

# CONNECTIONS

FALL 2017

News and Events from Arbor Hospice



Paul J. Rice was a modest man with a heart of gold and a deep commitment to helping others. So much so, that through his estate he continues to make a significant difference in the lives of some of Arbor Hospice's most

challenged patients and their families.

"Paul's passion
was helping
indigent people."

~Shari Roberts-Osojnak

On Aug. 28, 2017, Shari Roberts-Osojnak, trustee to the Paul J. Rice estate, presented Arbor Hospice with a gift of \$625,000 to establish the *Paul J. Rice Charity Bed Fund*, making

residential hospice care possible for many who could not access these services otherwise. To date, this is the largest estate gift that Arbor Hospice has received.

Mr. Rice was so modest, that Shari, his next-door neighbor for more than 20 years, was surprised to find out that he was wealthy, and was amazed at how much he had saved over the years. As listed in his obituary, Rice left everything he owned to charity "to help others in need."

Paul became interested in Arbor Hospice's mission through his longtime friend, Mary Lindquist, our founder. He shared her passion for providing dignity, respect and compassionate care at end of life, making many gifts to Arbor Hospice over the years.

Interestingly, his generosity came full circle as Arbor Hospice provided both Paul and his sister, Helen, hospice and palliative care services. Staff recall him as being very kind both when he had the role of Helen's caregiver, as well as when he became a patient himself.

"Paul's passion was helping indigent people. Following his wishes, and because of his personal experiences with Arbor Hospice, a fund has been established in his name at The Residence. Supporting the *Paul J. Rice Charity Bed Fund* really brings Paul's support of hospice and his legacy full-circle," Osojnak said.

Caring for our charity patients is one of Arbor Hospice's key missions. We never turn away any patient because he or she lacks the means to pay or are underinsured. Gifts such as Mr. Rice's allow us to better serve these patients and their families.

Adam was such a patient. At age 36, he was an IT professional at the University of Michigan when he was first diagnosed with melanoma. His career was rising, and he was the primary

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## Establishing A Community of Care



Bob Cahill, President and CEO

In 2016, Arbor Hospice and Hospice of Michigan forged a partnership built on reinforcing our strengths, diversifying our capabilities and sharing best practices. As legacy nonprofit hospice organizations, we share the belief that everyone in our reach deserves the best end-of-life experience possible.

Through this partnership, we now have a network of integrated programs and services which range from our core hospice programs to pediatric services, palliative care and education/training. The name of this network is the *NorthStar Care Community*.

#### What's in a Name?

As we researched network name options, one theme repeatedly rose to the top. This theme spoke to the essence of our mission-based work, and resonated deeply with our front-line clinical staff: We are experts in guiding patients and families to the right care at the right time for their needs and wishes.

Sharing this concept with our clinical staff was truly an "aha" moment; teams across the state readily identified their role as navigators of end-of-life care, committed to guiding patients and families confidently through one of the most difficult and unknown situations in life.

This insight and validation led to the creation of the name *NorthStar Care Community*.









Jo Elyn Nyman
Programs for Children

#### northstar Palliative Care



*North Star:* a symbol of reliable navigation;

Care: encompasses our growing continuum of medical services; and

Community: represents our integral relationships with our colleagues, referral sources, business partners, patients and families, as well as the community of programs and services we provide.

#### Strong Hospice Brands at the Core of the Network

While the NorthStar Care Community provides an underlying structure for our collective organization, our member brands will always be at the forefront in the communities we serve. Arbor Hospice and Hospice of Michigan, the foundational members of the NorthStar Care Community, will continue to be the brands that represent the pinnacle of community-based hospice care.

Anchors Programs for Children, which now serves families across both the Arbor Hospice and Hospice of Michigan service areas, will continue to grow, caring for our most vulnerable patients.

As we extend Arbor Palliative
Care across the state, we take the
opportunity to harness the value of
the network brand, renaming the
program NorthStar Palliative Care.
Likewise, we will rebrand the Hospice
of Michigan Institute as the NorthStar
Institute to appropriately reflect its
organization—wide impact.

In the ever-changing world of health care, the *NorthStar Care Community* represents a shining star, leading the way in expert, compassionate end-of-life care.

Warm regards,



### A Fresh New Logo

You may have noticed the new Arbor Hospice logo in the article above. This new look is several years in the making, refreshing the previous logo that represented Arbor since 1992.

Utilizing vivid color, modern type and iconography, the logo pays homage to Arbor's heritage, with a nod to the mission, vision and values of the organization.



Anchored by a tree sheltered beneath an arbor, the icon represents our mission to provide comfort, assurance and care to all. The leaves embody Arbor's seven core values. And the spreading trunk—resembling an "A"—connotes the support, strength and trust that patients, families, employees, volunteers, donors and partners expect from us.

### Song for George

It is no secret that music has been proven to have transformational power. Music therapy—one of the many complementary therapies offered by Arbor Hospice—has made a profound impact for one patient and his music student—in—training in particular.

While pursuing an undergraduate degree in Music Therapy at Eastern Michigan University, Jordan Blanchard had the opportunity to fulfill his final practicum requirement at Arbor Hospice with music therapist Rachael Lawrence-Lupton.

Rachael carefully identified patient George Luciani—a pastor who was renowned for singing and conducting his congregation as they sang hymns during the services—for Jordan to work with. Through music, the two quickly developed a close bond that lasted Jordan's entire school year.

Each week, Jordan and George spent time together, singing familiar hymns and talking about music. While George was mostly nonverbal and slept most of the day, it was during these sessions with Jordan that George would hum, sing and even move his hands as though conducting a choir.

"The building of trust between the therapist and the patient is so important. Jordan knew exactly how to reach George through music," said Rachael.

As Jordan observed the changes in George's health over time, he also provided support to George's wife, Carol, helping her manage the stresses of caregiving. The experience had a profound effect on Jordan, helping him understand what it really means to be a hospice music therapist.

As the school year came to a close, Rachael asked Jordan to find a way to honor George and commemorate their experience. He wrote a moving tribute called "Song for George," incorporating George's favorite hymns like "In the Garden" and "Blessed Assurance."

During their last session together, Jordan performed "Song for George" for the family. Carol teared up as she watched George, who was not able to converse, sing along to the integrated hymns. It was a spectacular and moving moment



Jordan sings to George

for them all and one his family will treasure for years to come.

Arbor Hospice's complementary therapy programs are funded through philanthropy. If you would like to make a donation, please visit www. arborhospice.org.

#### Paul J. Rice's Full-Circle Legacy from front page

caretaker for his six-year-old developmentally challenged daughter, Megan.

Over the next three years, the financial and physical challenges of fighting his cancer, combined with providing for his daughter's special needs, wore him down and destroyed his financial resources. However, once he was admitted to the Residence of Arbor Hospice as a charity patient, our staff moved quickly to care for them both. As the care team worked to get Adam's pain under control and make him comfortable, social workers

and grief support staff worked with his brothers and Megan, explaining to them what was happening.

The Residence's relaxed family room also allowed this large extended family to have quiet time or discussions away from the patient.

During his last two nights, Megan and her uncles were able to spend the night with Adam. Kenneth, Adam's brother said "It was as good an experience as it could have been and Arbor Hospice was key to that." Our

staff remains committed to helping Adam's family cope with their grief and move forward.

The establishment of the *Paul J. Rice Charity Bed Fund* enables Arbor Hospice to care for patients like Adam. The community is encouraged to contribute to this fund so that we can continue Paul's legacy for years to come.

If you would like to contribute to the *Paul J. Rice Charity Bed Fund*, please visit www.arborhospice.org or call Judy Vindici at (734) 794–5542.



#### **R.W. Considine Foundation**

### Anchors Pilots Technology to Support Young Patients

Jo Elyn Nyman Anchors Programs for Children is piloting a new technology to better serve young patients and their families by providing the latest telemedicine equipment in the industry.

In partnership with the Robert W. Considine Foundation, Anchors will introduce in-home JEMS TeleHealth equipment—the first of its kind telemedicine system that offers a secure, mobile, reliable, and affordable solution for Anchors doctors to stay connected with their patients.

JEMS will bring a child's doctor virtually into their home—allowing the child to receive important medical contact without having to leave the comfort and familiarity of their home environment. The benefits of this "in-home" interaction reduces the child's fear and anxiety, diminishes family expenses of travel or taking time off work, and increases medical access to the doctor.

"This technology provides the ability to converse face-to-face in real time with the patient's doctor, and eventually with members of their entire care team. This will allow families to respond to acute illness, avoid unnecessary trips to the emergency room, and have immediate access to their doctor,"

said Dr. Michael Paletta, Vice President, Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer for Arbor Hospice and Hospice of Michigan.

For example, children with neuro-degenerative diseases and movement disorders require additional medical needs such as specialized transportation for a family to get them to and from their appointments. These children also need to bring along with them their ventilators, personal medical devices and specialized equipment like a wheelchair—making transportation costs more than economically challenging for a family who is struggling financially and emotionally under these circumstances.

JEMS TeleHealth can provide much needed relief and comfort to families so they can focus on what really matters—spending quality time with their children.

This pilot is being implemented this fall for Anchors patients and their doctors. Anticipating the program's success, it will quickly be expanded to the entire care team—providing access 24/7 for these families.

Jo Elyn Nyman Anchors Programs for Children is funded entirely through philanthropic dollars. If you would like to contribute, please call (888) 247–5704.

## THE ANCHORS PROGRAMS PILOTING THE JEMS TECHNOLOGY INCLUDE:

- The James B. Fahner Pediatric Hospice program, established in 1995 and named after its founder, provides patients with a dedicated, experienced team of pediatric-trained hospice care staff.
- Compass Support Services provides families with children who have a chronic and potentially life-limiting illness a wide range of support services while coping with life's day-today challenges.

Whether a child is served by the James B. Fahner Pediatric Hospice program or Compass Support Services, we help connect families with the resources they need to help them navigate through the unique challenges they face.

Please visit www.arborhospice.org/ anchors or call (888) 247-5704 for more information.