



# CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE NORTHSTAR CARE COMMUNITY

## A \$1 MILLION GIFT OF GRATITUDE

Introducing the McGrail-Philippart Family Guidance and Emotional Support Fund, in memory of Cheryl A. McWilliams



Since losing her sister in 2008, Nancy Philippart has been on a mission to help others prepare for the loss of a loved one. Focused on helping families manage the complexities of their grief and support them as they move on, Nancy and her husband, Tom McGrail, have been building an impressive legacy to honor the memory of her beloved sister.

### HONORING A SISTER'S LEGACY

Only 39 years old and mother to two young girls, a diagnosis of a rare form of cancer rocked Cheryl A. McWilliams' world. Upon learning that curative treatment was no longer effective, Cheryl and her family turned to Hospice of Michigan. Shifting their focus to quality of life, Cheryl and her family were able to celebrate many special moments together.

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northstar Care Community

# A MESSAGE FROM BOB

## Achieving Stability in an Unstable Environment

*Change. Uncertainty. Goals. Decisions. Peace.*

To patients and families receiving hospice care, these five words can all be used to describe their end-of-life experience.

Just as our patients and families navigate the shifting dynamics and emotions that come with a terminal diagnosis, searching for a sense of stability amidst the uncertainty of their journey, we also face a constantly changing environment and uncertainty that influences every operational decision.

When I stepped into this role in 2014, my goal was to firmly establish a sense of stability for the organization.

Since then, stability has meant being nimble enough to weather change without disrupting the delivery of care.

It has been demonstrated by being forward-thinking and innovative, ready not only to adapt to change that is thrust upon us, but also to lead the change.

And most importantly, our stability has been measured by fiscal responsibility and our long-serving team of executives who shares this commitment.

While the last three years have presented challenges we had never imagined, I am incredibly proud of how our team has identified opportunities that have transformed the industry and opened new doors to growth and sustainability.

Today, we are financially sound, without debt, with cash reserves, and with a business model that ensures we can continue to fulfill our mission –

***Every Person. Every Time.***

With this stability and the promise that the NorthStar Care Community will continue to thrive, I have announced to our Board of Trustees my intention to retire at the end of the year. This milestone fulfills my goal to serve as CEO for ten years and has provided the opportunity to establish a succession plan.

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees has approved Patrick Miller, EVP and Chief Operating Officer to be the incoming President and CEO, effective January 1, 2024. A trusted colleague and key member of the Executive Team for 19 years, Patrick is ready for this important transition to lead the organization.

Knowing that my passion for our mission will not fade in retirement, Patrick has asked that I remain connected to the organization for the next few years in a consultative capacity as we continue building and expanding our national relationships.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this mission since joining Hospice of Michigan in 1998. I am grateful for my colleagues, our Boards, our donors and community partners whose support and encouragement has been invaluable. And I look forward to continuing to advance our mission in the months and years to come.

Best wishes,



Bob Cahill  
President and CEO

## A \$1 MILLION DOLLAR GIFT OF GRATITUDE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### PAYING IT FORWARD

In 2020, Nancy and Tom established the *Cheryl A. McWilliams Grief Support Family Fund* demonstrating their gratitude for the care and support Hospice of Michigan provided the family throughout Cheryl's illness. This fund provides bereavement support to families based on their individual needs.

Subsequently, Nancy joined the Foundation Board and has been an active member assisting with fundraising, applying for grants and hand-writing letters encouraging long-time donors to establish Family Funds in memory of their loved ones.



▲ (L-R) Nancy & Cheryl



## TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Recognizing how valuable extensive social and emotional support is to families facing the loss of a loved one, Nancy and Tom recently deepened their commitment with a \$1 million gift to establish the *McGrail-Philippart Family Guidance and Emotional Support Fund, in memory of Cheryl A. McWilliams*. This transformational gift will ensure families receive grief support counseling and critical social work services to address their emotional needs before and after the death of a loved one.

“We are very grateful for this exceptional gift that will directly impact the thousands of patients, families and caregivers we serve annually,” says Stephanie Le, Director, Major & Planned Gifts for Hospice of Michigan.

“ I don’t know how we would have managed without the caring support of Cheryl’s grief support counselor. This is one small way we can pay it forward and help other families through the grieving process.”

*For more information on how you can support this fund or to start a Family Fund, please contact Stephanie Le at sle@hom.org or call 248-346-4253.*

## Arbor Hospice Remembers Millie Scholl

### Long-time Hearts Program Volunteer

Mildred “Millie” Scholl, longtime Hearts of Remembrance volunteer, passed away peacefully on December 16, 2022. Still crafting Hearts at age 90, Millie will be remembered by her fellow volunteers for her caring spirit, warmth and generosity. She will be greatly missed.

## Preserving *a legacy* through music

Shani McLoyd was grounded in the belief that her life would be full of possibility and adventure. Even when diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis as a teenager, she refused to let her illness determine where she could go, what she could do and how she would live her life.

For the next thirty years, Shani pursued her dreams with gusto, including earning a Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan, and pursuing a career in counseling.

She travelled the world, visiting Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and everywhere in between. Not one for “safe trips”, Shani savored adventure, which even included bungee jumping — while in her wheelchair!

Sadly, her struggle with MS took its toll and her health declined. Seeking to live as fully as possible, Shani turned to Arbor Hospice for the support to make every day count.

Quickly, Music Therapy became an important component of Shani’s care plan. It helped her come to terms with her disease process, her loss of autonomy and addressed her desire to be her “old self.”

When asked by her music therapist, Rachael, if she would be interested in writing a legacy song, she responded with her typical enthusiasm, “I’ve never done that before!”

Following a long conversation – how she loved helping others and how she never wanted to be defined by her disease – together Shani and Rachael wrote the lyrics to her legacy song. True to her spirit, the song’s refrain reflected her mantra for life: “...not what I wanted, not what I asked for, but I’m going to keep on going forward.”

Setting Shani’s words to her favorite melody, Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah,” the song became an important part of every music therapy session. Rachael even made a CD, combining the music and lyrics with a recording of Shani’s heartbeat as a base note, which added a deeply personal and rhythmic pulse. Shani was filled with pride for having written something so powerful and hopeful.

During her last few days, Shani’s family played the CD at her bedside, taking comfort in the meaning behind every word and beat in the song. Sharing the legacy song at Shani’s funeral, her loved ones remarked how beautifully it embodied Shani: full of life, of love and dreams, and of her struggle.

For Shani, like so many others at end of life, music therapy was a meaningful way to fully express herself and leave the gift of her legacy to all who loved her.

*Music Therapy is fully funded by philanthropic contributions and is currently offered in select communities across the state. To help expand these services across Michigan, we rely on the financial support of our donors.*

*Please visit [www.hom.org/donate](http://www.hom.org/donate) or [www.arborhospice.org/donate](http://www.arborhospice.org/donate).*



# THANK YOU 2022 SPONSORS

Special thanks to the following sponsors who underwrote fundraising events throughout 2022. Their unwavering support for end-of-life care is vital to providing the programs and services that enhance quality of life.

*Arbor Hospice sponsors are italicized.*

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# FALLING BACK into Fundraising Events

Fall 2022 marked the return of fundraising events across the state. Renowned cocktail historian, Philip Greene, entertained audiences in Alpena, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Traverse City with tales and tasty concoctions reflecting the life and literature of Ernest Hemingway and James Bond author, Ian Fleming.

The thoughtful words of clinical caregivers featured in the mission video that anchored each event beautifully underscored the profound and rewarding impact of our not-for-profit mission to provide care for everyone—regardless of age, diagnosis or financial circumstances.



## AN EVENING WITH HEMINGWAY DETROIT



## AN EVENING WITH HEMINGWAY GRAND RAPIDS



## Remembering Maggie Allesee

Please join us in remembering Maggie Allesee, one of the most prolific and dedicated benefactors to this organization and so many others throughout southeast Michigan. Maggie died peacefully, in her Bloomfield Hills home on January 26, 2023 under the gentle care of Hospice of Michigan's Oakland North team.

With a personality and energy that defied her diminutive size, Maggie's pursuit of lifelong learning led to graduate studies that connected with her personal passions – education, guidance and counseling. Her thesis, "Caring for the Dying" for her post-graduate work in gerontology at Wayne State University 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 (MACQOL). Inspired by her belief that everyone has a right to quality end-of-life care, this transformational gift significantly strengthened Hospice of Michigan's capacity to improve the quality of life for patients and families facing serious illness.

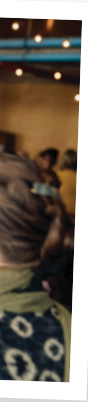
Today, the center is an important component of the NorthStar Institute, Michigan's premiere education, training and innovation center focused on improving care for people who are seriously ill and providing support for their caregivers.

As a passionate, energetic and generous champion of our not-for-profit mission, Maggie was a recipient of a Crystal Rose Award in 2005. She remained a loyal donor for more than 20 years, and actively served on the Hospice of Michigan Foundation Board from 2003–2021, transitioning to emeritus member status last year.

As Maggie and Bob's health began to decline, they turned to the support of NorthStar Palliative Care and Hospice of Michigan. True to her generous spirit, Maggie and her full-time caregiver regularly expressed their gratitude for the compassionate care she received from her hospice team.

Please join us in remembering Maggie for the legacy she has left this organization. Her ardent advocacy for our not-for-profit hospice mission will continue to inspire us – **Every Person. Every Time.**

*If you wish to honor Maggie's memory, please visit the donation pages of the Hospice of Michigan or Arbor Hospice websites and select the NorthStar Institute in the drop down field.*



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 financial circumstances. 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 2022 Caring Circle Annual Giving Society individual donors and organizations!

*Arbor Hospice Caring Circle members are italicized.*

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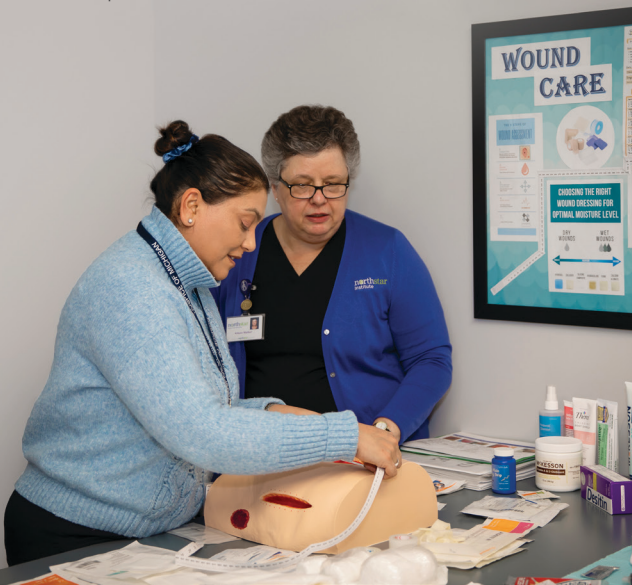
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## Technology and Tools That Set Clinicians Up for Success.

“ Training staff to provide exceptional care to patients in a safe, well-resourced, hands-on learning environment allows us to get all aspects of care aligned. The lab provides endless opportunity to prepare clinicians for real-world scenarios.”

- Alison Walker, Education & Research Specialist, NorthStar Institute



# RAISING THE BAR ON HOSPICE TRAINING

## The NorthStar Simulation Lab Opens its Doors in Ann Arbor

What was once a dream to build a simulation lab dedicated to the education and training of hospice clinicians is now a reality!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of an anonymous donor's significant Challenge Match gift, the NorthStar Institute realized its dream in December 2022, opening the doors to the *NorthStar Simulation Lab* – one of the few dedicated end-of-life education and training programs in the country, and the only one in the Midwest.

The *NorthStar Simulation Lab*, with its highly innovative simulation-based tools, resources, and education, is poised to become the gold-standard of hospice healthcare training, giving clinicians the opportunity to practice and perfect their skills in real-life situations without compromising patient dignity.

This new educational resource fulfills a significant need to maintain and enhance the standards that define Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice's reputation for quality care.

Recognizing that there is only one chance with every patient to get it right, the *NorthStar Simulation Lab* offers the comprehensive, holistic training that all bedside staff need to address the complex physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of patients and families at the end-of-life.

### State-of-the-art technology & extensive educational resources include:

- ▶ A fully-furnished, real-life patient bedroom
- ▶ A Lifestar Adult Medical Manikin
- ▶ A Lifestar Pediatric Medical Manikin
- ▶ A Debriefing Room/ Classroom
- ▶ Recording equipment to capture & share educational programming





# JOIN US!

NorthStar Hospice Simulation Lab  
Open House & Ribbon Cutting

**Wednesday, May 24, 2023**  
**Noon - 2pm**

*Simulation Lab Ribbon Cutting*  
12:15pm

**SIM LAB & HOME OFFICE TOURS**  
**MEET THE STAFF**  
**FOOD TRUCK**

Home Office  
2366 Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor

“ Most of our clinical staff come to us never having worked with dying patients. How do you teach staff to have crucial conversations? This cutting edge, centralized Hospice Simulation Lab, coupled with regional Skills Labs, will help us teach critical skills to make sure our staff are prepared to get it right every time.”



- Rachel Derry, Director, NorthStar Institute

The NorthStar Institute has started utilizing the *NorthStar Simulation Lab* for the three levels of clinical competency training for newly hired RNs and Hospice Aide orientation. NorthStar Institute educators have already seen the impact this higher-level of hands-on training has on the competence and confidence of new employees.

Later this spring, the last of six *Regional Skills Labs* will be completed, located at Hospice of Michigan offices across the state, providing even the most seasoned field staff on demand resources to ensure the mastery of both technical skills and effective communications. *Regional Skills Labs* are located in Big Rapids, Cadillac, Gaylord, Grand Rapids, Southfield, and Traverse City.

Without the support of our donor community, ground-breaking resources like the *NorthStar Simulation Lab* would still be a dream. Thanks to your generosity, the *NorthStar Simulation Lab* will help deliver our commitment to **Every Person. Every Time.**



HONORING

25

# *years of service in a most heartfelt way*

A special surprise from family members and colleagues was in store for Marcie Hillary, Senior Vice President – Community Relations, at the November 2022 NorthStar Care Community Board Advance with the announcement of **The William Des Ormeau Family Fund**. This fund was established to commemorate Marcie’s 25 years of service and commitment to Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice.

Established in memory of her grandfather who received end-of-life care from Hospice of Michigan when Marcie was just 10-years old — the fund recognizes the profound impact of her family’s hospice experience. Not only did it inspire Marcie to pursue a career in hospice care, but also every member of her family has either worked for or volunteered for the organization.

All donations from **The William Des Ormeau Family Fund** – which has already raised more than \$37,000 – will support the statewide expansion of music therapy programming, honoring her grandfather’s legacy as an avid musician. Marcie noted, “All my best memories of my grandfather included him playing music. He learned by ear and loved how music brought people together. He would be so thrilled by this.”

She continued, “This was quite the surprise, to say the least.” Upon learning that more than 60 friends, family and hospice supporters came together to establish this fund, Marcie said, “My family and I are so deeply touched by this gesture and want to give a big thank you to each and every one who contributed to this fund.”

To make a contribution to **The William Des Ormeau Family Fund**, please contact Stephanie Le at [sle@hom.org](mailto:sle@hom.org) or call 248-346-4253.



“ I am so fortunate that I get to do this important and meaningful work every day.

- Marcie Hillary

# EMPLOYEES ARE DONORS TOO!

The Legacy Club and Caregivers Club of Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice's special appeal campaign *Giving From the Heart* are 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	Karen Monts
Rachel Derry	Lee Ann Myers
Kelly Errer	Krista Newman
Marcie Hillary	Thomas O'Neil, MD
Lee Anne Jamieson-Peeters	Michael J. Paletta, MD
Eric Kaplan	Tracey Pierce
Stephanie Le	Elizabeth Rocha
Patricia McDaniel	Jennifer Simmer
Stacey McLaurin	Tammy Stricker
Patrick Miller	

## CAREGIVERS CLUB (\$500+)

Lynn Alexander	Colleen Dorris	Christine Mondrella	Lisa Smith
Stacey Allen	Allison Droke	Renee Mulder	Tonia Sprague
Barbara Anderson	Robert Easlick	Justine Nix	Cynthia Stroud
Brenda Bedient	Matt Endres	Angela Rabie Greene	Lisa Walter
Timothy Bedker	Christine Flynn	Jeff Ratch	Carrie Welch
Elizabeth Berlow	Linda Gollan	Breanna Rodwell	Jennifer Williams
Amy Birchmeier	Tina Helms-Smith	Stacie Ross	Bonnie Wirgau
Chris Bowman	Callan Krupansky	Wendy Servia	Mark A. Zook, DO
Angela Christensen	Megan LaCross		
Michelle Cockley	David McAree, MD		

Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice are grateful for our established Family Funds. Opportunities to establish named family funds begin at \$25,000 and are payable up to a five-year term.

Lynn Bowers Family Fund  
in memory of Stella Bowers

The Brower Family Fund

The Jerry Clay Family Foundation

Brian and Darcy Connolly Family Fund

William H. DesOrmeau Fund  
for Music Therapy

Marc & Amy Ferguson Family  
Philanthropy Fund

Alice and James Forrest in memory of  
William and Irene Hughes

Sylvia and Ed Hagenlocker Family Fund

Lloyd and Jan Hansen Family Fund  
in memory of Liam Fairbanks

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 & 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, Major &  
Planned Gifts, at 248.346.4253.

## We asked our newest foundation board members what inspired them to take on this role?



### Betsy Kellman

Retired, Non-Profit Consultant/Development Director  
Huntington Woods

“As a hospice volunteer for several years, experiencing the amazing, generous and genuine care that Hospice of Michigan provided to close family members inspired me to do more for the organization.”



### Adriane Groggins

Managing Supervisor  
FleishmanHillard, Southfield

“Our family's recent experience opened my eyes to how much everyone needs hospice services. That's why I want to help every family receive the same level of care my family received.”



### Greg Zelski

Assistant Vice President, Associate Wealth Management Advisor  
Fifth Third Bank, Grand Rapids

“It was two-fold. A personal experience with hospice really opened my eyes to the support they provide. That, combined with my wife's passion and dedication to help families through trauma, pain and loss (as a neonatal ICU RN and a pediatric neurology nurse practitioner) has inspired me to play a part in making sure this important care is available to anyone who needs it.”

## HOSPICE OF MICHIGAN LOCATIONS

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

## ARBOR HOSPICE / HOME OFFICE

- Ann Arbor

**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)

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BOARD MEMBERS:

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\*In Memory Of



One great event.  
 Six fantastic locations!



#### SPRING

**DETROIT**  
 Saint Andrew's Hall  
**APRIL 21, 2023**

**GRAND RAPIDS**  
 GLC Live at 20 Monroe  
**MAY 6, 2023**

**CADILLAC**  
 The Wex  
**MAY 19, 2023**

#### FALL

**ANN ARBOR**  
 The Valley  
**SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

**TRAVERSE CITY**  
 Cathedral Barn  
**OCTOBER 20, 2023**

**ALPENA**  
 The Depot  
**NOVEMBER 3, 2023**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW! • [hom.org/bbb](http://hom.org/bbb) • [arborhospice.org/bbb](http://arborhospice.org/bbb)**

