

# Connections



SPRING 2014

News & Events from Hospice of Michigan

For more information, check [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org)

## ‘Have You Had the Talk’ series debuts in West Michigan

Five years ago, Hospice of Michigan developed a program called *Have You Had the Talk?* to help people talk with their loved ones about their end-of-life wishes. Through community-based efforts and the diligence of one of our committee members, it caught the attention of Fox 17 West Michigan, who asked to produce a multi-segment feature story on our *Have You Had the Talk?* program.

The first in the 5-part series aired on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2 during the morning newscast and again following the game. Additionally, special promotional messages featuring notable West Michigan residents aired in the local access commercial spots during the Super Bowl broadcast.

The series, hosted by Fox 17 reporter Deanna Falzone, followed the experiences of three West Michigan families having their talk, including Hospice of Michigan’s registered nurse Siddeequa Bradshaw and Foundation Board member Barbara Gerson.



**Barbara Gerson, Foundation Board member**

These segments aired during the month of February and featured one family per segment, highlighting their unique set of experiences as they discussed end-of-life wishes. Each week, viewers became even more equipped with the knowledge and confidence to begin the process on their own.

The series wrapped up with a 30-minute town hall meeting hosted by Fox 17 news anchor Michele DeSelms. This panel discussion featured

several notable West Michigan experts on end-of-life:

**Sister Myra Bergman**, Mission Outreach, Mercy Health

**Dr. Michael Paletta**, VP of Medical Affairs, Hospice of Michigan

**Susan Mueller**, MSW, Social Worker, Hospice of Michigan

You may view these broadcasts by visiting Fox 17’s [www.fox17online.com](http://www.fox17online.com) and search for *Have You Had the Talk?*.

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## Hospice of Michigan offers statewide palliative care

At Home Choices is a new program offered free of charge by Hospice of Michigan. It is one of a growing suite of advanced illness management programs developed by Hospice of Michigan to improve care, reduce costs and allow patients to remain in their homes for as long as possible. Patients referred to the program have serious, life-limiting illnesses who would benefit from pain and symptom management and other palliative care services.



Meeting with a clinical staff member to develop an individualized treatment plan is the first step for patients enrolling in Hospice of Michigan's At Home Choices.

When beginning the At Home Choices program, new patients receive an in-person needs assessment by a clinical staff member to develop an individual scope treatment plan. The patient then is assigned a dedicated nurse case manager who assists the patient with palliative needs and care planning in collaboration with the patient's primary care physician.

The nurse case manager can bring additional resources, which might include a social worker and spiritual care adviser, to assist the family. If necessary, a palliative care physician also might be called.

When patients experience pain, they contact their At Home Choices nurse and explain the symptoms. The nurse asks several questions to fully understand what

is happening with their patient. Often the outcome is prescribing a drug and following up to make sure the symptoms have subsided. This course of treatment cuts down the number of emergency room visits.



Hospice of Michigan launched its At Home Choices program last October, initially only offering it on a small scale to patients in southeastern Michigan. After seeing positive results, At Home Choices was made available to patients and families served by any of the organization's 16 offices statewide. Hospice of Michigan currently provides hospice and palliative care for more than 1,400 patients per day in 56 Michigan counties stretching across the Lower Peninsula.

"We see tremendous need for expanded palliative care services in our state, so Hospice of Michigan is responding," said President and CEO Robert Cahill. "By offering additional support early on to those suffering from serious illness, we are able to better manage symptoms and relieve pain. This type of care can relieve stress and anxiety for the patient and their caregiver.



Robert J. Cahill

"We're very pleased to offer this new service to the community," Cahill said. "It's improving patient care and adding to quality of life."

To make a referral or to learn more about At Home Choices, contact our Telesupport Center (877) 227-8823.

## Volunteers keep vigil during patients' final moments

Volunteers fill many important roles at Hospice of Michigan, including patient care, grief support, community outreach and office administration. Some choose to offer their services as “vigil volunteers,” supporting the patient, family and friends during the final hours of the patient’s life.

A typical vigil visit lasts two to four hours. Volunteers play music, read inspirational readings or scripture, or hold the patient’s hand. In addition to sitting vigil with the dying person when their family can’t be there, volunteers often sit alongside loved ones to offer comfort, reassurance and a shoulder to cry on.

“This isn’t a new concept,” said Volunteer Program Manager Kathy Julien. “People have been sitting

vigil with the dying for centuries. Traditionally, family, friends and clergy would gather around the dying person to offer comfort and support to the patient and to each other.”

All prospective volunteers go through a 12-hour training course in which they learn more about Hospice of Michigan, the principles of hospice, the grieving process and how to help patients, families and staff. There’s an optional three-hour grief support session that, while not required, is recommended.

“When someone accepts that their loved one will die, their fear of the loved one dying is often replaced by a fear that they will die alone,” Julien said. “It’s our job to help ease these fears and provide comfort, support

and reassurance to patients and their families.”

To learn about volunteering for Hospice of Michigan, visit [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org).

### *April is National Volunteer Month*

Hospice of Michigan salutes the more than 800 volunteers throughout the state who provide extraordinary compassionate care to our patients and families. Our volunteers give 32,000 hours of their time each year to help with our patients’ needs, provide companionship to families during a difficult time in their loved one’s life and offer caregiver relief.

## Memory Bears provide comfort and smiles

For many years, Hospice of Michigan has had a Memory Bear program, where volunteers create patchwork teddy bears for patient families. The bears are approximately eight inches tall and are made from clothing provided by a family member which was worn by their loved one who died on our program. For this reason, each Memory Bear is unique.



offices for many years, and has since expanded to other areas, including Metro Detroit.

According to Grief Support Services Director Karen Monts, the bears provide great

comfort to families because they offer a tangible—and even sensory—reminder of their loved one. Typically the clothing remains unwashed so it will retain the scent of the wearer—at least for a while.

The bear in the photo was given to Angela Berger, a Clinton Township resident who lost her mother to cancer last year. The bear is made of heavy fleece once worn by Angela’s mother, and includes elements of another article of clothing ... her “Snow White

and the Seven Dwarfs” sweatshirt. Like the character, it even has a stocking cap. The bear also has a *Grumpy* knapsack, with a personal note inside from the volunteer who made it. Its owner is delighted with her Memory Bear, and describes it as, “like hugging my mom.”

Memory Bears have been offered in Alpena, Ludington and Big Rapids



### *Inspired ...*

Hospice of Michigan’s Contract Services Coordinator Monica Romero was so inspired by the



Memory Bears program that she now volunteers her time and sewing talents to make bears for our families.

## Do-It-Yourself fundraisers

### Beryle's Bowling Bash

Iris "Beryle" Prittie was an avid bowler. So much so, that after she was admitted to hospice, Beryle celebrated her birthday with a grand party at her favorite bowling alley.

Now she is the namesake of an annual bowling fundraiser, thanks to her family.

When she died on Hospice of Michigan's program, the family wanted to honor her memory and give back to the organization. They teamed up with Thunder Bowl Lanes, where Prittie was a regular, and organized the fundraiser as a celebration of her life. In October the community came together and raised more than \$4,500 for Hospice of Michigan.

### Chilicious

Compuware Corporation and Quicken Loans teamed up for the second annual "Chili Challenge in the D." Twenty-five chefs from both companies donated \$25 to reserve a spot in the chili challenge.

The chili entries were judged by fellow team members in the following categories:

- Hottest (Spice Level)
- Best Presentation
- Most Creative
- Best Vegetarian
- Funniest Name

Compuware and Quicken Loans team members had the opportunity to purchase an "Event Tasting Ticket" for \$10 and vote for their favorite chili entries. Prizes were awarded to the top three chili chefs. This year's Chili Challenge in the D raised more than \$4,500 for Hospice of Michigan.



### Mask Project

The Ludington Mask Project is an annual community fundraiser to benefit Hospice of Michigan. In its 14th year, the addition of a restaurant Grub Crawl was added to this already very successful and fun event.

Participants sampled dishes from many of the Ludington area's most popular restaurants. Festivities began at Brenda's Harbor Cafe, where participants received their admission ticket and got their first punch. With each punch, participants gained another entry into a drawing for the grand prize: more than \$1,000 worth of gifts, certificates and other items.

The evening concluded at Barley and Rye, where a variety of unique decorative masks were auctioned and the drawing was held.

In addition to raising awareness for Hospice of Michigan, the Mask Project generated a grand total of \$5,760 for patient care in the Ludington community.



### Soup Up for Hospice

The Taylor Eagles Aerie #3138 hosted its 15th Annual Soup Up event to benefit Hospice of Michigan.



This community event featured assorted soups prepared by members and local restaurants. In addition, attendees enjoyed live entertainment, live and silent auctions, a pool tournament, numerous 50/50 raffles and basket raffles of items donated by local businesses.

This year's Soup Up raised more than \$10,000, bringing the Taylor Eagles 15-year fundraising total to more than \$80,000.

"Our organization has a deep commitment to giving back to the community," said Soup Up Co-chair Barbara Kirby. "We appreciate the great work that Hospice of Michigan does each day, and this is our way to support them. It's an added bonus that the donations stay in our own community."

### Thinking of organizing a do-it-yourself event for Hospice of Michigan?

Feel free to contact the following individuals for advice.

Northeast Michigan  
Brenda Herman  
(989) 358-4291, [bherman@hom.org](mailto:bherman@hom.org)

Southeast Michigan  
Kishon Harbert  
(313) 578-6268, [kharbert@hom.org](mailto:kharbert@hom.org)

West Michigan  
Barbara Anderson  
(616) 356-5266, [banderso@hom.org](mailto:banderso@hom.org)

### Casual For A Cause



Encourage local businesses to do a fun and easy fundraiser to benefit

Hospice of Michigan. Associates donate \$5 to dress casually or in jeans on a given day and wear a sticker that says, "I Support Hospice of Michigan Casual For A Cause." Stickers are available by contacting Barbara Anderson at (616) 356-5266 or email her at [banderso@hom.org](mailto:banderso@hom.org).

## Lace up those sneakers!

Celebrate life in strides at Hospice of Michigan's spring fundraisers. They are a time-honored way for families and community members to celebrate the memories of their loved ones. Occurring in May and June this year, walk and race events will be held in:

- Alpena, June 14 –  pet-friendly walk (1- or 2-miles)
- Detroit, May 17 – pet-friendly walk (1- or 2-miles) and a certified 5K run
- Grand Rapids, May 17 – pet-friendly 5K walk

While enjoying the activities and beautiful settings, take time to visit the memory tree to honor your loved ones by tying on a special ribbon.

So get ready, get set and gather up your family, friends and pets and join us. Register today!

Visit [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org) for easy sign-up. For questions about registration, donations or sponsorship opportunities, call (800) 669-9335 or email [teamR@hom.org](mailto:teamR@hom.org).



## All car donation programs are not the same. Donating to Charity Motors is different.

Hospice of Michigan has partnered with Charity Motors since 1996, encouraging our supporters to use Charity Motors when thinking of donating a vehicle. Since that time, 584 donors have helped to contribute more than \$447,000 to Hospice of Michigan through their vehicle donation. Unlike other car-donation programs, Charity Motors is able to guarantee donors the full fair-market-value tax deduction for their vehicle at the time of the donation.

Charity Motors' special transportation assistance program will sell your




vehicle—at a discount—to someone in need, and donate the proceeds to Hospice of Michigan. This not only helps provide individuals who have struggled to find access to transportation, the freedom of their own car or truck, but it also helps ensure quality end-of-life care to all who need and seek our services.

If you are thinking about donating your car or truck, please keep Hospice of Michigan and Charity Motors in mind, while maximizing the value of your tax deduction.

### Join Hospice of Michigan's New Online Community and Social Media Networks

Join Hospice of Michigan's Online Community to get monthly e-communications from us. You can stay up-to-date with our latest news, events, volunteer opportunities and fundraising activities. Simply go to [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org) to register your email address.

You can also join the more than 3,100 friends and followers we have on Facebook and Twitter. Please encourage your friends and family to do the same!

 [www.facebook.com/hospiceofmichigan](http://www.facebook.com/hospiceofmichigan)

 [www.twitter.com/HospiceofMI](http://www.twitter.com/HospiceofMI)

## Hospice of Michigan's Pediatric Early Care Program

Hospice of Michigan's Pediatric Early Care program (PEC) provides a range of services to families of children facing life-limiting illness from the time of diagnosis. This program—the only one of its kind in Michigan—enables families to continue to pursue curative treatment options while also engaging pediatric social workers. Social workers provide emotional, social and decision-making support for the entire family, and are able to connect them with specialized community resources who can assist with financial, emotional, social, legal and other needs. With the PEC program, children who might otherwise be referred to hospice only at the very end of life are able to receive needed services much earlier.

While the PEC program is the fastest growing program within all of Hospice of Michigan, the best way to understand its impact is through a family's experience.

Josie Black had her first surgery when she was 5 days old.

Her doctors worked to remove a racquetball-sized tumor on her brain, but the infant went into cardiac arrest and her brain began bleeding, so they stopped short of getting all of it. The pathology came back “no cancer,” and parents Darcia and Marc breathed a momentary sigh of relief.

Yet two months later, the tumor had grown back to its original size and required surgery again. Josie's doctors took careful precautions to prevent the vascular bleeding that had halted the last surgery, although the nature of the tumor and its location proved difficult again. This time, the doctors found two



**Josie with Santa (longtime Hospice of Michigan volunteer Kraig Haybarker)**

types of cancer—and the Blacks' world became a merry-go-round of doctor visits and treatments.

“During the first few months of Josie's life, we were put in contact with Hospice of Michigan's Pediatric Early Care program,” recalled Darcia Black. “While she survived the surgeries, she suffered from seizures, a sodium issue and some other things that nearly took her life. Hospice of Michigan's pediatric social worker, Sheila Schindler, has been with us every step of the way since then.”

Sheila is one of five pediatric social workers who work for Hospice of Michigan. Like all of Hospice of

Michigan's social workers, Sheila's role extends to the entire family. Josie's sisters, 7-year-old Eliza and 9-year-old Reese, really love play therapy with Schindler. The whole family appreciates the “extras” that Hospice of Michigan provides, such as tickets to *Princesses On Ice* or *Sesame Street Live*—or a private visit from Santa Claus during the holidays.

After two years of chemo and a year of rest, 3-year-old Josie is officially in remission. The Blacks took Josie for an MRI the day after Santa's visit and had fingers crossed that everything would be stable and steady, a diagnosis that was the best possible Christmas present for the whole family.

### ***A Special PEC Thanks!***

Since 1994, the Hospice of Michigan James B. Fahner, MD, Pediatric Hospice Care Program is the only provider in West Michigan with a dedicated pediatric team offering a full spectrum encompassing three services: pediatric early care (pre-hospice), perinatal, and hospice.

With the growing need for pediatric early care in other communities, Hospice of Michigan is grateful to JoElyn Nyman for her philanthropic support. With Nyman's generous gifts totaling \$300,000, Hospice of Michigan is now able to offer these much-needed services in southeastern Michigan.

There are currently more than 125 children receiving Hospice of Michigan's PEC services.



## June B. Hamersma Planned Giving Society

June B. Hamersma  
Founding member,  
Hospice of Michigan  
Foundation Board

The June B. Hamersma Society recognizes individuals who have named Hospice of Michigan as a beneficiary in their estate plans, trusts or wills. These individuals share in June's vision and passion of leaving a legacy for the future of Hospice of Michigan.

For more information about remembering Hospice of Michigan in your estate planning or how to become a member of this Society, please call Stephanie Le (313) 578-6302.

- |                                      |                                  |                                |                             |                              |                               |
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## Attention Amazon shoppers!

Hospice of Michigan is now eligible to receive charitable donations from the AmazonSmile Foundation. This is an exciting and easy way to make a donation to Hospice of Michigan.

You can support Hospice of Michigan every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at **smile.amazon.com**, you'll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

Not every product on the site is eligible for donations. Eligible products are marked "*Eligible for AmazonSmile donation*" on their product detail pages.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations. The site will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation. Of course, we hope you'll choose Hospice of Michigan.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from all eligible purchases.

Please share this shopping tip with your friends and family members.



*Fun fact: Ever wonder about that arrow-shaped smile under the logo name? It represents "from A to Z."*

# Hospice of Michigan

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## Mission Statement

Hospice of Michigan's mission is to ensure quality of life, comfort and peace for our patients and provide support for their loved ones during their end-of-life experience. We will serve everyone in our communities who needs and seeks our care and strive to improve the state of comfort care.



Hospice of Michigan  
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Detroit, MI 48201

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## CONNECTIONS SPRING 2014

*A newsletter for donors and friends of Hospice of Michigan*

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400 Mack  
Detroit, MI 48201

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Ada, MI 49301

112 W Chisholm St.  
Alpena, MI 49707

555 Briarwood Circle,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

400 Perry  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

43097 Woodward  
Bloomfield Hills  
MI 48302

932 N. Mitchell  
Cadillac, MI 49601

44720 Hayes Road  
Clinton Twp, MI 48038

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Fremont, MI 49412

830 S. Otsego  
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5177 W. US-10  
Ludington, MI 49431

1930 E. Apple Ave.  
Muskegon, MI 49442

197 W Erie Street  
Rogers City, MI 49779

3995 Fashion Square  
Saginaw, MI 48603

26957 Northwestern  
Southfield, MI 48033

10850 E. Traverse Hwy.  
Traverse City, MI 49684

To make a donation or volunteer for Hospice of Michigan, call 888-247-5701. All donations help patients and families in the donor's community unless otherwise requested by the donor.

### CONNECTIONS STAFF

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If you wish to remove your name from future fundraising solicitations, please contact: Statewide Data Services Manager, Dianne Rose [drose@hom.org](mailto:drose@hom.org) or (616) 356-5232.