

## Ensuring Caregiver Support for the Future

As both a founding member of the Hospice of Michigan Foundation Board and a past chair of the not-for-profit's Board of Trustees, Larry Bos has been a passionate advocate for Hospice of Michigan for nearly three decades. Together with his wife Dolores, they have been among Hospice of Michigan's most loyal and generous donors.

Through the years, Dolores and Larry's legacy of generosity has manifested itself in many ways as they each took great joy in serving others. Complementing Larry's Board service, Dolores served on our fundraising committee and shared her artistic skills to design Hospice of Michigan's iconic *Crystal Rose*, symbolic of the quality of care Hospice of Michigan provides.

Sadly, in 2018, death came suddenly and unexpectedly to Dolores. Larry was, and continues to be, heartbroken. "I have been blessed with an extraordinary life, made even richer and more fulfilling by a long, happy marriage to the most giving person in the world, my beloved wife Dolores," Larry recently said.

In life, Dolores' commitment to help others through life's challenges inspired Larry to donate \$1 million to establish the **Dolores Bos Family Caregiver Support Fund**.



Dolores Bos

The **Dolores Bos Family Caregiver Support Fund** will provide the support and resources family caregivers need to care for their loved ones, bringing honor and dignity to each day they have together. The support Hospice of Michigan, and our partner Arbor Hospice, provides patients and their families not only helps them

navigate this most sacred stage of life, but also makes such a difference in how families cope throughout the end-of-life journey. A huge component of this *Caregiver Support Fund* will fund:

- Patients' quality-of-life needs such as fans, a cell phone, meals, small electric bills – those items often taken for granted, but for some are necessities as families are struggling with end-of-life issues.



Larry Bos with Bob Cahill, President & CEO at a special signing luncheon.

- Grief support counseling for family members before and after the death of their loved one.
- A 24/7 caregiver support line for day and nighttime calls to answer questions and dispatch a nurse to a patient's home during a crisis if needed.
- Social work support for couples and family members to help with emotional needs throughout their care and assist with healthy living after the death of a loved one.

At a special luncheon held in Grand Rapids in July, Larry explained his motivation to establish this fund, stating "I believe that becoming a family caregiver, especially at the end of life, is the ultimate expression of love and selflessness. These often overlooked heroes make it possible for their loved one to remain in the comfort and familiarity of their homes, while taking on the majority of their daily care themselves, under the guidance of the hospice care team."

We invite donors to join Larry in helping realize his vision to support caregivers across the state. Your donation to the **Dolores Bos Family Caregiver Support Fund** will help to assure that families across Michigan will be prepared to honor a loved one's life at one of its most important stages.

As further recognition of their legacy of giving, the *Hospice of Michigan Legacy Giving Society* will be renamed the **Dolores Bos Crystal Rose Society**.

# A Message From Bob



Bob Cahill, President and CEO

For 40 years, Hospice of Michigan has been committed to ensuring communities throughout the state have access to quality end-of-life care. Families have shared with us that the services they received have provided peace, comfort and dignity that every person deserves.

We know that hospice and palliative care is a responsible healthcare choice, providing quality of life at a fraction of the cost of traditional medical care. As the Baby Boom generation ages, broader use of the hospice care benefit can help alleviate the impact on our over-burdened healthcare system.

But there are gaps that need to be filled, not just to meet the increasing need, but to accommodate those in the communities we serve who do not know how to access hospice services, or are unaware of the benefits it can offer. Your support will fill those gaps across the state and improve our outreach to better serve the needs of families.

**Your support is vital to meet the specific needs of Michigan's diverse population.**

**Veterans** – Military veterans—more than 20% of our patients—have unique needs at the end of life. Our staff are trained and certified at the highest level to meet their needs.

**Cultural Affiliations** – We continue to provide culturally-specific care to respectfully address the needs of patients of all religious affiliations and cultural traditions.

**Grief Support** – A robust array of grief support is available to families who are facing end-of-life journeys, including individual and group support, memorial events, and even virtual programming.

**Living Our Open Access Mission** – Our commitment to Open Access means we will never turn away anyone, regardless of age, diagnosis or ability to pay.

## *Every Person, Every Time.*

These four powerful, yet simple words are our commitment to providing the best end-of-life care possible. And with support from our donors, like you, we are able to deliver on that promise *Every Person, Every Time*. For this, we are so grateful for the generosity of all of our donors.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Bob Cahill  
President & CEO



Annual giving is the foundation of Hospice of Michigan's ability to fulfill its not-for-profit mission of serving all who need our care regardless of their diagnosis, age, or ability to pay. It is through the annual support of our donors – who support Hospice of Michigan year after year – that we are able to offer the quality, compassionate care everyone deserves at the end of life.

The **Caring Circle Annual Giving Society** recognizes the generosity of these annual donors, whose gifts allow Hospice of Michigan to continue offering hospice and palliative care,

bereavement services to adults and children, community education and outreach throughout Michigan.

You can give the gift of hospice care and join the **Caring Circle Annual Giving Society** by making cumulative annual gifts of \$1,000 or more within a calendar year (January through December). Please keep Hospice of Michigan in mind as you make your year-end giving plans.

As a **Caring Circle** donor, you will be recognized in Hospice of Michigan's spring edition of *Connections*.

**Make your gift to Hospice of Michigan at [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org), or call (800) 669-9335.**



# A Life of Giving Back

Growing up on the family's non-working dairy farm is where the Karner siblings learned life lessons about giving back to their community. Joseph "Al" and Mary Karner instilled in their children the importance of taking care of each other and opening their home - and their hearts - to those in need.

Al served in the U.S. Army during World War II and when he returned from duty in 1947, he bought his first of 21 Wilson Dairy Milk Routes - the largest retail milk distributor in the state of Michigan. The following year, he married Mary, and over the years, they welcomed six children.

In 1957, the Karner's bought a farm in West Bloomfield and it quickly became a home where everyone was welcome. Sunday afternoons were filled with gatherings of friends and family enjoying home-cooked meals and creating lifetime memories. Al's contagious and loud laughter could be heard throughout the property, and Mary's home cooking assured that no one left hungry.

Always active in the community, Al was regularly involved in fundraising for local causes. He coached Little League Baseball, owned **The Copper Mug Bar** in Walled Lake, established the **Walled Lake Industrial Softball League**, and built **The Copper Mug Batting Cages**, now managed by his son, Mike. Al loved people and always stepped in to help when someone was in need. His actions taught his children life-long lessons of giving back.

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**“The reason I do all the fundraisers is because the community has been good to me, and you always like to give something back. We will continue to help people as we go on and as the need comes along. - Al Karner**

.....

When Al sold the family farm after Mary's passing in 1994 he wanted the proceeds of the sale to make a positive impact in the community, establishing *The Al and Mary Karner*



The Karner siblings (L to R): Mike, Gail, Leslie with Hospice of Michigan, Patti, Kathy and Sue

*Charitable Trust.* Al had the foresight to create this trust allowing his surviving children to determine what nonprofit organizations they wished to fund 10 years following his death. The children are now thoughtfully allocating disbursements from the trust to support worthy causes with their parents' interests in mind.

Because Al was cared for by hospice during his final days, the Karner children presented a check of \$30,500 to Hospice of Michigan. Al's daughter, Gail, is also a registered nurse for Hospice of Michigan.

# Barley, BBQ & Beats

**Three fundraisers in 3 weeks = Amazing results!**

May was BBQ MAY-hem indeed with three consecutive Barley, BBQ & Beats fundraisers!

The signature craft cocktail, BBQ and music festival attracted new supporters, built awareness and raised critical funds for Hospice of Michigan's Open Access Program. This program assures that anyone who needs our services at the end-of-life receives them - no matter their age, the complexity of their diagnosis, or their ability to pay.



Special thanks to all of our event sponsors, guests, and those who donated through matching gifts and dedicated giving! Your financial support provides important funding to sustain Hospice of Michigan's philanthropic programs.



## BARLEY, BBQ & BEATS 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

**\$419,229** Money Raised • **2,650** Attendees

**35** Whiskey Distillers • **27** BBQ Joints

**8** Great Bands • **3** Locations

**1** Important Mission

See you in 2020!

April 24th  
Detroit

May 8th  
Cadillac

May 16th  
Grand Rapids

# Teen Brothers Volunteer to Visit People Facing their Last Days

Recent high school graduate, Marshall Smith, may seem like a typical 18 year old, participating in school activities and spending time with friends and family. While one of the highlights of his senior year was playing Lumiere in Cadillac High School's spring production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, Marshall and his 15-year-old brother Gavin also volunteer for Hospice of Michigan, serving as patient companions. "Doing this helps you cope with death," Marshall said. "Instead of avoiding it, I'm facing it."

The Smith brothers follow the example of their mom, Brook Pollington-Smith, who encouraged them to join in the volunteer work that inspires her. "Last year I read about how there are hospice patients who would sometimes go a couple of days without seeing anyone, and how Hospice of Michigan needed people to fill those

spaces," said Smith. She called to volunteer that very day, and since then she has provided companionship, bedside vigils and caregiver relief to those facing their last days.

When Marshall's mom brought up volunteering at Hospice of Michigan, he admitted that he really didn't know what hospice was. "I was intrigued. It's sad that patients are dying and there (are times) when no one is with them. I decided to try it out."

Gavin also agreed "to test the waters." Receiving training and supervision on their first few visits, they quickly discovered that the hospice patients really enjoy listening to them talk about school and their daily activities. "You see them as an equal person and talk to them like a friend," Gavin said.

"I am so proud of these young men," said Kathy Lietaert, Hospice



Marshall and Gavin Smith visit with a patient.

of Michigan's Volunteer Service Manager for northern Michigan. "Dying is a part of life. They are so wise because the rest of society doesn't even face death that way. It's great they spend time with the gift of their youth and the gift of what they have learned. It's very inspiring to the team, patients and families."

If you would like to volunteer with Hospice of Michigan, please visit [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org) for more information.

## ESTATE PLANNING & HOSPICE CARE

### PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q&A

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY  
444 Beach Farm Circle, Highland, MI 48356

*Highland Township is located on the western border of Oakland County in Southeast Michigan.*

**An opportunity to ask the experts!** Submit questions in advance to Stephanie Le at [sle@hom.org](mailto:sle@hom.org)

**RSVP to Stephanie Le:** [sle@hom.org](mailto:sle@hom.org) or 248-346-4253 by Tuesday, October 1. **Seating is limited!**

Parking will be available onsite at the Highland Township Public Library.

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q&A

#### Topics:

- Hospice 101+
- Nonprofit vs Private Hospice
- Hospice Care From A Caregiver's Perspective
- Estate Planning and Hospice Care

**Refreshments :** 6:00 - 6:15pm

**Discussion/Q&A :** 6:15 - 7:45pm

**Panelists :** Michael Paletta, MD  
SVP, Chief Medical Officer  
*Hospice of Michigan*

Sandra Walter, RN  
Service Operations Manager  
*Hospice of Michigan*

Michael Hickox, Esq  
*Huron Valley Law Center, PLC*

**Moderator :** Marcie Hillary  
SVP, Community Relations  
*Hospice of Michigan*



# June B. Hamersma Planned Giving Society

The June B. Hamersma Planned Giving 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 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 at (248) 346-4253.



Richard Clarence Adiska*	William James and Marjorie Connor "In Tribute to Sue Bowler"*	Louise C. Harris*	Agnes LeClair*	Helen W. Palmatier*	June M. Sokol*
Sharon Alexander*	Peter C. Cook*	Lynette Harrison*	Gerda A. Lehew*	Risakubde Luise Parsons*	Gerard P. and Irene Sommerdyke*
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Edna Irene Bischoff*	Catherine C. Dugan*	Donna Jean Hoef and Richard A. Zellner*	Thomas W. Marks*	Maurice F. Remenak*	William L. and Anna B. Turner*
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Arriana Boomstra*	George A. Eastman*	Evelyn E. Holtorf*	Leokadia L. Marshall*	Lorraine E. Robbe* "In memory of Harvey Robbe"	Mary Grace Unbehend*
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\*In Grateful Memory

# Grief Support Delivered in Unique Ways

Hospice care is as much about the patient and their end-of-life journey as it is about the circle of family and friends who must deal with their loss. Hospice of Michigan's Master's-level grief support professionals have the expertise and skills to work with bereaved to understand their pain and suggest unique ways to help manage their feelings. In addition to traditional grief support groups offered throughout Michigan's Lower Peninsula, grief support managers are able to facilitate meaningful opportunities to family members grieving the loss of a loved one.

## **An Heirloom in the Making**

When a young couple received devastating news – the husband was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer and expected to have just a few months to live – their world was turned upside down. With four young children, ages 5, 7, 9 and 13, Will Gasper, Grief Support Services Manager in Cadillac, knew he could help the family manage their anticipatory grief.

Will met with the family and brought a special craft that the whole family could do together – making clay hearts from Sculpey oven-bake clay. During the project, the kids were told of their father's health, what was happening, and encouraged them to ask questions and express their feelings.

Before baking and decorating the hearts, the father's thumbprints were pressed in the center of the heart along with each of the children's – symbolic that he would always be with them in their hearts.



*The Martin siblings displaying one of their thumbprint hearts.*

Knowing that the days and months ahead will be difficult, Will explained to the children that they will always have their father's one-of-a-kind

thumbprint to hold on to and that it would help them remember the special memories they created as a family.

The sacred moments that the family spent together to create this personalized family heirloom helped open up a difficult discussion with the children. It also left them with a very special memento honoring their father that they will be able to treasure forever.

## **A Memory Bear Delivered**

Mary Eileen signed on to Hospice of Michigan services in the fall of 2018, and remained in her home with the care and support of hospice staff and family members, including granddaughter, Kimberly. During Mary Eileen's illness, Kimberly, and husband Justin, learned that they were expecting their first child – a boy! Unfortunately, Mary Eileen passed away before welcoming her 9th great-grandchild into the world.

In anticipation of the baby shower, daughters, Maureen and Jacqueline, decided to buy a stroller for Maureen's daughter, Kimberly. They also searched for a way to include the memory of Mary Eileen in the gift. Thanks to Hospice of Michigan's volunteer Memory Bear sewers, her daughters asked to have a Memory Bear made from Mary Eileen's favorite blue robe.

Knowing that the bear was a gift for an expectant mother, Mary Eileen's Memory Bear was crafted with care, making sure it was baby-proof with no buttons, and eyes that were embroidered. This personalized bear was securely fastened to the stroller and presented at Kimberly's baby shower.



L to R: Maureen, mom-to-be Kimberly, and Jacqueline

It was quite a special delivery for the mom-to-be, and brought fond memories of Mary Eileen to the whole family.

Kimberly and Justin welcomed baby boy Ryan to their family in June 2019. While Ryan never met his great-grandmother, he has a very special keepsake from her.

Memory Bears are offered to Hospice of Michigan bereaved to help ease their pain. "These bears allow the bereaved to remember happy times and keep the essence of their loved one alive in their daily life," said Karen Monts, Practice Manager, Counseling Services.

If you are interested in volunteering to make Memory Bears or to donate to this program, please visit our website at [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org).





# A Culture of Giving Back

Betz Industries, a gray iron and ductile iron foundry in Grand Rapids, has a rich history of supporting Hospice of Michigan. What started as an opportunity for Betz Industries' leaders to instill a culture of giving back with their employees, has evolved into a long-lasting partnership that continues to grow – touching many lives in the process.

For several years, Betz Industries selected a different local not-for-profit organization each year to benefit from their annual employee fundraising effort. Selecting a new beneficiary every year, they invited Hospice of Michigan to be the recipient of this annual effort more than 20 years ago.

Fortuitously, Hospice of Michigan's *Walk and Remember* fundraiser provided a wonderful experience to engage the staff in a meaningful way. In that first year, employees assembled a team of staff and family members – representing approximately 25% of their employees – to participate in the *Walk and Remember* fundraiser. During the event, it came to light that many of the participating walkers had already experienced the benefits of hospice care.

As more employees experienced the care provided to their family members through Hospice of Michigan, the partnership blossomed. With this increased interest in and use of Hospice of Michigan amongst employees, Betz Industries shifted their employee giving philosophy, naming Hospice of Michigan its annual not-for-profit partner.



*Dan Scott, Betz Industries' Director of Human Resources, thanks employees for their generous support.*

Today, the company is a fully engaged partner, matching employee donations dollar-for-dollar, sponsoring Hospice of Michigan fundraising events, and offering a payroll deduction program with the flexibility for employees to make a one-time annual donation, or a recurring gift throughout the year. Currently, 95% of all Betz employees donate to Hospice of Michigan.

Since introducing their culture of giving back 23 years ago, this philanthropic company and its employees have raised \$1.2 million in support of Hospice of Michigan programs and services.

As a special thank you to Betz Industries and their employees, Hospice of Michigan staff hosts an annual celebration lunch featuring BBQ from Saladino Smoke, a local favorite. At this year's luncheon in May, Betz Industries proudly presented a check for nearly \$50,000, representing annual employee contributions. The lunch was made extra special as several employees shared stories of how this incredible partnership continues to have a direct impact on patients and families in the community.

If you know of a company interested in partnering with Hospice of Michigan in a similar manner, please contact Leslie Kota, Director of Philanthropy and Corporate Giving, (313) 578-6269 or email at [lkota@hom.org](mailto:lkota@hom.org)



*Left to right: Dan Scott, Marcie Hillary, Dr. Jim Fahner, Dave Moorhead, Barbara Anderson, Karl Betz*



## Kicking Off Season 2 of *Give A Quarter Back*

With fall just around the corner, we're getting ready to take the field for Season 2 of the **Give a Quarter Back** campaign! We've added some new plays to our playbook to help expand our fan base and reach this season's goal of \$300,000.

Our key play for Season 2 will focus on recruitment. We're hitting the road and meeting with businesses across the state,

asking them to join the **Give A Quarter Back** team and make Hospice of Michigan their charity of choice!

Inspired by the long-time relationship with Betz Industries (see article above), our game plan includes demonstrating how partnering with Hospice of Michigan can help a business better support their employees when faced with the challenges of being a family caregiver. For those businesses who join our team, their employees will be encouraged to **Give A**

**Quarter Back** to Hospice of Michigan by donating in increments of \$25.

If your business – or a business you work with – is looking for a great way to step up their employee benefits game and demonstrate strong corporate citizenship, Hospice of Michigan's **Give A Quarter Back** campaign is ready to help!

For more information on how to join the **Give A Quarter Back** team, please contact Megan LaCross at [melacross@hom.org](mailto:melacross@hom.org) or 734-794-5116.

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Hospice of Michigan Foundation  
 43097 Woodward Ave. Ste. 102  
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#### OVERARCHING STANDARD OF HIGHER PURPOSE

*Every Person, Every Time.*

#### PURPOSE STATEMENT

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

#### CULTURE STATEMENT

Our strength comes from working together providing more layers of support for anyone with a terminal illness who seeks and needs our care regardless of age, diagnosis or ability to pay.

AN EXCLUSIVE STATEWIDE FILM PREMIERE



For more than a decade, renowned children's author Chris Van Allsburg, and his wife Lisa, have supported pediatric hospice care through charity premiere events for the film versions of Chris' classic children's books. This legacy continues with the statewide film premiere of the 3rd installment in the Jumanji series.

**DECEMBER 8**  
 Celebration! Cinema North  
**GRAND RAPIDS**

**DECEMBER 9**  
 State Theater  
**TRAVERSE CITY**

**DECEMBER 10**  
 AMC Classic State 3 Theater  
**ALPENA**

**DECEMBER 11**  
 Emagine Theater  
**ROYAL OAK**

*For more information and to  
 purchase tickets, visit:*

**WWW.JUMANJI4ANCHORS.COM**

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
- Dearborn
- Fremont
- Gaylord
- Ludington
- Muskegon
- Southfield
- Traverse City