

Garden from page A13

a sacred pilgrimage. To life!
The pathway has raised more than \$20,000. The bricks range in price from \$100 to \$2,500.
Looking upward, visitors are awed by an eight-foot sculpture by Bill Allen of New York. An androgynous figure is on top of an open lotus blossom with the tip of one foot on the flower looking as if it's leaping toward heaven.

Grohman recalled how recently a patient, a ballet instructor for 40 years who knew she wouldn't live to see the dedication ceremony, wanted a closer view of the sculpture. "She came out and looked at the hands of the sculpture and said: 'These are the hands of a dancer.' A lot more patients come out now than they used to," Grohman said. "It's very therapeutic for the patients and staff and family."

Family members keeping vigil of loved ones during their last hours, can walk a few steps out a door and into the gardens for a quick break.

"We really wanted a place where people could be in a private area and renewed by the beauty of nature," Grohman explained.

This living masterpiece came to life as the result of a series of events beginning with Grohman, an avid gardener, who started visiting the hospice as a volunteer.

After she became an employee, she was at a party and asked the guests if they would be willing to help her create a garden. Seven

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Elaine Grohman
—Hospice of Michigan
volunteer manager

women from Farmington, Farmington Hills and Canton agreed and backed their promise with hundreds of hours of work. One of those friends, Carol Duffy, happened to be a master gardener who designed the area with landscape architect Jim Scott of Bloomfield Hills.

Their next worry was finding a way to pay for their ideas.

They began sending letters to nurseries and other businesses soliciting support. Their problems were solved with a call from Rabbi Bunny Freedman, director of Jewish support with Hospice of Michigan, the nation's largest non-profit independent hospice organization providing care for people with terminal illnesses.

Freedman had been working with the family of Rochelle Blum, a hospice patient who died last year. Her husband and brother

wanted to do something in her memory. Like a hardy perennial, the generosity surrounding this project kept spreading. Grohman and her core group of volunteers recruited more than 100 other volunteers who hauled dirt, planted trees and flowers and did whatever needed to be done.

The gazebo was funded by several companies, including A.J. Dempiero Construction in Farmington; as well as Grohman Electric, Hughes Group and Custom Masonry in Farmington Hills.

Last fall, EDS employees planted 2,100 bulbs and their gift provided a glorious spray of colors this spring.

While many people who walk through the garden will have memories of family and friends, volunteers were struck by a recent tragedy hitting one of the initial seven volunteers.

Her 43-year-old brother, Keith Pickens, who worked in the garden last summer, recently died during a construction accident. He had returned to California, got married and was expecting a baby. At the ultrasound he and his wife decided the baby would be named Magnolia.

A granite slab, with Pickens' name on it, is surrounded by magnolias in the garden. "This garden is so beautiful and it's touched so many people, it makes me want to cry," Grohman said.

For more information about Hospice of Michigan call 888-HOME-6666.

CAMPUS PIPELINE

Send items to Campus Pipeline, Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335, or fax them to: 248-477-9722. Items cannot be taken over the phone.

ALMA GRADS
Farmington/Farmington Hills residents Craig Wasem, Sarah Green and Erin LaCrosse graduated from Alma College following the winter semester.

HONOR SOCIETY
Krista Staller of Farmington Hills, was recently accepted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the University of Michigan Dearborn chapter. BGS is an honor society for business programs.

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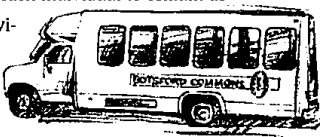
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baths and generous space for treasured personal furnishings. The center features a chapel, clinical offices and a full range of health care services including geriatric assessment programs. As an older adult, you've lived a life that has been one characterized by dignity, independence and choice. It should continue to be. When you choose Botsford Commons Assisted Living Center, you insure that the next chapter of your life is filled with the same richness of choice and independence to which you are accustomed and that you deserve.

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