



# Women's Committee for *Hospice* Care

Fall 2005

## President's Message

Dear Members,

This past summer was very busy and productive for the new board of Women's Committee for Hospice Care. Following our mission of promoting awareness and raising funds in the name of hospice care, the **Be a Member to Remember** drive kicked off in August. We thank you for inviting friends, co-workers, neighbors and family members to join. We are pleased to announce that we have added 50 members to date. Also this summer, **The Somerset Collection** invited the Women's Committee to be part of their House of Color display by featuring the WCHC 2005 scarf designed for us by Dominic Pangborn. A framed scarf was featured prominently in the Orchid Room and live models wore the scarf for three weekends in August. Additionally, our scarf was sold on the north and south side of The Somerset Collection with 100% of the proceeds coming back to Women's Committee.

On a beautiful fall day in October, members and guests gathered at the Birmingham Country Club for the **Members' Fall Tea** to view a DVD created for Women's Committee and graciously donated by Leo Burnett Detroit. The DVD explains the work of the WCHC and how it benefits eight hospices in the tri-county area. Michelle Fields and Paula LaNeve planned the event with awareness in mind. Attendance was high, and there wasn't a dry eye in the room!

This month the Grants Committee will begin planning their annual visits to the hospices we support. **At last spring's annual meeting, we were able to present \$475,000 to eight hospice organizations to help fund**

**programs and services**, many of which would not be possible without our financial assistance.

The new editor of our newsletter is Maureen Electa Monte and she has created this issue to include informative articles and WCHC activities, past and present. Please read about our upcoming events, the **Grand Night for Hospice Ball XVIII** which is being held on January 21, 2006 at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn and the **Spring Luncheon and Boutique** which is planned for May 9, 2006 at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester. We hope you will mark your calendar and join us at both events. Working together to achieve our fundraising goals, we can all make a difference for families who choose hospice care. Thank you for your support.

*Linda*



**Linda Ebert, President**

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#### Spring Event

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Judy Gardner

#### Tributes

Laurie VanSwearingen

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\* denotes Chairperson

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Barbara Babb, Hospice Volunteer

*... volunteer learns from those she serves*

For many years, Barbara Babb of Bloomfield Hills was a registered nurse working in the critical care field of medicine. She was a flight nurse on an emergency helicopter and saw sudden, unexpected death over and over again. In 1995, Barb began a national speaking career. She taught programs in high schools and colleges all over the country detailing the dangers of underage drinking, seat belt use and automobile safety. When she retired, she had spoken to a million and a half young people. Following retirement, she had time to pursue the volunteer work she had longed for. Becoming involved with hospice was important.

“In my professional career, I saw a lot of sudden death. Working with hospice patients offers a completely different perspective,” says Barbara. Most hospice patients have the time to say goodbye, and they do so in a variety of ways. They play the reel of their life over and over again. Barb feels this is an important part of dying. The hospice volunteer is integrated into every situation with objectivity and no history. They become a “safe place” for hospice patients to reflect. “I have found myself laughing hysterically with people and in the next instant crying with them,” relates Babb. Getting to know the families is rewarding. The hospice



**Barbara Babb**

volunteer is able to give respite to the family member so they can perform errands without worrying about the safety or comfort of their loved ones. “We give the family members a break,” says Babb.

How does one become a hospice volunteer? Education is the first step. Barbara Babb was impressed with the extensive training she received before becoming a hospice volunteer with Beaumont Hospice. In her class, there were over 40 people ranging in age from mid-20’s to an 81 year old man, all anxious to serve. Babb was very impressed with one young man. “He said, ‘I have a great family, a great girlfriend and a great job, but there is just something missing.’ He felt that volunteering for hospice would add to meaning to his life.” Babb has found this to be true; she learns much from her patients. “They teach you. I’ve seen people die well, and I’ve learned from it.”

Volunteers see a wide range of emotions. Sometimes patients are angry, which is perfectly normal. Other times, patients are simply ready to die, and express frustration with the wait. Babb remembers an elderly man who was more than ready to die. His wife had been dead for several years. He had fought a great battle and was ready to move on. He was always impeccably dressed, ready for death to take him. “When I would visit him, he would smile and say ‘I’m still here!’” recounts Babb. “I would hold his hand and we would laugh about it together!”

Babb encourages others to volunteer, and learn their own lessons from hospice patients and families. “This is part of life. It will happen to all of us. Volunteers shouldn’t worry about not knowing what to say. Being engaged and listening is the key. You don’t have to know what to say, it will come. It’s a gift – a gift to me – that’s why I do it. I’ve seen some remarkable things happen. It is such a privilege to be invited to share this last stage. There is a peace in it.”

An appreciation of life comes from working with hospice patients. “I try to savor that,” says Babb. “Every day, every single day, I try to do something small and meaningful. I try to gaze upon a lovely sunset, roll in the leaves with my dogs, and make snow angels like I did when I was a little girl ... just appreciate the gift of life!”

## *Hospice Spotlight*

### Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute Hospice Program

*Comfort, dignity and expert  
care for over 15 years*

Since 1990 the Hospice Program of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute has been providing care for the terminally ill. The Hospice Program was created in response to a need to promote continuity of care for oncology patients and to make hospice services more accessible for the terminally ill who lived in the City of Detroit regardless of insurance or ability to pay.

Initially supported by grant monies, Karmanos Cancer Institute Hospice proceeded through the steps to become licensed, certified and an approved provider of services for Medicare, Medicaid and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan beneficiaries along with other private insurance companies. By 1996, Karmanos Cancer Institute Hospice was granted Accreditation with Commendation by the Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Health Care Organization and has since maintained its accreditation status.

The Program has an outstanding history in the community for providing expert care and support to terminally ill patients with an advanced cancer diagnosis, and their families. The majority of the nurses are certified in oncology and have extensive experience in addressing the specialized and often highly technological care needs of advanced cancer patients. "The focus of care shifts from treatment and cure to com-

fort and care. Depending on the needs and concerns of a patient and their family, our Hospice Program will provide for necessary high tech needs such as IV hydration, special catheters to remove fluid from the lungs or abdomen, and palliative radiation therapy - to name a few" explains Karmanos Cancer Institute Hospice Administrator, Mary Jane Curle.

A skilled Interdisciplinary Team listens carefully to the needs of patients and their family members in order to develop a plan of care and to coordinate all services needed to provide comprehensive care. The goals and preferences of patients and their families are highly regarded during the planning process. This high regard is easily reflected in the admission of two patients earlier this year who wanted to come home while on a ventilator. This is not something normally done by hospice agencies. In one case the patient wanted to die in his home with his family surrounding him and not in an ICU. By working closely with the hospital and other collaborating agencies, Karmanos Cancer Institute Hospice helped this patient spend the entire day at home with his family before he was weaned from the ventilator. "Sometimes it takes a community to make things happen. Because of the hard work and generosity of the Women's Committee for Hospice Care, our Hospice Program is able to provide special assistance to patients when it is needed most" states Curle.

As a component of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, the Hospice Program is formally linked to one of only 39 centers in the United States designated as comprehensive cancer centers by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Within the setting of the Cancer Center, the Hospice staff collaborates daily with the staff of the Detroit Medical Center (DMC) Facilities in order to address the comfort issues of patients with an advanced cancer as well as non-cancer diagnoses. Once under the care of the Hospice Program, patients not only have access to specialized hospice care services but are able to benefit from the additional resources and network of expertise available through the Karmanos Cancer Center.

The purpose of the Hospice Program is to facilitate optimal quality of life for the patient and family through the provision of direct patient care, education, supportive counseling, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and supplies necessary to manage pain and other distressing symptoms. Caregiver education and support including bereavement services are key components of care. Services are provided primarily in the patient's home or other place of residence. In-patient hospice care in a hospital or nursing home is also available for symptom management or family respite.

For additional information regarding the Hospice Program of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute visit their website at [www.karmanos.org](http://www.karmanos.org) or call (248) 827-1592.

## Be A Member To Remember Membership Drive

Have you lost a loved one recently? Did the gentle hands of a dedicated hospice worker help guide you and your loved one through the difficult journey? In August, 2005, The Women's Committee for Hospice Care launched an inspirational **"Be a Member to Remember"** membership drive to raise funds and awareness for hospice providers in southeast Michigan.

"Our membership campaign offers an opportunity to honor our lost loved ones and at the same time, support the important work done by the hospice community here in Michigan," says WCHC president Linda Ebert. And as a result, the WCHC membership has grown to over 600 women strong! Membership is a budget-friendly \$35 per year, and you needn't wonder how your money is spent. The WCHC donates approximately 98% of our net contributions to eight hospices for direct patient care. We have no paid officers. And we encourage you to join our dedicated and friendly group! You'll be invited to our Fall Tea, our Hospice Ball, our Spring Luncheon and Boutique and a few other special events held throughout the year. **Be a Member to Remember**, and in your loved one's name, you'll be raising awareness of the benefits of hospice care throughout southeast Michigan.

For more information on our **Be a Member To Remember** membership drive, please call our Membership chairperson Christiane Hachey at 248-650-1857 or visit our website at [www.wchcinc.org](http://www.wchcinc.org).

### 2005 Spring Luncheon & Boutique



Pam Stoler, Kathy Wolf, Wendy Leonard and Dodie Malloy enjoy the day.



Shoppers galore at the Royal Park Hotel



WCHC President Sylvia Hagenlocker & Event Chair Maureen Monte

### 2005 Annual Meeting



Board Members Linda Ebert, Dee Wright-Masilotti, Carole Larson Wendzel and Sarah McClure at a swearing in ceremony.



Grants board member Rusty Raymond delivers a grant check to Mary Jane Curle of Karmanos Hospice



Board Members Kathy Antonini, Susan O'Brien, Karen Sallee and Nancy Hopp are recognized for their service.

# Grand Night For Hospice XVIII

The Women's Committee for Hospice Care will host the black tie benefit "**A Grand Night for Hospice XVIII**" on **Saturday, January 21, 2006, at the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn. Honorary Chairs for the 2006 Ball are:**

**Mr. and Mrs. Stan Fields III**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Mike Johnston**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Lyons**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Eric Ridenour**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thomas**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Ed Welburn, Jr.**

Benefit Chair, Pearl Hamilton, co-chairs Kathy Brennan and Nancy Kraut, along with members of the Ball Committee promise a lively evening of surprise and delight. In addition to a lovely evening of dining and dancing, attendees will have a wide range of unique auction items for some lucky winners!

This year's exciting auction includes an **Academy Awards** package, a dream package to the **2006 Winter Olympics** in Italy, the **NCAA Final Four** Package, a **year-long lease of Saab vehicles** - a different car every four months, fabulous pave **Diamond Necklace**, and an **Ultimate Shopping Experience** at Neiman Marcus that you won't believe! Additional items include a **Winter Greenbrier** trip, a pave **Diamond Ring** that everyone woman will love, a car guy's dream—private test drive and **hot laps of a Ferrari F430**, a meet and greet with the one and only **Tiger Woods** at the Buick Open, and a **Wine Lovers** trip to Tuscany.

If that isn't enough, how about the **Tribeca Film Festival**, the **Tony Awards**, the **Emmy Awards**, the latest and greatest from **Bose Corporation**, and last but not least, two tickets to the **SuperBowl** with the accompanying **Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Party** and even **transportation** to the big game!

A huge thank you to the donors of these listed items: General Motors Corporation, Saab of Troy, Tiffany & Company, Neiman Marcus, The Greenbrier, Kramar Jewelry, Cauley Ferrari-Maserati,

Buick, Metaldyne Corporation, CBS, Entertainment Weekly, Bose Corporation, Sports Illustrated and Tenable Protective Services.

The Ritz-Carlton is offering a **special rate of \$105 per night** for those attending the Ball! It's a great way to beat the weather and end a special evening. Invitations will be sent soon.

For **information** on donating items, purchasing tickets or sponsoring the Hospice Ball, please contact **Pearl Hamilton at 734.710.5565** or **Kathy Brennan at 248.458.7978**



***Diamond Necklace  
from Tiffany & Company***



***Spend time in the cockpit of a Ferrari F430!***



## WCHC Scarves Make A Great Gift!



Nancy Smith models our  
WCHC Silk Scarf designed by  
Dominic Pangborn

Generous hospice supporter and businessman David Zatkoff has discovered that our WCHC scarves make a great gift for clients, family members and staff.

Mr. Zatkoff has purchased over a dozen scarves to give to customers. "One of my clients in Alabama has spent six weeks helping the Red Cross serve victims of Hurricane Katrina, so I gave her a scarf," says David. "She could relate to how important hospice care is to a community." David Zatkoff even carried our scarf overseas! "I gave a scarf to the wife of a plant manager in Stuttgart, Germany," said Mr. Zatkoff. "They really appreciated the beautiful gift."

If you or your husband need a gift for an extraordinary business contact, a retiring colleague or a kind female friend, these beautiful, 100% silk scarves are now available for only \$75!

To order yours today, visit our website at [www.wchcinc.org](http://www.wchcinc.org), or email Cathy Quattrone at [CQuatt1012@aol.com](mailto:CQuatt1012@aol.com).

**This is your chance to do good and  
look good at the same time!**

## 2006 Spring Luncheon & Boutique

**The Spring Luncheon and Boutique will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2006, at the beautiful Royal Park Hotel in Rochester.** Mark your calendars for a wonderful day of delicious food, great shopping and a whole lot of fun.

We are delighted to announce that **Janet Conaty has been chosen as Honorary Chair** of this year's event. Although Janet no longer lives in this area, she has worked for many years for the Women's Committee for Hospice Care and we are thrilled that she will be with us at the event so that we can honor her for her hard work and dedication.

Chairperson Sandy Nahm and Co-Chairs Bonnie Chima and Judy Gardner have created a great team with some new ideas! We could use your help with two WCHC vendor booths. The first one is our old favorite, the Needle Nook. **If you're a knitter and would like to donate a knitted item to the Needle Nook, please contact Joy DiCenso at 248-646-7417.** In addition to the Needle Nook we will have a new **WCHC vendor called "Vintage Rose"** which is being co-chaired by Katie Aubry and Patty Ghesquiere. As the name implies **we are looking for gently used wonderful items from your closets -- jewelry, vintage handbags...something special that you could donate to be sold at the Spring Boutique. If you have something to donate, please call Katie Aubry at 248-723-6447 or Patty Ghesquiere at 248-646-2525. 100% of the proceeds from our WCHC booths directly support hospice care!**

We hope you will participate in this important fund-raising effort. Please plan to attend, bring a guest and **tell all of your friends about our special day in May!** Thank you!

## F.Y.I.

### SAVE THE DATE


**Saturday, January 21, 2006**  
*Grand Night for Hospice Ball XVIII*  
*Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Dearborn*

**Tuesday, May 9th, 2006**  
*Spring Luncheon & Boutique*  
*Royal Park Hotel in Rochester*

### WCHC GRANT POLICY

WCHC disburses funds to be focused on direct patient care. Grants cover uninsured/underinsured services, including pain management, indigent care, pediatric programs, bereavement services, alternative therapies and education. WCHC grants do not cover administrative salaries or other normal operating expenses.

### Photos courtesy of:

 Cathy Quattrone,  
Thomas Weschler,  
Janette Engelhardt and  
Maureen Electa Monte

### From the Editor:

To submit articles or information for the newsletter, please contact me:



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Maureen Electa Monte  
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FIRST CLASS: PLEASE FORWARD OR RETURN