

Lines of

Summer 2016

HOPE



What's Inside:

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www.caring-circle.org

Transitions | HouseCalls | Palliative Care | Hospice at Home
Hanson Hospice Center | Bereavement Care | Lory's Place

 **Caring Circle**
Lakeland Health Affiliate

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Welcome new Hospice at Home Board Members



Olivia Starks

Olivia Starks is a third generation funeral director at Starks Family Funeral Homes and Cremation Services. She was born and raised in St. Joseph, Michigan, and attended Western Michigan University, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Sociology. After WMU, she continued her education at Worsham College of Mortuary Science.

For the majority of her life, Olivia chose not to follow in her family's footsteps and become a funeral director. However, on July 20, 2004, she lost her mother to breast cancer, and being only fourteen years old, it was devastating. She decided to major in Child Psychology in order to help children who had gone through similar experiences. After two years, Olivia realized that this wasn't the career path she wanted to take. During the summer months, she worked for her father at the funeral home, and found that she enjoyed working with the families, learning the science of funeral service, and having no two days that were the same.

"Hospice at Home (now Caring Circle) has been a tremendous asset to my family. My grandmother, Carol, was one of the founding members of hospice in the area, and I am honored to carry on this tradition."



Bertha King

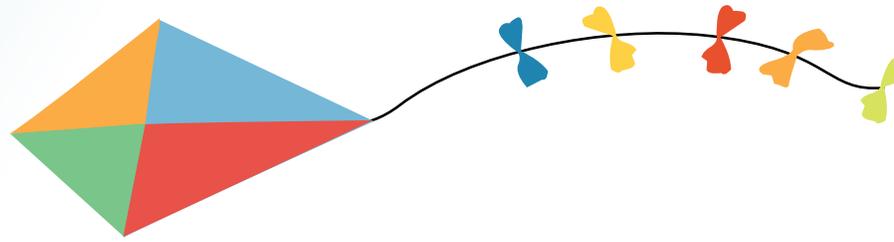
Bertha King graduated from Western Michigan University with a Master's Degree in Communication. She worked for Benton Harbor Schools, was a Counselor and Director of Student Services at Jordan College, and a Diversity Specialist for Memorial Hospital in South Bend. In recent years, with Dorothy Moon, she co-founded the Breast Cancer Support group Strong Women of Faith.



Dorothy Moon

Dorothy Moon has had a long career in nursing. She received her Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) degree at Lake Michigan College, and began working in the Emergency Department (ED) at Lakeland Health. She went on to get her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from Nazareth College, and was promoted to Charge Nurse in the ED. She received her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree from Grand

Valley State, went into management and became a supervisor. In 1996, she survived cancer, and in 1999 became a resource nurse. After losing her mother and two sisters to cancer, she co-founded Strong Women of Faith with Bertha King.



Welcome, Summer!

I hope you're enjoying our beautiful corner of the world, and that we will see you at one (or more) of the fun events we have planned for the summer – please see the calendar on pages 10-11 to see what's coming up!

I'm also excited to tell you about a few changes that are happening at Hospice at Home and Lory's Place. If you have this newsletter in your hands, you are a friend of ours, and have probably heard someone say that they wish they had known about our services and care offerings sooner. We do so much more than just hospice care within our organization, and people often don't realize the wide range of services we offer. Because of this, we have decided to give ourselves a new name that embodies ALL that we provide. **Caring Circle** will be used as an "umbrella name" to represent the range of programs we offer for quality of life care, including our non-hospice programs. Caring Circle will include all services provided by Transitions, HouseCalls, Palliative Care, Hospice at Home, the Merlin and Carolyn Hanson Hospice Center, Bereavement Care, and Lory's Place.

With the continued expansion of services offered through Hospice at Home and Lory's Place, the move to Caring Circle will allow us to build on the reputation and loyalty we already have, while communicating more effectively with those who need our services. Hospice at Home, HouseCalls, and Lory's Place will retain their names under the Caring Circle brand.

Since you are a friend to our organization, and a person who has reason to know about the services we provide, I hope you will help us "get the word out" to the community that Caring Circle is here for them in more ways than they probably know. As always, thank you for your support – it's an honor to serve this community, and to grow with you.

Happy Summer!

Proudly your neighbor,
Melinda Gruber

President and CEO,
Caring Circle, a Lakeland Health Affiliate



Edwina and Zoe are Brightening Faces

Meet **Edwina McCree and Zoe**. They have been involved with the Hospice at Home Pet Peace of Mind program for more than a year. Zoe has been a perfect fit for this program. With her smaller size and easy temperament she brings smiles and joy to the hospice clients she visits.

Edwina is originally from Arkansas, and has lived in Benton Harbor since 1968. She moved to the area for her teaching job, and retired from Benton Harbor High School after 37 years of service. From a very young age Edwina has always had pets in her life, and has passed her love of animals along to her daughter. When her last cat of 23 years passed away, Edwina adopted Zoe from the Humane Society. Realizing that Zoe loved attention and wanted more than Edwina could always give her, she responded to an ad in the local newspaper asking for volunteers to help with the Hospice at Home Pet Peace of Mind program. Edwina's nursing home routine with hospice patients lasts approximately three and a half hours. The goal of the visit is to make people happy and cheer up their day. Her most memorable moments are sharing Zoe with hospice clients who want special visits, or are no longer able to visit with their own animals. "When I walk in their faces just brighten up," says Edwina.

In addition to pet therapy, the Hospice at Home Pet Peace of Mind program offers an array of services to help care for pets when people are no longer able to do so themselves. The program, funded by a combination of grants and donations, provides food and cat litter for those who cannot afford it, assists with grooming when owners are no longer able to brush or bathe their pets, and links with local veterinarians to provide healthcare and vaccinations.

For more information about the Hospice at Home Pet Peace of Mind program please call (269) 429-7100 and ask to speak to a volunteer coordinator.



"When I walk in, their faces just brighten up."

Caring for Four-Legged Family Members

Family is a distinction that isn't always limited to the people in our lives. For many, some of their closest loved ones are their pets – the loving dog or cat that serves as a constant and loyal companion.

Hospice at Home understands the impact that pets can make on quality of life and outlook for those battling a serious illness. Pets provide unconditional love, lower stress, and decrease loneliness. We also understand the burdens of care that people can face in terms of meeting the needs of their pets.

Hospice at Home recently cared for a person with two sweet little dogs, Bailey and Munchkin. The owner loved his dogs as if they were his own children, but was riddled with guilt and worry over their care; as he became more ill, he struggled to provide them with the level of care they needed. He became ashamed to take Bailey and Munchkin for their vaccinations and check-ups because he was unable to bathe or groom them.

Additionally, he was no longer able to afford their care or transport them to appointments.



With a request for support from the Hospice at Home Pet Peace of Mind program, Bailey and Munchkin were transported by a volunteer to a groomer, where they received the bathing and grooming they needed. Afterward, they were taken to a veterinarian, who got them up-to-date on all of their vaccinations and checked for any other possible health issues. Pampered and groomed with a clean bill of health, Munchkin and Bailey were returned to their owner, who was overcome with gratitude. Finally, he could rest easy, knowing that the unconditional love Bailey and Munchkin showed him could be reciprocated.

For more heart-warming stories please visit our Life is Precious page at www.hospiceathomecares.org

Hospice Care Helps Those in Need

Tour de Mitt

For the third year, Tour de Mitt, a Bike Ride for Hospice, will bring together bicycle enthusiasts, community members, and hospice organizations to raise funds and awareness for hospice care.

The ride will take place July 8 through 16 along a 450-mile route through Michigan, from Mackinac City to Stevensville, and all money raised will benefit people in need of hospice care.

The ride is a special mission for **Dawn Spoon, RN**, longtime registered nurse with Hospice at Home. During her first ride in 2014, her goal was to raise enough money to provide a month of charity room and board at the Merlin and Carolyn Hanson Hospice Center in Stevensville. Over the past two years, Dawn has raised more than \$16,000 – with a goal of raising \$12,000 during the 2016 ride.

Bikers of all levels are invited to join for all or part of the journey. There are also opportunities to support the event as a sponsor or by donating to the cause.

Visit www.hospiceathomecares.org for more information about the Tour de Mitt or to donate.



A Story of Comfort and Support

The Merlin and Carolyn Hanson Hospice Center has been an important resource for many families in the area when loved ones in hospice care need additional medical intervention, while offering a home-away-from-home environment.

After a two-and-a-half year battle with brain cancer, the Hanson Hospice Center offered a peaceful and supportive retreat for the family of **Jeremy Borlin**. While the hospital could be a difficult environment for 10-year old Jeremy, he needed additional medical support beyond what his family could provide at home.

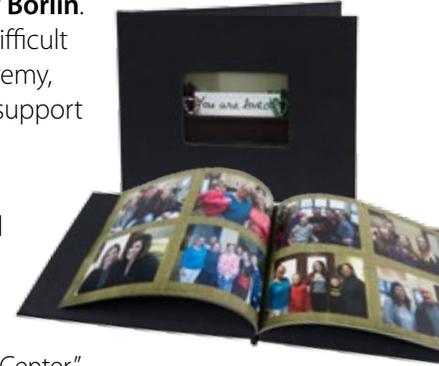
“We were tired of hospitals,” said Jeremy’s mother, Darci Borlin.

“It was a nurse friend that made the connection and helped set us up with the Hanson Hospice Center.”

The referral made a big difference in Jeremy’s comfort level during his final days.

“We were there for seventeen days,” said Darci. “The night he was admitted, he was unresponsive, but hospice care was able to help. With additional medical support, they were able to better control his symptoms. Being there helped him to be more comfortable.”

In addition to easing Jeremy’s symptoms, the Hanson Hospice Center also offered support and comfort to those close to him during his stay. “It was a difficult experience for us,” said Darci. “But to be there in a comfortable room, with as many visitors as we wanted at any time was really helpful. There was even a time when the school came for a day, and that was really important for his classmates. The accommodations were fabulous and the doctors and nurses compassionate and wonderful.”



Embracing Hospice at Home

Wine and Beer Tasting Benefit

Hospice at Home will host its annual Harbor Event on the majestic grounds of Dan and Mary Nulty’s home on the South Beach bluff. Join us to help raise funds for Hospice Care, Bereavement Care, Charity Care, and Life Is Precious Services. Fine wines, specialty beers, and heavy hors d’oeuvres will be provided. Enjoy music, participate in a wine pull, and become a Lifting Spirits Donor. Valet parking will be available (donations accepted).

Tickets are \$50 per person in advance or \$60 on the day of the event. Tickets are available at Hospice at Home - South Haven, Wolverine Hardware, South Haven Visitors Bureau and online at www.hospiceathomecares.org



For more information call (269) 637-3825

August 6th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

South Beach Bluff, 456 Monroe Boulevard, South Haven

Lory's Place Welcomes New Board Members

Three new members recently joined the Board of Lory's Place



Kris Weber is a recently retired elementary physical education teacher from Lakeshore Public Schools. Kris' hobbies include running, singing in two choirs, travel, cheering loudly for the Green Bay Packers, and spending time with her family, including grandchildren Hailey and Caleb. Kris was one of the first facilitators at Lory's Place, and has helped at Camp

Lifetimes in the past. She also served as a leader for the Lakeshore Public Schools Crisis team. In addition to her new role as board member, Kris currently serves on the Lory's Place Crew.

"As we navigate through our lives, grief is not a potential outcome, it's inevitable. During these times, we need compassionate listeners to help us heal and restore our mental health. This is why we feel called to serve Lory's Place."

–Kris and Larry Weber



Larry Weber retired from American Electric Power last year. In the past, Larry served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer of American Electric Power, overseeing both power plants at D.C. Cook Station in Bridgman. He also chaired the Nuclear Security Organization, responsible for all nuclear power plant security in the country. In his

free time, Larry enjoys golf, saltwater aquariums, photography, and spending time with his family. Larry served as a volunteer for Lory's Place during the first six years of its existence, and looks forward to becoming more involved with the organization throughout the next chapter of his life.

Larry and Kris Weber reside in Stevensville. Between the two of them, they have three children: Stacy, Emily, and a son, Andy, who died of a malignant brain tumor at the age of six.



Shane Peters currently serves as the Superintendent of Bridgman Public Schools. After earning a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Alma College, Shane served his community through the Berrien and Ottawa County Sherriff's department, and as a Muskegon County Friend of the Court. In the summer of 1996, he began his career in education

as the Student Services Director at the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District's Careerline Tech Center. He earned a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership at Grand Valley State University,

and later served as principal for two different high schools before accepting his current position in 2011. Shane and his wife, Jill, have three boys – Cullen, Logan, and Tanner. When he is not attending one of his sons' athletic events, Shane enjoys officiating Michigan High School Athletic Association sporting events throughout the area.

"Lory's Place has been an invaluable resource to my school district and other districts in the area for helping students, staff, and communities get through grief or crisis situations."

– Shane Peters

Lauren Eyerly Receives Lighthouse Scholarship for 2016

Lauren Eyerly is this year's recipient of the \$1000 Lighthouse Scholarship. This scholarship recognizes local youth who have experienced the death of a parent. Qualifying recipients are graduating high school seniors pursuing a college education.

"This scholarship means a lot to me, knowing that despite everything I've been through I can use it to pursue my career."

Lauren lives in Baroda, Michigan, and is graduating from Lakeshore High School where she plays trombone in the band. Her best band moments were attending rehearsals and working with the entire group. This fall she plans to attend Western Michigan University to study Design Engineering and Technology.



Lory's Place Run, Walk, Rock

The day started with perfect weather and 1,327 participants, traveling from six states and 85 different cities, to run or walk in the 2016 Run, Walk, Rock fundraiser for Lory's Place. This 5K event set a new record, raising more than \$58,000 for the grief healing and education programs of Lory's Place, and was presented by the McLoughlin Family Foundation. In addition to all of the runners and walkers, more than 60 sponsors and 50 volunteers helped make this event a success.

Thank You Sponsors!

Presenting Sponsor

The McLoughlin Family Foundation

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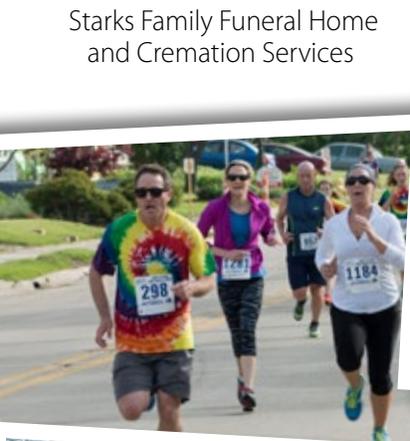
Media Sponsor

Mid-West Family Broadcasting



Mark your calendars

for next year's event
scheduled for May 20, 2017



Carolyn Sommerfield, Person



At Caring Circle, one of the words we have always struggled with is the word “patient.” There isn’t really another word in the English language that works in its place (believe us, we’ve tried). Sometimes we have to use it, and **Carolyn Sommerfield** is the perfect example of why we wish there were an alternative.

Just because someone is struggling with an illness, an injury, whatever it is that requires them to seek extra medical attention, doesn’t mean they lose their humanity. They are not just patients, but people, and it is times like these that the essence of their humanity shines through.

Carolyn Sommerfield is one of the most vibrantly alive people you will meet. She is warm and funny, and the type of person you can quickly become friends with. If you were just looking at her chart, you might never guess that: she lives alone, her husband has passed away, and her only family is in Houston, Texas. Carolyn hasn’t left her house in more than two years due to advanced lymphedema (swelling), and knees that cause her constant pain.

We met Carolyn when her physician referred her to our Palliative Care program, to receive additional help with pain management. She was treated for lymphedema at the Marie Yeager Cancer Center, but eventually her knees became so bad that she couldn’t go out for treatment. She needed a primary physician who could come to her, so our HouseCalls program became involved. Soon after, Carolyn became a client of our Transitions program, and now has help with the little things she can’t do any more, like trips to the bank or the post office.

Carolyn is a perfect example of why we decided to use the name “Caring Circle” to represent the wide range of programs offered for quality of life care. She has been able to shift back and forth seamlessly between programs, even using three at once, to meet her needs. All of these programs, including hospice, focus on how to give someone the highest quality of life possible. Carolyn is already a pro in this area, and rather than let her circumstances dictate how she lives, she learns to work around them and find new ways to keep herself happy. When she began to lose movement in her legs, she decided to keep her hands busy creating poetry and artwork. She watches videos and sings, remaining grateful for what she still has.

As a social creature, being homebound is one of her biggest challenges, “It’s [difficult] today that it’s so beautiful, and the windows are open. I just want to go pick someone up and drive them around, but I can’t.” She says that she considers Caring Circle to be a gift from God. One of the main benefits of being a “person” at Caring Circle is the social aspect. “I really love some of these people. They are my family, and fill in all of the gaps that I was struggling with.” The visits she receives from Transitions, Housecalls, and Palliative Care keep her going. She loves to know when someone’s child is starting kindergarten and to chat with the doctors, “Who are so kind and interested in listening.” She enjoys that she is able to be part of the staff’s lives.

“These programs and people have meant the world to me. One staff member moved away to Illinois, and still comes back to visit me once per month.” It’s easy to see why. Carolyn Sommerfield (person), is an inspiration and a reminder of our goal at Caring Circle – a focus on quality moments. She’s a woman who, despite her own challenges, writes at night to “someone who needs encouragement.” We hope, by taking this next step in our history, that Caring Circle will be better able to serve people like Carolyn. Thank you for being on this journey with us, and thank you, Carolyn, for reminding us of what’s important!



Meet our New Physician for Palliative Care

David Collins, MD, Family Medicine, has recently joined the medical staff of Lakeland Health. Dr. Collins will be caring for palliative care patients at Caring Circle (formerly Hospice at Home), a Lakeland Health Affiliate.

Prior to coming to Lakeland, Dr. Collins worked as a Family Physician at InterCare Community HealthNetwork, in Benton Harbor. While at InterCare, he supervised physician assistants in training. He earned his medical degree from Southern Illinois School of Medicine, in Springfield, Illinois and completed his residency at Washington Hospital Family Practice in Washington, Pennsylvania. Dr. Collins completed his fellowship at Tacoma Rural Medicine, in Tacoma Washington. He is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, as well as the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians.



For more information please
visit www.lakelandhealth.org

Bringing Primary Medical Care to You

HouseCalls brings expert primary medical care directly to the home, and may be an option for those who have serious or chronic conditions and who are unable to travel to a physician's office or clinic to receive care.

Our skilled physicians and providers see patients in their own homes, adult foster homes, and assisted living facilities. Lakeland HouseCalls does not require referrals or pre-authorizations from other physicians to begin medical care.

Should supplementary care be needed, Lakeland HouseCalls can coordinate additional



Lakeland Health resources, including homecare services, palliative care, and hospice services. We will also arrange in-home diagnostic testing including blood work, mobile x-ray, or portable electrocardiograms (EKG) which are used to measure heart activity.

Clients have 24/7 access through our answering service, and appointments are provided Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Meet the Nurses



Rebecca Markus

Rebecca earned her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree at Maryville University, located in St. Louis, Missouri. She is certified in hospice and palliative medicine, with over 27 years' experience caring for adult and geriatric patients.

Rebecca serves as a case manager and a nurse on the after-hours support team of Caring Circle (formerly Hospice at Home), a Lakeland Health Affiliate, caring for Hospice at Home and HouseCalls patients.



Kimberly Nelson

Kimberly completed her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) at Michigan State University (East Lansing). Her areas of medical interest include geriatrics, hospice/end-of-life care, pain management, and preventive care. She has more than 27 years of medical experience, is board-certified in

Geriatrics, and is a member of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurse Association.

Kimberly provides care for seniors and homebound patients throughout Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties through the HouseCalls program that is now under Caring Circle (formerly Hospice at Home), a Lakeland Health Affiliate. Prior to this she worked as a hospitalist for Lakeland Hospital, Watervliet, and was the primary medical provider at Pine Ridge: A Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Stevensville.

Remembrance Garden

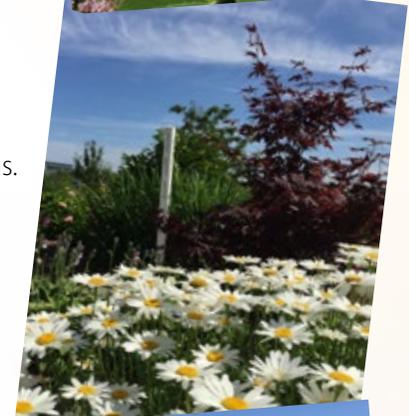
A Beautiful Place to Relax and Reflect

If you've ever taken a leisurely stroll outside, one where you could simply enjoy the wind rustling through the leaves and be with your thoughts, you know it's one of the simplest, most healing things you can do.

Hospice at Home believes life should be made of moments like this. With the generous support from Lawn Boys of South Haven, we've created a Remembrance Garden as a peaceful outdoor space for people in the community. The garden provides a beautiful place for relaxation, conversation, remembrance, reflection, and healing.

Located behind the St. Joseph office, the Remembrance Garden features a warm, red ribbon of bricks leading you through sun, shade, and a profusion of colorful plantings. The brick walking path is created with the names of loved ones and inspirational messages all donated by community members.

Celebrate the life of someone dear to you by dedicating a brick or bench to remember a friend who loved nature, a favorite relative whose personality brought light to your life, or someone with whom you shared precious moments. As you honor the memory of a loved one, your gift also provides much needed support to maintain the garden and strengthens the programs offered by Hospice at Home that support the community.



For more information, please call (269) 429-7100

10 Upcoming Events, Community Classes, and Programs

Events

Lory's Place Reflections Dinner and Auction

There are many opportunities to support Lory's Place in this event through sponsorships, attending the dinner, and donating auction items. For more information, visit www.lorysplace.org or call (269) 983-2707

Friday, July 15

5:30 p.m.
Shadowland Ballroom
333 Broad Street, St. Joseph

Lake Bluff Concours d'Elegance of Southwest Michigan

12th Annual Vintage Automobile Exhibition

Local car enthusiasts can view nearly 80 vintage vehicles and classic cars at this annual automobile exhibition. Held on the St. Joseph bluff overlooking Lake Michigan, proceeds will support the Merlin and Carolyn Hanson Hospice Center. Admission is \$10 per adult, and children get in for free. Tickets can be purchased at the event; for more information, call (269) 429-7100

Saturday, August 13

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

A Taste Sensation — Culinary Cook-Off

Local celebrities and chefs will battle it out in a cooking competition to raise money for the Merlin and Carolyn Hanson Hospice Center. If you have questions about this event, or want to get involved, please call (269) 429-7100

Friday, October 7

5:30 p.m.
LakeHouse Restaurant and Bar
3029 Lakeshore Drive, St. Joseph



Bereavement Groups

Shadow Steppers

This is an open-ended group facilitated by a Caring Circle Bereavement Coordinator that meets once each month for 1½ hours. Those who are traveling through their grief journey are invited to take part in the healing process within this comforting supportive environment.

1st Monday of every month

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
North Berrien Senior Center, 6648 Ryno Road, Coloma

2nd Monday of every month

3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Caring Circle, 05055 Blue Star Highway, South Haven

2nd Tuesday of every month

2:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Buchanan Senior Center, 810 Rynearson Road, Buchanan

3rd Wednesday of every month

3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Caring Circle, 4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph

Breakfast Group

This is a social group being coordinated by one of the Hospice at Home Bereavement volunteers. Anyone is welcome to attend. For additional information and to register please call (269) 429-7100

3rd Monday of every month

10:30 a.m.
Country Kitchen
2487 South M-139, Benton Harbor

Hope and Healing

This is an open-ended group facilitated by a Caring Circle Bereavement Coordinator that meets twice a month. This group is open to any adult who is grieving a loss, whether newly bereaved or further along in the grief journey.

2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month

4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
Lakeland Hospital Community Room
1234 Napier Ave, St. Joseph



Caregiving Support

“Being Mortal” Screenings

JOIN US for a free screening and discussion of the PBS FRONTLINE film Being Mortal. Based on the best-selling book by Atul Gawande, MD, this documentary explores the hopes of patients and families facing terminal illness and their relationships with the physicians who treat them. After the screening, audience members can participate in a guided conversation on how to take concrete steps to identify and communicate wishes about end-of-life goals and preferences.

Tuesday, July 26, August 30, and September 27

Two Showings – 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Celebration Cinema
1468 Cinema Way, Benton Harbor

Thursday, July 28

6:00 to 7:30 pm
St. Joseph Library
500 Market Street, St. Joseph

Tuesday, August 15

9:30 to 11 a.m.
First Church of God, 2627 Niles Avenue, St. Joseph

For a complete list of showings please visit
www.lakelandhealth.org/events

Caring for Your Loved One

Caring for a loved one can be a rewarding and fulfilling experience. At times it can also be overwhelming, challenging, or lonely. This support group provides individuals who are caring for a loved one an opportunity to talk with others who are experiencing the same joys and challenges that caregivers face. Please contact Stephanie Kostizen at (269) 429-7100 to register or for more information.

Third Tuesday of Every Month

1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
Caring Circle Community Room
4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph

Grief Healing

Walking Group – South Haven

Explore the neighborhood around/near South Beach in South Haven with Hospice at Home staff and new friends. The routes and distance vary, but all groups will meet at Kids Corner by the picnic tables on South Haven Street unless otherwise specified. This is an adult-only open group and participants are not required to pre-register or attend weekly. For more information, call Karen Riffer-Reinert at (269) 637-3825

Tuesdays, May 3 to October 11

10:00 a.m.
Kids Corner Park, 564 Monroe Boulevard, South Haven

Walking Group – Bridgman

Explore the area from the Bridgman Public Library to Weko Beach. All groups begin in the south parking lot at Bridgman Public Library. This is an adult-only open group and there is no need to pre-register or attend all sessions. For more information, call Jaime Hoover at (269) 429-7100 or Mary Nell Rosenboom at (269) 695-1099

Thursdays, May 5 to October 13

10:00 a.m.
Bridgman Public Library, 4460 Lake Street, Bridgman

Good Grief

This program is designed to help you gain knowledge and strength to walk through grief to a greater sense of wholeness. “Good Grief” covers topics such as why you feel the way you do; how to cope with loss, guilt and regret, and finding a sense of peace. Each seven-week session is free of charge and open to anyone in the community. For more information or to RSVP for one of these events, call (269) 429-7100

Tuesdays, September 6 to October 18

3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Caring Circle, St. Joseph, 4025 Health Park Lane

Thursdays, September 8 to October 20

2:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Caring Circle, South Haven, 05055 Blue Star Highway

Thursdays, September 8 to October 20

3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Caring Circle, Buchanan, 4017 Chamberlain Road

Healing Through Your Art

This three session art class will help you put your feelings on paper. You can choose your own medium. We will have crayon, pencil, pastel, and water color available. Please RSVP to Karen Riffer-Reinert at (269) 637-3825 by July 8th if you would like to attend.

Tuesdays, July 12, 19, and 26

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Caring Circle, South Haven, 05055 Blue Star Highway

Tips for Family Caregivers

If you’re looking for extra support or extra caregiver advice, sign up for the free eNewsletter, “Tips for Family Caregivers.” Here’s a small sampling of the kind of information you’ll find every month.



To subscribe for “Tips for Family Caregivers,” email Gabrielle Holgate, Communications Specialist, at gholgate1@lakelandhealth.org

Caring Circle Locations



We're right here with you

Hospice at Home, now part of a re-named group of services called Caring Circle, has been a part of this community for almost 40 years. We serve our neighbors directly from four convenient locations in South Haven, St. Joseph, Stevensville, and Buchanan, and work as a team with Lory's Place, also located in St. Joseph.

Why is this important?

It is important because at Caring Circle we specialize in pain and symptom management, bereavement, and community crises. When someone is in pain, whether it's physical, emotional, or spiritual, we want to reach that person as soon as possible to help them navigate through it. Because Hospice at Home and Lory's Place have a total of five locations to serve southwest Michigan, we can quickly provide support for people in need, minimizing any wait time.

Being immersed in the community is important because we know and care for each other. We cheer for neighbor's children at soccer games, and check on our friend's homes and elderly parents. We are honored to serve this community, and be invited into your lives during these meaningful times. We will continue our support, building on the foundation of Hospice at Home and Lory's Place for many years to come!

Serving our community from the following locations:

St. Joseph

4025 Health Park Lane
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 429-7100
(800) 717-3811

Buchanan

4017 Chamberlain Road
Buchanan, MI 49107
(269) 695-1099
(800) 599-5758

South Haven

05055 Blue Star Highway
South Haven, MI 49090
(269) 637-3825
(800) 637-3820

Hanson Hospice Center

4382 Cleveland Avenue
Stevensville, MI 49127
(269) 429-7100
(800) 717-3811

Lory's Place

445 Upton Drive
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-2707
(800) 717-3812

Stay Connected:

