

SUMMER 2025

# M 40 MONARCH



*camp monarch*

HELPS KIDS TO MAKE SENSE  
OF THEIR GRIEF



We'll take you under our wing.®

# DECADES OF *devoted service*

As a man of faith, Dr. Jim Boal knows there is something to be said for following one's path in life. Sometimes it's less about striving for some glorious achievement, and more about humbly accepting an invitation. A door opens, and you step through it.



When Dr. Boal was a senior in medical school, he knew he had an interest in hospice. He assumed it would be something he could do on the side. In fact, while he was still in medical school, he and a buddy started picking up shifts at Angela Hospice, just hoping to make some extra money in their spare time. Eventually they started managing all the off hours, weekends, and holidays.

"At that time, most hospice doctors had gotten fed up with something else or were retired. In fact, most of the gentlemen that were working here before me were retired or near retirement," Dr. Boal explained. "It wasn't a full-time career for most people."

Dr. Boal had studied to become a family medicine physician, but finding work wasn't as easy as he'd imagined.

"When I was graduating, medical jobs around here were scarce," he said. "So I ended up asking Sister Giovanni for a full time job. She gave it to me, and I haven't looked back."

Hospice was relatively new at the time. There was no real road map for Dr. Boal to follow as a hospice medical director, and hiring him was a leap of faith for Sister Giovanni, Angela Hospice's founder, as well.

"I had to make my own job," he explained. "It established a new role here when I came in that really built over time."

And just as the number of families Angela Hospice served grew—from a daily census of 69 patients in 2000, to between 250-300 today—the medical team grew as well.

"Now there's myself, Dr. Mack, both full time; we have Dr. Tremonti as pediatric/palliative care; five nurse practitioners working full and part time."



**"I'LL JUST THANK SISTER GIOVANNI FOR MAKING A CURIOUS DECISION.... THAT WAS A DECISION SHE MADE THAT RADICALLY CHANGED MY LIFE."**

While the hospice industry as a whole has changed a great deal from a regulatory and business standpoint over Dr. Boal's 25-year tenure at Angela Hospice, the core of the hospice philosophy remains rooted in compassionate care for patients and families – especially at Angela where, Dr. Boal said, the team still carries "the vision that Sister Giovanni set almost forty years ago."

"Our focus is really: how much can we do to take the burden off people at the end of life. If you're here, you're here to help others," he said. "It's a very hard time of life for people and their families who are dying. Trying to make that the best possible experience in a horrible time is what we're about."

For Dr. Boal, the best part of his job is visiting patients in their homes, where they feel most comfortable and at ease. He loves to be able to help people through genuine, human-to-human connection.

Having spent 25 years helping Angela Hospice to grow, Dr. Boal hopes to see Angela Hospice continue to build on its strengths, while staying true to its identity as a Felician-sponsored ministry.

"We're one of the few places that has managed to keep a functional Care Center over the years," he said. "I would love to see us be able to continue what we do, spread it out, and show that we can do it well, and as a not-for-profit."

In terms of its role in the health care system, Dr. Boal believes hospice is here to stay.

"If you know that you're dying, it's the place to come. It's a scary thing. People don't want to do it. They want to put it off. But it's something that we will all have to face at some point, that we all die in some form. And if you have the choice on how to die, of the options available, hospice is inevitably the best choice."

# BRAVE HEARTS LEARNING TO *heal*

Angela Hospice's devoted Grief Care team is preparing an adventure for some very special young people. Their Camp Monarch for grieving children ages 5-12 is taking on an exploration theme, and over the two-day camp held in July, grief counselors will lead children through activities and exercises to help them find healing and hope.

Children grieve differently than adults, and the grownups in their lives many find it confusing to know how to support them. Many times children's grief is expressed through behavior or play. They may be upset and crying about their loss, then laughing and playing just moments later. Using a variety of therapeutic games and activities, Camp Monarch offers a safe space, where kids can feel all their feelings, find support from our grief care social workers, and still have fun in the process.



**CAMPERS WERE ASKED WHAT THEY LEARNED LAST YEAR AT CAMP MONARCH. HERE ARE SOME OF THEIR RESPONSES:**



"Even in the middle of grief, there is still room to grow, to laugh, and to feel love," said Grief Counselor Joyce Lee. "Camp Monarch is where brave hearts come together to heal."

"I can be sad and still have fun."

"I learned to be kind to people who are grieving."

"It's okay to talk about my person—I don't have to keep it all inside."

"I didn't know other kids missed someone like I do."

"I made friends who understand how I feel."

Coming together is an important part of the process too, as campers come to realize they're not the only one who lost someone special—other kids are feeling the same things they are. Helping to normalize their experience supports children to feel less alone, more accepted, and more confident.

Camp Monarch is open to grieving children throughout the community free-of-charge, through a grant from the Helen L. Kay Charitable Trust.



## CAMP MONARCH

Join us on a journey to explore the obstacles of grief and discover adventures along the way.

### DATE & TIME:

Saturday, July 12 & Sunday, July 13, 2025  
8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### LOCATION:

Angela Hospice Grounds  
14100 Newburgh Road  
Livonia, MI 48154

### REGISTER BY JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>:

Visit us online at [angelahospice.org/campmonarch](http://angelahospice.org/campmonarch) or call 734.464.3277



# everyday moments OF BEAUTY

As an artist, having your artwork on display in New York City could be truly exciting. But while Sylvia Bandyke's work was being featured in Times Square this past March, she was far away from the big city lights, gathered with family in her mother's Dearborn home.

Sylvia and her sister, Mary Hope, had been taking care of their mother, Helen, for the last several years. As Helen's mobility declined, her daughters hired a caregiver in the neighborhood, Sharon Stanley, to help on days when they couldn't be there with her. As Helen grew weaker, she relied on Sharon more, for help getting ready for bed, using the stairs, and eventually for getting in and out of a wheelchair. It was a huge relief for Sylvia and Mary Hope to know that Sharon was there and could help their



MARY HOPE, SYLVIA  
& HELEN

mother. When Covid hit, Sylvia quarantined with her mother and sister, making art in their cozy family home with the "gorgeous natural light."

Sylvia found inspiration there, noticing the different ways the light shone from the north, east, and south windows. She found ways to capture not only beauty, but precious memories there through her photography and collages. Just as Sylvia found beautiful moments in their home, her mother also savored their life together.

"It was inspiring to watch Mother," Sylvia reflected. "She couldn't even walk any more, but she still found these everyday ways to be content and to experience joy. It was really beautiful."

One afternoon, as Sharon took Helen for a walk



ONE OF SYLVIA'S COLLAGES OF HELEN

To see more of Sylvia Bandyke's artwork, visit our blog at [angelahospice.org/bandyke](http://angelahospice.org/bandyke)

through the neighborhood, a sudden rainstorm began. Mary Hope, a retired art teacher, sensed an artistic opportunity and called Sylvia over to capture the moment. Sylvia took many photos, creating a series of collages to honor the dedication of Sharon's care, and the beauty of such a simple, fleeting moment.

As Helen's health continued to decline, she transitioned from Angela Palliative Care to Angela Hospice's Home Hospice program so she and her family could have around-the-clock support.

Her nurse, Kristyn, would visit during the day, and Sylvia could call the Patient Support Center whenever they had a

question or needed help. Day or night, support was only a phone call away.

"One night the nurse even called the doctor at 3 a.m. when Mother needed a new medicine added," Sylvia relayed. "Their availability was remarkable."

After about a month in hospice care, Helen passed away peacefully on March 29, 2025—her 104th birthday.

"We thought she had more time," Sylvia said. "We thought Mother would recover..." just as she had so many times in the past.

After Helen's death, one of Angela Hospice's grief counselors reached out to Sylvia as well, continuing Angela's compassionate care for Sylvia and Mary Hope.

For Sylvia, art has become more than a creative outlet—it has become a tool for healing.

"It's almost like meditation, in a way. It helps so much," Sylvia said. She continues to use her artistic talent to capture life's beautiful moments and as a tool to help process her grief.

Sylvia had always been interested in photography, but after visiting ArtPrize in Grand Rapids years ago, she decided to submit some of her work to the festival, and exhibited as an artist there from 2014-2018. She has exhibited in other shows as well, including those in New York this year.

## We invite you to our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!

Generously sponsored by  
Felician Sisters of North America

Thursday, October 16, 2025  
6 p.m.

Italian American Banquet & Conference Center, Livonia  
[angelahospice.org/40th](http://angelahospice.org/40th)

Angela Hospice has come a long way as an organization over four decades, and we know that this has only been possible through the generous support of our community. That is why we are honored to celebrate YOU!

### OUR PATIENTS' FAMILIES

For entrusting us with the care of your loved ones

### OUR EMPLOYEES & VOLUNTEERS

For the exceptional gift of your time and compassionate service



### OUR DONORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

For extending the mission of Angela Hospice

### OUR FELICIAN FOUNDERS

Without the Sisters, Angela Hospice would never have existed or helped so many in our community!

Dinner & Dessert  
Open Beer & Wine Bar  
Raffle & Auction  
Special Presentation

We hope you will  
join us at this  
meaningful event!

100% of ticket price  
benefits the caring programs  
of Angela Hospice.



Chuck Gaidica  
Special Guest

## WITH GRATITUDE...

Dear Care Team,

Words cannot fully express how grateful our family is for the care, compassion, and expertise we received from your team during our time at the **Angela Hospice Care Center in Waterford**.

Our journey began with a simple phone inquiry to the Livonia facility, where we were met with clear, heartfelt guidance on the steps and procedures for entering care at Angela Hospice. That same day, a team arrived to evaluate our mom/wife. The social worker and home care nurse entered our home with such compassion, guiding us through an incredibly difficult time as we faced her decline.

Making the decision to move our mom from her home was not easy, but from the moment we arrived, we were welcomed with warmth and made to feel at home. The surroundings were peaceful and comforting. Beyond the expert medical care she received, we as a family also felt deeply cared for—both medically and spiritually. Your team went above and beyond, offering extra kindness and support to our 86-year-old dad.

The nurses who attended to our mom provided care with remarkable knowledge and years of hospice experience, yet their approach was deeply personal and kind. Their compassion will forever be etched in our hearts as part of Kathy's story.

Though we grieve her loss deeply, we find peace knowing she is in Heaven with her Savior. Thank you for walking with us through her final days with such dignity and love.

With heartfelt appreciation,

The Family of Kathy King



Angela Hospice's caring support is available to families both before and after a loved one dies, through donor-funded programs like our one-on-one grief counseling. To make a gift and provide loving support to families like the Bandykes, visit [angelahospice.org/donate](http://angelahospice.org/donate).



# WALK OF REMEMBRANCE: HONORING LOVED ONES TOGETHER

Every year, Angela Hospice hosts the Walk of Remembrance—a dedicated day where families and friends come together to reflect, honor, and celebrate the lives of loved ones who have passed. Whether walking alone or as part of a team, participants find solace and community at this meaningful event.

For Louise Hopping, 2024 marked her first year participating in the Walk of Remembrance. She joined the walk after losing her mother in August 2023. Surrounded by a circle of close friends, Louise formed a team affectionately named “La Solana Sisters,” a tribute to her cherished mother, Marilyn, and a show of support from those who stood by her through a difficult time.

Louise shared that her mother had been diagnosed with cancer and was hospitalized following a fall. During that hospital stay, a social worker recommended her mother pursue hospice care. “We were surprised, we didn’t expect to need hospice care so soon,” Louise explained.

As the primary caregiver, Louise was grateful for the timing; a teacher on summer break, she was able to be there for her mom, and her 90-year-old dad. Her mother received Home Hospice Care from Angela Hospice for close to a year.

“It was the best decision we ever made,” Louise said. “Early hospice made things easier for mom and less stressful for us. My mom wanted to spend her final days at home, and hospice allowed us to make that wish come true.”

Reflecting on her first Walk of Remembrance, Louise shared, “I very much enjoyed it. The walk down ‘Memory Lane’ was so cool to see. It was a special way to honor and remember mom.” La Solana Sisters received a custom-made poster after collectively raising donations, funds that directly support Angela Hospice’s caring programs.

At the end of the trail, walkers are invited to participate in a rock painting activity—a touching way to create a keepsake. It was especially meaningful for Louise, whose mother’s nickname was “Rocky.” One of Louise’s teammates, an artist, created a beautiful piece of rock art and gifted it to her father, who was not able to attend.

“He keeps it on the TV stand at home,” she said. “It’s a beautiful memento in honor of mom.”

For Louise, and many others, the Walk of Remembrance is not just an event—it’s a healing experience.

“It was a very relaxing day to take time out to remember Mom. We loved the atmosphere and soft music in the background. It was comforting to be amongst others who are experiencing the same thing [grief],” Louise said.

**September 6, 2025 • 10 a.m. • Angela Hospice Grounds**

You are invited to take part in the Walk of Remembrance by forming a team, walking with friends and family, and creating your own moments of remembrance.

For more information on participating in the Walk of Remembrance, please contact Helen Balmforth at 734.464.3478 or visit [angelahospice.org/walk](http://angelahospice.org/walk)



L TO R: MADDIE, RANDY, AND DENISE COOK (HOLDING BABY AUSTIN JEAN), SAM AND NATE GUZA, LOUISE HOPPING, AND PAT CHEAL.

## START A TEAM!

Creating a fundraising team is a wonderful way to honor your loved one, while supporting a great cause:

### TEAMS RAISING \$150-\$299 RECEIVE:

- Team poster with a photo of your loved one along the route

### TEAMS RAISING \$300-\$499 RECEIVE:

- Team poster with a photo of your loved one along the route
- Team name in event program and on T-shirts

### TEAMS RAISING \$500+ RECEIVE:

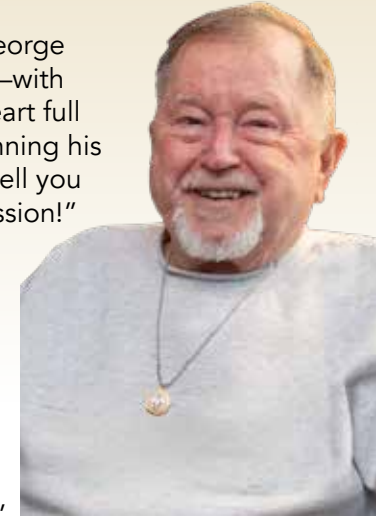
- Team poster with a photo of your loved one along the route
- Team name in event program and on T-shirts
- Team name on banner

# a legacy of love

GEORGE SKI'S  
LIFELONG COMMITMENT  
TO ANGELA HOSPICE

At 87 years young, George “Rudy” Ski is still giving—with humility, humor, and a heart full of gratitude. When beginning his interview, he joked, “I’ll tell you everything but my confession!”

George’s journey with Angela Hospice began in 1998 with a dear friend, Lillian Blacha’s, dying wish. She asked George, “When I pass away do me an honor and volunteer here. This place was made for you.”



For decades now, he has honored his friend’s wish with his steady, smiling presence at Angela Hospice. His volunteer tasks began with sweeping stairs and painting benches; and later provided him the opportunity to visit and pray with countless hospice patients.

“I was humbled,” he said, “It didn’t matter what the job was. It mattered that I could help and keep my promise to my friend.”

George initially trained as a Franciscan friar, then led a successful career in the financial industry. Even while working as a banking executive, George always appreciated the opportunity to serve others. Having recovered from his own battle with alcoholism, he helped colleagues who were facing similar challenges. That same spirit of compassion and care found a home at Angela Hospice.

“I always felt welcomed,” George said, describing why he’s continued to support Angela Hospice for so long. “I loved it. I had fun, I learned from other people, my love of people and my love of life.”

That humble and faith-filled spirit was ingrained early. One of 11 children, George grew up in a household where money was tight, but generosity

overflowed. His father, a hardworking milkman, provided for their large family, and his mother gave whatever she could to charity, in most instances a single dollar. “She’d say, ‘dollars add up,’” George remembered. And they do. Over time, those dollars—and hours—became something much greater.

Now George is not only one of Angela Hospice’s longest-serving volunteers, but also one of its most generous supporters. As a member of Angela Hospice’s Legacy Society, he has included Angela Hospice in his will to ensure Angela’s mission endures for generations to come.

Of course, George’s years at Angela Hospice have been marked by more than just service, they’ve been full of community, camaraderie, and even comedy. Like the time he came to work dressed in a priest’s robe for Halloween, only to be met by visitors eager to confess.

Through it all, George’s favorite quote has grounded him: The Serenity Prayer. “Lord grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

“I want to pave the way,” George said. “If you have the means, or just the heart, leave something behind. Time, money, whatever you can. It all matters.”

Angela Hospice is proud to honor George Ski’s compassion and commitment, and we invite you to join him. The Angela Hospice Legacy Society recognizes those who include Angela Hospice in their will or trust, helping ensure compassionate care continues well into the future.



If you’d like to learn more about making a legacy gift or joining the Angela Hospice Legacy Society, please contact Jennifer Dale, Director of Community Outreach & Philanthropy, at 734.953.6009.

## YOU’RE INVITED: JUNE COFFEE CLUB

Join us for a special morning of gratitude and connection at our June Coffee Club event. Enjoy coffee and light refreshments as we thank you for your ongoing support.

Our Grief Care team will share a brief introduction to Thanabotany™—the fascinating relationship between plants and the grieving process—along with insights into the supporting services Grief Care offers. Attendees can also take part in a fun, hands-on planting activity to take home as a thoughtful keepsake.

Thursday, June 26, 2025

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Angela Hospice  
Livonia Care Center  
Outdoor Portico



This event is free to attend, but space is limited. Please RSVP to Amanda by June 24 at [alawson@angelahospice.us](mailto:alawson@angelahospice.us) or call 734.953.6014. We look forward to seeing you!





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 Centers  
Pediatric & Prenatal Care  
Grief Care  
Palliative Care

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*The Monarch*  
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Livonia, MI 48154  
734.464.3478 • AskForAngela.com  
A Felician-sponsored ministry



What might seem like an ordinary Thursday afternoon is made extra special for Mary and Dave Dilks. That's because they can spend quality time together in Angela Hospice's Livonia Care Center, where Mary can have her needs met, and Dave, her youngest son, can rest assured that his mother is in good hands.

Mary has resided at Angela Hospice since February, when a health crisis left her unable to regain mobility. She spoke with a sense of gratitude for the care she's received at the center.

"I'm comfortable, and I'm not in any pain," she said.

At 95 years old, Mary has seen and done so much. Through 58 years of marriage, she and her husband raised three children, and traveled across the country, visiting all 50 states. Mary clearly remembers every date and life event, and her sharp wit is as vibrant as ever.

"She beat me at Scrabble this afternoon!" Dave shared.



DAVE VISITING MARY AT THE CARE CENTER



MARY RECEIVING CARE FROM NURSE CHRISTINA

Mary always believed in living life to the fullest, and she can do that more easily now thanks to the assistance of her hospice team. Support in Angela Hospice's Care Centers is made possible through the generosity of Angela Hospice donors, whose contributions ensure that quality care is available for patients like Mary in a beautiful, home-like setting, around the clock.

To make your gift and ensure that more patients receive the compassionate care they deserve, visit [angelahospice.org/donate](http://angelahospice.org/donate).