



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Helen Zuckerman has continued to support the causes so important to her husband. The couple founded the Michigan Cancer Foundation Angels five years ago, just months before Paul Zuckerman's death.

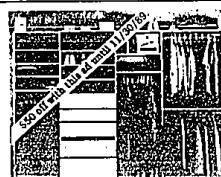
Receptionists needed

Volunteer positions as a front desk receptionist are available at The Community Center Farmington-Farmington Hills. An independent, non-profit organization, The Community Center is at 24705 Farmington Road.

The position will entail providing

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Angel of care

Group thrives despite loss of co-founder

By Rebecca Haynes
staff writer

Helen Zuckerman keeps her husband's memory alive every day.

Although Paul Zuckerman died nearly four years ago, his widow has continued to give her time, energy and money to the causes he supported so enthusiastically. One of those causes, the Michigan Cancer Foundation, will host an event this weekend started five years ago by the Zuckermans. "I think he started back in 1983 or so," the Cancer Foundation, a Farmington Hills resident, said. "He was on the board of directors. We went to a (MCF) Circle of Fellows party one evening in 1985 and after that Paul decided that there should be a higher echelon of giving — that there were a lot of people who would be willing to give more money than the average donation. Cancer is such a terrible thing and he really felt an urgency to raise more money for re-

search — to find a cure."

So shortly after, the Zuckermans started planning a fall party for a group they recruited and dubbed "Angels." Membership in the Angels is making a \$2,000 donation to MCF.

"WE STARTED planning for the party little knowing that just before we'd find out that Paul had cancer," she said. "It was very difficult and he died the following January."

Aside from her continuing support of the Angels, Zuckerman also started the Paul Zuckerman Memorial Fund for cancer research, specifically the problem of metastasis, or the spread of the disease. The fund now has more than \$1 million.

"There seems to be a misconception about the Angels. People think it's a fund-raiser for Paul's fund and I'm not sure," she said. "All of the money raised goes to the Michigan Cancer Foundation."

The foundation then puts half of

the Angels' donations into the memorial fund, but Zuckerman stressed that this was the foundation's idea, a way to honor the man instrumental in starting the group.

"All of the Angel money goes toward research," she said. "This dinner is really just a way to thank them for being loyal Angels. We have a lot of people who've been with us since the beginning."

There are 200 members of the Angels. There were 80 or 90 the first year, said Zuckerman, who praised MCF and the work it's doing.

"I do this for him," she said.

"When he was alive I was his support and he did all of the work. That way when he came home I didn't have to tell him what an aggravating day I'd had."

"I'm not active in all of the organizations, but I give to a lot," she said. "It's what he would have wanted me to do."

Zuckerman said the foundation keeps her updated on the progress of its research.

"Sometimes you have to be a scientist to understand it," she said, laughing. "But cancer research isn't just important to cancer because they often find things that help with other terrible diseases."

Sitting in her home's library and surrounded by photographs of she and her husband with some of the world's most influential leaders, such as Ronald Reagan and Moshe Dayan, Zuckerman spoke of her husband of 48 years.

"He was a leader, a good person, just one of a kind," she said. "He was very active with the United Jewish Appeal and he used to go to Israel and meet all of the prime ministers.

Program set for those with restricted vision

A discussion of the many low-vision aids and low-vision clinics available to people with restricted vision will highlight the Michigan RP Foundation Fighting Blindness November meeting. The meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19 in Washington Hills Library, 32737 12 Mile Road.

The meeting will be beneficial to anyone with restricted vision. Julie Unatin, low vision technician at Willow Beaumont Hospital Low Vision Clinic, will discuss the services available from the low-vision clinic and demonstrate such low-vision aids as magnifiers and telescopes. She also will discuss sources of funding available to buy low-vision aids and services.

Formed in 1971, the RP Foundation Fighting Blindness is a national eye research foundation dedicated to finding a cure for retinitis pigmentosa and related diseases of the retina.

The foundation supports basic and clinical research at more than 30 institutions in the U.S., including the Michigan Eye Center in Ann Arbor.

The Michigan Chapter serves as a source of information for affected families, RP specialists and professionals, and raises funds to support the worldwide RP research effort.

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