



# CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE NORTHSTAR CARE COMMUNITY

in the

# Spotlight

The NorthStar Care Community takes center stage in three new documentary-style films highlighting innovations and perspectives of end-of-life care. Compelling and illuminating, each of these films features personal stories of patients and caregivers navigating the end-of-life experience.

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northstar Care Community



Jo Elyn Nyman  
Programs  
for Children

## A MESSAGE FROM BOB

As the clock ticks past our second full year of pandemic impact, we realize how precious time is. Of course, for patients and families facing end of life, every moment in time is a gift.

In the last two years, I have been humbled in so many ways by the perserverence, resilience, ingenuity and generosity of our end-of-life community.

Amidst the constant change and uncertainty, our bedside staff have remained steadfast in their commitment, helping patients and families navigate end of life.

While others have struggled, we have thrived, building upon our strengths, developing and applying technology to enhance care. We have shared these advances with other not-for-profit hospices across the country so that they can meet this moment, as we do, focused on fulfilling our mission in the best way possible.

Most humbling however, is the generosity that you – our donor community – have demonstrated during these extraordinary times. Thanks to your philanthropic support, 2021 was one of the highest years of charitable giving in recent history.

Despite the lack of traditional fundraising events or capital campaigns, you heeded the call to support our mission because you could see how your donation would make an immediate impact at the bedside.

Your financial support meant we could surround caregivers with more tools than ever before, to help them confidently care for their loved ones – safely, and in their homes, where they want to be.

Telemedicine, taken to the next level with proprietary technology, brought care teams and resources to patients any time of day or night.

And of course, our 24/7 Contact Center continued to provide round-the-clock support, fielding more calls, and longer calls, than ever before. Triage nurses regularly heard that they were “lifesavers” simply for being there, on the phone, providing the physical, emotional or spiritual guidance needed to get through a crisis.

Your support made this all happen. I am profoundly grateful for your generosity, your advocacy and your commitment. Thanks to you, we proudly stand by our simple and powerful mission –

*Every Person. Every Time.*

Best wishes,



Bob Cahill  
President and CEO

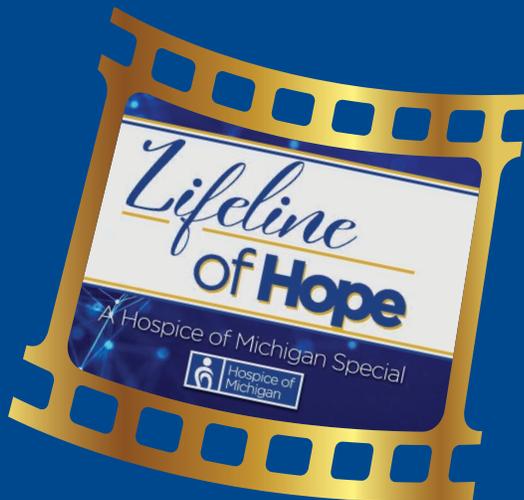


IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

# LIFELINE OF HOPE

A special 30-minute  
television broadcast



Premiering on December 2, 2021 on WOTV, Grand Rapids' ABC affiliate, *Lifeline of Hope* featured two families who were among the first to use Hospice of Michigan's revolutionary new caregiver device, *wE-Connect* (currently being rolled out statewide as **NorthStar LINC**).

Hosted by Jordan Carson, Hospice of Michigan Foundation Board member, this 30-minute special explored how the device enhances the hospice experience by reducing anxiety and building caregiver confidence.

Offering the unique perspective of a caregiver who previously experienced Hospice of Michigan services, Shannon Whitney noted how the device made a critical difference when served by Hospice of Michigan again last summer. "Whether I needed supplies, medication, appointments, or had questions, knowing I had a system and tools that were immediately available helped make the journey a little bit easier. Hospice of Michigan would be my first choice if I had to do this again."

To watch *Lifeline of Hope* please visit:  
[www.woodtv8.com](http://www.woodtv8.com)

# HOSPICE IN AMERICA TODAY

## A new PBS Documentary from Keith Famie

*Hospice in America Today* is a deep dive into how end-of-life care continues to evolve through the eyes of patients, caregivers and the hospice professionals who help them navigate life's most sacred moments.

Produced by award-winning documentary filmmaker Keith Famie, this brand-new, 60-minute documentary was filmed over 18 months in Michigan, Georgia and California.

*Hospice in America Today* presents a framework for understanding the comprehensive approach to care that hospice offers patients and families, while sharing unique viewpoints from nurses, social workers, complementary therapists, grief counselors, volunteers, and family members. Through intimate and emotional storytelling, viewers will appreciate the extraordinary level of service and mission-



driven commitment that is the hallmark of not-for-profit hospice organizations.

As the Exclusive Presenting Broadcast Supporter of *Hospice in America Today*, the NorthStar Care Community is proud to be working with Hospice Savannah and Hospice of Santa Cruz County to present a clear picture of what caring for terminally ill patients looks like.

"We look forward to the opportunity to share compelling patient stories and expert

## HONORING THE MEMORY OF PAUL POTTER

9th Division Infantry, U.S. Army  
and

**GEORGE GORDON, PFC**  
U.S. Marine Corps Reserve

Special thanks to Marge Byington-Potter, Barbara Gordon and the **West Michigan Alliance for Veterans** for their generous gift to complete the funding for *Hospice in America Today*. Their support of this documentary is inspired by their belief that veterans must know that quality end-of-life care is available. Marge stated, "If just one more veteran gets the end-of-life care they need after seeing this film, it's money well-spent."

testimony that will shine a light on the differences between not-for-profit and for-profit providers," said Patrick Miller, Chief Operating Officer.

*Hospice in America Today* is tentatively scheduled to premiere on Detroit Public Television this spring before rolling out to PBS stations across Michigan and nationwide.

## A MOTHER'S JOURNEY. A DAUGHTER'S STORY.

### A touching documentary

Cat Muncey is a natural storyteller and marketing strategist. When her mother enrolled in hospice care with Hospice of Michigan's Traverse City team, Cat grabbed a video camera and started chronicling her mother's journey.

What started as a way to preserve memories of her dear mother, Cat quickly realized that this journey was worth sharing to help others understand what hospice care really looks like. Currently in the final stages of production, Hospice of Michigan will host a Traverse City premiere of this intimate and touching documentary later this year.



# Celebrating A Lifetime Of Service

For decades, Maggie Allesee has been one of southeast Michigan's most devoted and involved philanthropists. A champion of compassionate causes, Maggie and her late husband, Bob, supported a host of civic and charitable activities.

Maggie's pursuit of lifelong learning led to graduate studies that connected with her personal passions – education, guidance and counseling, including post-graduate work in gerontology at Wayne State University. Her thesis, *Caring for the Dying*, inspired her interest in hospice care and led her to join Hospice of Michigan's Foundation Board.

Recognizing how education could transform end-of-life care, Maggie made a \$3 million gift in 2001 to establish the *Maggie Allesee Center for Quality of Life*. Inspired by her belief that everyone has a right to quality end-of-life care, this transformational gift significantly strengthened Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice's capacity to improve the quality of life for patients and families facing serious illness.

Today, the center is an important component of the NorthStar Institute, our premiere education, training and innovation center, focused on improving care for people who are seriously ill and providing support for their caregivers.

As she retires from the Hospice of Michigan Foundation Board, please join us to thank Maggie for her dedication to improving end-of-life care.

To make a gift to honor Maggie's enduring legacy, please visit [www.hom.org/donations](http://www.hom.org/donations).

“Hospice is not about death. It is about making end-of-life's moments meaningful. Supporting Hospice of Michigan is vital to ensure that important innovation, education and community outreach initiatives aimed at improving end-of-life care continue, not just in Michigan, but everywhere.”



## PASSING THE TORCH



Arbor Hospice is pleased to welcome Peggy Cole as the new Director of Philanthropy. Peggy is taking over the role formerly held by Judy Vindici, who retired in December after brilliantly advocating for Arbor Hospice for six years.

An accomplished fundraiser with a tremendous knowledge of the local philanthropic community, Peggy is poised to lead all fundraising efforts to support essential programs and services at Arbor Hospice, including *The Residence of Arbor Hospice*. Peggy's immediate focus will be to generate donor support for the design and development of the Midwest's first hospice simulation lab, the continued expansion of complementary therapy programming and the statewide rollout of *NorthStar LINC* (previously called *wE-Connect*).

Peggy joins Arbor Hospice from Packard Health, where she served as Director of Development. In that role, she helped cultivate a vast donor network, many of whom are also supporters of Arbor Hospice.

“It's truly an honor to be stepping into this role,” Cole said. “I believe nobody should face the end of life alone and no family should face it alone, and that's the foundation of Arbor Hospice. I feel really proud to be here.”

Peggy Cole (LEFT) and Judy Vindici

# DELIVERING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO A GRIEVING FAMILY

The Christmas spirit was alive and well this past holiday season, thanks to Hospice of Michigan's Quality of Life fund and the generosity of Hospice of Michigan employees, who were able to deliver good cheer to a grieving family.

Hospice of Michigan's Macomb Team was moved to ensure a bright Christmas for a loving family under their care following the death on December 20<sup>th</sup> of their mother, 45-year-old Lakeitha Denson. Leading the charge, Social Worker Ann Szymanski gathered staff donations, and with Quality of Life funding, shopped for gifts and grocery gift cards. Nurses, playing the role of Santa's Elves, festively wrapped the family's surprises.

“The family could not thank us enough, not only for the Christmas magic, but for honoring Lakeitha's wishes to do things “her way.”

- Ann Szymanski, Social Worker

Remembering that Lakeitha had told her about her family's preference for a non-traditional holiday meal, Ann also arranged a special feast of spaghetti and meatballs donated by a local restaurant.

When Santa's sleigh arrived at their home, Lakeitha's children couldn't believe their eyes. The Macomb Team's generosity of spirit and Christmas cheer was an incredible gift for the entire family, who, in their time of grief, was able to experience holiday joy. Thank you Macomb Team!

To learn more about the Quality of Life Fund, please visit [hom.org/vid-quality-of-life](http://hom.org/vid-quality-of-life).

Lakeitha's family members enjoying Christmas cheer.



## The Comfort of a Loved One's

# Heartbeat

"To know him was to love him," said Connie Wilson about her late husband, Jim. "He was a very loving and caring person. He would do anything for anyone and not expect anything in return...everybody loved him."

Married for 37 years, it was love at first sight when they met during Jim's service in the U.S. Army. Jim served 24 years until his retirement in 2005. A dedicated soldier, Jim was a great neighbor, friend, father, grandfather and husband.

In August 2020, at age 58, Jim received a diagnosis of metastatic stage-four lung cancer due to asbestos exposure during his military service.

Nothing could have prepared the family for this diagnosis, or for the months spent in the hospital enduring aggressive treatment.

By the following spring, Jim's oncology team had exhausted his treatment

options. That is when Connie and Jim turned their focus to maximizing his quality of life,

reaching out to Arbor Hospice for the next stage of care.

Connie transferred Jim to their Whitmore Lake, Michigan home where Connie and his care team immediately prioritized his comfort. Connie was impressed by Jim's care team, in particular his nurse Becky. The wife of a retired Colonel, Becky shared a special bond with this military family

Connie and Jim, age 32,  
attending a military ball



# UNDER UNTHINKABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE RESIDENCE OF ARBOR HOSPICE RESPONDS

under her care. “We knew immediately that this was going to be a good fit,” said Connie.

Grief Support Services Manager, Gabby, was another exceptional member of the care team. Understanding and empathetic, Gabby not only guided Connie through the hospice process, she also helped their seven-year-old granddaughter understand what was happening. “Gabby joined our granddaughter on the swings and spoke with her about her grandpa; she prepared her for what was to come.”

On July 22, 2021, surrounded by family, Jim died peacefully at home.

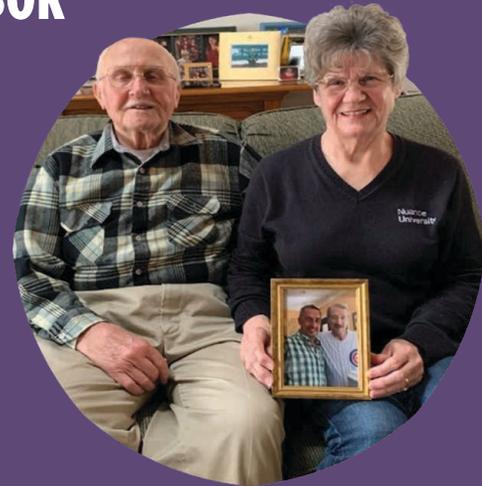
To help keep Jim’s memory close, Gabby worked with the Arbor Hospice Music Therapy team to present the family with a very special memento – a Heartbeat Bear. With special equipment purchased through Arbor Hospice’s Quality of Life Fund, a member of the care team used a recording of Jim’s heartbeat they had taken earlier, tucking it inside the keepsake stuffed animal. It’s a treasure that will comfort Connie and her family for years to come.

“Even though Jim is no longer with us physically, he is still with us in spirit and in our hearts. The Heartbeat Bear represents the beautiful life that we were so blessed to share,” said Connie. Gabby also arranged for two more treasured Heartbeat Bears to be given to Connie and Jim’s son and granddaughter.

“We are grateful for our bears. On difficult days the bears are a great comfort to us.”

To learn more about Grief Support Services and the Quality of Life fund, please visit [www.arborhospice.org](http://www.arborhospice.org) and [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org).

Wesley and Barbara Prater suffered the loss of two of their children within just two years. Their 56-year-old son, D.J., passed away peacefully at *The Residence of Arbor Hospice* after his battle with colon cancer. Within an hour of his passing, the Praters received unimaginable news: their other son, Jack, battling schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, had been diagnosed with brain cancer.



“The care Jack received at *The Residence of Arbor Hospice* was so wonderful – you’d think he was the only patient there,” Wesley Prater said. “There are simply not enough good words to say about all the amazing things the staff did for my son to make his last days on this earth the best they could possibly be.”

“Jack prided himself on working and living independently, so he didn’t want to ask for help before or after he got sick,” recalls Barbara Prater. “In fact, he drove himself to the ER after he passed out in the shower one day because he didn’t want me to worry about him.”

Barbara and Wesley cared for Jack at their home in Saline for as long as they could. Eventually, it became too difficult to take care of him and they returned to the homelike surroundings of *The Residence of Arbor*

*Hospice* knowing Jack could live his final days in peace and comfort there.

Stories about *The Residence of Arbor Hospice* from families like the Praters are plentiful. As health care costs continue to rise, generous donations ensure we can continue fulfilling our not-for-profit mission of serving all families who come to us in need at end of life regardless of their diagnosis, age, or ability to pay.

For more information and to support *The Residence of Arbor Hospice*, please visit [arborhospice.org](http://arborhospice.org).

## YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, *The Residence of Arbor Hospice* can provide families, like the Praters, a comfortable, homelike environment when they can no longer safely or effectively care for their critically ill loved ones at home.

Because patient insurance does not adequately cover all costs related to inpatient hospice care, donor support is critical to help Arbor Hospice underwrite nearly \$270,000 annually in uncompensated expenses in caring for **Every Person, Every Time.**



The Residence of  
**ARBOR  
HOSPICE**

Serving the community since 1998.

Annual Giving is the foundation of Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice'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 our donor's annual support that we are able to offer the quality, compassionate care that everyone deserves at end of life. A special thanks to our 2021 Annual Giving Society individual donors and organizations!

*Arbor Hospice Caring Circle members are italicized.*

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JOIN US FOR

MAX'S BIG

CAMP OUT

Round 2

It has been over 650 nights and counting. United Kingdom resident, eleven-year-old Max is still camping out, still raising money for the hospice who cared for his friend, Rick, and still inspiring people around the world in his memory. Before he died, Max's neighbor Rick gave Max his tent and made him promise to have a grand adventure. That is exactly what Max did. Max started camping out to raise funds for the organization that fulfilled Rick's wish of peacefully dying at home with his family.

Max saw an opportunity to help beyond his own community. He invited families to camp out and raise funds for their favorite charities. Thus, **Max's Big Campout** was born.

In 2021, 63 families joined Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice in **Max's Big Campout**, raising approximately \$30,000 for *Jo Elyn Nyman Anchors Programs for Children*. This year, coinciding with **Max's Big Campout** in Great Britain on Saturday, March 26, 2022, we are once again inviting families to take part in this very special event.

## PLAN YOUR OWN CAMP OUT ADVENTURE

Whether you pitch your tent in your family room or outside in your yard, **Max's Big Campout** is **FUN**draising everyone can enjoy. Just like last year, we are planning a host of interactive activities that families can access virtually. So, get your marshmallows ready and be sure to save the date. Check our website for more information: [www.hom.org/campout](http://www.hom.org/campout)

*In case you miss Max's Big Camp Out, you can still enjoy many of the virtual activities. Visit [www.hom.org/campout](http://www.hom.org/campout)*



# SAVE THE DATES

Live!

FROM THE BIG HOUSE **3**

SAVOR THE JOURNEY

Featuring Special Guest  
**MITCH ALBOM**

**THURSDAY  
MAY 19, 2022**

Jack Roth Stadium Club  
at Michigan Stadium

*See back cover for additional details*



**THURSDAY  
JUNE 16, 2022**

Boyne Mountain Resort  
The Alpine Course



**WEDNESDAY  
SEPT. 7, 2022**

The Listening Room  
Grand Rapids

**THURSDAY  
SEPT. 8, 2022**

The Whiskey Factory  
Detroit

# EMPLOYEES ARE DONORS TOO!

The Legacy Club and Caregivers Club of Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice are made up of employees who contribute annually at levels of \$1,000 and \$500 respectively. We are grateful to all of our employees for their commitment to the compassionate care they provide, as well as their monetary support.

## LEGACY CLUB (\$1,000+)

Robert J. Cahill  
Christi Collins  
Rachel Derry  
Tony Gaglio  
Marcie Hillary  
Lee Anne Jamieson-Peeters  
Eric Kaplan  
Stephanie Le  
Patricia McDaniel  
Stacey McLaurin  
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Karen Monts  
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Tammy Stricker  
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## CAREGIVERS CLUB (\$500+)

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Brenda Bedient  
Timothy Bedker  
Allyson Bell  
Elizabeth Berlow  
Chris Bowman  
Megan Cadle  
Patty Davis  
Colleen Dorris  
Allison Droke  
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# THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 EVENT SPONSORS

*Arbor Hospice sponsors are italicized.*

### \$5,000

*Bank of Ann Arbor*  
*Besser Company*  
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*Fifth Third Bank*  
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*Varsity Lincoln Inc*  
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### \$2,500

*Marc and Amy Ferguson*  
*Nie Funeral Homes*  
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### \$1,500

*J.S. Clark Agency, Inc*  
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*Homewatch Caregivers*  
*Jewish Family Services*  
*Retirement Income Solutions*  
*The Shamrock Companies*

Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice are grateful for our established Family Funds. Opportunities to establish named family funds begin at \$25,000 and can be pledged up to five years.

*Lynn Bowers Family Fund*  
*in memory of Stella Bowers*

*The Brower Family Fund*

*The Jerry Clay Family Foundation*

*Brian and Darcy Connolly Family Fund*

*Marc and Amy Ferguson*  
*Family Philanthropy Fund*

*Alice and James Forrest Family Fund*  
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*Sylvia and Ed Hagenlocker Family Fund*

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*Kurt and Judy Ludlow Family Fund*

*The Oberg Family Fund*  
*in memory of Donna*

*Nancy L. Philippart and Thomas F. McGrail Family Fund*  
*in memory of Cheryl A. McWilliams*

*Chris and Michelle Rabideau Family Fund*  
*in loving memory of our mothers,*  
*Amelia "Wally" Caspari*  
*and Nancy Rabideau*

*George and Florence Seyburn*  
*Family Fund for Open Access*

For more information on establishing a Family Fund, please contact Stephanie Le, Director of Major and Planned Gifts, at 248.346.4253.



**TUESDAY**  
**SEPT. 13, 2022**

**Eagle Crest Golf Club**  
**Ypsilanti**



**FRIDAY**  
**OCTOBER 7, 2022**

**Turtle Creek Casino**  
**Traverse City**

**SATURDAY**  
**OCTOBER 8, 2022**

**Art in the Loft**  
**Alpena**

## HOSPICE OF MICHIGAN LOCATIONS

- Ada (Grand Rapids)
- Alpena
- Ann Arbor
- Big Rapids
- Bloomfield Hills
- Cadillac
- Charlevoix
- Clinton Township
- Dearborn
- Gaylord
- Ludington
- Muskegon
- Southfield
- Traverse City

## ARBOR HOSPICE / HOME OFFICE

- Ann Arbor
- Saline

**northstar**

Care Community

2366 Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

**24/7 CONTACT CENTER**  
📞 888.247.5701



**24/7 CONTACT CENTER**  
📞 888.992.2273 (CARE)

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)

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\*In Memory Of

### PRESENTING SPONSORS - KARL & PATTI BETZ

*Live!* FROM THE BIG HOUSE **3**  
SAVOR THE JOURNEY

Savor The Journey returns to the Jack Roth Stadium Club at Michigan Stadium "The Big House!" The 10<sup>th</sup> annual event will benefit essential patient and family programs through Arbor Hospice.

The evening will begin with a strolling dinner, and guests will have the opportunity to tour the Wolverines locker room, run through the tunnel and take the field, just like the Michigan Football team!

Tickets are \$125 and sponsorships are available.

Contact Kim Streich at:  
[kstreich@arborhospice.org](mailto:kstreich@arborhospice.org)  
or 734-794-5120 for additional information.



Special guest speaker  
**Mitch Albom**

