



## Anchors Programs for Children

Thanks to a transformative gift from Jo Elyn Nyman, a pediatric psychotherapist and supporter of children's causes, Hospice of Michigan will expand its pediatric hospice, palliative support and research programs statewide. This gift comes from the Samuel and Jean Frankel Foundation, which was started by Nyman's parents.

Nyman's gift will allow Hospice of Michigan to offer services free of charge to children and families across the Lower Peninsula under a new umbrella program called Jo Elyn Nyman Anchors Programs for Children. It will also establish the Center for Pediatric Research and Education, a first-of-its-kind research center in the nation dedicated to exploring and educating on the unique end-of-life issues faced by children and their families.

*Photo: Dr. Fahner, founder of the James B. Fahner Pediatric Hospice Program at Hospice of Michigan, offers his appreciation to Jo Elyn Nyman for her magnanimous gift establishing Anchors Programs for Children.*

The Jo Elyn Nyman Anchors Programs for Children includes:

- James B. Fahner Pediatric Hospice, which was established in 1995 and named after its founder, funded by gifts from Rich and Helen DeVos, Ken and Judy Betz, Jim and Shirley Balk, Karl and Patti Betz, and Tom and Mickie Fox. The program provides patients with a dedicated, experienced team of pediatric-trained staff who offer comfort care, nursing, spiritual, emotional and grief support for children facing a life-limiting or terminal illness, and their families.
- Compass Palliative Support for Children is designed for children who have a potentially life-limiting illness, and wish to continue to receive curative treatment. The program offers an experienced pediatric social worker to provide emotional, social and decision-making support for the child, parents and siblings, connecting them with specialized community resources that can assist with financial, emotional, social, legal and other needs.

*(Cont. on page 2)*

# A Message from Bob: Hospice of Michigan affiliation with Arbor Hospice and Palliative Care will strengthen both organizations



Bob Cahill, President and CEO

We are excited to share that, effective January 1, Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice and Palliative Care formed an affiliation. This joining of our like-minded, mission-driven, nonprofit organizations will allow us to better serve patients and families while helping to strengthen and expand the future of nonprofit hospice in Michigan.

This affiliation will create synergies while retaining independent identi-

ties, preserving what is unique and best about each of our organizations. In today's constantly changing healthcare environment, our affiliation will unite us in caring for our communities by aligning our missions and sharing best practices.

The affiliated organization will continue to operate as Arbor Hospice and Palliative Care throughout Washtenaw County and its current service area, as Hospice of Michigan will continue to operate throughout the state. Both organizations will provide patients and their families with the same quality, compassionate care the community has come to expect, including the availability of Arbor's residential hospice inpatient services.

Collectively, Arbor and Hospice of Michigan will provide hospice and palliative care services on a daily basis to nearly 1,800 patients throughout Michigan. With more than 700 members of our combined care teams, supported by

more than 900 volunteers, we're poised to provide patients and their caregivers with the highest quality of care as they face the end of life. Together, we will offer the broadest range of palliative, pediatric and hospice programs, as well as complementary music, pet and massage therapies.

I am pleased to introduce Gloria D. Brooks to our leadership team. Gloria will serve as president of Arbor Hospice and the Arbor Hospice Foundation and vice president and chief strategy officer for Hospice of Michigan.

As we work through the details of the affiliation, you can be assured that some things will not change: most notably, there will be no disruption of service to patients and families served by either organization, and we remain committed to delivering the highest quality care available to patients at the end of life.

Warm regards,

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## Anchors Programs (cont. from page 1)

- Perinatal Care, which provides individualized support to expectant parents of an unborn child diagnosed with either a terminal or potentially life-limiting illness.

The program offers emotional, social and nursing support to parents as they anticipate and prepare for the birth of their child while also grieving the anticipated loss of that child either during pregnancy, at birth or shortly after birth.

- Center for Pediatric Research and Education, which as a program of the Hospice of Michigan Institute, will conduct research based on best practices at the bedside with opportunities for end-of-life care training programs for students, residents and fellows.

The Hospice of Michigan Foundation is grateful for this transformative gift, allowing us to serve all families in need throughout the Lower Peninsula.



Jo Elyn Nyman

**Programs for Children**

Please see related story on next page: *A bittersweet holiday*

# A bittersweet holiday

The past holiday season was bittersweet for an Ottawa County family. They gave their 6-year-old twin boys the best Christmas ever.

One of them is healthy, the other has terminal cancer.

Mark Wiersma and his wife, Kate, had twins, Max and Wes, in 2009. “We made it to 24 weeks and five days and delivered two boys: 1lb, 10 oz. and 1lb, 11 oz.,” said Kate.

Max and Wes spent time in the neonatal intensive care unit. Wes went home first. Max immediately showed signs of bigger issues. His lungs—for whatever reason—were in very bad condition.

Mark and Kate say it’s a miracle he survived. After more than 10 months in the hospital, Max got to go home. He was doing well until his third birthday. “We thought it was just going to be pneumonia, but it turned out to be liver cancer,” said Kate.

After several rounds of chemo, doctors decided Max needed a new liver. “We finally got a call from C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor that we had a liver. He got a transplant and it was great. Never had any issues, it’s been amazing.” The Wiersmas were grateful for miracle number two. “Yeah, we made it. We beat cancer.” They celebrated life for another year and a half. Max even went off his ventilator. Then, last year, he got sick again. “And we knew it was bad because it was by his lungs.”

Max was diagnosed with Ewing’s Sarcoma, a cancer found in the bone or soft tissue. In Max’s case, it was coming out of his ribs. He had several rounds of radiation and chemotherapy. “After the 14th round, his immune system was shot and he got a fungal infection,” said Mark. That meant no more cancer treatments for Max. His body was too weak. “There’s still no cure for him. He’s a terminal patient, and we can’t give him any more chemotherapy,” Mark added.

For the first time in Max’s life, the Wiersmas had to consider hospice. Most would agree, it’s a scary word.

*The twins try on their new fire gear, a gift from their friends at the Fire Department.*



*Kate Wiersma looks on as Santa reads *The Polar Express* to Max left, and his twin brother, Wes. Max was diagnosed with Ewing’s Sarcoma, a form of bone cancer. Wes does not have the disease.*

Sarah Wright, assistant manager of Hospice of Michigan’s Anchors Programs explained, “No family wants us. I’ve heard pediatric hospice described as the journey nobody wants to take. But they are so grateful our services are here.” Max is one of Sarah’s patients.

“Sarah is our friend,” said Kate. “She comes and checks on him. It’s not this end feeling. It’s more like, we’re going to give you as much quality time that we can give you.” Sarah says it’s the most rewarding job she can imagine. “It’s so intimate and beautiful to be able to see everything stripped down to important pieces and what really matters.”

“So now, we’re enjoying our 6-year-old phase instead of the curing cancer stage. We’re letting him enjoy being six and enjoying the time we have,” said Kate. That meant making this Christmas better than ever and making her sons’ wishes come true.

Hospice of Michigan arranged a special visit from Santa. For the Wiersmas, it represented a milestone. They were told that Max might not make it through Labor Day. Three months hence, Max was still feeling good.

The Wiersmas know that they can’t have Max as long as they would like. So for now, they are focusing on making memories.

“For the third time in his life, he’s gotten a miracle and we don’t know how long it’s going to last, so we’re going to cherish every day and celebrate the fact that he’s still here,” said Kate.

For more information on Hospice of Michigan’s Anchors Programs for Children visit [www.hom.org/anchors](http://www.hom.org/anchors).

# 2016 Caring Circle Members

Smiles, gratitude and continuing appreciation to our Caring Circle members who contributed \$1,000 and above last year to Hospice of Michigan. The number that follows donors' names represent the number of years they have been a Caring Circle member. We appreciate the generosity and support of our Caring Circle members.

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# Grand Rapids BBQs are heating up for Hospice of Michigan



The annual John Clay Memorial BBQ & Rib Cook-off, which was started by the Clay family and Miller Welding Supply Co., will kick off a series of Grand Rapids area BBQs to benefit Hospice of Michigan.

The 15th Annual John Clay Memorial BBQ takes place Friday, May 13, 2016, at Miller Welding Supply Co. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Since 2001, this event has raised more than \$500,000. Tickets start at just \$10. Reservations are recommended. Write to [lclay@millerweldingsupply.com](mailto:lclay@millerweldingsupply.com).

The success of the John Clay Memorial BBQ has inspired several long-time Hospice of Michigan supporters and board members to host their own invitation-only BBQ fundraisers, establishing a virtual “Barbecue Week” in Grand Rapids. The week culminates with an exciting new event for Hospice of Michigan: Barley, BBQ & Beats.

Barley, BBQ & Beats will debut Saturday, May 21, at the Van Andel Arena from 5 to 9 p.m. The event will showcase barbeque from leading pit masters and barbeque restaurants, along with whiskeys distilled in Michigan. The evening will also feature live entertainment, including performances from hometown favorites Domestic Problems, Mid-Life Crisis, and Big Dudee Roo.

“We’re extremely excited to expand on the Clay BBQ and bring Barley, BBQ & Beats to our community,” said Marcie Hillary, vice president of community relations. “West Michigan enjoys a thriving craft food and beverage



industry along with a love of community. We look forward to creating a special merger between the two in what we hope will become an annual event in support of Hospice of Michigan.”

Guests, who must be 21+, will be able to sample some of the area’s best barbecue and fixings while tasting hand-crafted cocktails. Tickets are \$35 pre-sale, \$40 at the door.

Barley, BBQ & Beats is replacing Hospice of Michigan’s Walk and Remember in East Grand Rapids. Over the past 20 years, the walk has raised more than \$2.2 million to support the open access program.

“The support we receive from the community is vital so we can continue to offer compassionate end-of-life care to everyone in our community,” Hillary continued. “We thank the many supporters and families who’ve made Walk and Remember a success over the years.

“It is our hope to recast this event in a way that would continue to engage longtime friends from our organization while connecting with a new audience who may not be familiar with the care we provide.

“Event attendees will find themselves having a great time while supporting an important service that affects us all.”

For more information about Barley, BBQ & Beats, or to purchase tickets, go to [hom.convio.net/bbbfestival](http://hom.convio.net/bbbfestival) or contact Alexandra Wilson at 616-356-5288.

Plan on a Northern Michigan weekend and participate in the Alpena Walk and Remember Saturday, June 18 at Starlight Beach Pavilion. Register now at [hom.convio.net/WalkAlp2016](http://hom.convio.net/WalkAlp2016).

## Kroger Community Rewards

Have you registered/re-registered your Kroger Plus card yet? Even if you selected Hospice of Michigan in the past, you are required to re-enroll each year for your rewards to continue to support Hospice of Michigan.

Every time you use your Kroger Plus card at the checkout, a portion of your total purchase will be donated to 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!

Please encourage your friends and family members who shop Kroger to sign up for their community rewards and support Hospice of Michigan.

# Jerry's Vision: Hospice Care For All

Jerry Whitten's first gift to Hospice of Michigan was a direct result of the compassionate care his wife, Bev, received during her final six months of life. Jerry was grateful for the care and support they received from Bev's care team: her nurse, hospice aide, social worker, spiritual care advisor and grief support manager.

Jerry is a humble and philanthropic man. Since his first gift in May 2010, Jerry has inspired hundreds of donors to join him in supporting Hospice of Michigan. Although Jerry does not own a computer, he recognizes that online donations play an increasingly important role in fundraising. So he offered the organization a challenge gift to encourage others to donate online via #GivingTuesday.

#GivingTuesday is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and follows the consumer-driven Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping days. It is a worldwide movement dedicated to giving back to nonprofits in meaningful ways through online donations.

For the past two years, Jerry's annual fall gift was used to encourage other donors to support Hospice of Michigan. His challenge match meant that all gifts made on #GivingTuesday went twice as far to help provide quality of life and outstanding end-of-life care to our patients and families. To date, #GivingTuesday has generated more than \$37,000.

While Jerry doesn't fit most notions of "cyber savvy," he certainly understands the power of social media and the importance of attracting new donors for Hospice of Michigan. #GivingTuesday wouldn't have been as successful without Jerry's commitment, and his support doesn't end there.



*Jerry and Bev Whitten at their home in 1990.*

Jerry's vision is to see that everyone has access to compassionate hospice care at the end of life. To ensure that lifetime commitment, he included Hospice of Michigan in his estate plans. Estate gifts are a powerful way to preserve Hospice of Michigan's financial future so that we can continue our mission of serving all who need and seek our care regardless of age, diagnosis or ability to pay. Jerry's legacy will continue at Hospice of Michigan for years to come.

If you would like to consider an estate gift, please contact Stephanie Le at (248) 346-4253.

## Vehicle Donations

Your vehicle can make a difference in support of our mission. And Charity Motors makes it easy!

### Donations in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw counties

Charity Motors will pick up your vehicle for free and provide a tax receipt for the Blue Book value of your vehicle.

### Donations in other counties

Charity Motors will work with an auto auction house near you to pick up the vehicle and sell it locally. You will receive a tax receipt for the amount the vehicle is sold for at auction.

Because Charity Motors is located in a "low income" area, they are entitled to a federal exemption that allows them to offer Kelley

Blue Book value for your vehicle. For this reason Hospice of Michigan recommends it as the auctioneer of choice for those wishing to make a donation. However, we gratefully accept all vehicle donations.

When contacting any organization, please remember to specify Hospice of Michigan as your designated charity. To learn more about Charity Motors call 888-908-2277 or visit [www.charitymotors.org](http://www.charitymotors.org).





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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.



## Host an Event for Hospice of Michigan

As a nonprofit organization, Hospice of Michigan is always on the lookout for new, fun ways to raise money, and we couldn't do it without the help of our friends, family, and the communities we serve. To contribute to Hospice of Michigan you can donate directly, host a small fundraiser, plan a fundraising event, or make the organization the beneficiary of an existing event. The money you raise helps to fund important

research, education, and outreach programs that ensure quality end-of-life care.

We have devoted a section of our website to fundraising ideas with all of the tools you will need to make your event successful. The Hospice of Michigan Foundation staff will work with you to help ensure that your event goes off without a hitch, and we can even provide volunteers and promotional assistance for your event. Groups and individuals around the state have hosted golf tournaments, dinners, silent auctions, wine tastings, casual day at work, bake sales and so much more. Events can be big or small, they can raise thousands of dollars or a few hundred, every dollar makes a difference towards helping us care for and support our patients and their families.

Visit [www.hom.org/diy-fundraising](http://www.hom.org/diy-fundraising) to learn more about how you can help raise money for Hospice of Michigan or you may contact your local fundraising representative:

**West Michigan:** Alexandra Wilson, 616-356-5288

**Southeast/Mid-Michigan:** Kim Ritter, 313-578-6268

**Northern Michigan:** Brenda Herman, 989-358-4291

**Traverse City:** Michelle Gallagher, 231-942-3395

**DIY Online Support:** Salina Bishop, 616-356-5211

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

**Ada (Grand Rapids)**  
**Alpena**  
**Ann Arbor**  
**Big Rapids**  
**Bloomfield Hills**  
**Cadillac**  
**Clinton Township**  
**Detroit**  
**Fremont**  
**Gaylord**  
**Ludington**  
**Muskegon**  
**Saginaw**  
**Southfield**  
**Traverse City**  
**West Branch**