

# Lines of

Fall 2017-  
Winter 2018

# HOPE

A wedding at the  
Hanson Hospice Center



The Mannino Family:  
a journey with grief



## What's Inside:

- Caring Circle Annual Fund Donation - Adams and Mannino Families
- Turning Over a New Stone
- We Honor Veteran Dale Jeffers

[www.caring-circle.org](http://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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## Enjoying Our Community

At Caring Circle, we share a passion for improving quality of life through holistic healthcare for individuals, families, and our community. We are dedicated to providing programs and services that improve the lives of people who are navigating through illness, caregiving, and grief.

We all want our friends, families, and neighbors to experience the best possible quality of life through coordinated, loving care, and support. We create awareness and safe environments that help people discuss what is most meaningful to them, express their wishes, and process their grief.

As donors, volunteers, and supporters of our organization, you demonstrate your commitment to honoring people's choices, providing peace, and accompanying people on their journey. Your support helps us educate others and be a catalyst for change to improve quality-of-life care and grief support. It reduces pain and suffering, preserves dignity, and provides individuals and families with support they would not get without you.

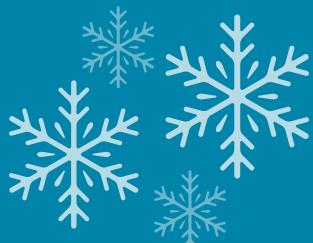
Thank you for being part of this support system, and for continuing to ensure our care is there for those who need it. Your willingness to help best serve our community allows us to continue to innovate and develop more ways to support quality of life in southwest Michigan.

I am continually inspired by our community. It is a community that takes care of its own. Through the generosity of so many, we have Lory's Place, the Hanson Hospice Center, and a large range of support services for caregivers, bereaved, and those needing specialized care.

All the best to you and yours throughout the holiday season.

Warmly,

Melinda Gruber, PhD  
CEO, Caring Circle  
VP, Continued Care Services  
Lakeland Health



## Caring Circle Welcomes New Physician

**Caressa Eckley, DO**

Dr. Eckley earned her medical degree from Des Moines University College of Medicine in Des Moines, Iowa. She completed a hospice and palliative fellowship as well as her residency training at Lakeland Health through Michigan State College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Eckley is certified in advanced cardiac life support and basic surgical skills and is also a member of the American Osteopathic Association.

*"I chose a career in hospice and palliative medicine as I want to ensure that all patients have the best quality of life possible. I want to make sure that they are able to make informed decisions about their care and that their voice is heard."*



## It Always Seems Too Early, Until It's Too Late

**Speak for Yourself, Plan Your Care**, southwest Michigan's advance care planning program, has become a growing topic of conversation. We often hear, "I've been meaning to do this for a long time now" as people begin to have discussions with loved ones about advance directive documentation. So many of us have been there – we know we need to plan for and discuss these topics, yet we never seem to get around to it. In fact, when people in the United States were surveyed, 80 percent of them said they would prefer to die at home, yet only 20 percent of them achieve that in the end. Why? Sometimes it is unavoidable, but usually it's because they have not documented their preferences or shared them with their loved ones.

Many people think advance care planning is merely about death, and something you only need to do when you get older. Not so. We are encouraging everyone, at any age, to identify a person who will advocate your healthcare wishes if you are unable to. The focus of "Speak for Yourself, Plan Your Care" is to start meaningful discussions with loved ones and define what "living well" means to you. Any of our 36 (nearly 80, by the end of the year) trained facilitators are available to guide you and your loved ones through this conversation and help you prepare and properly distribute documents. This is a living document and you are encouraged to review it regularly in case any decisions have changed.

If you'd like to get started but aren't sure how to choose an advocate, we can help. If you already have a healthcare power of attorney or an advance directive document, we can review it with you to ensure your wishes are noted and updated in your medical record. If you are part of a service club, a faith community, or book club, we offer facilitation with groups, as well as a screening of the PBS special "Being Mortal" with a follow-up discussion.

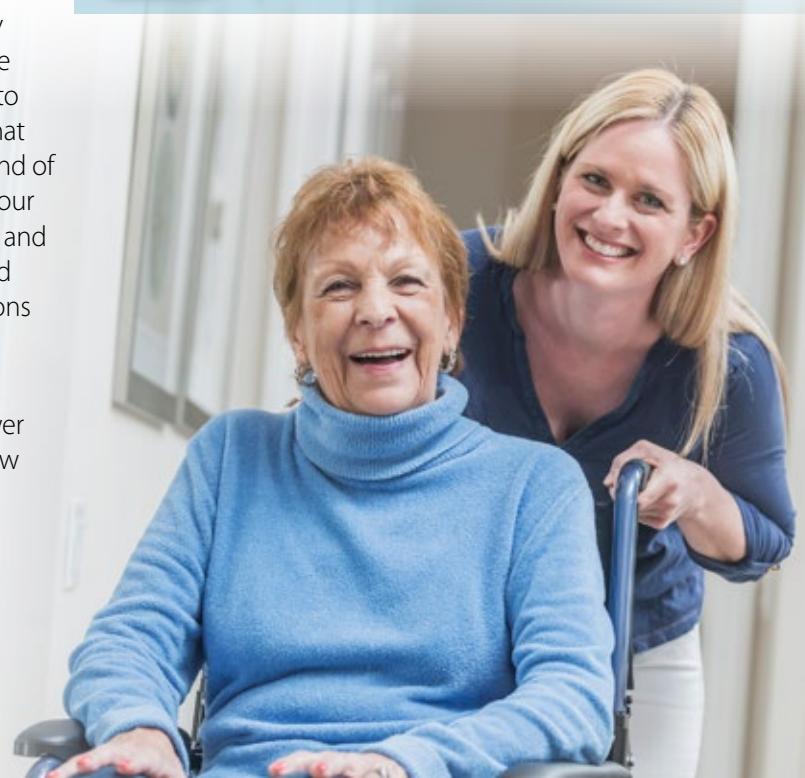
These conversations don't have to be depressing. In fact, they are often filled with memories, beautiful moments, and "I didn't know that about you!" comments. Best of all, when you make a plan while you are healthy and before a crisis, it gives your loved ones the gift of not having to make painful decisions during a very difficult time. If something happens, they won't be left with guilt or self-doubt, because they'll know your wishes are being honored.

Contact us today for more information, or to set up a facilitated conversation. We'd love to talk with you!



Email [ACP@LakelandHealth.org](mailto:ACP@LakelandHealth.org), or call

Julie Griffin, Advance Care Planning Coordinator  
at **(269) 429-7100**, extension 3208



# Caregiving Around the Clock

Caregiving for most is a 24-hour a day/seven-day a week job. Caring for a loved one with a severe medical needs can be a continuous responsibility and can often times crowd out other important areas of life. As a caregiver you never know when you will need to rush to the hospital or leave work at the drop of a hat. Below are some of the challenges family caregivers face, and how they manage them day and night.

**Morning:** Getting off to work. The average family caregiver is a working mother of school-aged children. Mornings become a tricky balancing act of getting the kids ready for school and making sure your loved one has what they need for the day, all before getting yourself ready and out the door.

**All Day Long:** Managing medications. Up to 70 percent of the time, the family caregiver – not the patient – manages the medications. The more serious the condition, the more likely it is that the family caregiver is tasked with this responsibility. This means ensuring your loved one is taking their medication correctly and maintaining an up-to-date medication list.

**During the Workday:** Juggling caregiving and work. Six out of 10 family caregivers work full- or part-time in addition to juggling their caregiving responsibilities at home. Most say they have to cut back on working hours, take a leave of absence, or quit their job entirely to care for their loved one.

**Evening:** Family time and meal time. Ensuring that your family member receives proper nutrition to help maintain strength, energy, stamina, and a positive attitude can be a daunting task. Nutrition is also important for the caregiver as it for the patient.

**Late at Night:** Taking time for yourself. Late at night might be the only time you get a few minutes for yourself. Make sure you take time to rest and recharge. The chance to take a breather and re-energize is vital in order for you to be as good a caregiver tomorrow, as you were today.

**The Middle of the Night:** Emergency room visits. Have you ever had to take your loved one to the emergency room in the middle of the night? Be prepared ahead of time with what you need to know and what you need to have with you to help alleviate unnecessary stress.

Support groups provide participants with the opportunity to talk with others who are experiencing the same joys and challenges that caregivers face, to cope with the demands of caregiving, to give and receive encouragement, and to be empowered and strengthened as a caregiver. For more information on caregiving support groups in the area visit [www.caring-circle.org](http://www.caring-circle.org)

## Caregiver Support Groups

### Caring Circle, St. Joseph

Every third Tuesday of the month, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.  
4025 Health Park Lane, St Joseph, MI 49085

### Caring Circle, South Haven

Every second Thursday of the month, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.  
05055 Blue Star Highway, South Haven, MI 49090

### Buchanan Senior Center

Every first Wednesday of the month, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.  
810 Rynearson Street, Buchanan, MI 49107

# Lory's Place Crew Cookie Walk Happening December 1

Join us for the fifth annual "Baking Spirits Bright" Cookie Walk on **Friday, December 1**,  
hosted by the Lory's Place Crew volunteer program and presenting sponsor, Edgewater Resources.

This year's event will take place in downtown St. Joseph at Puzzlemental Escape Room Adventures. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and close at 9:00 p.m. or while supplies last. The holiday treats are \$5.00 per dozen and will include festive cookies, dessert bars, and other baked goods. Biggy Coffee of St. Joseph will be accepting donations for beverages.

All proceeds from the event will benefit Lory's Place bereavement and grief education programs.

Proudly Sponsored by:



## Making the Most of Precious Time

When facing a serious or terminal illness, time that once felt infinite becomes filled with a sense of urgency to make every moment count.

For a beautiful example of how one family has been able to create treasured memories in the face of a serious illness, look no further than the Rhodes family. Monica Rhodes, a loving wife to her husband, Greg Sr., and mother to two children, Greg Jr. and Erica, received news that her cancer had returned and her prognosis was poor.

For the Rhodes family, the most important thing quickly became spending as much quality time together as possible while Monica was feeling well but the family was faced with a dilemma. Greg Jr., who recently joined the U.S. Army, was away at basic training. If he left before graduation, he would have to attend training for a second time, and if he stayed through graduation he may not be able to come home before moving on for additional training. With his mother's blessing, Greg Jr. finished basic training and was blessed with his mother's presence at his graduation.

With the help of Monica's hospice team, Greg Jr. was also able to take a necessary leave to spend 10 wonderful days at home. It was a time for fun, reminiscing, and memory making. Although their family time together was limited, each family member was able to make the most of it. Throughout Monica's illness, Greg Sr. sought out his own opportunities to treasure every moment that he had with his wife and began writing.

**Greg Rhodes Sr. shares a personal tribute of his treasured time with his wife, Monica:**

*As I sit here watching you sleep,  
I memorize your beauty, a memory for me to keep.  
A soft kiss on your lips, the feel of your hair,  
are some of the things I will miss when you are no longer there.  
You and I have done so much together,  
and I always thought we would have forever.  
The sound of your voice, and a big heart that would always care  
are some of the things I will miss when you are no longer there.  
Our children are grown and off exploring life,  
I want you to know I am so proud to call you my wife.  
The feel of you in my arms, our eyes locked in a glossy eyed stare,  
are some of the things I will miss when you are no longer there.  
We lived life as if we were one,  
hand in hand it was you and I against the world,  
even if it was just for fun.  
I know life is not always fair,  
but in my mind, heart, and soul you will always be there.  
When all is over and done our ashes will be mixed together.  
We will be placed in an urn where we will be together forever.*

**By Greg Rhodes Sr.**

## Volunteer for Caring Circle Programs Today!

### Support your community, make a difference

Caring Circle is seeking compassionate people to volunteer locally and help make a difference in the lives of clients and their families. No medical knowledge is required, and all necessary training will be provided by Caring Circle.

Volunteer opportunities range from sitting with clients, driving clients, preparing food, and many other jobs that match your interests and talents.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for any of the Caring Circle programs please contact our volunteer coordinator at (269) 429-7100 or visit [www.caring-circle.org/volunteer](http://www.caring-circle.org/volunteer) for more information.

## Subscribe to Lines of Hope today

If you are interested in receiving Lines of Hope two times per year, email [info@caring-circle.org](mailto:info@caring-circle.org) and we will add you to our mailing list.

Visit [lakelandhealth.org](http://lakelandhealth.org) for more information



## Annual Fund Donation

The need for Caring Circle services never diminishes and your support grows more crucial with each passing year.

This year brings remarkable stories, experiences, and journeys of local families aided by Caring Circle services you help to fund, such as Lory's Place and the Merlin and Carolyn Hanson Hospice Center. Your generosity in the upcoming year will allow Caring Circle services to continue comforting families and the community during unimaginable times, and to give patients and their families the opportunity to live their last days with grace and dignity while making cherished memories. No one is ever turned away due to the inability to pay.

With your generous response in the approaching year, Caring Circle hospice services will again be able to offer compassionate comfort care that far exceeds the basic guidelines of insurance coverage and enhances the quality of life for those we serve. Donations to Caring Circle fund services such as benevolent care at the Merlin and Carolyn Hanson Hospice Center, complementary services performed by hospice personnel such as massage therapy and bereavement support, and a Transitions program that helps patients and caregivers access the community resources needed throughout their care journey.

This year, we honor the stories of two local families served by our Caring Circle programs. We share the story of a Hanson Hospice Center resident, Caren Adams, who was granted her final wish of witnessing her daughter's wedding before she died of cancer. And a tragic story of a parent's worst fears coming true — Pete and Beth Mannino's journey with grief after the accidental death of their daughter, Brandi.

### **What happens when seeing your daughter's wedding day becomes your dying wish?**

Caren Adams had been diagnosed with cancer in March 2016; aggressive treatments seemed to put her into remission. However, six months later, Caren's cancer returned and curative care was no longer an option. Her daughter, Cara, called several facilities looking for a comfortable place where her mother could spend the end of her life. Unfortunately, each facility Cara called could not accept Caren due to unavailable rooms and resources. Then Cara learned about the Merlin and Carolyn Hanson Hospice Center, and was finally told her mother would have a comfortable place to stay.

"All of my mom's nurses were great," said Cara. "I loved the way Karen handled her, gently lifting her up and down. When Betty sang for my mom, she said that God could see her singing and hear her words." After warmly welcoming Caren, her care team learned that she had one wish in her final days.



"My mom wanted to be part of our wedding and walk me down the aisle. I didn't think it would happen," said Cara.

Nate Valdes had proposed to Cara in September 2016. Shortly after the couple chose May 9, 2017 for their wedding date, they learned of Cara's mother's terminal cancer. By the time Caren arrived at the Hanson Hospice Center, she only had a few weeks left to live.

In just a few days, with the help of friends, volunteers, and hospice staff, Caren was able to live out her dying wish as her daughter was married at the Hanson Hospice Center just a week before her death.

"I am so grateful for everything that Caring Circle, the Hanson Hospice Center, and my church did to pull together our wedding. It was such an amazing gift for our family," shares Cara.



Hear more from Cara  
about her mom, Caren at  
[www.caring-circle.org](http://www.caring-circle.org)

## A Journey with Grief

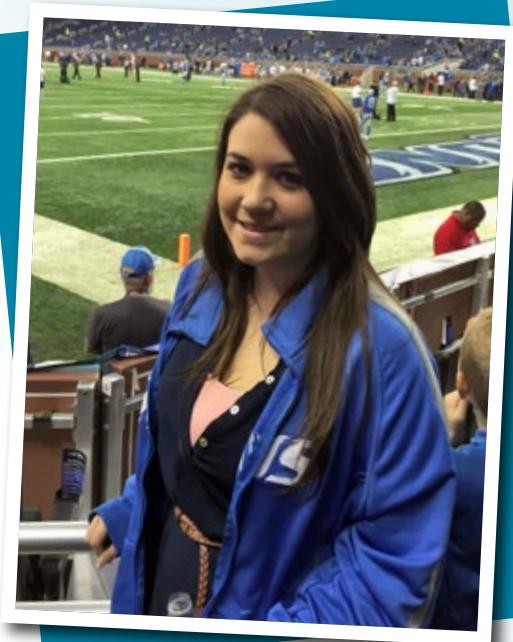
On November 19, 2015, Pete and Beth Mannino planned on Christmas shopping the next day for their two children, 24-year-old Brandi and 20-year-old Joey. Little did they know that the next morning, they would wake up to one of their worst fears...the loss of their only daughter.

That morning Pete didn't think anything of it when he did not see his daughter's car as he pulled out of the driveway on the way to the gym. Brandi had an active schedule and was always on the go. She worked several different jobs and often stayed with her cousin at the last minute.

During his workout, Pete's mom called with startling news that no one had heard from Brandi or her very good friend, Eike Krebs, since their departure from an event the previous night. Eike's mom said the last time they talked he had mentioned taking Brandi out to the pier at Tiscornia Beach.

After arriving at Tiscornia Beach they encountered Brandi's car, caution tape, reporters, fire fighters, and police. "The police officers came up to us and I'll never forget hearing the words, 'Your daughter is deceased.' They said it as gently as they could, but hearing those words was just devastating," said Pete.

Within a few weeks of Brandi's death, Pete's sister recommended Lory's Place to the grieving parents. "Right away we knew that this was right for us. The staff was amazing and we bonded with people suffering the same way that we are," Pete shared.



**Some well-meaning friends told the couple that "Time heals all wounds," to which Pete and Beth claimed, "No, time helps, but Lory's Place helps more."**



Hear more from Pete and Beth about their daughter Brandi at [www.lorysplace.org](http://www.lorysplace.org)

The Manninos are stepping through their grief journey one day at a time, last year attending the inaugural adult grief retreat held by Lory's Place and continuing to go to twice a month support groups. It is still very difficult for Pete to look at photos of Brandi or to drive by the cemetery. He has learned that he can take each day and grieve at his own pace.

"We make the best out of our time at Lory's Place. We have made some great friends and met wonderful people. Sometimes we laugh, other times we cry, but we will continue to go," said Pete.



**Lory's Place, a Caring Circle service, is respected as the regional leader in grief support services, and in the past year with the help of charitable donations has:**

- Supported more than 3,026 grieving children, teens, and adults in southwest Michigan and northern Indiana
- Provided innovative, life-affirming programs in the community at business centers, and at 45 schools in three counties, including Camp Lifetimes for children and an adult grief retreat
- Presented grief and loss educational sessions in local venues, and continued to mentor other grief support providers



Dear Friends,

After nearly 20 years of providing bereavement support and education, I am retiring in late December. All of my bereavement professional work has been with Caring Circle and I could not be more proud of this organization. I was initially hired as a Bereavement Care Coordinator in the South Haven office, and after several years transitioned to the Director of Bereavement Services before founding Lory's Place Grief Healing and Education Center in 2004. It has been a sincere privilege to partner with those on a grief journey in our community and I am grateful for each person I have had the honor of serving. Providing grief education has also been a passion of mine for which I am very thankful.

"Once you choose hope, anything's possible," stated Christopher Reeve. The concept of hope is often fleeting or non-existent in those who are changed forever when someone they love dies. To have spent nearly two decades coaching people about how to work through their grief and choose hope again, has been such a fulfilling and treasured career.

My next chapter will be filled with spending time with loved ones, volunteering in our wonderful community, and taking time to enjoy life fully. I am in remission from Sarcoma cancer and believe every day is a gift. I retire with joy, gratitude, and hope in my heart.

Thank you for all of the many ways you have embraced the bereavement offerings of Caring Circle and Lory's Place.

I am grateful for all we have shared and accomplished together. The future is bright for Caring Circle and Lory's Place; I am confident of the continued strong, supportive end of life and bereavement services they offer hundreds of people annually.

Choosing hope and with my sincere gratitude,

**Lisa Bartoszek**  
Director of Lory's Place



## The Pokagon Fund

Since 2007, The Pokagon Fund has underwritten transformative initiatives that benefit southwest Michigan residents. Caring Circle received a \$60,000 grant to fund several programs from 2014 through 2016.

"The Pokagon Fund has been a treasured partner in helping us serve southwest Michigan families," said Melinda Gruber, PhD, Caring Circle President and CEO. "We thank them for their commitment to bettering the lives of their neighbors through supporting Caring Circle programs." The allocation supported Caring Circle Transitions Service and Lory's Place programs, which provide professional and volunteer services without charge.

"We are proud to support initiatives like those offered by Caring Circle so that our friends and neighbors in Harbor Country can receive compassionate, holistic care, whether they are patients and families coping with a life-limiting illness or children learning to live without a loved one," said Janet Cocciaelli, The Pokagon Fund Executive Director.

*All these stories were made possible by The Pokagon Fund grant.*

- Caring Circle Transitions programs help patients and their families navigate the stages of care in the Caring Circle continuum and connect them with community resources for additional needs. Funding sharply increased its impact from assisting seven families in 2014 to 15 families in 2016.
- Leslie, a hospice care patient with breast cancer, struggled with pain in her final days. Medications helped, but Leslie couldn't relax her body. Reiki and energy work by a

Caring Circle massage therapist slowly relaxed Leslie. By the end of the session, light massage soothed her and she was resting comfortably in bed with no signs of distress or pain. Her family was grateful that the symptom relief lasted through the next few days, when Leslie passed away peacefully.

- Although regular podiatry appointments are important for patients with diabetes or other health issues, transportation can be a barrier. Many patients can no longer travel by car and medical transport can be expensive. Bill from Three Oaks appreciated regular medical transport for his podiatry appointments.
- A home-cooked meal can become a luxury when you no longer have the energy to cook. During a visit, a volunteer who enjoyed cooking for others learned that one patient's dream meal was lobster. The volunteer surprised the patient and her husband with a delicious homemade lobster dinner during the holidays.
- Sarah and Stacy felt completely overwhelmed, different, and alone after the sudden death of their father. The girls regularly attended both monthly school groups and bi-weekly support group at Lory's Place. Sarah and Stacy are relieved to have a safe place to talk about their father, and now understand that all of their feelings are ok and everyone experiences grief differently.

To learn more about the Pokagon Fund's impact on Caring Circle services, visit [www.caring-circle.org](http://www.caring-circle.org)

## Turning Over a New Stone

After losing her daughter in a car accident five years ago, Barb Schofield felt lost herself. Barb had just talked to her daughter Jennifer earlier that morning. Jennifer was driving on a road that Barb had traveled a million times before on her way to church. The road has a treacherous incline and Jennifer lost control of her car. It crossed the road, hit an embankment, and flipped three times throwing her from the vehicle.

Jennifer was a nurse and single parent. Her 13-year old son, Devon, came to live with Barb and her husband after his mom's death, and for a while Barb put her grief on hold to take care of him.

It wasn't until Lory's Place was suggested to the family to help them work through their grief journey that Barb truly began the healing process. Devon took advantage of this opportunity through a support group offered at his middle school, while Barb attended a support group through Lory's Place. The meetings provided her the ability to connect with individuals who had also lost children.

"Hearing stories of other individuals allowed me to put my own loss into perspective, and really helped guide me to a level where I could better deal with my grief," says Barb.

The group also helped her realize that she was not alone in her grief journey and allowed her to reach a place where she could better manage it. Barb continued to attend the meetings in the months that followed. "All of the people in that group had lost spouses. I was the only one who had lost a child," Barb recalls.

She then read about a grief support group that was offered by Caring Circle (formerly Hospice at Home) at the Senior Center in Coloma. This group was closer to home and she began attending.

She stayed with the group, which eventually turned into Shadow Steppers – an open-ended group facilitated by a Caring Circle bereavement coordinator that meets once a month for 90 minutes and provides those who are traveling through their grief journey a place to heal and receive comfort.

During one of the monthly meetings, she learned about a unique opportunity to attend a two-day memory stone class. During the class, participants create a memory stone to honor the life of the loved ones they have lost while sharing their grief journey with the group. Participants can either place their completed memory stone in the Caring Circle Remembrance Garden or take it home.

Barb created her memory stone with all of Jennifer's traits in mind, such as her smile and her contagious laugh. The stone also included words to describe her daughter such as "mother" and "nurse." Her memory stone has a place of prominence next to a bench by the pond at her house.



"The process of making this stone really helped me," said Barb. "When I feel like I can't handle the grief any longer I just look at the stone and it helps to release the tension."



Overall Barb said her experience at the Lory's Place support group that very first night and hearing from other parents who had lost children to drowning and suicide was her "aha" moment. She found that each time she talked with others who had also experienced a loss, she wanted to be helpful and supportive.

When asked about raising Devon, who is now 18 and will attend the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan this fall, Barb says that the transition of having Devon come and live with them was an adjustment. To ensure that she was able to connect with Devon she stayed involved with his school, hosted team dinners, and did all the things she knew Jennifer would have done if she were there. This process kept Barb putting one foot in front of the other, and along with her strong faith, allowed her to continue to move through her grief journey.

"My grief will never be gone, but over time it becomes a little more manageable, and I attribute a lot of that to the programs offered by Caring Circle and Lory's Place," she said.



To learn more about Caring Circle bereavement programs or Lory's Place please visit us online at [www.caring-circle.org](http://www.caring-circle.org) or [www.lorysplace.org](http://www.lorysplace.org)

### Camp Lifetimes

Lory's Place Camp Lifetimes 2017 welcomed 24 campers from 11 different cities throughout southwest Michigan to Fernwood Botanical Gardens. This year's theme for camp was Rhythms of Life which offered opportunities for campers to be creative and remember deceased loved ones. For many of our campers, decorating their own drums offered a new way to express their feelings. For some, developing their own feeling shields was an opportunity to identify a variety of emotions that accompany grief, helping campers realize that we all need an outlet from the intensity of grief.

One of the most popular activities of the day took place at Fernwood's Nature Center. Wendy, the staff naturalist, shared some special nature friends with our campers and they had an opportunity to touch and see the animals up close.



Next, Brian, Cultural Specialist with the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, shared the Native American approach to grief with the campers, explaining that grief has its own rhythm as it navigates the many emotions and feelings associated with death. Our campers learned that expressing our emotions enables us to turn grief into mourning, and allows healing to begin. Camp Lifetimes truly gave these children a memorable experience on their own personal grief journeys.



### Reflections Dinner and Auction Raises more than \$146,000

On Friday, July 21, 281 guests attended the Reflections Dinner and Auction for Lory's Place, the grief healing and education center of Caring Circle, a Lakeland Health Affiliate. During a fun-filled night that included a libation pull, wheel of fortune, live auction, fund-a-need campaign, and the famous wind tunnel raffle, more than \$146,000 was raised, setting a new record for this event.

New this year was the presentation of the North Star Award, designed to honor an exemplary volunteer. Barb Radewald was the first recipient of this award, and was celebrated for her outstanding volunteer efforts since the inception of Lory's Place.



Attendees had the great privilege to hear board members Bill Marohn and Craig Hubble, as well as one of the first participants of Lory's Place, Diane Diamadio, speak about the history of the organization, how far the vision has come over the last 13 years, and the impact it has had on their lives and our community. This tribute was to honor Lisa Bartoszek, the founder and current director of Lory's Place, who will retire at the end of December. Her successor, Stephanie Kohler, who has been a staff member at Lory's Place for ten years, will become the new director starting January 1, 2018.

"Stephanie will bring unique gifts and life experiences to her new role, ensuring that the compassionate support of Lory's Place will continue," said Lisa.



Lory's Place provides grief healing and education services for children, adults, and families in times of need. This support creates hope for those working through their personal grief journey.

"The evening offered heartfelt testimonials to the meaningful grief support offered at Lory's Place, and was a true celebration of the joys of life," said Lisa. "We are so grateful for the support of long-time, loyal friends and many new friends who attended the Reflections event in support of our mission."



## We Salute You

As a proud Level 3 partner of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) We Honor Veterans Program, Hospice at Home, a program of Caring Circle, strives to meet the unique needs of veteran patients at end of life. One important aspect of this program that we truly appreciate is when a veteran allows us to say "thank you" for their service to our country through our Hospice at Home Salutes our Veterans certificate presentations.

We recently had the honor of thanking Dale Jeffers, a Korean War Army veteran who was receiving services through Hospice at Home. In addition to his military service, Dale also served his community and his fellow local veterans in various capacities: as a member of the local Lions Club for 50 years, and as an active member of the local chapter of Lest We Forget, an organization that seeks to educate the public about the sacrifices that have been made by our service people over the course of American history. Having the opportunity to thank Dale for all that he has contributed to our community was truly a privilege.



On a beautiful morning just a week before Memorial Day, Dale Jeffers was joined in his home by his hospice team and three fellow members of Lest We Forget, two of whom are also Veteran volunteers with the Hospice at Home We Honor Veterans program. The official certificate presentation was presided over by Veteran volunteer Arden Pridgeon, who attends these ceremonies in his original WWII Army uniform.

Our Veteran population has given so much with minimal recognition for the sacrifices they have made. On behalf of a grateful nation and the staff and volunteers of Hospice at Home and Caring Circle we pay special tribute to you, Dale Jeffers, for your military service to America, and for advancing the hope of freedom and liberty for all. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to salute you.



## Our Lady's Hospice of Kenya Partners with Caring Circle

Located thousands of miles from southwest Michigan is a small city outside the suburb of Nairobi, Kenya called Thigio. It is in this small town where local men and women are changing the perceptions about end of life, pain, and palliative care.

Caring Circle is excited to announce a new global partnership with Our Lady's Hospice in Kenya. Our Lady's Hospice, led by Hospice Manager, Sister Eileen, is a nine-bed inpatient facility started by the Daughters of Charity in 2010, in response to the suffering of the dying, a majority of whom had difficulty in accessing health care as a result of financial constraints.

Services offered to patients at Our Lady's Hospice include pain management, counseling, and spiritual support, along with food and housing. Most patients are suffering from cancer and HIV but other conditions that merit palliative care are supported at the facility.

"We have a clinical officer, four nurses, eight carers, a cook and two cleaners – a team that over the years has helped the facility care for more than 260 patients to date," said Sister Eileen.

The primary goal of this partnership is to provide an opportunity for Caring Circle staff to share their expertise and assist in the professional development and growth of Our Lady's Hospice staff and services. This collaboration will allow Caring Circle staff members to engage in monthly engagements with the staff of Our Lady's Hospice to identify areas of need and develop opportunities for individuals in southwest Michigan to better understand and support the organization's mission in Kenya. As part of this alliance, Caring Circle and Our Lady's Hospice plan to develop staff member exchanges to promote cultural awareness and learning opportunities for both hospice groups.



## Taste of Sensation

Thank you to our 2017 sponsors, attendees, volunteers, pre-event supporters on crowdrise.com, and staff for making the third annual Taste Sensation event a tremendous success.

More than 250 guests enjoyed food and beverages, an exciting selection of live auction items, and a live cooking competition by teams of local celebrity and VIP chefs. This year's teams included: Team 1- Gyl Kasewurm, AuD, Professional Hearing Services and Chef Cheyenne Galbraith, Bistro on the Boulevard; Team 2- Tom Starks, Starks Family Funeral Home and Abel Martinez, the Mason Jar Cafe; and Team 3- Dan and Michael McCrery, Tosi's Restaurant. The event's net donations soared to \$160,000, which will support 635 days of benevolent hospice care at the Merlin and Carolyn Hanson Hospice Center.

Best VIP Chef was awarded to Chef Cheyenne Galbraith for her duck schnitzel entrée. Dan McCrery and Chef Michael McCrery received the Best Culinary Team award for top overall team scores and most donations raised.

All proceeds from the event benefit the Merlin and Carolyn Hanson Hospice Center to provide exceptional loving care for children and adults nearing the end of life, and support for their families.

**Mark your calendars for next year's event on Friday, October 5, 2018!**



# Thank You 2017 SPONSORS

## MASTER CHEF



Hanson Family Foundation

## EXECUTIVE CHEF

Glenn & Rachel Arent

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Don and Judi Bleich and Amy Heugel  
Chemical Bank

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Eagle Technologies Group

Fairmount Santrol

Hanson Logistics

Hanson Mold

KitchenAid

LakeHouse Restaurant & Bar

Starks Family Funeral Homes

Woodland Terrace

## North Star Award goes to Barb Radewald

Sailors use several tools to navigate their journey through calm waters or choppy seas. The navigation tool that is always present, and has been constant in the sky for more than 1,000 years, is the North Star. Lory's Place debuted the North Star Award – given to an exemplary volunteer – this year at the Reflections Dinner and Auction. The winner of this award represents an enthusiastic spirit, a body of boundless energy, and an earnest desire to share Lory's Place with the community.

Congratulations go out to **Barb Radewald**, the first recipient of this award. She was celebrated for her outstanding volunteer efforts since the inception of Lory's Place in 2004.

The award will be presented every two years, alternating with the Lighthouse Awards celebrating outstanding individual, corporate, and community partners.



## Embracing Hospice at Home raises more than \$77,700

Embracing Hospice at Home Wine and Beer Tasting Benefit was a success this year breaking its own record from 2016 and raising more than \$77,700. The evening event was held on the South Beach Bluff of Dan and Mary Nulty's home in South Haven. More than 380 guests enjoyed live music by Amy Andrews, wine and beer tasting, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and opportunities to support Hospice at Home, a program of Caring Circle. Fifty volunteers manned the event with 19 local wine and beer vendors in attendance.

New for 2017 was a VIP experience that included a champagne social prior to the event and an exclusive after party.

Thank you to all of the 2017 sponsors, volunteers, guests, and hosts Dan and Mary Nulty for generously supporting Hospice at Home in South Haven.





# Calendar of Events

## Grief Healing

### **Good Grief**

This program is for grieving people and 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 meets for an hour and thirty minutes of information and sharing, and is free of charge and open to anyone in the community.

For more information, call Caring Circle at **(269) 429-7100**

#### **Tuesdays, January 9 to February 20**

3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Caring Circle, St. Joseph

#### **Thursdays, January 11 to February 22**

3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Caring Circle, Buchanan

#### **Fridays, January 12 to February 23**

2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Caring Circle, South Haven

### **Shadow Steppers**

This is an open ended group (each individual may start the group and end the group whenever they choose) facilitated by a Caring Circle bereavement coordinator that meets once each month for hour and thirty minutes. All who are traveling through their grief journey are invited to take part in the healing process within this comforting supportive environment.

#### **2nd Monday of every month**

3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Caring Circle, South Haven

#### **2nd Tuesday of every month**

2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Buchanan Senior Center

#### **3rd Wednesday of every month**

3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Caring Circle, St. Joseph

### Holiday Wreaths Now on Sale!

Beautiful 24" Douglas fir wreaths, decorated with red velvet bows and pine cones are now available for purchase.

These wreaths are a perfect way to decorate for the holidays while supporting your local Caring Circle programs.

Wreaths are available for pickup, beginning

**Monday, November 20.**

You may pick them up

**Monday - Friday**

**9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

at Caring Circle offices in St. Joseph, South Haven, and Buchanan, and at Lory's Place.



**Wreaths are \$25 each or when you purchase 10 or more, wreaths are \$20 each with free delivery**

Visit [caring-circle.org](http://caring-circle.org) for more information



## 14 Upcoming Events, Community Classes, and Programs

### 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 every month

4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Lakeland Hospital, Community Room, St. Joseph

### Walking Group – South Haven

Explore the neighborhood around/near South Beach in South Haven with Caring Circle staff and new friends. All groups will meet at South Haven High School unless otherwise specified. This is an adults-only group and participants are not required to pre-register or attend weekly.

For more information, call Andy Thompson **(269) 429-7100**

### Tuesdays, now through April 24

3:45 p.m.

South Haven High School  
600 Elkenburg, South Haven

### Walking Group – Bridgman

Lace up your walking shoes and join Caring Circle staff and friends. Explore the Bridgman area. This is an adult-only open group and there is no need to pre-register or attend weekly.

For more information, call Jaime Hoover at **(269) 429-7100**

### Wednesdays, January 10 to April 25

3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

F.C. Reed Middle School  
10254 California Road, Bridgman



### Support Hospice At Home Inc.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazon smile

### Amazon Smile for Hospice at Home

Are you an Amazon shopper who loves the convenience of ordering a wide variety of items from your mobile device or computer? What if you could also help Caring Circle (Hospice at Home) with just a few extra clicks?

Just visit [www.smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2416086](https://www.smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2416086), sign in with your Amazon credentials, and start shopping. The best part is that, once selected and saved, Hospice at Home will automatically receive 0.5% of your purchase price! Remember – whether you’re ordering groceries, a book, a wedding registry gift, or your entire holiday gift list, just a few extra clicks will help to provide compassionate care to patients and their families.

### Holiday Blues

This annual program offers an opportunity to participate in meaningful sharing and gain renewed strength to walk through grief during the holiday season.

For more information, call Caring Circle at **(269) 429-7100**

### Monday, November 13

5:30 p.m.

Lory's Place, St. Joseph

### Wednesday, November 15

12:00 p.m.

Lakeland Hospital, Watervliet

### Thursday, November 16

4:00 p.m.

Caring Circle, South Haven

### Thursday, November 16

12:00 p.m.

Caring Circle, Buchanan



## Caregiving Support Group

### 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 Kostzen at **(269) 429-7100** to register or for more information.

#### Third Tuesday of Every Month

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

#### First Wednesday of Every Month

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.  
Buchanan Area Senior Center  
810 Rynearson St., Buchanan

## Events

### Lory's Place Cookie Walk

Choose a dozen of your favorite festive cookies, dessert bars, and other delicious baked goods, fill a box for \$5 each, and support a good cause!

#### Friday, December 1

6:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Puzzlemental Escape Room Adventures  
403 State Street, St. Joseph

### Tips for Family Caregivers

If you're looking for extra support or caregiver advice, sign up for the free eNewsletter, "Tips for Family Caregivers."



To subscribe, email Caring Circle,  
[at info@caring-circle.org](mailto:info@caring-circle.org)

### International Survivors of Suicide Day

One million people die by suicide every year, leaving behind countless family members and friends to make sense of it. If you have lost someone to suicide, this conference is for you. You'll hear from other survivors about how they cope. The program also features experts sharing what we now know about suicide and grief.

To register, call **(269) 983-2707**

#### Saturday, November 18

1:30 p.m.  
Lory's Place, St. Joseph

### Celebration of Life Services 2018

Our services honor patients and families served by the organization, as well as community members who have died in the previous year. These non-denominational programs are open to the public with a time of fellowship at a reception following the service.

#### Tuesday, April 10

6:30 p.m.  
Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
06321 Blue Star Highway, South Haven

#### Thursday, April 12

6:30 p.m.  
Caring Circle, St. Joseph

#### Monday, April 16

6:30 p.m.  
Summit Church  
1700 West River Road, Niles

### Run, Walk, Rock 2018

Join the fun! More than 1,400 children and adults, help raise money for Lory's Place in the annual 5k Run, 5k Walk, and Rocking Chair marathon. Chip timing is used for quick results of all runners and walkers.

For more information, call Lory's Place at **(269) 983-2707** or visit [www.lorysplace.org](http://www.lorysplace.org)

#### Saturday, May 19

7:00 to 10:00 a.m.  
Lory's Place, St. Joseph

### Lory's Place Reflections Dinner and Auction 2018

There are many opportunities to support Lory's Place in this event through sponsorships, attending dinner, and donating auction items.

For more information, visit [www.lorysplace.org](http://www.lorysplace.org) or call **(269) 983-2707**

#### Friday, July 13

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

# Caring Circle Locations



## We're right here with you!

Hospice at Home, now part of 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. With 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 neighbors' children at soccer games, and check on our friends' homes and elderly parents. Caring Circle is 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  
[www.lorysplace.org](http://www.lorysplace.org)