



## Hospice is About Living Life

Faced with a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, Randy Sanders readily agreed to experimental treatments. With a wife, an 8-year-old daughter and adult children, he was determined to do anything that would keep him alive.

Sadly, his treatments were not successful, leading Randy and his wife, Dawn, to admit Randy onto Hospice of Michigan's services in August 2017.

When Randy and Dawn first met Hospice of Michigan's registered nurse Melissa Salayko, they were grateful for the time she took to educate them about what they could expect from hospice care. With their questions answered, the Sanders knew they made the right decision.

Almost immediately, they experienced the benefits of hospice care. The com-

passionate care team assigned to Randy – including Melissa, a social worker, spiritual care advisor, grief support manager and hospice aide quickly became part of the Sanders family.

Randy shared with his hospice team that there were some upcoming family milestones that he desperately wanted to be a part of. Driven by a philosophy to maximize every moment of life, the team went to work to help him achieve these goals.

The first order of business was to make sure Randy could attend the 20th annual golf outing with his best friends just a few weeks after he signed on. He had never missed one of these memorable outings and looked to his care team to make sure he could keep his promise. They were able to get Randy's pain

controlled so that he could attend and helped to organize his medications and supplies for the weekend. Because Dawn was anxious about Randy going out-of-town, his social worker made arrangements to have another hospice team available, if needed. This extra step meant so much to both Randy and Dawn.

The next big event was the October 13th wedding of Randy's adult daughter. In preparation for the wedding, Melissa advised Randy not to overdo it in the weeks prior to the wedding so that he had enough energy for the big day. Following Melissa's guidance, Randy was able to walk his daughter down the aisle and be "the life of the party" with his family.

Randy's third milestone was to be able to celebrate his youngest daughter's ninth birthday in November. Reaching

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# A Message From Bob



Bob Cahill, President and CEO

Spring is the season of renewal, and a reminder of the ever-changing world we live in.

At Hospice of Michigan we believe in supporting our mission today and into the future.

It's why we constantly assess all aspects of our hospice and palliative care services, adjusting and improving our processes and programs to ensure we are offering the best care possible.

**OUR FOCUS:** Every person. Every time.

**OUR PURPOSE:** We meet our patients and families where they are – with urgency, purpose and compassionate accountability – surrounding them with decades of dedicated hospice expertise.

**OUR CULTURE:** Comes from working together providing more layers of support for anyone who needs and seeks our care – regardless of age, diagnosis or ability to pay.

**OUR COMMITMENT:** We are constantly working at improving quality, enhancing productivity and efficiency,

while creating an organization where excellence is expected and our staff become master teachers of end-of-life care for patients and families. We remain committed to preserving and strengthening the non-profit hospice brand.

**OUR SUPPORTERS:** We are ever so grateful for the generous support of our donors. Without you, we would not be able to fulfill our non-profit mission. Last year alone, we provided 10,533 charity patient days of service to those who were uninsured or underinsured and 8,056 pediatric patient days of service for our youngest patients who are not eligible for hospice benefits. It's because of philanthropic support that these patient days were possible.

**Every Person. Every Time.** It's a simple, powerful statement destined to motivate us all to provide the best care. Period.

Warmest regards,

Bob Cahill

## Our Hospice Stats

Patients served . . . . .	<b>5,098</b>
Total patient days of service . . . . .	<b>352,090</b>
Veteran patient days of service . . . . .	<b>99,143</b>
Charity patient days of service . . . . .	<b>10,533</b>
Pediatric patient days of service . . . . .	<b>8,056</b>
Average age . . . . .	<b>79</b>
Average length of stay . . . . .	<b>81 days</b>
Median length of stay . . . . .	<b>21 days</b>
Largest primary diagnosis: Cancer: <b>34%</b> Heart <b>22%</b>	

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this important date meant everything to him. Although his health was declining and he couldn't attend her party, Randy enjoyed seeing all of her presents and having a piece of cake with her. Sadly, Randy lost his fight a few days later.

Helping the Sanders family reach these milestones was a huge honor for the Hospice of Michigan care team. The team wrote letters of gratitude, thanking the family for allowing them

to play such an important role in helping Randy live each day to its fullest and create such wonderful memories.

But the story doesn't end here. With the holidays approaching, Randy's care team opened their hearts to further honor his memory and reach one final milestone. They knew Randy wanted to make sure his 9-year-old daughter had a Christmas to remember. The care team took up a collection, and present-

ed Dawn with gift cards to use as she saw fit – ensuring them the Christmas bounty that Randy would have wanted.

The Sanders story beautifully illustrates how Hospice of Michigan helps patients and families make lasting memories and enjoy quality of life at end of life.

If you would like more information about Hospice of Michigan services, please visit the Website at [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org).

# A Special Memorial Gift

Tom Hamill was a talented carpenter who was known for building beautiful, handcrafted boats. When Tom signed on to Hospice of Michigan in January 2015, the members of his care team were captivated by the exquisite craftsmanship that went into his boats.

While it's been three years since Tom's death, his wife, Mary Robertson, wanted to find a way to thank Hospice of Michigan for the compassionate care they received. Realizing the perfect way to honor Tom's memory, Mary sold one of his handcrafted vessels and donated the proceeds to



*Tom's handmade strip kayak, sold to benefit Hospice of Michigan.*

Hospice of Michigan to help others through their end-of-life journey.

When Tom's hospice team was told of Mary's thoughtful donation, they were so honored at the gesture of thanks.



*Mary Robertson and Tom Hamill.*

If you would like to make a memorial gift or recognize a hospice care team, please call 1-800-669-9335.

## MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund has awarded \$500,000 to Jo Elyn Nyman Anchors Programs for Children at Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice to launch a pilot program for children living with complex chronic conditions.

The Pediatric Chronic Complex Care program will provide family-centered, sustainable service to children living with medical challenges and complications that currently are not adequately coordinated through their multiple specialist providers. The program is designed to minimize the amount of time youngsters with life-long serious conditions spend in hospital emergency rooms and as in-patients, providing 24/7 home-based support to pediatric patients through teams of professionals outside of the hospital, including a medical director, nurse practitioners, social workers and other specialists, based on each child's specific needs.

Anchors Programs for Children will partner with C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor for the Pediatric Chronic Complex Care program's pilot year, with the intention of adding another Michigan children's hospital in year two, expanding the geographic reach of patients served.

"Simply having a child with chronic, complex health issues is emotionally and physically challenging for families," said Kenneth Pituch, MD, professor of pediatrics and medical director of the Pediatric Palliative Care Program at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. Dr. Pituch also serves as the southeast pediatric medical director for the Anchors Programs for Children.

"Navigating health care through multiple sources adds an additional set of difficulties that we are looking to ease through the Pediatric Chronic Complex Care program. We are dedicated to reducing the stress families' face and helping to enhance quality of life for these fragile children by decreasing their emergency room visits and hospital stays. The Anchors Programs for Children is grateful to receive generous support through the Michigan Health

Endowment Fund to establish this home-based care program."

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund works to improve the health and wellness of Michigan residents and reduce the cost of healthcare, with a special focus on children and seniors. More information about the Health Fund can be found at [mhealthfund.com](http://mhealthfund.com).

For more about the Pediatric Chronic Complex Care program, call 888-247-5704.



ANCHORS

Jo Elyn Nyman  
**Programs  
for Children**

Anchors Programs for Children offers a full continuum of pediatric services to support families facing the unimaginable. As the only statewide pediatric hospice and pre-hospice program, Anchors serves families with specially trained staff that provide medical, social, spiritual and emotional support to help navigate difficult situations. Since the inception of the pediatric programs, Anchors has served thousands of children and families across Michigan.

# Cultivating Support Across the Country

In February, Elizabeth Chamberlain and former Hospice of Michigan Board Member, Barbara Gerson and her husband, Mark welcomed friends old and new to their southern California home for a special gathering in support of Hospice of Michigan.

The picturesque mountain setting provided opportunity for old friends to reconnect, new friends to be made and for all to learn more about Hospice of Michigan's cutting-edge model to address palliative care from Chief Medical Officer Dr. Michael Paletta. His moving and informative presentation inspired many poignant



From left to right: Gretchen Chamberlain, Janice Collins, Barbara Gerson, Norm Leven, Elizabeth Chamberlain, Joan Panopoulos, and Marilyn Leven.

conversations around the future of end-of-life care in our country.

We are grateful to advocates such as the Gersons who have experienced

our compassionate care and now make it their personal mission to build awareness within their own communities.

If you or a loved one has been touched by our care and would like to host your own gathering, please contact us to discuss how we can partner together to educate your friends and family.

Contact: Barbara Anderson, Director of Philanthropy, West Michigan (616) 356-5266 or Kim Ritter, Director of Philanthropy, East Michigan (313) 578-6265

## An Invitation from June

Since 1980, June B. Hamersma has been one of Hospice of Michigan's most devoted supporters. Recognizing the need to ensure that quality hospice care is available to all who need it, she established the Hospice of Michigan Foundation in June 1994, serving as its first board president.

Nearly a decade later, June's vision led to the creation of our



June B. Hamersma, Founder, Hospice of Michigan Foundation

Planned Giving Society, which is named in her honor. With an intense focus on community support, June wanted to create the opportunity for donors to "pay it forward" by making a legacy gift that will ensure access to quality hospice care for generations to come. To date, more than 275 legacy gifts have been established to benefit Hospice of Michigan.

June invites you to join her in her forward-thinking vision and become a Planned Giving Society member today. The June B. Hamersma Society recognizes individuals who have named Hospice of Michigan as a beneficiary in their estate plans, trusts or wills in the fall edition of *Connections* each year.

Please consider becoming a member of this important Society. For more information, please call Stephanie Le, Director of Planned Giving, at (313) 578-6302.

Our State. Our Town. *Our Hospice.*

The sooner you call, the more we can help.

**24/7 Support**  
888-247-5701 or [hom.org](http://hom.org)

A member of the **northstar** Care Community

## Walk & Remember

Gather your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers! Leash up your pets and get out your walking shoes for the 5th Annual Walk and Remember fundraiser on Saturday, June 16, 2018!



*Amy Wilson, Alpena Walk participant and organizer, with granddaughter, Aubrey. Each year Amy rounds up her family team to walk in memory of her husband, Keith, who was on Hospice of Michigan's services 20 years ago.*



*Supporting Hospice of Michigan brings smiles to everyone's faces.*

Teams and participants are invited to meet at the Starlight Beach Pavilion to embark on a 1- or 2-mile course along the pristine shores of Lake Huron. Guests are encouraged to take a moment and visit the permanent memorial garden and tie a special ribbon on the Memory Tree to honor their loved ones.

Because every life deserves the best possible care, all funds raised will stay in northeastern Michigan to support

the Open Access program. Open Access allows us to continue to provide compassionate, end-of-life care to all patients and families, regardless of age, diagnosis or ability to pay.

We can't wait to see you! Register today! Sign up at [hom.org/events](http://hom.org/events).

For questions about registration, donations or sponsorship opportunities, call (989) 358-4291 or email [teamR@hom.org](mailto:teamR@hom.org).

## Inaugural Glow Run

On Saturday, October 17, 2017, the streets of Elk Rapids were aglow for Hospice of Michigan's inaugural Memorial 5K Glow Run presented by WTCM and the DTE Energy Foundation. Despite rain, wind, and unseasonably cold temperatures, 177 runners and walkers braved the elements to show their support, raising more than \$17,000 in remembrance of their loved one who we had the honor of serving.

Glow Run participants of all ages took to the streets dressed in their brightest attire, ready to have a good

time – even four-legged friends were glowing from head to tail. Highlights of the evening included five Best in Glow contests and a memorial tree banner that allowed attendees the opportunity to write the name of their loved one on remembrance leaves.

This event was such a hit that plans are already underway for a second Glow Run scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 2018. Save the date! Details will be posted on our Facebook page as the event gets closer.

If you or someone you know are interested in sponsoring this event, contact Michelle Gallagher at (231) 527-0927.



*Traverse City Hospice of Michigan team showing off their glow.*

# Philanthropy is a Family Affair

We all know that children learn by example. Cindy Monroe, a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan employee and Hospice of Michigan Foundation board member, experienced this first hand last fall when her 12-year-old son, Wiley, told her he wanted to “do something” good for other kids.

As they strategized how he could help, Cindy learned of an upcoming fundraiser supporting Hospice of Michigan’s pediatric efforts, *Jo Elyn Nyman Anchors Programs for Children*. Learning that the fundraiser was the Midwest premiere of *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*, Wiley knew he found the perfect match, proposing picking up extra chores to raise the funds needed to become a Safari sponsor of the December 19th event.



William “Wiley” Monroe

Watching her son take on the extra chores, and knowing the motivation behind it, was truly a proud-parent moment for Cindy. Noting that her

parents instilled philanthropic values early in her life, she’s worked hard – and successfully – to raise Wiley the same way.

When it came time to finalize the sponsorship, Wiley thought long and hard about how he wanted to be recognized. Thinking that his philanthropic effort was a very grown-up thing to do, he wanted his sponsorship to reflect that. So thank you to **William A. Monroe** for your generous support!

The statewide premieres took place at Ann Arbor’s Michigan Theater and Grand Rapids’ Celebration! Cinema North – see *One Night – Two Cities – One Big Time Movie Premiere!* article on page 7.

# Chandeliers in Flight in Grand Rapids

Inspired by the last several years of our successful Detroit fundraising event, we introduced Chandeliers, our new signature event in Grand Rapids last September.

Generously hosted at the Amway Hanger within the Gerald R. Ford International Airport, our 400 guests got to experience the behind-the-scenes of an operational hangar. The evening was also an opportunity to honor community members that exemplify dedication to our organization.



Larry Bos congratulates Dr. John Maurer on his award.

Recognized for their passion and commitment to Hospice of Michigan’s nonprofit mission, these distinguished honorees were presented with a Crystal Rose Award at Chandeliers in Flight. The Crystal Rose Award symbolizes the historic practice of placing a single long-stemmed red rose on the bed of a patient after death in tribute to that person’s life.

### CRYSTAL ROSE HONOREES:

#### **Outstanding Individuals:**

Dr. David Dickens & Dr. John Maurer



Kurt and Judy Ludlow chaired the event.

### **Outstanding Corporate Partner:**

Warner, Norcross & Judd LLP

### **Outstanding Volunteers:**

Barley, BBQ & Beats Steering Committee: Travis Earley, Brandon Finnie, Gary Grahns, Joe Infante, Niki Infante, Ian Koffler, Jeff Royce, Lisa Royce, Kirby Shotwell

# One Night, Two Cities—One Big Time Movie Premiere!

Hosting a premiere of a holiday blockbuster is big news. But hosting it simultaneously in two cities to shine a light on the important care provided to terminally- and chronically-ill pediatric patients and their families is REALLY BIG NEWS!

Thanks to a decade-plus friendship with award-winning children's author Chris Van Allsburg, we had the opportunity to host the Midwest premiere of one of the season's largest grossing films, *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle!*

This two-city, simultaneous premiere occurred on Tuesday, December 19th – the eve of the movie's nation-wide release – at Ann

Arbor's historic Michigan Theater and Grand Rapids' spectacular Celebration! Cinema North. This extraordinary event raised more than \$250,000 to provide care for pediatric patients served by Jo Elyn Nyman Anchors Programs for Children.

This success was due in large part to the efforts of dedicated committee members led by chairs Michael and Liz TerHorst in Grand Rapids and Jackie Silhanek in Ann Arbor. Dressed in their jungle best, 900 excited supporters walked the red carpet and enjoyed festive parties attended by Chris & Lisa Van Allsburg (before the Ann Arbor screening and after the Grand Rapids screening). Special thanks to our emcees – local television

news celebrities, WDIV's Chuck Gaidica and WZZM's Jennifer Pascua – who helped energize the audience and inspire the dedicated giving portion of the evening.

In addition to raising critical funds, these premiere events allowed us to provide a very special experience for more than 100 of our pediatric patients and their families who attended as our guests.



*In Grand Rapids, Carelinc's married couple Gary and Kirby Grahs, dress for the occasion.*



*At the Ann Arbor Premier: Jo Elyn Nyman, Marcie Hillary and Lisa Van Allsburg.*



*Patti and Karl Betz welcome major supporters to a pre-party at their home.*

## Chandeliers Returns to Southeast Michigan

Following a one-year hiatus, Chandeliers will return to Southeast Michigan on Thursday, September 13, 2018.

Continuing our tradition of hosting Chandeliers at unique locations, we are excited to host this year's event at the M1 Concourse, located at Woodward and South Boulevard



in Pontiac. The M1 Concourse is a playground for auto enthusiasts that includes private garages and a state-of-the-art 1.5-mile Performance Track with its own private Motorsports Club.

Chandeliers will take center stage overlooking the performance track and offering guests the opportunity to take a spin on the track in one of M1's high performance cars.

Look for save-the-dates in late spring! If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of this exciting event, please contact Kimberly Streich at (313) 578-6268.

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#### OUR NONPROFIT MISSION

Ensure quality of life, comfort, and peace for our patients; provide support for their loved ones during their end-of-life experience. Serve everyone in our communities who needs and seeks our care; strive to improve the state of comfort care.

## Tickets for Barley, BBQ & Beats On Sale Now

**May 19, 2018** – Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids (5–9 pm)

**June 9, 2018** – Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi (5–9 pm)

*Barley, BBQ & Beats is back and we're making it bigger and better than ever!*

This lively event featuring the best Michigan-sourced BBQ, craft cocktails and local bands returns to Grand Rapids for a third year and is traveling to southeast Michigan to keep the excitement going.

Proceeds from both events will support Hospice of Michigan's Open Access Fund, which provides end-of-life care to patients regardless of age, diagnosis or ability to pay.

Tickets are \$40 in advance and are available at [www.hom.org/BBB2018](http://www.hom.org/BBB2018). Ticket price includes three BBQ servings and three hand-crafted cocktail tastings. Additional tasting tickets will be available on site.



For more details on either event or to purchase your tickets, visit [www.hom.org/BBB2018](http://www.hom.org/BBB2018) or call: Roxanne Kiesling for the Grand Rapids event at (616) 356-5229, or Kim Streich for the Novi event at (313) 578-6268.

If you wish to remove your name from future fundraising solicitations, contact the Donation Processing Center, 800-669-9335 or email: [info@hom.org](mailto:info@hom.org).

## Locations

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Alpena  
Ann Arbor  
Big Rapids  
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Cadillac  
Clinton Township  
Fremont  
Gaylord  
Ludington  
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