

## HOSPICE

FROM PAGE A1

home gives around-the-clock nursing care to terminally ill patients who can no longer remain at home.

The center has 20 private rooms that resemble a person's home rather than a cold, sterile hospital.

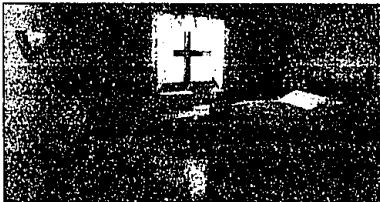
There are even day beds in the rooms for guests to stay overnight.

Every patient's care is managed by a team that includes physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors, aides and volunteers, said Donna Raphael, spokeswoman for Hospice of Michigan.

Non-denominational as well as denominational spiritual care is also provided.

Individual grief counseling, support groups and recovery programs are available for family and friends for at least 13 months after a patient's death.

A full-service kitchen, dining room and family lounge, hair care salon and laundry are also at the home.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRENNER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Private rooms at the Farmington Hills Hospice Home offer more personal amenities for clients.

Polk said his mother enjoyed getting her hair done every two weeks like clock-work.

"Having some control over her life was very important to her," he said.

The home's manager, Cheryl Nicklay, said the award nomination came via a recommendation letter from a client and then a site visit by state officials.

She said the home has served 700 patients in its five years of existence in the Hills.

"When you're able to help a

family member through this, it's a wonderful thing," she said.

Hospice of Michigan is one of the largest nonprofit hospice programs in the country, serving more than 900 patients and their families each day in 45 counties throughout Michigan's Lower Peninsula, Raphael said.

She said most hospice care is done at the resident's home. The organization serves 7,000 patients a year.

And having a home where



Richard Polk holds a picture of his late mother, Edith, who was cared for at the Farmington Hills Hospice Home.

patients can live out their lives comfortably and with dignity is important to people like Polk.

The program "puts the family

at ease," he said.

To learn more about Hospice of Michigan, call Mary Murphy, social worker and

admissions representative at (248) 426-4000.

polk@hospiceumich.net | (248) 427-5450

## NATURE

FROM PAGE A1

"This is a way to show them that science is real stuff," he said.

He said visits to the center by students will match up with lessons taught in the classroom.

"This has been a labor of love," he said of finally having a nature center to visit in the colder months.

Adults as well will get a chance to learn more about the

park's animal inhabitants and ecosystem, said Hills Mayor Nancy Bates.

She said with the school district's help, the city was able to secure a grant from the state to help fund the nature center's construction.

"The children are going to love this," she said.

Schools Supt. Robert Maxwell agreed, noting school and city staff worked together to make the project happen.

"We're proud to be in this partnership that enhances the

lives of all our kids," he said.

Farmington Hills naturalist Joe Derek said the diorama, complete with a stuffed deer, fox and other critters, is supposed to "look like a chunk of the park taken out and put in here."

The diorama has hundreds of features, including a tree. While

it appears real, it is mostly made of plastic and Styrofoam, Derek said.

Complementing the center's exhibits is its wooden floor, walls, ceiling and exposed beams, offering a comfy log cabin feeling.

There are sections devoted to

the park's fish and birds, a discovery area, a small library, and computer stations for research.

The Friends of the Rouge River and the National Wildlife Federation have displays set up as well.

Dave Boyer, director of special services for the city, said, "What

you see is just a start of what's going to come."

He said traveling exhibits will also highlight the center's appeal.

The center will be open seven days a week, Boyer noted.

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A red-eared slider swims around his tank at the new Nature Center, which is scheduled to open in mid-February.

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