated with the positive response campers had at last year’s Camp Monarch. She understands how much it means to the kids who participate, because she knows what it would have meant to her as a child.

“I wouldn’t have felt as isolated and alone,” she said. “I would have known that everything I’m feeling is natural, rather than something I need to be fighting against.”

Camp Monarch is run by Angela Hospice’s licensed



JASMINE KENDRICK ON HER FOURTH BIRTHDAY  
WITH HER MOTHER, APRIL JACKSON.

social workers and music therapists, who build creative and therapeutic activities into the camp that are as fun as they are meaningful. They’ll share tools for coping with the feelings of grief, and be available for counseling and support as needed.

Jasmine provides children’s grief counseling free of charge as part of the Angela Grief Care team, and Camp Monarch is a way to see many of her young clients interact in a fun and engaging setting.

“They can all come together and be with one another, and they can just experience other children who are dealing with the same thing as them,” Jasmine said. “So they know that they’re not alone in this process. And that makes all the difference in the world.”

## TIPS FOR GRIEVING KIDS

- Your feelings are valid.
- It’s normal to grieve.
- It’s OK to talk about it.
- You can ask others for help.

## TIPS FOR ADULTS

- Meet them where they’re at.
- Let them feel what they need to feel.
- Be present.
- Provide consistency.

REGISTRATION FOR CAMP MONARCH  
IS OPEN THROUGH JULY 8.

CAMP MONARCH IS OFFERED FREE-OF-CHARGE THROUGH DONOR SUPPORT.

TO SPONSOR A CAMPER, GIVE NOW AT  
ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/CAMPMONARCH/GIVE

# walking together AT THE WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

Our Walk of Remembrance will once again bring together families and individuals of all ages, who come to honor and celebrate the memories of special people in their life at this annual event.

**The 2.2-mile walk will take place Saturday, September 21, on the grounds of Angela Hospice and its neighboring Felician ministries.**

Last year 21 families helped to raise money for Angela Hospice’s charitable programs by forming Walk of Remembrance teams. Teams who raised \$300 or more were even included on the event tee shirts.

First time participant Melissa Odom led her team, Team Vivian (pictured), in memory of her mother last year.

“I decided to form a team because Angela Hospice took such great care of my mom. I wanted to give back,” Melissa shared. And what’s

more, the walk ended up being held on her mother’s birthday.

“I feel it was a sign from Mom,” she said.

If you’d like to give back too, consider forming your own team. Teams who raise \$150 or more in addition to registration fees will have a poster of their loved one featured along the walk route.

“It’s so moving to see all those posters on Memory Lane, each one representing someone who made such an impact on the lives of their friends and families,” said Jennifer Dale, Director of Community Outreach & Philanthropy. “I created a team in memory of my own parents, and I keep my poster in my office where I see it every day.”

For more about forming a Walk of Remembrance team, visit our website at [angelahospice.org/walk](http://angelahospice.org/walk) or call the office of Community Outreach & Philanthropy at 734.464.3478.



(BACK ROW) L TO R: KEITH ODOM, MATT AND SUSAN ROWELL  
(FRONT ROW) BEA SNEAD, BAILEY HIBBARD, SAMANTHA HIBBARD,  
MELISSA ODOM, AND CHELSEY DEBEK.

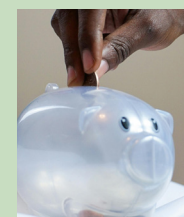
## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Free and Open to the Community



### FINANCES AFTER LOSING A SPOUSE/PARTNER

July 11, 2 p.m.  
Angela Hospice, Livonia



### PLANNED GIVING PANEL

August 22, 2 p.m.  
Angela Hospice, Livonia



### HOW TO SUPPORT SOMEONE WHO IS GRIEVING

August 15, 1 p.m.  
Via Zoom



### LAUGHTER LIFTS YOU UP

Our popular Laughter Lifts You Up event returns this fall after a three-year hiatus.  
October 17, 6 p.m.  
Italian American Club

TO REGISTER FOR THESE EVENTS, VISIT [ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/EVENTS](http://ANGELAHOSPICE.ORG/EVENTS)







Angela Hospice Home Care, Inc. is dedicated to provide comprehensive, compassionate, and Christ-like care to adults and children in the communities we serve.

Home Hospice Care  
Hospice Care Center  
Pediatric & Prenatal Care  
Grief Care  
Palliative Care

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*The Monarch*  
is produced by the Angela Hospice  
Communications Team.

14100 Newburgh Road,  
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A Felician-sponsored ministry

# ANGELA HOSPICE AT LOURDES *open house*

Angela Hospice was welcomed by the Waterford community during our Open House for the new Angela Hospice Care Center at Lourdes on May 2.

More than 200 visitors came to tour the facility and learn more about Angela Hospice's expansion into the community.

"We were thrilled by the response from the community as we previewed the Angela Hospice Care Center at Lourdes. We are excited to be able to expand our services in Oakland County to help more families in need," said Marti Coplai, President & CEO.

