

Another venture

Angela Hospice is now offering day care for the terminally ill

By Sue Mason
Staff writer

It was the fall of 1985 when Angela Hospice came to be. By January 1986, it was providing home care for terminally ill people.

Almost four years later, the Livonia-based hospice organization is ready for a new venture — day care for the terminally ill.

"A lot of our volunteers work during the day and aren't available when the families need them," said Sister Giovanni, director of Angela Hospice. "Because of that problem, we've been trying to develop a solution, and we hope this (day care) will be the solution."

The volunteer organization provides medical and emotional support for families caring for terminally ill loved ones at home. With the addition of day care, which will start this fall, family members who need to work or need respite will be able to leave family members and not worry about who will care for them.

The day care will be in the hospice's new building at 38995 Five Mile Road, Livonia. The hospice is leasing a former convent from the Felician Sisters and with the larger space, room has been set aside for the day care facility.

Family members will be required to provide transportation to and from the building. Times for the care will be designed to suit the needs of the family.

A physician, nurses, dietician, social worker and occupational therapist and volunteers will be available to work with the patients, and a barber and hair stylist have volunteered time to take care of their grooming needs, Sister Giovanni said.

TWO ROOMS also have been set aside and will be equipped for beds so that patients can rest, if necessary, and the hospice is looking for several recliners to use in the main

room for that same purpose, Sister Giovanni said.

"We plan on offering hospice care in a homey setting," Sister Giovanni said. "We made this move to better accommodate the patients' needs."

The day care facility is the first of its kind available to terminally ill patients in Wayne County. Its cost will be covered by the payments Angela Hospice receives from Medicare and private insurance companies for its home care services.

There will be no age limits on those who use the facility. Both children and adults will be accepted, Sister Giovanni said.

Although still a relatively new concept in the United States, demand for hospice care has been on the increase in recent years partly because of a better educated public and better educated medical professionals.

Sister Giovanni also believes that changes in the Medicare program, which require reimbursement for terminally ill patients be released from the hospital if they are no longer receiving medical care, has contributed to the expansion.

That expansion has prompted Angela Hospice to extend its services to terminally ill patients in nursing homes.

"They are living in nursing homes and that's now their residences," Sister Giovanni said. "So we will bring in volunteers who will work with that older population in those homes."

The volunteers will also work with the home's staff on what can be done to control the patient's pain and symptoms, said Leslie Steffen, Angela Hospice marketing manager.

"WE'LL TEACH them how to be more aggressive in pain control," she said. "We'll teach them how to administer medicine and get them to realize that they can match pain medication with the pain level, that they don't need to worry about possi-

ble addictions."

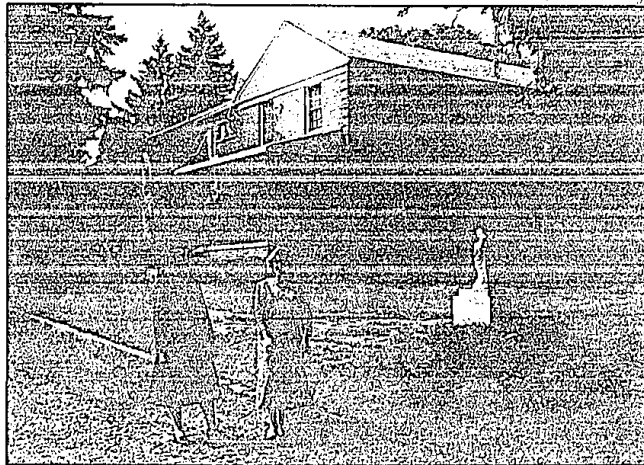
Angela Hospice not only works with the family and patient during the last days of the patient's life, but provides 15 months of bereavement support for family members after the patient's death.

The agency has 98 active volunteers, including five doctors — Dan Benveniste, William Conley, Sean Coyle, John Eckemrode and Elliott Greenspan — and has trained more than 200 volunteers. It currently cares for 12 patients as well as five referrals who are in the process of being assessed for the services they will need.

"We hope that patients know they have rights and when aggressive treatment is no longer appropriate, they can choose hospice care," Steffen said. "We're trying to establish a working relationship with physicians. We can provide a continuity of care for the patient and the family and smooth the way from aggressive treatment to home care."

"We think there should be a mutual agreement between the patient, the physician and the family on hospice care," Sister Giovanni said.

Those interested in hospice care or becoming a hospice volunteer can call Angela Hospice at 591-5157. Eight-week hospice orientation classes will be offered noon-3 p.m., beginning Monday, Sept. 11, and 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13.



Sister Giovanni and Leslie Steffen stroll and chat on the grounds of Angela Hospice, in the new building on Five Mile in Livonia.

JIM JAGGLED/Staff photographer

Faith Church hosts renewal weekend

Dr. Milton B. Engerbretson is the visiting speaker for a "Fall Renewal Weekend," Friday through Sunday, Sept. 8-10 at Faith Covenant Church, Drake and 14 Mile Road.

The Rev. Mr. Engerbretson was

the sixth president of the Evangelical Covenant Church, a denomination of some 400 churches, with missions work in seven countries. He is well known among U.S. Church leaders, having served as chairman of an ongoing conference of that group. As

minister-at-large of the denomination, he is in constant demand for his gifts of preaching and teaching.

The local series is part of a fall celebration for the church, which

later includes the dedication of a building addition and observance of the congregation's 75th anniversary. The weekend meetings, to which the public is invited, will begin at 7:30 p.m. each evening and 10:45 a.m. Sunday.

Concert organist plays for inaugural recital

At 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, the Church of Saint Fabian will present a free organ Dedication Concert featuring organist Huw Lewis.

The concert is the first in a series of inaugural recitals celebrating the new Rodgers Oxford 925 edition electronic organ. This model is the

same one used as the official house organ at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

A "Meet the Artist" reception immediately follows the concert.

Lewis teaches organ at Marygrove College.

Committees of the Adirondacks National Exhibition of American Watercolors, held annually in the hamlet of Old Forge, N.Y., has announced that Tom Hale has won the Joan P. Snyder Award.

The award was one of 28 prizes amounting to \$10,000 in cash, and

medals offered in the distinguished event. One hundred and two works were in contention.

Hale is a resident of Northville, a member of Farmington Artists Club and has earned the right to use the letters AWS (American Watercolor Society) after his name.

Juror of Selection was M. Stephen Doherty, editor of American Artist

Magazine. Jurors of Awards were: Professor Robert McGrath, chairman of the art history department at Dartmouth College, and Carlton Plummer, award-winning aqua media painter and professor emeritus of art at Lowell University in Massachusetts.

A full-color commemorative poster as well as a full-color catalog

are available for costs plus postage by contacting the Arts Center/Old Forge, Rt. 28 at Whistle Creek, Old Forge, New York 15423, or by calling 315-360-6411.

The event is on view to the public until Sept. 24. Hale's winning work is called "Skylight."

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Dinner	7:00 pm-10:00 pm
Movie/night	11:30 pm-2:00 am
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★★★Three Star Rating by Holly Abraham
Detroit Free Press, 1989

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