

FALL 2024

MONARCH

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- Pet Therapy
- Honoring Veterans
- The Tree of Life



We'll take you under our wing.®

THERAPY DOG WINSTON TAKES A MOMENT TO CUDDLE WITH ANGELA HOSPICE AIDE LISA SCOTT. THERAPY DOGS HELP RELIEVE STRESS FOR HOSPICE STAFF, AND OFFER THEIR UNCONDITIONAL LOVE TO PATIENTS AND FAMILIES IN THE CARE CENTER.

NEVER-ENDING *inspiration*

Like a good book you just can't put down, Gabrielle Downs found the Angela Hospice Care Center "too good to leave."

"It's a wonderful hospice," she said. "It really is. It's an experience I wouldn't have missed for anything."

Gabrielle enjoyed meeting so many kind people at Angela Hospice—and being inspired by them.

"You think after a certain age you don't have much expectation," she said, "but you do. You keep on being inspired."

Throughout her life, Gabrielle said she has found inspiration in people and in books. It was her mother that taught Gabrielle to read. At first she wasn't interested in reading. But her mother would take her, and her sister and brothers, to the library every week when they were young. Gabrielle grew to love it.

"My mother regarded reading as essential, as much as breathing," Gabrielle explained. And just like breath to her lungs, reading became like oxygen in Gabrielle's life. She would read at least two books a week.

It was a book she read by Sonja Henie that inspired Gabrielle to become a figure skater in her teens. She would go on to do exhibitions while in high school.

As for her career, Gabrielle worked as a librarian for the Clarenceville School District for 43 years. While she never married or had children of her own, she passed



INSPIRED BY SONJA HENIE'S BOOK
WINGS ON MY FEET, GABRIELLE BECAME A
FIGURE SKATER IN HER TEENAGE YEARS.



GABRIELLE WITH HER SISTER ROSEMARY HATCHER
AT THE ANGELA HOSPICE CARE CENTER.

her love of reading onto many young people over the years, just as her mother passed it onto her.

"I ended up with the many children that you get when you're a teacher, which is a delight," Gabrielle said.

While she doesn't have a favorite book—there are too many to choose from—she said she would recommend what she is currently reading, *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, about women during the Vietnam War. And there are some books that she said she could read again and again, like the classics by Jane Austen or Charlotte Bronte.

She and her siblings still share books with one another.

"It's kind of a family thing," Gabrielle said.

Reflecting on it all—on the inspiration, the stories, the people, the adventures, and keeping her faith close, Gabrielle exudes peace and gratitude while residing at the Care Center.

"It's been a good life for me... and I'm not done with it yet."

Your support for Angela Hospice provides a peaceful haven where people like Gabrielle can receive the care they need at a time when they need it most.

To help more patients to experience comfort and care at their end of life, visit angelahospice.org/donate.



If you're an animal lover, you know how seeing a wagging tail and big toothy grin can bring a smile to your face instantly. This is something Cindi Burnstein is used to seeing, when she visits the Angela Hospice Care Center with her dog Winston, a certified therapy dog.

Winston may be little, but the Bichon Frise makes a big impact when he trots through the halls of the Care Center. He makes his rounds visiting patients who have requested pet therapy, and he brightens the mood wherever he goes.

"He's curious and he's energetic and he's adventurous," said Cindi. It's part of how she knew he'd be a good therapy dog. "He likes to go places and see people."

Jennifer Norber, the Integrative Services Volunteer Coordinator who runs the pet therapy program for



CINDI BURNSTEIN AND
THERAPY DOG, WINSTON.

Angela Hospice, has seen the difference it makes for patients and their families. Winston had just finished seeing a patient who was especially eager to have pet therapy, and Jennifer was happy to see the impact it had on him.

"How he perks up and how he interacts with the dog is really touching," she said.

With several dogs and their owners completing volunteer training over the summer, therapy dogs now visit Angela Hospice's Livonia Care Center daily, and there are plans to expand the program soon for home care patients and the Waterford Care Center.

"It's beautiful to see how much the staff interacts with the dogs," Jennifer said, "and I do think it's a big relief for the staff, too."

"We like them back here. It's good for our blood pressure, too!" said nurse Kelly Anderson.



ANNIE

CASPER

FIONA

GRAHAM

JASPER

LUNA

MAGIC

POPPY



Mary Hobart was struck by Skye's considerate demeanor when she first met her volunteering as a dog walker at the Michigan Humane Society. While most dogs she met were all too eager to get out and go for a walk, pulling on the leash the whole way, she noticed how Skye stopped and waited, looking to see if she was coming too. Mary decided she had to adopt Skye!

INTEGRATIVE SERVICES AT ANGELA HOSPICE INCLUDE:

- Music Therapy
- Aromatherapy
- Healing Touch
- Massage
- Music Companionship
- Musician Volunteers

Pet therapy is part of the Integrated Services program at Angela Hospice, made possible through the generosity of Angela Hospice donors. To support this good work, please visit angelahospice.org/donate.

For more about the pet therapy program at Angela Hospice, contact Jennifer at jnorber@angelahospice.us or 734.743.8040.

LOVE *always*

When Bill Juodawlakis came to the Angela Hospice Care Center, he had a message of gratitude to share about those who had taken care of his wife three decades earlier. Mary Ann Juodawlakis had died young, just 53 years old, and was taken care of at home by Angela Hospice's founder Sister Mary Giovanni, in the early days of the organization.

Bill remembered meeting Sister Giovanni all those years ago, and he said, "You know, no one knows what to do when someone is dying, but because of the Sisters I knew just what to do for my wife."

So when Bill's health took a turn this past March, his children—all seven of them—knew they could trust Angela Hospice's warm embrace to care for their dad. It felt like coming full circle, that their dad would be cared for in the place Sister Giovanni had built.

"The staff is so caring, and all the care he's gotten has been phenomenal," said Bill's daughter Teresa Pesci.

"He said it was 500% better than where he was before," added Karen Hawk, the youngest of Bill's children. Karen was just 11 when her mother passed away, but she still remembers the hospice worker who came to visit and eased her fears all those years ago, when she was too young to understand what was happening.

"I remember Priscilla. She was just so kind and so patient with me," Karen said.

Karen was so young when her mother passed that



BILL (CENTER FRONT) WITH HIS SEVEN CHILDREN.

BACK (L TO R) MARK, STEVE, PAUL.

FRONT: JULIE, KAREN, MIKE, AND TERESA.



MARY ANN AND BILL JUODAWLKIS

her dad became both mother and father for her. "He did everything...went to sixth grade camp with me, went shopping for homecoming dresses with me...I talked to him every morning," she said.

Bill was up for the challenge. The home he and Mary Ann had built together with their children was a place known for holiday celebrations, pool parties, and a home away from home for any of the kids' friends who needed a place to stay. All of Bill and Mary Ann's children felt the love that permeated those walls, and the rest of their family and friends did too.

"There was never a negative thing said about any person. I don't care whether you were a cousin, whether you were a child, whoever you were...they just had nothing but love about them," said Dennis Puishes, Bill's cousin.

Dennis visited Bill in the Care Center, and even in Bill's hospice room, he was surrounded by his children and cousins, all reminiscing about the humor, the heart, and heroism of this man who stepped up after his wife was taken too soon, and held his family together.

Dennis remembered how Bill and Mary Ann would come over and play cards with his own parents, and how whenever they talked about their children, they positively beamed with pride.

"They just had a glow on their face," Dennis said. "They were proud of all seven of them, and it showed on their faces. And my mom and dad always said that. They said, 'You know, Mary Ann, Bill...I mean, seven kids is a lot to have in a family...they just think that it's the easiest thing that God gave them!'"

There in the Care Center, Dennis continued, asking Bill's children, "Do you feel like that love was always there?"

"Absolutely," Teresa answered, without a moment's hesitation.

And in that room at Angela Hospice, with Bill and his children present, it absolutely still was.

Families are able to create precious memories at the end of life together in the Angela Hospice Care Center because of supporters like you, whose donations help provide compassionate care for those under our wing.

To continue making that work possible, please consider making a donation at angelahospice.org/donate.

Honor them

"Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere who bravely bears his country's cause."

-Abraham Lincoln



Donation amount: \$850

You can pay tribute to a veteran in your life, in a way that is both lasting and meaningful. The veterans memorial at Angela Hospice offers a chance to have a steel plaque engraved for a veteran special to you, commemorating their dedicated service to their country.

To make a gift that celebrates their legacy and your love, while also helping to support the caring programs of Angela Hospice, contact Pat Squires at 734.521.0488, or visit angelahospice.org/veterans-memorial-plaque/.



UPCOMING EVENTS



GETTING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS ADULT WORKSHOP

Wednesday, November 13
2 p.m. • Virtual

Tuesday, November 19
2 p.m. • In-person

Learn to understand and cope with the symptoms of grief during this insightful workshop. Our team will present practical tips to help make the season a time to experience peace and joy.



CARING FOR SOMEONE WITH DEMENTIA

Thursday, November 14
1-2 p.m. • Via Zoom

Join Jamie LaLonde, Angela Hospice Executive Director and dementia care educator, as she discusses practical tips on how to approach the challenges of caring for someone with dementia, understanding the degenerative disease, and how hospice can help.



CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 7
1-3 p.m. • In-person

Your child is invited to make a holiday wreath in memory of someone special at our free, interactive workshop. They'll also experience music therapy in a fun and upbeat format, hosted by the Angela Grief Care team.



To register for these FREE events scan code or visit angelahospice.org/events



Celebrating life

THE TREE OF LIFE AT ANGELA HOSPICE

Please Join Us!

TREE OF LIFE OPENING CEREMONY

Saturday, November 16, 10 a.m. at Angela Hospice

The Tree of Life will remain on display through January 2.

To RSVP and to learn more about the Tree of Life, visit angelahospice.org/events.

The Tree of Life has been gracing the Angela Hospice grounds for years, and while it is now an annual tradition for some families, each year there are families experiencing it for the first time.

Shalyn Fuller attended with her family for the first time last year. It was a way to honor her brother, who had passed away suddenly when he was just 31 years old.

"It was such a beautiful event," Shalyn said. "We celebrated my brother, and I made an ornament for my grandmother and great-grandmother as well."

Shalyn's brother had died just days before she was scheduled to complete her volunteer training at Angela Hospice. And since starting her volunteer journey, she's found opportunities for healing, such as the Tree of Life, and volunteering at Camp Monarch, which her niece attended as well.

"It was great for my niece to be around other peers who have lost a parent, and celebrate my brother in a way that wasn't too draining for her," Shalyn said.

For Shalyn's part, she's been volunteering as a "flower bud" in the Angela Hospice Care Center,

preparing flower arrangements that bring cheer to patients and their families.

"That's helped me a lot processing my grief," she said. "It's been very therapeutic."

Events like the Tree of Life can be therapeutic too, allowing families the opportunity to celebrate their loved ones who are now gone, honoring their memory, and affirming the love that will always remain.

This year's Tree of Life opening ceremony will include a performance by the Angela Hospice Choir, visit from Santa, hot cocoa bar, and the opportunity to personalize angels in honor of your loved ones.

FOLLOWING FELICIAN FOOTSTEPS

In July the Angela Hospice Board of Directors announced Jamie LaLonde will be Angela Hospice's next president and CEO upon Marti Coplai's retirement in December. As part of her orientation into the role, Jamie was invited to join representatives from other Felician ministries on a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, to gain a deeper understanding of the foundations of the Felician vocation, and the saints who inspired it: St. Felix, St. Clare and St. Francis.

An important goal of the pilgrimage was to immerse Jamie and the other leaders in the motivations and lifestyle of the Felician Sisters, inspiring them to lead with purpose and intention.

"I know that there's a great responsibility to take the investment that they made in me as an individual, to figure out, how do I carry all of that back to our team?" Jamie said.

The pilgrimage also strengthened her commitment to Angela Hospice.

"The responsibility held by the role of CEO is something that I don't take lightly, and especially now after the experience of going on Pilgrimage feels infinitely more sacred and special," she said. "It solidified my feeling that we're doing something really special at Angela Hospice."

With a background in social work, dementia care, and nursing home administration, Jamie first joined the Angela Hospice team in 2021. Among her main goals in leading Angela Hospice into the future, is securing Angela Hospice's position as an independent, not-for-profit organization. With the national trend toward an increase in for-profit hospices, many not-for-profit hospices are shrinking.

"I don't want that to be the case with us," Jamie said. "What did the Sisters do? They expanded and

they grew to share their mission."

As CEO, Jamie will be entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring the legacy of the Felician Sisters, a community she first became involved with during her childhood and early teen years in Bay City. She hopes to continue their relentless pursuit of serving the common good, and honor their intent to care for as many people as possible, working together with staff, volunteers, and the community toward this common goal.

"The spirit of giving and serving others in a really humble way feels really natural, and it feels like home to me," Jamie said. "There's not really a day that goes by that I don't feel that everybody here is something special as part of the team, and that there's value in what we have individually, and then collectively. I don't think there's anything we can't do."

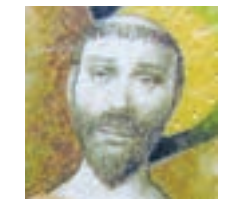


JAMIE LALONDE

MARTI COPLAI

Angela Hospice thanks Marti Coplai for her dedication and leadership. Among her many contributions to the organization are her wisdom in guiding Angela Hospice through the pandemic, her focus on DEI+B initiatives, and the expansion of Angela Hospice service area into north Oakland County; along with the opening of our Waterford Care Center, scheduled for December 9.

"It has been the pinnacle of my career to serve in this role," Marti wrote, "and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity and trust that the Felician Sisters, Felician Services Inc., and the Angela Hospice Board of Directors have given me to lead such an amazing organization."



St. Francis of Assisi left his extravagant lifestyle behind after hearing God's call. He

dedicated his life to serving the poor and marginalized, and preached the Gospel to lepers. He received the stigmata shortly before he died.



St. Clare of Assisi, inspired by the preaching of St. Francis, turned away

from a life of wealth and nobility to live simply in devotion to God. Others joined her as the Poor Clares. They supported Francis's ministry up until his death.



St. Felix of Cantalice became a Capuchin friar after being spared injury in a farm accident.

He joyfully sought donations on the streets of Rome for the friars' ministries to the poor and sick, preaching to the children through songs he composed.



PICTURED ABOVE: SHALYN FULLER (LEFT) AT THE TREE OF LIFE WITH HER MOTHER GLYNIS TRIMM, DAUGHTER ASHLYN FULLER, AND NIECE BRIELLE AVERYTTE.





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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Graphic Designer
Amanda Lawson
Contributing Writer
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14100 Newburgh Road,
Livonia, MI 48154
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FLOWING WITH *gratitude*

Angela Hospice was honored to receive a generous legacy gift from a family whose lives were touched by our services. After both parents received Angela Hospice care, their son continued his parents' legacy of generosity by bringing their wishes to life, and funding the renovation of the fountain at our Livonia Care Center.

The previous fountain, while beautiful, had become cost-prohibitive to maintain. But with this family's gift, a new fountain, crafted from elegant birch block, was installed in September, providing a tranquil oasis where patients, families, staff, and visitors alike can find solace.

"The design includes seating and areas for therapeutic support, allowing us to hold group grief sessions outdoors in this serene environment," said Jennifer Dale, Director of Community Outreach & Philanthropy at Angela Hospice.

We hope our community will enjoy the fountain for years to come—a testament to love, remembrance, and the enduring spirit of generosity that defines Angela Hospice.

For more about legacy gifts, such as wills, bequests, or gifts of assets, contact Director of Community Outreach & Philanthropy Jennifer Dale at 734.953.6009.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Angela Hospice was honored to care for 1,724 patients last year and provided 1,199 individual counseling sessions for grieving people. Thank you for making this possible as a treasured supporter of our mission! Read more about the impacts you have made through your generosity by reviewing our 2024 Annual Report.

You can find it online at angelahospice.org/publications or by scanning the QR code.

Thank you for supporting Angela Hospice!

