

community circle

SPRING 2026

Sewn with Love

At Centrica Rose Arbor Place in Kalamazoo, there are profound moments of compassionate care every day. Sometimes, compassionate care looks different: through a combination of stitches and colors that create beautiful quilts, reminding patients and families they are covered in warmth and love.

Recently, a handful of quilts were thoughtfully donated by a local Kalamazoo quilting group and presented to Rose Arbor Place. Each quilt was lovingly crafted in memory of a dear friend and fellow quilter who spent her final days at Rose Arbor Place last year.

Continued on page 3



A member of NorthStar Care Community

Expert care, **centered on you.**



A MESSAGE FROM PATRICK

Because of You: From Vision to Reality

For more than forty years, we have been honored to serve patients facing serious illness and end-of-life needs. Our care is rooted in a patient-centered approach that respects each individual's values and wishes. Whether care is provided at home, in an assisted living community, in a skilled nursing facility, or wherever the patient calls home, our interdisciplinary teams deliver comprehensive support that addresses physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

We are proud to share that the palliative care program has reached an important milestone. Because of your generosity, our palliative care program is strong, sustainable, and fully integrated into our hospice operations, positioning it to continue serving our community for years to come. Early philanthropic support, including generous gifts from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund and The Marvin and Rosalie Okun Foundation, fueled us forward, allowing us to build the team, develop the care model, and begin serving patients and families who deeply needed this level of support.

Palliative care allows us to engage with patients earlier in their journey and help them navigate the complexities of advanced chronic illnesses by offering clinical recommendations to their physician on strategies for palliation of symptoms and ways to prepare for disease progression. Today, compassionate, comfort-focused care is fully integrated into our organization.

This achievement reflects the powerful role you play within the NorthStar Care Community: sparking innovation, meeting emerging needs and creating lasting impact.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on expanding access to care, investing in our workforce, and responding thoughtfully to the evolving needs of our community. As demand for hospice and palliative care grows, we are committed to meeting that need with compassion, creativity and service expansion.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for being an essential partner in this work. Your generosity strengthens our ability to care for patients and families with dignity and respect, today and into the future.

Patrick Miller, RN, MBA, MHSA, FACHE
President and CEO

“These donated quilts are more than blankets,” Barb Martin, Director of Rose Arbor Place, comments. “Each stitch carries a message of care, warmth, and a reminder that no one here is alone. In moments that can feel uncertain or heavy, these quilts will help bring dignity, peace, and a sense of being deeply cared for. We are profoundly grateful for the hands and hearts that created them.”

For the quilting group “Q.F.F” (Quilting Friends Forever), the quilts were both a tribute and a thank you. Their friend’s time at Rose Arbor Place was marked by dignity, comfort, and compassion, values that are at the heart of Centrica Care Navigators’ mission. Creating these quilts became a way to honor her life while giving back to the team who cared for her so deeply.

Vicki, one of the members of the group, comments, “We are hoping that the patients enjoy the quilts as much as we enjoy making them. We hope to make quilts for patients and families every year.”

This heartfelt donation reflects the power of community and is a testament to how hospice touches lives far beyond the patient.



A Reminder of “Home”

For each patient, caregiver and family that stays at Rose Arbor Place, these tangible expressions of love make a profound difference in making each space feel like “home.”

When complex conditions require constant care, Centrica’s Rose Arbor Place provides the comforts of home, privacy and dignity for patients who are experiencing symptoms that require an additional level of clinical support. Expert care from physicians, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, and counselors are provided 24 hours a day.

Centrica Care Navigators extends its sincere appreciation to the Q.F.F. quilting group for this generous and meaningful gift, to the generous donors and community partners that continue to support Rose Arbor Place, and to the Rose Arbor Place staff who embody the heart of hospice care every day.

The Gift of “Moo-sic”

As told by Kaitlin, Music Therapist

J was someone I got to see last year who was very special. She was a mother and a grandmother and went by the nickname “Grandmoo” because of her love of cows.

When I first visited J, she told me she was really interested in creating legacy projects for her two grandchildren and a third that was expected in a couple of months. As we were brainstorming, she came up with her own idea that she wanted to record herself singing to each of her grandchildren separately, but it would be the same song and message.

She chose to sing “Over the Rainbow” and recorded a message to each of the grandchildren, including the one expected. These would then be added to recording devices and placed into stuffed animal cows. J knew the name, but it was a secret because they weren’t born yet, so in being an outside visitor, I was able to help capture the recordings without spoiling the secret to the rest of the family.

A couple of days before she passed, she had a dream where she said she was able to meet the new grandchild, and she said it was such a comfort having that experience and knowing she could leave the tangible gift for them once they were old enough that allowed them to hear her voice and her message to them.





Quality of Life at the Center of Care

At the end of life, Centrica Care Navigators believes quality of life should be central to each patient's care. In 2025, **Gestures of Grace** was established to support this belief, ensuring each patient and family receives the care they need, both physically and emotionally, in their final chapter. In total, 17 requests were completed last year.

Fueled by donor generosity, Gestures of Grace exists to address non-recurring, unmet needs by covering the cost of items or services that may significantly enhance quality of life, providing peace and comfort for the patient, the caregiver and the family.



Over the past year, Gestures of Grace provided items and resources to our families such as:

- New towels, clothing and personal care items
- Replacement batteries for electric wheelchair
- Electric and Gas Bills
- 1 night stay in Detroit Hotel and gas card for patient to attend the Detroit Lions 2025 training camp
- Plumber cost to repair patients toilet
- Victrola Record Player
- Warm clothes for patient at the shift of a season

This extra layer of support makes an incredible difference for patients and families. Thank you for partnering with Centrica Care Navigators to provide this resource to those in our care!



A Loyal Companion

Sometimes the greatest comfort comes not from words or medicine, but from a gentle presence with four paws and a wagging tail.

For more than a decade, Judy Packard and her Brittany Spaniel, Sophie, served as a dedicated pet therapy duo, often taking on multiple assignments at a time. Their presence was a bright light for each patient and family they visited.

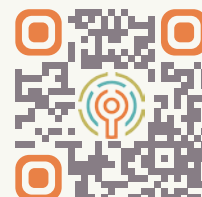
In 2024, Judy and Sophie were honored with the James C. Holt Award, recognizing more than 145 hours of volunteer service. While the number is impressive, it represents countless smiles and moments of companionship during life's most vulnerable times.

Sophie passed away on October 28, 2025, at the age of 13. Of those years, 11 were spent volunteering with Centrica Care Navigators. Whether resting her head on a patient's lap or quietly sitting beside a family member, Sophie's visits brought dignity, comfort and compassion to so many of those in our care.

Judy plans to carry on the tradition of service with her other dog, Sadie, who will step into the role of bringing companionship to those walking through their end-of-life journey.

Thank you to Judy, Sophie, Sadie, and each volunteer that carries out our mission and shows unwavering commitment to our community.

Interested in volunteering?
Learn more:



"Seasoning Grief"

Centrica Care Navigators Inaugural Grief Weekend Retreat

Seasoning Grief, Centrica Care Navigators first weekend grief retreat, was a deeply meaningful gathering for 18 attendees whose grief has shifted from initial intensity to quietly shaping their lives one year and beyond.

Over the course of three days, participants ages 37 to 83 came together to share stories of loss and find connection through community. From walking to writing letters, crafting clay memorials, experiencing live music while painting, and creating personal Soul Maps, each moment invited reflection, courage, and companionship.

Held at GilChrist Retreat Center and led by Centrica's Jill Terwilliger, M.Div., CPCC, grief support counselor, and Kim Critz, Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications and creator of Healing HeArtwork, a creative grief workshop series, the weekend encouraged participants to engage with grief in an intentional way, holding both the pain and love that grief brings by using practical and creative tools.

Seasoning Grief is made possible in large part through the generosity of donors and funders, allowing Centrica Care Navigators to cover much of the costs.

All monthly grief support groups are free to the community. Thank you for your support!



PARTICIPANT REVIEW:

I came here to find the courage to look at my grief- the "monster that has been living under my bed" for 18 months. I was dreading being here. I kept telling myself it was like a root canal--it would be excruciating for a while, but it would help me feel better in the end. But once we walked through the doors at Windhill, nothing was remotely excruciating. More like a massage, helping to loosen the knots. Thank you.

Join the waitlist for the next "Seasoning Grief" weekend retreat!

Seasoning Grief: A retreat to savor and soften your grief story, one year and beyond

Date: October 27-29 2026

Location: GilChrist Retreat Center in Three Rivers, MI.

PRE-REGISTER TODAY:





Annual giving is the foundation of Centrica Care Navigators' ability to fulfill our not-for-profit mission of serving all who need our care regardless of their diagnosis, age or financial circumstances. Through the generosity and support of our annual donors, we are able to provide the quality end-of-life care everyone deserves. We extend our sincere gratitude to the individuals and organizations who are members of our 2025 Annual Giving Society.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS & ORGANIZATIONS

BENEFACTOR (\$10,000)

Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation Inc
 Good Samaritan Hospice Fund of Battle Creek Community Foundation
 Havirmill Foundation
 The Human Dignity Fund
 LVM Capital Management Ltd
 The Marvin and Rosalie Okun Foundation
 Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation Inc

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 Crane Charitable Funds
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 Julia Smith
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 Bruce Stein
 James and Winifred Stewart
 Thomas and Priscilla Swiat
 Valerie Vaillancourt and David Flanagan
 Charles Webster
 David and Kimberly Westrate
 Richard and Patricia Whitfield
 Robert and Pamela Wilson
 Jan Yoon

*In memory of

Legacy Giving: Family Funds

Family funds are a meaningful way for individuals and families to support the causes they care about, both now and for generations to come. Often set up as part of a long-term or multi-generational planning strategy, they are a simple, flexible option to help you organize your giving, preserve family values, and leave a legacy of impact.

Opportunities to establish named family funds begin at \$25,000 and are payable up to a five-year term.

Family funds are typically funded through:

- **Donor-advised funds (DAFs)** set up under a family name
 - DAFs are easy to set up and are managed by a sponsoring organization. You can invest cash, stocks, or other assets, receive an immediate tax benefit, and recommend grants to your favorite nonprofits.
- **Family foundations** created and governed by family members
 - A family foundation allows a family to turn shared values into long-term impact by funding nonprofits and community initiatives over time.



Many families choose to involve children and grandchildren in the process, using their fund as a way to share values, tell stories, and inspire future generations to make a difference.

Turn your generosity into something lasting with a Family Fund.

For more information about Legacy Giving, please contact Tonya Collins, Philanthropy Director, at tcollins@centricacare.org or 269.345.0273.



Butterfly Release Memorials

Helping patients and families navigate grief is a key part of how Centrica helps support our community. The symbolic act of releasing a butterfly serves as a poignant metaphor for transformation, renewal, and the natural cycle of life. The act of releasing butterflies can also symbolize the release of grief and the setting free of a departed loved one's spirit.

Centrica Care Navigators annual Butterfly Release Memorial provides an opportunity for children, teens, adults, and seniors in our community to come together and celebrate the lives of those they have lost. Community members are encouraged to attend, free of charge, and enjoy a serene morning surrounded by nature.



Join us this summer!

May 16, 2026 • 10:00am
Lake Front "Amphitheatre" Park
- Paw Paw

Register Here



August 1, 2026 • 10:00am
Leila Arboretum Society -
Battle Creek

Register Here



CAMP GOOD GRIEF

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026
9AM - 4PM

A FREE ONE DAY CAMP FOR KIDS AGES 8 - 17
CAMP MERRIE WOODE, PLAINWELL, MI

Partnering with Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, Camp Good Grief offers a supportive and fun-filled environment where children who have experienced the death of a loved one can connect with others who share similar experiences.

Camp Good Grief blends traditional camp activities with grief education and emotional support.



Questions?
Contact Kim Courtney
KCourtney@CentricaCare.org
269.303.3740



Golf 'Fore' Hospice

Get ready to pack up your clubs, grab a few friends, and join us at Binder Park Golf Course for a great day of golf (for an even better cause).

With more than 150 participants each year, this event is an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues or business partners, spend time with friends, and enjoy the outdoors for a day filled with action, laughs, and prizes!

No matter your score, every swing goes a long way for Centrica Hospice Care.

June 19, 2026 • 9:00 a.m.
Shotgun Start
Binder Park Golf Course

Register or Sponsor Today



2026 Silent Auction

Don't forget to participate in our online silent auction! Everyone has the chance to claim their favorite auction package, whether you join us in golfing or bid from afar! Help us reach our goal to benefit our hospice patients and their families.

More information about the 2026 silent auction is coming soon!



**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE**
June 26, 2026
REGISTER NOW
CentricaCare.org/camp



Serving our Veterans

On September 8, at age 83, Ron Cummins, a Vietnam veteran, received a pinning ceremony in his home to honor his service and bravery serving our country.

Led by Centrica Care Navigators Chaplain Art Bryan, who currently serves in the U.S. Army and Navy, a pinning ceremony is one way to show our veterans gratitude. During the ceremony, a special pin and personalized certificate are presented, and sometimes favorite songs or prayers are read. For many veterans, this recognition brings comfort and closure, especially at the end of life when memories or emotions are brought to the surface.

Born and raised in Kalamazoo, Ron was drafted into the U.S. Army at 26 years old and sent to Vietnam, where he served in the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

“They made a man out of me,” Ron said. “Before I was drafted, I was going nowhere. I spent a year there and came home safely. I met some great folks from all over the United States.”

Ron reflected on his role working in mortars, the friends he met and keeps in touch with, and the nickname he was affectionately given: “Grandpa.”

When Ron talked about his arrival back home, his voice carried notes of disappointment but also pride. Like many Vietnam veterans, he was never thanked for his service.

During his pinning, Ron expressed gratitude for his years of service and the path it set him on. He went on to meet his wife of 58 years, manage a garage, work as a repair technician for 39 years, and care for his two beloved dogs.

Centrica Care Navigators is proud to support veterans, like Ron, through partnership with We Honor Veterans. Thanks to the dedication of staff, volunteers, and generous donors, every veteran can receive the recognition they deserve at the end of life.



Art Bryan, Centrica Chaplain and current military member, presents Ron with his certificate and pin during an in-home ceremony



Veterans interested in leading pinning ceremonies for fellow veterans, and those interested in other ways to volunteer, can explore our latest opportunities here:



Jumanji 4 Exclusive Screening to Benefit Pediatric Hospice

Centrica Care Navigators is set to host an exclusive screening of the new Jumanji film, coming to theatres this December, to benefit the expansion of our pediatric hospice services in West Michigan at Centrica.

COMING DECEMBER 2026

Admission for the cinematic sneak-peek will include one ticket to the film, along with theatre snacks and access to a pre-movie or post-movie reception.

FILM PREVIEW

Jumanji 4 returns to screens for the fourth and final installment of the series, featuring Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, Kevin Hart, Jack Black, and Karen Gillan. The film will continue the story from Jumanji: The Next Level, where the players had to brave the unknown and unexplored, from the arid deserts to the snowy mountains, in order to escape the world’s most dangerous game.

The screenings are made possible through a longtime friendship with Jumanji’s world-renowned children’s author and illustrator Chris Van Allsburg. Along with his wife, Lisa, both Michigan natives, the Van Allsburgs have long supported pediatric hospice care initiatives.

Through the generous support of Sony Pictures, Centrica Care Navigators will host a special advance screening of the film in support of the expansion of our pediatric hospice services in West Michigan at Centrica.

JUMANJI





- HOSPICE CARE
- ROSE ARBOR PLACE
- PALLIATIVE CARE
- GRIEF SUPPORT
- JOURNEYS

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Employees Are Donors Too!

The Legacy Club and Caregivers Club of Centrica Care Navigator's special appeal campaign Giving from the Heart are employees who contribute annually at levels of \$1,000 and \$500 respectively. We are grateful to all of our employees for their commitment to the compassionate care they provide, as well as their monetary support.

LEGACY CLUB (\$1,000+)

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Jamie Cockerel | Patrick Miller |
| Rachel Dedes | Lee Ann Myers |
| Marcie Hillary | Krista Newman |
| Eric Kaplan | Thomas O'Neil, MD |
| Patricia McDaniel | |

CAREGIVERS CLUB (\$500+)

- Laura Newman
- Dave Schulz

24/7 CONTACT CENTER

 **269.345.0273**

If you wish to remove your name from future fundraising solicitations, contact the Donation Processing Center: 800.669.9335 or email: info@centricacare.org