

Garden offers peaceful journey

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

A new memorial garden at Farmington Hills Hospice Home is a breathtaking respite filled with all of nature's beauty and hope.

More than 300 guests, volunteers and supporters strolled the one-acre Rochelle Blum Memorial Garden during a dedication ceremony in May after more than 18 months of planning and digging, mostly done by volun-

teers. The result is a gardener's wonderland with 500 perennials, 60 flats of annuals, a gazebo, fountain, sculpture and seating area.

"I can't tell you how generous people have been, explained

Elaine Grohman, Hospice of Michigan volunteer manager and project mastermind.

"All you have to do is ask people," she said. "They know it's a very, very, good thing. We'll all be there some day. I hope I can spend my last days looking at a beautiful garden."

Everywhere the eye travels, from the ground to the sky, there's something to please the senses, vibrant colors, fragrant scents and relaxing sounds of running water and wind chimes.

A pathway includes 600 bricks and granite stones inscribed with special notes made in honor of people living and dead. Some have stayed at the hospice and others have not. One brick tries to capture the essence of life, and in fact, describes the natural cycle of the seasons, growth, death and rebirth:

"Birth is a beginning, death a destination, and life a journey -

Please see GARDEN, A15



Splash: Jack Kelman, 2 1/2 year-old from Farmington Hill, a grandchild of Rochelle and Irving Blum, plays in the new fountain, sculpture, rock garden.



Dedication: Dorothy Deremo, CEO of Hospice of Michigan and Rabbi E.B. Freedman (rt) present the plaque to Irving Blum, Rochelle Blum's husband.

Garden spot: Rochelle Blum Memorial Hospice Garden was initiated in January 1998 by Farmington Hills resident Elaine Grohman, former volunteer and currently volunteer manager at Hospice of Michigan.



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