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## News from the

# Director's Chair

Executive Director Melissa Cavill



Lately, I've been thinking about how much life happens inside these walls — quiet moments, hard moments, moments that remind us why Trillium House exists in the first place. Every family who comes through our doors brings their own story, and somehow each one leaves a mark on ours.

As we grow and stretch to meet the needs of our community, I find myself grateful for the small things that keep us grounded: a warm blanket, a shared laugh in the kitchen, a peaceful room where someone can rest. Those simple comforts matter, and they're at the heart of every decision we make as we plan for the future.

Thank you for being part of this story with us. Your support helps make these moments possible.




Zahrah Resh, IMPART  
Alliance Artist in  
Residence

## Butterfly Garden Art Installation Takes Flight for Direct Care Workers

Trillium House, in partnership with the Caregiver Incentive Project (CIP), is excited to host a butterfly garden this spring as part of the IMPART Alliance initiative, *A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden*, created by Artist-in-Residence Zahrah Resh. This installation will serve as a satellite garden connected to the newly

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opened Upper Peninsula site at the Ishpeming Multi-Purpose Senior Center — the fourth installation statewide and the first in the U.P.

Led by IMPART Alliance, this growing network of gardens brings together art, caregiving, and community engagement across Michigan. The Ishpeming installation has already created a meaningful bridge between research, art, and community, with U.P. residents honoring caregivers.

At Trillium House, the butterfly garden will extend this vision into a hospice support and caregiving setting. Both Trillium House and CIP have partnered with IMPART Alliance to support training for direct care workers, making this installation a natural continuation of that work. The gardens offer a peaceful space for reflection, connection, and respite for residents, families, caregivers, and volunteers.

These gardens will honor the essential role of caregivers while creating spaces of beauty, healing, and renewal across the region. To learn more, visit [www.DCWgardens.com](http://www.DCWgardens.com).



Handmade paper butterflies & flowers

# A Family's Perspective



## A Life of Caring, Now Surrounded by Care

For much of her life, Mrs. S. has been the one others could count on. Growing up in West Ishpeming's North Lake area, Mrs. S. dedicated 30 years to shaping young minds as a teacher at a local elementary school. She later spent two decades as a youth coordinator with a regional chapter of a large nonprofit, continuing her lifelong commitment to nurturing and supporting others, especially youth. Service isn't just something Mrs. S. does — it is who she is.

Today, Mrs. S. finds herself on the receiving end of that same compassion. After being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, her care needs increased beyond what her family alone could provide. Her son, despite facing his own health challenges, has been a devoted source of support. When Mrs. S. came to Trillium House — first for respite care, and now as a hospice resident — everything changed.

"I thought I'd only be here a few days," Mrs. S. shares. "But over two months later, I'm still here — and I'm feeling better, but having difficulty walking, and my family is unable to help."

At Trillium House, Mrs. S. has found comfort, dignity, and peace of mind. Surrounded by compassionate caregivers, she receives help with daily needs in a way that honors her privacy and independence. More importantly, she and her family can focus on what matters most: spending meaningful time together.

Support from the Dan Mazzuchi Care Fund has eased the financial burden, allowing Mrs. S. to remain in a place where she feels safe, cared for, and at home. For Mrs. S. and so many others, this support makes all the difference — turning a time of uncertainty into one of comfort, connection, and grace.

If you would like to support programming, we encourage you to visit [www.trilliumhouse.org/dontate/](http://www.trilliumhouse.org/dontate/) to help Mrs. S. and other neighbors who need support.



# Ask Trillium

**Question: I heard Trillium House is raising money to buy new beds. What impact can the right bed have on end-of-life care?**

**Answer:** The right bed plays a critical role in comfort, dignity, and quality of life at the end of life. Specialized hospice beds are designed to reduce pain through proper positioning, minimize pressure points on fragile skin and sensitive nerve endings, and support safe, gentle repositioning as a person's needs change. Features such as adjustable height and side rails help caregivers provide care more safely and efficiently, reducing physical strain and allowing for more attentive, compassionate support. Scales in the bed also help support care management by providing comfortable monitoring of the resident's weight.

Beyond physical benefits, a comfortable, supportive bed can promote better rest and a sense of peace during a deeply vulnerable time. It allows individuals to spend their final days with greater ease, surrounded by loved ones rather than discomfort. For families, it provides reassurance that their loved one is receiving thoughtful, dignified care — helping create a calm, supportive environment centered on comfort, connection, and respect.

Trillium House is in the process of updating its beds, after many years of use, to support our residents and families. This investment will require significant financial support. If you would like to help this effort, please contact Melissa at [melissa.cavill@trilliumhouse.org](mailto:melissa.cavill@trilliumhouse.org) or (906) 264-5026.



## Featured Team Member:

*Sandy Weiland, Resident Care Aide, Night Shift*



### Tell us a little about yourself.

My husband, Tom, and I moved to Marquette in 2018. We love it up here — the lake, walking along the lakeshore, and all of the plays. We enjoy the Forest Roberts Theatre and local groups. My daughter and her family live in the area, and my sons live in Colorado and Hawaii. Altogether, I have five grandkids.

### What brought you to Trillium House?

I originally started working with a long-term care facility in the area. When Covid hit, I took a leave and looked for another job that wasn't as intense with double shifts and more complex care needs. I found Trillium House online in 2021. I now work part-time, while I'm semi-retired. It's the perfect job for that. It is nice and laid back — I really like that. Our team leader is great, and they really try to work with your schedule.

### What do you find the most rewarding part of your job?

I love caring for people. I like hearing what people have done in the past, what jobs they have had. Some of them are close to my age and we talk about the past. You get to connect with people, and they come to trust you. Long or short term, they get to know you and it's about making them more comfortable.

### What do you want individuals in need of care to know about Trillium House?

It's really family-oriented. You can come and make meals, stay with your loved one — day or night. You don't need to worry about visiting hours. It's a homey atmosphere. The staff is very capable. We get trained on everything through in-service classes. And there's a smaller number of people we care for — that is reassuring. In some care settings, there are 20 people to one hallway for every two workers. Here, we have fewer people to care for, and we have volunteers as well. It works well.

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## Featured Volunteer: *Beth Humphrey*

A familiar and comforting presence at Trillium House, Beth Humphrey brings compassion into every interaction. Whether preparing meals in the kitchen or spending time with residents, Beth greets each person with a warm smile, a kind heart, and a willingness to listen. Currently retired, Beth volunteers with her husband, Tom, who serves on the Trillium House Board. Her approach is simple yet powerful: be respectful, compassionate, and truly present.



### What brought you to Trillium House?

I started my career in health care working in oncology as a practice manager, where I got to know patients and families. I also volunteered with a hospice agency. My father and mother were in hospice at the end of life as well. It's been a big part of who I am. I began volunteering at Trillium House when I retired after an unexpected bike accident. I was looking for something purposeful and meaningful.

### What do you find is the most rewarding part of what you do at Trillium House?

It's rewarding to get to know residents, families, volunteers, and care staff. I make breakfast, but it's much more than that. I can help them feel valued. They want to know they are seen, heard, and that they matter.

### What do you want individuals in need of care to know about Trillium House?

Hospice residents are on a journey, and everyone's journey is different. Every family's journey is different. It's not a cookie-cutter approach. Trillium helps make that journey appropriate based on each person's needs.



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**Website**



**Wishlist**



**Donate**



**Volunteer**



**Work**



**Facebook**

## Save the Date:

### Welcome Wednesdays

Join us on Wednesdays at noon  
for lunch and a tour!  
RSVP to [info@TrilliumHouse.org](mailto:info@TrilliumHouse.org)  
or call (906) 264-5026

### Hospice and Palliative Care Lecture Series

**Wednesdays at 7 pm at  
Messiah Lutheran Church**  
Presented by Cedar Tree Institute  
Free Admission  
[cedartreeinstitute.org](http://cedartreeinstitute.org)

#### June 10

“End of Life and the Paradox of Loss”  
with Larry Skendzel, MD

#### September 16

“The Tributaries of Grief”  
with Greg Fricchione, MD

#### November 11

“The Near-Death Experience: What  
We Know” with Natalia Leontovich, PhD

Made possible with support from Blue Cross  
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Health Endowment Fund, Superior Health  
Foundation & NMU Center for Rural Health

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### Our Mission:

To provide compassionate  
care, ensuring comfort,  
dignity, and support for  
individuals and their  
families during their  
hospice or respite  
journeys.

### Our Vision:

To be a place of solace and serenity  
where individuals and families find  
the strength to embrace life's  
transitions with grace and dignity.  
We aspire to be a facility of  
excellence in supporting hospice and  
respite care, leading the way in  
holistic support, compassion, and  
comfort for our community.

### Working in Partnership with:



### Supported by:

