

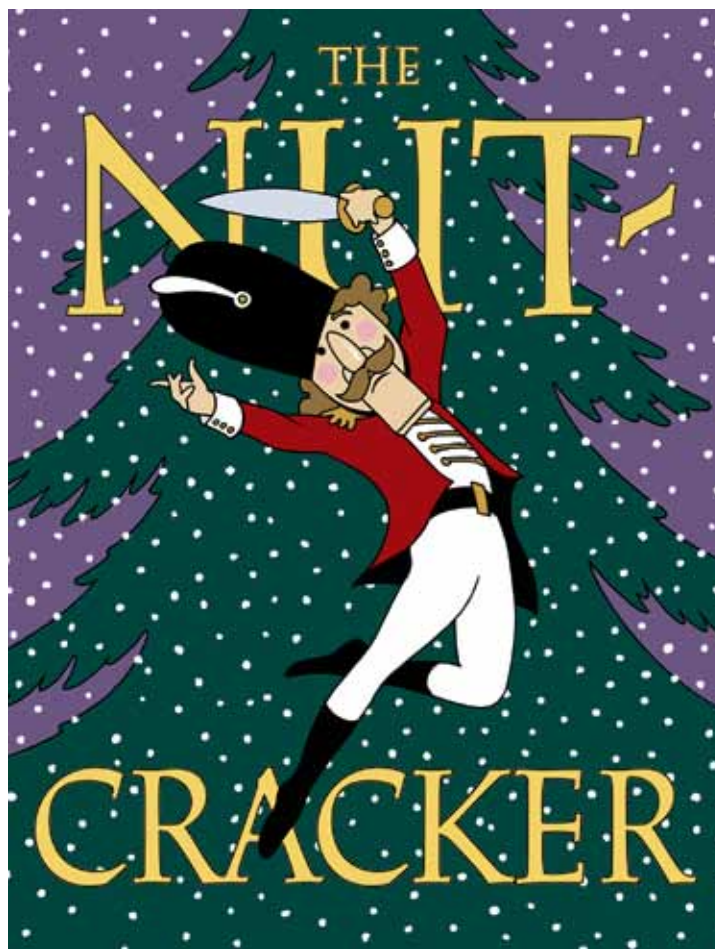


## The Nutcracker Gala to benefit pediatric care

Hospice of Michigan and the Grand Rapids Ballet are embarking on an exciting new partnership this winter that will feature the world premiere of a completely re-imagined version of the celebrated ballet, *The Nutcracker*.

This spectacular black-tie evening, presented by Art Van Furniture, will include cocktails, dinner at DeVos Place and the performance of *The Nutcracker* at DeVos Performance Hall. A star-studded afterglow reception at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel will follow the performance. *The Nutcracker* Premiere Gala will be the first opportunity to experience this newly created holiday classic. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Grand Rapids Ballet and Hospice of Michigan's Pediatric Programs which provide hospice and palliative care to children and their families in most of the communities in the Lower Peninsula.

The creative vision for the ballet comes from award-winning author



and illustrator Chris Van Allsburg. Van Allsburg is best known for his books, *The Polar Express*, *Zathura*, and *Jumanji*, which all became motion pictures. The ballet will include sets by Eugene Lee, who has won Tony

Awards for set design for *Sweeney Todd*, *Wicked*, and *Candide*. Val Caniparoli is the choreographer.

Van Allsburg is a Grand Rapids native and longtime supporter of Hospice of Michigan. In 2004, he premiered the film version of *The Polar Express* in Grand Rapids to a sold-out gala that benefited Hospice of Michigan's pediatric program. The film starred Tom Hanks and was praised by audiences and critics alike.

LeeAnn Clay, co-chair of *The Nutcracker* steering committee and vice chair of the Hospice of Michigan foundation board observed, "We're thrilled to work with Chris again and honored to join the Grand Rapids Ballet as a beneficiary of

*The Nutcracker's* December 11th Premiere Gala for this extraordinary community event."

For more information or for tickets, please contact Barbara Anderson at (616) 356-5266 or [BAnderso@hom.org](mailto:BAnderso@hom.org).

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## A message from Bob



**Bob Cahill**

Hospice of Michigan is working every day to ensure that compassionate hospice care is available to everyone.

That's been our mission for more than 34 years and

we remain committed to it. What you may not realize are the challenges that government sequestration pose to our ability to deliver our mission.

Last year, Congress implemented across-the-board spending cuts for Medicare reimbursed hospice care for hospice providers across the country. These forced spending cuts, which

will remain in place and compound annually for 10 years, are a process called sequestration. The impact to Hospice of Michigan equates to a 2% reduction in its annual revenue, equaling millions of dollars.

Historically, Hospice of Michigan, with the support of the Board of Trustees, has made strategic operational decisions that help us successfully and nimbly navigate change. In fact, Hospice of Michigan's five-year strategic plan was developed to prepare us to continue to deliver quality care and remain fiscally sound. Our ongoing efforts to reduce expenses, improve our processes, maximize technology, and develop innovative programs like At Home Support and

At Home Choices are perfect examples of managing the challenges while still providing the highest quality of care possible.

As sequestration continues to impact reimbursements and present new challenges to our operations, we remain committed to our mission of accepting all patients, regardless of their circumstances. Now more than ever, we need the generous support of our donors to help us achieve our mission. Thank you for being our partner to ensure hospice care is available to all—when they need it.

Thank you,

Bob Cahill, President and CEO

## Expanding services through generous grants

Hospice of Michigan is proud to announce two recent grants that will allow us to serve two key constituencies in Michigan.

Through the support of Peter C. and Emajeon Cook Foundation, Hospice of Michigan is expanding services to the Hispanic community in Grand Rapids. The goal of the program is to ensure that hospice services are available to the Spanish-speaking community and provided in a culturally sensitive manner.

Judy Ponstine, Hospice of Michigan's community outreach liaison and registered nurse within the Hispanic community, is building trust and sharing her healthcare knowledge with the surrounding community.

"We are trying to put a different face on hospice care in the Hispanic community," Ponstine explained. "Hospice of Michigan provides quality of life at the end of life, allowing our patients and their families to focus on living, not just dying. Through our community outreach work, we have

started to establish relationships and build trust that will be crucial to our success."

Hospice of Michigan now has a Spanish-speaking nurse and hospice aide dedicated to caring for this growing population.

Hospice of Michigan also received a grant from the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation in Midland designated to expand pediatric services to Midland area children. Last year, Hospice of Michigan provided support to nearly 200 pediatric patients and families across the Lower Peninsula. This grant answers the growing need for our services to this special group of patients and their families.

Hospice of Michigan pediatric programs focus on three primary areas:

- **Perinatal:** Providing support to expectant parents of an unborn child diagnosed with a potentially terminal or life-limiting illness to assist with birth planning, provide bereavement services and other assistance.

- **Pediatric Early Care (PEC):** The only one of its kind in Michigan, PEC works to connect seriously ill children and their families with the specialized community resources they need to deal with financial, emotional, social, legal, spiritual and other needs.
- **Hospice:** Providing compassionate end-of-life care to terminally ill children and support for their families.

"Our pediatric programs provide compassionate support to families facing one of the toughest issues of all: the serious illness or death of a child," said Marcie Hillary, vice president of community relations. "We provide programs and opportunities that allow families to enjoy and maximize the time they have with their children. Many of these are unreimbursed through private insurance or Medicare. The support of the Gerstacker Foundation allows us to continue this important work in the Midland area."

## Hometown H.E.R.O.

Hospice of Michigan is pleased to announce that Jodi Gauthier has been selected to receive the 2014 Ansell H.E.R.O. Nurse Service Award.

The award, which stands for heal, education, reach and overcome, was established in 2013 to recognize nurses who have made lasting impressions on their peers, patients, profession, and communities. Jodi was one of 10 nurses across the nation to receive the award, and the only recipient from Michigan.

“We are delighted to have Jodi recognized for her amazing contributions to nursing and hospice care,” said Katherine Morrison, operations manager at Hospice of Michigan. “Jodi is an exemplary hospice nurse. She has a knack for comforting patients, determining

what’s important to them and providing quality of life at the end of life.”

Jodi has worked with Hospice of Michigan as an RN for 22 years. She specializes in caring for hospice patients in facilities where family often isn’t involved; helping to create a “sacred space” for patients that offers dignity and respect.

Ansell H.E.R.O. award recipients were nominated and voted on by the community during a one-month selection process. The top 10 nominees received an award plaque



Ansell representative Craig Scherer presents award to Jodi Gauthier.

and a nursing reference book of their choice. Profiles of all 10 were featured on [www.ansellhero.com](http://www.ansellhero.com).

## On eve of D-Day, Hospice of Michigan honored our nation’s veterans

June 6 marked the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the historic invasion of the Normandy beaches by the Allied forces. It was the largest sea-borne invasion ever attempted, and came at a great cost. More than 12,000 Allied soldiers lost their lives in a single day.

It was against this backdrop that Hospice of Michigan, along with AMVETS and American House Senior Living, hosted a *We Honor Veterans* pinning ceremony June 5 at the Wealthy Street Theater in Grand Rapids. Fifty veterans were honored for their sacrifice and service to our nation.

“Many military veterans have never been formally thanked for their service to our country,” said Michael Paletta, MD, executive director of the Maggie Allesee Center for Innovation within the Hospice of Michigan Institute. “Our pinning ceremonies not only



Dr. Paletta pins and thanks a veteran for his service.

bring dignity to this time of their lives by thanking them for serving their country, they also provide a good reminder for families and caregivers about how special these people are.”

The veterans were presented with a certificate listing their branch of military service and an American flag pin to honor and thank them for their service.

Hospice of Michigan is a Level Four partner in the *We Honor Veterans* program, a partnership between the Veterans Administration (VA) and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO). The program was developed to enhance care for veterans at the end of life and includes both educational and ceremonial elements.

Participating hospices receive training to recognize and treat the unique issues facing military families, provide access to

community resources, and facilitate cooperation between VA health agencies and hospice services. Level Four status signifies the organization has met the highest standards set by the VA and NHPCO for this national program. Paletta, who is also a retired colonel and flight surgeon, serves as the executive champion of *We Honor Veterans* for Hospice of Michigan.



## 2014 Caring Circle members

Smiles, gratitude and continuing appreciation to our Caring Circle members who have committed to bringing renowned end-of-life care to those in need. The following individuals and organizations are leaving a legacy of compassion with their financial support for Hospice of Michigan. The numbers that follow donors' names represent the number of years they have been a Caring Circle member.

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## Caregivers Club

The Caregivers Club is made up of Hospice of Michigan employees who contribute at a level of \$500 or above. We are grateful to all of our employees who give of their time, talent, and treasure.

- |                  |                   |                   |                     |                    |                    |
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## Planned giving donor's vision—quality of life



**Helen Palmatier**

Helen Palmatier made her first \$100,000 gift to Hospice of Michigan in 1994 after experiencing first-hand the compassionate care

her husband Jackman received, along with the caregiving support she experienced.

Helen had a vision for her gift and asked Hospice of Michigan to establish its first Quality-of-Life Fund in Grand Rapids. Helen envisioned her donation making a positive impact for patients beyond the excellent hospice care they were receiving. These funds were to be used for special non-recurring needs of patients and families.

A few examples of Helen's generous quality-of-life gift include:

- A gas card for a patient's family member who couldn't afford the gas money to make the long trip to visit her loved one.

- The purchase of a cell phone for a patient who had no way of communicating with relatives or with the Hospice of Michigan care team.
- A ramp for the home of a patient whose health declined and became dependent on the use of a wheelchair. Volunteers built the ramp from materials paid for by the Quality-of-Life Fund.
- Bus tickets purchased for a special family reunion. A patient's daughter and grandson hadn't seen their loved one for 10 years due to having limited funds to travel from their home state. Our patient's dying wish was to have them visit.

Helen received regular reports of how her funds were helping our patients. She took pride in knowing the positive impact she was making in others' lives.

Through Helen's vision, Hospice of Michigan has offered this program statewide and it continues to be a funding priority for the organization.

Because our expert staff often becomes an extension of the families we serve, they can easily determine when accessing Quality-of-Life funds is appropriate. It's just another way that our commitment to individualized care allows us to make a positive impact in the lives of our patients and their families.

When Helen died in 2014, she left a \$200,000 estate gift for Hospice of Michigan to continue her legacy of granting quality of life to others.

Her niece, Beverly Siekman, remembers Helen as a very private individual. "It gave my aunt great joy knowing she was helping in her own special way. Her legacy gift is a testament to her generous heart and passion to make someone else's life a little bit better."

If you would like more information about planned giving, please contact Stephanie Le at (248) 346-4253 or email her at [SLe@HOM.org](mailto:SLe@HOM.org).

## A Meal for Me

Hospice of Michigan unveils its new cookbook, "A Meal for Me," to help introduce a healthy way of cooking for one.



"After someone loses a spouse or family member, mealtime can become a big challenge," said Desiree Davis, grief support services manager. "A person who is used to cooking for several people or who isn't used to cooking at all can really struggle with the concept of cooking for just themselves. As a result, we often see people turn to fast food or unhealthy meal options—which can lead to health issues down the road."

The "A Meal for Me" cookbook provides single serving recipes and

helps readers develop skills in preparing simple, healthy and flavorful meals for themselves—without spending hours in the kitchen. It also offers measure and temperature conversion information, as well as ideas on how to use larger portions of meat and cans of soup or vegetables with different recipes during the week."

A "Meal for Me" is available free-of-charge online at [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org).



**Marcie Hillary, Vice President of Community Relations, demonstrates a recipe on WZZM-TV 13.**

## Join our Online Community

Stay up-to-date with our latest news, events, volunteer opportunities and fundraising activities by signing up for our new Online Community. Simply go to [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org) to register your email address and begin receiving e-communication from us. And don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



## Fly & Remember

Hospice of Michigan hosted community-wide *Fly & Remember* memorial events throughout Michigan in September.

Attendees of these free events had the opportunity to personalize a kite in memory of their loved one and then fly it in that person's honor.

"The *Fly & Remember* events offered families an opportunity to come

together to remember and celebrate the legacy of their loved ones who have died," said Karen Monts, director of grief support services at Hospice of Michigan. "These uplifting events are a reminder that memorials can be a positive, healthy experience and time to reflect on happy memories shared with those we've lost."

*Fly & Remember*, which was first held in 2009, is just one of many ways that

Hospice of Michigan works with patients and their families to offer support, strength and guidance through the emotional challenges of loss.

Visit [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org) for more information on our grief support services.



## Sheds & Chandeliers, A Crystal Rose Celebration

Our annual *Crystal Rose Celebration* has a new look and feel this year with



a theme that was conceived with the past, present and future in mind. *Sheds & Chandeliers* celebrates Detroit's rich history of innovation—its resilience and rebirth—inviting the support of long-time Hospice of Michigan

donors, while fostering new connections that will help secure the future.

*Sheds & Chandeliers* will be held at a unique, and truly Detroit locale, the historic Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, Thursday, October 2. This *shed-like* venue will be the centerpiece of a rustic and elegant evening you are sure to remember.

The event will feature a strolling dinner, open bar, complimentary valet and entertainment by Ben Sharkey, Detroit's own jazz crooner, all set against the backdrop of the birthplace of the Model T. Guests will walk the plank floors worn smooth by hundreds of pioneering autoworkers, and view the cars that made Detroit famous.

## 24th Annual Puttin' on the Ritz

An evening of fun to support Hospice of Michigan, including dinner, raffles and live entertainment by Michigan native folk singer, Mike



Mike Ridley

Ridley. This year's event will be held Saturday, October 4 at the Water's Edge in Rogers City.

Visit [www.hom.org/walkrunremember](http://www.hom.org/walkrunremember) to view photos from our spring events.

## Everyday shopping can make a big difference

Every time you use your Kroger Plus card at the checkout, a portion of your total purchase will be used to benefit Hospice of Michigan—and it won't cost you a cent!

If you currently have a Kroger Plus card, you can connect it to the rewards program by following these steps:



- 1) Sign in to [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)
- 2) Enter the email address and password you used when you enrolled.
- 3) In the Organization field, enter Hospice of Michigan.
- 4) Click Enroll, and you're done!

### Shopping online?

At [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations. The site will remember your selection and maintain any previous Amazon settings (like Amazon Prime). Just remember to designate Hospice of Michigan and start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).



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

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### HOSPICE OF MICHIGAN LOCATIONS

Home Office  
400 Mack Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48201

989 Spaulding SE  
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

33 W. Main  
Fremont, MI 49412

830 S. Otsego  
Gaylord, MI 49735

5177 W. US-10  
Ludington, MI 49431

1930 E. Apple Ave.  
Muskegon, MI 49442

197 W Erie Street  
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10850 E. Traverse Hwy.  
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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

Marcie Hillary, Vice President, Community Relations  
Tracey Pierce, Director, Marketing & Communications  
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