

# Connections



FALL 2013

News & Events from Hospice of Michigan

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

## Passing the Baton

Hospice of Michigan's President and CEO Dottie Deremo will retire at the end of the year. Her successor, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Bob Cahill, is well-prepared to fill her shoes.

"I have worked closely with Bob for 15 years and have developed a tremendous trust and friendship with him. Bob is a talented professional with tremendous skills, knowledge of the organization and a passion for hospice. He's been my second-in-command for the past 14 years and I've relied on his honesty, integrity, and terrific sense of humor as the organization has grown into a national leader—and a national company—in end of life care."

Hospice of Michigan has come a long way since Dottie arrived in 1998. During her tenure, Dottie has overseen tremendous growth and change, steering the organization through accreditation with Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP), navigating the waters of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and working to expand our services by leveraging cost-saving features of the Affordable Care Act. Under her leadership, Hospice of Michigan is now considered a national thought leader in advanced illness management and end-of-life care.



Dottie Deremo and Bob Cahill

As for the future, HOM couldn't be in better hands when Bob takes the reins Jan. 1, 2014. Bob joined HOM in 1998 as VP, Chief Financial Officer. He will continue to drive HOM's position as the leader in hospice and palliative care. Bob's knowledge of hospice and the emerging sector of advanced illness management is unparalleled, and will lead the organization to even greater heights.

Although Dottie will be retiring from her role as President and CEO, she will not be leaving HOM completely. She will stay on in a part-time capacity in a newly created position of Executive Emeritus. Dottie will report to Bob and continue to contribute to HOM's success over the next three years in the areas of public speaking on end-of-life care, health care policy and fund-raising.

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## Dottie Deremo, Health Care Hero

Hospice of Michigan's President and CEO Dottie Deremo was selected as one of Crain's Health Care Heroes for 2013. The prestigious award recognizes excellence in five categories: *Corporate Achievement in Health Care, Advancements in Health Care, Outstanding Physician, Allied Health, and Outstanding Trustee*. Dottie was named in the *Allied*



**Dottie Deremo**

*Health* category, which honors individuals from nursing or allied health fields who are deemed exemplary by patients and peers.

Dottie was recognized for her role in completing the integration process that began in 1994, when 10 independent hospice organizations from around the state merged to form Hospice of

Michigan, the state's largest nonprofit hospice organization. She was also cited for her work in the development of the Maggie Allesee Center for Innovation, and strong leadership in the development of @HOME Support, which raised the profile of HOM to a national organization.

The winners are featured in a special print edition of *Crain's Detroit Business*, and on their website.

## How Is Hospice of Michigan Different?

For more than 33 years, Hospice of Michigan has provided expert end-of-life care throughout the state. The staff and volunteers who serve thousands of patients and families every year are committed to providing compassionate, individualized care, ensuring quality of life, comfort, and peace for our patients, and support for their loved ones.

Unlike many hospices in Michigan, Hospice of Michigan is a nonprofit organization. This allows us to keep our focus on patients and communities, not our shareholders. Our dedicated staff can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a

week through our Telesupport Center. This means patients and families have access to nurses, certified hospice aides, social workers, or spiritual care advisors *when they need them*.

As an innovator in advanced illness management and end-of-life care, Hospice of Michigan leads the way in using new technology to help provide the best service. We also provide extensive continuing education - not only to our own clinical staff but to other care providers as well. And we are proud to be one of the few Level Four designees of "We Honor Veterans" in Michigan,

a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. This program is aimed at meeting the unique needs of America's veterans and their families. In all of these ways, and in so many more, Hospice of Michigan stands apart as the premier hospice in Michigan.

When a loved one is diagnosed with a serious or life-limiting illness, knowing where to turn can make all the difference. Call Hospice of Michigan's Telesupport Center at (888) 247-5701. We will be with you every step of the way.

## Mobile app launches: HOM CARES<sup>®</sup>

Earlier this year, Hospice of Michigan (HOM) introduced an innovative mobile app called HOM Cares. The HOM Cares mobile app indicates to family and friends when their loved one has received a visit from a member of Hospice of Michigan's care team.

Caregivers who download and use the HOM Cares app have the ability to:

- View a photograph and a short bio of the HOM team member making the visit.
- Learn the team member's role: medical (physician, RN), hospice aide, social worker, spiritual advisor, grief support, or volunteer.
- Receive notification of the date and duration of the visit with the patient.
- Set up a network of family and friends with whom to communicate about their loved one.
- Use their personal network, established on the app, to provide



updates about their loved one's care, hospice visits and other information.

The app was funded by a \$24,500 grant from Verizon, and a donation of in-kind resources from

Detroit-based Compuware, whose team contributed to the technical development of the app. Compuware's team was also recognized for their efforts with HOM's 2013 Crystal Rose Award for *Outstanding Corporate Partner*.



## Camp Good Grief

Twenty-two children, ages 8-17, who shared the loss of a loved one, were able to share a much happier experience this summer at Camp Good Grief. Known the rest of the year as Camp Newaygo, the camp offers 101 acres along a chain of lakes in the Manistee National Forest.

Facilitated by Hospice of Michigan grief support managers and trained volunteers, the children were encouraged to express themselves, confide in one another, and have fun without feeling guilty.

The day offered typical camping activities, such as rock wall climbing, canoeing and crafts, in a healthy, nurturing environment.

During a break from activities, campers engaged in the “healing circle,” in which the children could share their

feelings, pictures and fond memories of their loved ones. This sacred time helped these grieving children learn that they are not alone; it is okay to cry, and to understand that the way they are feeling is normal and healthy.

At the conclusion of camp, children were surprised with teddy bears from the Billy Bear Hug Foundation. Several children exchanged phone numbers and email addresses, promising to keep in touch throughout the coming year.



**Grief Support Services Manager Tangela Zielinski leads her canoe along the shores of Camp Newaygo.**



**A camper with her Billy Bear gift**

## Coping with the Holidays

Once again, Hospice of Michigan (HOM) will present *Coping with the Holidays*, a free community outreach program that offers ways to cope with loss during what is traditionally a time of happiness and joy.

“Holidays are extremely difficult for those who have experienced the death of a loved one, especially during the first year after the death,” said Karen Monts, director of grief support services at Hospice of Michigan. “Through Hospice of Michigan’s *Coping with the Holidays* program, we discuss that the holidays don’t have to be a time of sadness. There are techniques to help manage grief and find comfort.”

The programs offer coping tips for those who are grieving, such as:

- Plan ahead. Bereaved individuals who seem to have the most

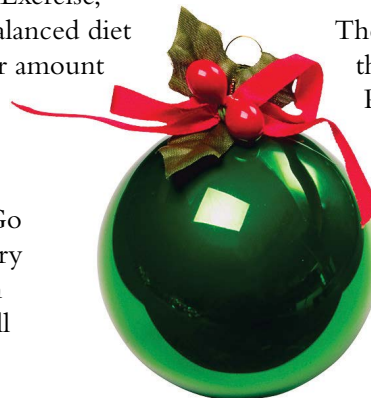
difficulty with the holidays are often those who have given little thought to the emotional challenges they will encounter.

- Accept your limitations. Family and social pressures, in combination with decision-making challenges, can be overwhelming. Choose a few issues to deal with and limit the number of decisions you need to make so they won’t overwhelm you.
- Take care of yourself. Exercise, eating a proper and balanced diet and getting the proper amount of rest is critical. Avoid the temptation of excessive alcohol.
- Lower expectations. Go easy on yourself and try not to over-extend, in order to reduce overall stress.

- Confide in a friend or family member. Find someone who will be a good sounding board. You want a great listener, not necessarily someone who will try and “fix” your problems.

The *Coping with the Holidays* program is open to all those dealing with grief, whether a loved one died recently or decades ago. Participants are invited to enjoy a light meal and listen as grief professionals share their expertise.

The program is offered throughout the Lower Peninsula. See our website, [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org) for a complete schedule of program locations, dates and times.



## 2013 Caring Circle members

Smiles, gratitude and continuing appreciation to those 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.

- Ace Vending Service Inc  
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Alliance Benefit Group of Michigan Inc  
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American House Senior Living Residences Inc  
Amphenol Borisch Technologies  
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Grand Rapids-Sparta Lodge No 50  
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 MVP Sportsplex GR LLC  
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 Pioneer Construction  
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 The Ed and June Prein Family  
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 Priority Health  
 Ms. Patricia Putney  
 Puttin On the Ritz Fundraiser

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 Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan R. Tufts  
 Tullymore Golf Course  
 Ms. Cynthia Turchetti  
 UAW-GM Center for Human  
 Resources

## Caregivers Club

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

Stacey Bostic  
 Christina Bowman  
 Marilyn Brady  
 Robert Cahill  
 Theresa Candela  
 Jill Carpenter  
 Jordan Cepela  
 Debra Clementino  
 Paula Crancer  
 Dorothy Deremo  
 Sonja Felton  
 Christine Flynn  
 Evan Fonger  
 Lynne Geller  
 Sheila Hay  
 Marcie Hillary  
 Margaret Howard  
 Michael Jaspersen  
 Cara Jones  
 Kathy Julien  
 Eric Kaplan  
 Catherine Klemish  
 Nancy Malovey  
 Jeanne Marriott  
 Kathleen McCarthy  
 Mary Middleton  
 Patrick Miller  
 Karen Monts  
 Susan Mueller

Sylvia Muir  
 Lee Ann Myers  
 Sharon Neace  
 Peggy O'Hare-Vance  
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 Gayle Patrick  
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 Karen Quader  
 Marilyn Remillard  
 Donyel Renaud  
 Elizabeth Rocha  
 Dianne Rose  
 Roxanne Roth  
 Sherrilynn Salerno  
 Vicky Scott  
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 Mark Shear  
 Donna Smith  
 Betty Stacer  
 Kathleen Story  
 Corinne Taylor  
 Blake TenBarge  
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 Douglas R. and Margo Yellin Woll  
 Family Foundation  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald P. Ziemke, Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. David J. Zmyslowski



## 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.



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.

Memory Bears have been offered in Alpena, Ludington and Big Rapids offices for many years, and has since expanded to other areas, including Metro Detroit.

According to Grief Support Services Director Karen Monts, the bears

The bear in the photo was given to Angela Berger, a Clinton Township resident who lost her mother to breast 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 dwarf himself, it

### 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.

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.”

## Help Celebrate National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, a time to celebrate care that helps patients and caregivers find comfort, love and respect when they need it most.



Hiller’s Markets and Neiman’s Family Markets are holding in-store promotions throughout November in recognition of National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. The goal is to promote awareness about hospice care, while also giving their customers the opportunity to make a donation to Hospice of Michigan (HOM).

Hiller’s Markets is a family-owned

chain of eight independent grocery stores, with locations in Ann Arbor, Berkley, West Bloomfield, Northville, Plymouth, Commerce Township, Union Lake and South Lyon.

Justin Hiller, vice president of Hiller’s and member of HOM’s regional board, announced the in-store promotion at the Crystal Rose Gala in honor of fellow board member and Gala honoree Sandy Linden for his 30 years of service to HOM.

During November, Hiller’s customers can make a \$1, \$3 or \$5 donation at the cash register to support HOM. In addition, the stores will have an informational table for customers to learn more about the organization. Materials related to advance directives, grief

support, volunteer opportunities and general information will be available.

Neiman’s Family Market is also a family-owned and -operated business with four store locations: Alpena, Tawas, St. Clair and Clarkston. In November, through Neiman’s *Growing Our Communities Together* program, NAME OF VENDOR will donate XX from each XXXXX sold in their stores to HOM. In addition, customers can make a donation at one of the collection jars at the registers. Printed materials will also be available for customers who want to learn more about HOM.

Please keep Hospice of Michigan in mind and show your support as you shop at Hiller’s Markets and Neiman’s Family Market stores throughout November.

## 2013 Events in Review

Visit [hom.org](http://hom.org) for faces, facts and photos of all our 2013 fund raising events:

- Walk and Remember in Grand Rapids (May)
- Race and Remember in Detroit (July)
- Celebration of Life and Love in Grand Rapids (September)
- Crystal Rose Gala in Detroit (September)
- Puttin’ on in Ritz in Rogers City (October)



## 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 Cara Jones at (616) 365-5288.

- |                                      |                                  |                                |                             |                              |                               |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Richard Clarence Adiska              | Arden and Myrtle Connell         | John and June Hamersma         | Forris B. Klooster          | Doris E. Nielsen             | Walter C. and Dorothy G. Shaw |
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| Charles R. Ardis                     | Thelma Craig                     | Louise C. Harris               | Wanda C. Koweck             | Leonard C Obermeyer          | Ann Skillman Moore            |
| Frank J. Arleth                      | Constance K. Cremer              | Robert and Lynette Harrison    | Frank J. Koziara            | Kathleen Obershea            | Mary Lee Slocum               |
| Reba Cora Bean                       | Sylvia Cunningham                | Carol Ruth Harroun             | Hazel A. Larkins            | Dorothy C. Oliver            | Sally and John R. Smith       |
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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.



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