



Meaningful Moments

Fall 2026
Vol. 3, Issue 2

In This Issue:

- News from the Director's Chair
- Dan Mazzuchi Care Fund
- A Family's Perspective:
Dick Lutey
- Understanding the Benefits
of Charitable Giving
- Ask Trillium:
Care Companions Program
- Staff & Volunteer Spotlights
- Save the Date
- Our Board, Mission & Vision



Trillium House
1144 Northland Dr
Marquette, Michigan 49855

(906) 264-5026
info@trilliumhouse.org
www.trilliumhouse.org



News from the

Director's Chair

Executive Director Melissa Cavill



I have so much to tell you! This little rectangle is just not going to be big enough! As you know, we've had quite a growth spurt these last few years with a sustained waitlist for our services. This has prompted us to explore the idea of an expansion. Our Board of Directors recognizes that we've got to make sure we're on solid ground with our current operations, ready and able to maintain the absolute highest quality experience for our guests, before we move further in that direction.

As a result, we've been working on a number of operational improvements in order to best position ourselves to serve our community to the fullest extent possible. We've made some pretty significant moves in the right direction: adding group health insurance to our benefit package; focusing on retention and workplace culture; scheduling a third caregiver when we are at high capacity; updating our policies and procedures; hiring an experienced and talented management team; implementing a new major gifts program; replacing and improving our equipment and related structures; and restructuring our organizational chart.

As we work our way through these new challenges we are faced with, we are reminded that it's a **privilege to perform this work**, and the waitlist is a testament to the need in our community. We couldn't do any of this without you!! Thank you for supporting us as we grow and know that you truly make a difference!

Keeping the Dream Alive:

The "Ins & Outs" of the Dan Mazzuchi Care Fund

We are often asked the question, "How does the Dan Mazzuchi Care Fund work?" Great question! Our founders wanted to be sure that we never turn someone away due to an inability to pay for services. To fulfill our vision in the long term, we'd love to be able to not have to charge anyone!

Continued on Page 2

Care Fund ...

Continued from Page 1

We're a ways off from that goal, but we never stop dreaming of it. Our Dan Mazzuchi Care Fund allows us to receive donations from our community and use them to supplement the cost of care for those who demonstrate financial need.

As part of our application process, we have an optional financial worksheet. This worksheet and supporting documentation are reviewed and a corresponding sliding scale fee is applied, as low as \$50 per day.

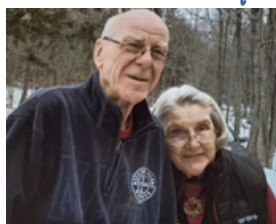
This process takes place as often as the resident, their family or their hospice representative requests it. We continually re-assess so that we can be certain that no one ever goes without consistent, compassionate and high-quality care.

It's a great system, and it seems to be working well. One little flaw ... the Dan Mazzuchi Care Fund donations are used just as fast as we get them! Thus, the "In & Out" of the Care Fund. Of course, use of the Care Fund each month is different, with an average of \$9,975 used each month in 2025, and an average of \$17,552 in 2026—strikingly different numbers!

At this point in the year, there is very little left in the Care Fund. We continue to give the discounts, with the funds coming from our operating expenses in the hope that we will recover them through donations at some point.

If you would like to contribute to the Dan Mazzuchi Care Fund, or if you have questions about how it's used or anything having to do with the 'Ins & Outs', please contact us at (906) 264-5026 and ask for Melissa.

A Family's Perspective



Through the Bends in the Road:

A Legacy of Love and Care

When Dick Lutey and his wife, Nancy, came to Trillium House, they had already traveled a long road together.

For more than 50 years, they had built a life centered around family, friends and a home in the heart of Marquette that was designed to welcome them all. With a blended family of eight children, Dick and Nancy made sure every child had a room of their own. Over the years, that home also welcomed 16 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and numerous Northern Michigan University students who became part of their extended circle and stayed in touch long after leaving Marquette.

As Dick puts it simply, "It was a wonderful life."

At Trillium House, the family found what they had been searching for: a place where Nancy could receive compassionate, around-the-clock care while Dick and the rest of the family could focus on something much more important—being with her.

For the next four months, as Nancy's needs changed along her hospice journey, Dick was at her side nearly every day. Her family surrounded her with love, while Trillium House staff and her selected hospice agency helped provide the care and support she needed. Nancy passed away in February of 2025, following treasured time together.

As time went on, Dick's relationship with Trillium House didn't end. In the days and months that followed, Mondays often brought him back for breakfast. Breakfasts turned into a tradition—an opportunity for friendship, stories and the kind of meaningful conversations that seem to happen naturally around the Trillium House table. For Dick, those experiences have reinforced something he has learned throughout his own life as a businessman, husband, father and friend: when you believe something matters, you invest in it.

Throughout his life, Dick has approached things with a calm, steady commitment to quality, people and community. There have been plenty of detours along the way, but at 90, he knows the value of trusting his instincts and supporting what he believes in. One of those things is Trillium House.

Today, Dick is now planning a gift that will help support Trillium House into the future. For Dick, it is another way of taking care of people and investing in something built to last.

Each year, Trillium House raises funds to support its operations as well as help cover the cost of care for individuals and families who need financial assistance through the Dan Mazzuchi Care Fund. Gifts made today—and gifts thoughtfully planned for the future—can help ensure Trillium House is there when a family suddenly finds itself facing the same difficult decisions Dick and his children once faced. Funds raised help to ensure Trillium House is there as an option for everyone, whether they are facing financial hardship at the end of life or simply need support when they can no longer stay at home at the end of their journey.

To learn more about how you can help, visit our website at TrilliumHouse.org or call (906) 264-5026 and ask for Melissa.

Ask Trillium

Question: Are there volunteer opportunities where you can get training and provide caregiving support to the residents at Trillium House?

Answer: Yes, there are! Trillium House recently launched a special Care Companion program that provides volunteers an opportunity to receive training to provide hands-on care and support to residents and families at Trillium House and out in the community.

Through an Investing in the Health of the U.P. grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, Michigan Health Endowment Fund, and Superior Health Foundation, individuals interested in serving as unpaid caregivers can receive training and experience providing support to individuals receiving personal care.

Individuals in high school (ages 16-17 with supervision), college students, retirees and those with additional time to give back are encouraged to sign up by calling Trillium House at (906) 264-5026 or visit our website at trilliumhouse.org/volunteer/.

Special Presentation



Trillium House supporters enjoy a special presentation on the Benefits of Charitable Giving presented by Trillium House Board Member Thomas G. Humphrey, CTFA, Trust & Investment Officer, First Bank, Upper Peninsula along with Patricia E. Davis, JD, Managing Partner and Kenneth J. Seavoy, MBA, CPA, JD, Attorney, Kendricks Bordaieu, P.C.



Featured Team Member:

Janet Pinar, Administrative Director



Tell us a little about yourself.

I grew up in the western U.P. and have spent my life in this region. I'm an NMU graduate with a degree in Office Information Systems, and my career has included 26 years with Bay Cliff Health Camp as well as experience in the insurance industry. Outside of work, I enjoy gardening, kayaking, spending time with my family, and, of course, my dog and two cats.

What brought you to Trillium House?

After stepping away from the nonprofit world for a few years, I realized my heart was pulling me back. Trillium House had the family atmosphere I valued, and the opportunity to bring my experience in office management, board relations and nonprofit operations felt like a natural fit. I believe strongly in being a good steward of the donations, volunteer time and other gifts our community entrusts to us, while making sure those resources ultimately fulfill our mission.

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

I enjoy being able to support both our staff and the families we serve. Sometimes that means developing programs that help employees grow and feel valued, and sometimes it means simply sitting down and listening to someone who is trying to make a difficult decision for a loved one. Those personal connections remind me why this work matters. I truly feel that this is work I was meant to do.

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

Trillium House is a peaceful, comforting and welcoming place. Families don't have to have everything figured out before reaching out to us. We are here to listen, answer questions and help people understand their options during what can be a very difficult time. The care provided here is deeply personal, and our goal is to make sure residents and their families feel supported, respected and at home.

Featured Volunteer Team Member:

Nora Kessel, Volunteer Coordinator



After more than 50 years in health care, Nora recently joined Trillium House as our new Volunteer Coordinator. A retired nurse, Nora brings decades of experience supporting older adults, individuals with disabilities and families throughout the U.P., including through her work with UPCAP. In her new role, Nora will help coordinate and support more than 40 Trillium House volunteers who give their time and talents to help residents, families and staff. Her career and community service reflect a deep commitment to caring for others with kindness, dignity and compassion.

What brought you to Trillium House?

I recently retired after 50+ years. I have worked in health care one way or another since I was 16. Back in 2016-2017, when Trillium House was under construction, I pointed to it and told my husband, "I will work there one day. It's in my heart." I am beyond blessed to be part of the Trillium Community.

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

The most rewarding part of being part of the Trillium Community is the honor and privilege of spending time there, doing what I can, to support the caring staff who care so deeply and sincerely for each resident.

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

I'd like people in need of care to know that Trillium House is a tender and safe space for them or their loved ones who need understanding, professional care in a setting that becomes home during a time of life when it is most important.



1144 Northland Dr.
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 264-5026



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
or call (906) 264-5026

**Hospice and Palliative Care
Last in the Lecture Series**

Presented by Cedar Tree Institute
Free Admission
cedartreeinstitute.org

**Wednesday, November 11
7pm at Messiah Lutheran Church**

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

Made possible with support from Blue Cross
Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, Michigan
Health Endowment Fund, Superior Health
Foundation, NMU Center for Rural Health &
MSU College of Human Medicine.

**Tuesday, December 1
Annual Giving Tuesday
Blood Drive at Trillium House
10am to 2pm**

Held in cooperation with UP Health Systems
U.P. Regional Blood Center. Call for an
appointment time! (906) 264-5026

Our Executive Committee:

Jacob Leys, Atty, President
Roger Bentlage, Vice President
Tom Humphrey, Treasurer
Dr. Jennifer Dehlin, Secretary
Michele Khouli, IPP

Our Directors:

Julie Giackino, RN
Dr. Cary Gottlieb
Dr. Michael Grossman
Dave Holli
Pamela Henriksen
Jacalyn Martin, RN
Hon. Jennifer Mazzuchi
Dirk Van Osdol
Christine Van Abel
Wim McDonald, Advisor



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.

Supported by:



Working in Partnership with:

