

Help when cancer strikes



Winter 2017

# angel *Insider*



## The Lives *We Touch* We Touch

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# Letter from the President

Hi Everyone,

The definition of the word grateful is “warmly or deeply appreciative of kindness or benefits received; thankful.” As my thoughts turn to winter, the upcoming holiday season and special time with family and friends, I can’t think of a more appropriate word to describe our staff’s feelings as we work together with all of you to create a world that truly supports families with cancer.

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**1** We are grateful for our volunteers, without whom we could never deliver our world-class programs and premier events. You show up at all hours of the day, often working behind the scenes with little or no fanfare, all to show your support for your neighbors as they struggle with a life-changing illness. From chasing kids around at Camp Angel to showing up early in the morning to set up for Angel Gala (January 13, 2018, by the way!), your commitment is truly remarkable.



1

**2** We are grateful for our donors, the individuals and organizations who make sure we have enough support to offer both Emergency Financial Assistance and Facing Cancer Together to local families in need. You helped us get 2017 off to a great start by breaking our all-time Gala fundraising record, and you’ve continued to give throughout the year. We hope you’ll continue to do so right up through our year-end Angel appeal.



**3** Finally, we are grateful for our program participants. It takes courage to ask for help, and you always amaze us by how willing you are to open up and share your experience so that others can benefit. At Angel, we know that a cancer diagnosis means more than just a struggle with your health. Our goal is to create a world of support that helps families with cancer find moments of joy.

You are all part of that world. As you consider your year-end giving plans, we ask that you include Angel Foundation. We are on track in 2017 to help more local families than ever before, and the demand for our services continues to rise. Your support will help us meet that growing need, and for that, we are truly grateful.

Warmly,



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# Community Fundraiser Spotlight

**Live in the moment.**

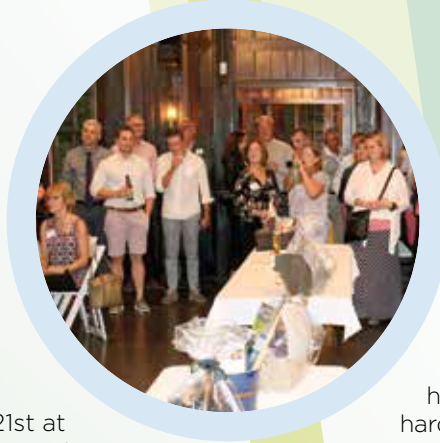
**Be aware of the less fortunate.**

**Give back in a meaningful way.**

These are the things that cancer survivor and Angel Foundation Board member, Dan Weninger, promised to do if he made it through the night when his Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma was at its height.

Dan persevered through that harrowing night at the hospital and has gone on to make good on the promise he made seven years ago. One of the ways Dan gives back is through his annual fundraiser, Suds & Survivors, which generates funds to support Angel Foundation programs. The 5th annual Suds & Survivors took place on September 21st at Theodore Wirth Chalet in Golden Valley. The event was everything a celebration should be, complete with live music, gourmet appetizers, a signature cocktail, silent auction and, of course, complimentary "suds."

The festivities concluded with guests being invited to help support Margie's Fund. Margie's Fund provides additional emergency financial assistance to patients who are facing extreme hardships such as eviction, utility shut-offs or an empty gas tank making it impossible to get to treatment.



*Dan Weninger (right) with partner, Chance Wagoner (left).*

This year's event raised over \$27,000. We are extremely grateful to Dan and his volunteer committee for all their hard work. Angel would also like to thank everyone who attended this year's event, making it the biggest and most successful Suds & Survivors to date. The funds raised will allow Angel to continue helping families facing cancer find moments of joy and live their lives with stability and resilience. Thank you!

**Have you ever thought about hosting a fundraiser to benefit Angel Foundation? We are here to help! Contact Megan Gooselaw at [mgooselaw@mnangel.org](mailto:mgooselaw@mnangel.org) or (612) 627-9000 ext. 512 and check out our website at <https://mnangel.org/donate/communityfundraisers>.**

## Please Join Us!

angel  
*gala*  
2018

**January 13, 2018**  
**5 - 11 p.m.**  
**Hilton Minneapolis**

*We hope you will join us for an incredible evening celebrating a caring community that offers hope, support and even moments of joy during a difficult time.*

**Young Professionals Ticket**  
(under 35) - \$75

**Regular Ticket - \$200**

For more information or to register, visit: **[mnangel.org](http://mnangel.org)**



# The Lives We Touch



## A prayer answered

Melinda and her husband, Clark, had been struggling to pay the bills for the first six months of 2017. Clark had lost his job and they found themselves relying on their savings to pay rent and daily expenses, coupled with a little help from food shelves to make ends meet. Not surprisingly, most of their savings had already been exhausted by the time Melinda received a breast cancer diagnosis in July.

Three months later, they were down to their last few hundred dollars. Feeling ill-equipped to handle their precarious situation, Melinda began reaching out to local organizations for help. She found mentoring support with Firefly Sisterhood and stress relief through group activities at Gilda's Club. She and her husband were still scrambling to pay the bills when she found Angel Foundation. On her application for Emergency Financial Assistance, Melinda shared her worries:

*"The physical stress of my compromised health is bad enough, but the demands of co-pays, tests and appointments has added financial, emotional and mental stress as well. Money would help in so many ways — not just the paying of bills, but the peace of mind it affords us so I can concentrate on healing. Right now, this is all but impossible. I worry about just making it through the day, being able to afford to eat, keeping bills at bay. Any help you could give us would be greatly appreciated."*

A few days after receiving the application, Angel Foundation was happy to tell Melinda that she had been approved for financial assistance. When she heard the news, Melinda told us, "Angel Foundation is an answered prayer, not just in the spiritual sense, but in its relevant, problem-solving reality. Angel has fed my family and paid our bills. Actions speak louder than words and Angel Foundation is a megaphone of life-sustaining help!"

Melinda's story touched us deeply, in part because it was all too familiar. All of us at Angel are thankful our programs are here to comfort families throughout the chaotic and difficult cancer experience, and we feel honored to have been able to offer a helping hand to Melinda when she needed us. Thank you, Angel Community, for ensuring we can continue to say "yes" through your generous support.

# New Beginnings

## Giving is the best kind of gift

Roger Porter was an elementary teacher for more than thirty years and still keeps in touch with many of his students. A lover of numbers and words, Roger takes pride in knowing he helped instill in them a love of learning. His time as a teacher touched the lives of countless children and connected him to the greater community.

After he retired, Roger found himself connected to the cancer community when his wife, Sue, was diagnosed with lymphoma. At Sue's first appointment with Dr. Mark Sborov, he slid his chair close to the Porters and used a whiteboard to help explain his recommended treatment plan. Sue, like Roger, was also a schoolteacher and she felt that Mark's 'bedside manner' showed he understood what she and Roger were feeling. They were scared, but Dr. Sborov made them feel connected.

Once Sue was doing well, Roger started thinking about how to pay it forward. Dr. Sborov had mentioned Angel Foundation during an office visit and Roger wanted to learn more. He contacted Angel's founder and wife of Dr. Sborov, Margie. Roger admired Margie's ambition: she started Angel Foundation on her own, despite being told "no" by many people along the way. Roger knew what it was like to be told "no". During his time as a teacher in Russia, Roger saw the immense need for computers in his school. However, people told him his idea of securing and shipping computers from the U.S. was not feasible. Roger disagreed and, later that year, the school received fifty computers. Once they connected, Roger and Margie bonded over not backing down from a challenge. Roger decided to make a gift to Angel Foundation and became one of the founding members of Angel's endowment, the Guardian Trust.



Roger and Sue Porter at the 2016 Hope in Motion 5K & Family Walk

Roger could call any time he needed to. Roger recalls his experience as Mark's patient, "Dr. Sborov doesn't wear a white coat. He was the first person in my room after surgery. He has a unique way of relating, and he treated me as a person, not as a patient."

Now a survivor, Roger stays in close contact with Angel Foundation and continues to pay it forward. He stops by the office with treats for the staff, attends events with his wife and is committed to introducing more people to Angel. His philosophy about giving is that the best kind of gift is one that is really meaningful to the person giving it.

Then the unthinkable happened: Roger received his own cancer diagnosis a few years after Sue. He had already decided if he ever got cancer himself, he wouldn't see anyone other than Dr. Sborov. During his first visit, Mark gave Roger his cell phone number and said



Mark Sborov (third from right) with his family, including Angel Foundation Founder, Margie Sborov.

Dr. Mark Sborov has been a practicing medical oncologist at Minnesota Oncology's Edina office for more than 37 years. His philosophy of care has always been to educate his patients about cancer and empower them to participate in the treatment process. Mark received his medical degree from University of Minnesota Medical School. For the past five years he has served as the Medical Director at Minnesota Oncology.

Over the years, Mark's commitment has not only been to provide his patients with the best possible physical care, but also address the emotional needs of each patient and their family. Through his work, he has made a deep and lasting impact on countless patients, co-workers, friends, and family.

While his wife, Margie, is Angel Foundation's founder, Mark has also been a tireless advocate for our mission and vision. Congratulations, Mark, on your retirement and thank you for your compassionate attention and professional care of our local cancer community. Your true legacy comes not only from the accolades you have received, but from the lives you have touched.



# A Special Thank You

To nonprofit organizations, volunteers are an invaluable resource because of the various roles they are able to play. Some volunteers may dedicate years of service to a nonprofit, while others might participate in one-time projects. Carroll Rock, age 83, has devoted a significant amount of his life volunteering. Because of their faith, he and his wife, Ann, shared a passion for social justice and found it in the mission of Habitat for Humanity. Carroll started volunteering there one morning a week in 1994 and continues to put in his weekly volunteer shift twenty-three years later.

Once he retired, Carroll added an additional morning volunteering at another local nonprofit. But he didn't stop there. The Rocks always believed organizations needed both money and volunteer service to keep running smoothly and effectively. Carroll had started thinking about which organizations he would support financially when he remembered Angel Foundation.

Both Carroll and Ann had been diagnosed with cancer and knew how difficult the experience could be. While being treated at Minnesota Oncology, Ann's oncologist, Dr. Cheryl Bailey, was a big advocate for Angel Foundation. Carroll also personally knew an Angel staff person, Patty Schulz, who he had worked with as a volunteer at Habitat for Humanity. Ann and Carroll knew they wanted to do something to help others undergoing treatment, particularly when it was ongoing. Angel Foundation was a good fit for their goals, and the Rocks began making a monthly gift to Angel in 2012.



*Carroll shared the reason they liked recurring gifts was because  
"It is convenient. It's fast and easy, and it makes you feel good."*

Though Ann passed away in 2016, at the age of 80, Carroll continues to give to Angel as a way to honor Ann's deep longing for justice and God's love for all people. Their story makes it easy to remember that whether you choose to give to charities through a monetary donation, by offering your time, or by doing both, the value you offer is incredibly important. Your support of Angel, no matter how large or small, can show people in need that they are cared about and offer them an extra bit of hope during a difficult time.



**Save the Date!**  
**Tuesday, March 6**  
5 - 8 pm

1620 Central Ave. NE  
#150  
Minneapolis

MN | US  
**TATTERSALL**  
*distilling*

## Calling Table Hosts!

**9th Annual Camp Angel Luncheon**

**May 11, 2018 • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

JW Marriott Minneapolis  
Mall of America

This annual event raises money for Camp Angel and other Facing Cancer Together programs. Table Hosts play a crucial role in the success of this free event, and hosting is a wonderful and easy way to support Angel. We hope you will join us!



For more information, contact [hjohnson@mnangle.org](mailto:hjohnson@mnangle.org)

# Community Spotlight

Dave and Bethy Weinlick and their four children have become a special family to Angel Foundation. If their names sound familiar, it may be because of their minor celebrity status. They have built a following of people from all over the country who were inspired by their amazing story of commitment and love, which began almost 20 years ago.



Long before reality TV, Dave's friends launched a campaign to help him choose a mate and Bethy was the selected as "the one." Their unique story soon gained national attention and culminated in a wedding ceremony at Mall of America. Dave and Bethy met only minutes before walking down the aisle, and since then, have learned to accept and appreciate each other as they are. This has been a key piece of their strong union. Nineteen years later, in August of this year, they renewed their vows at Mall of America. This time, the ceremony carried a different kind of weight: Dave is currently living with terminal colon cancer, a diagnosis he received earlier this year. Angel Foundation has been able to help them during this difficult time.

"They warmly drew us into their fold in what was an extremely raw, vulnerable time for our family"

— Bethy Weinlick

As a way to build their legacy and support Angel Foundation into the future, the Weinlicks launched the Dave and Bethy Weinlick Camp Angel Fund. With the support of a generous gift from their friends at Mall of America, as well as many of the ceremony's guests, the fund has already topped \$8,000, which will send more than thirty kids to camp next summer. Bethy continued, "We're thrilled to be able to help 'pay it forward' and introduce more families struggling with cancer to Angel Foundation's programs. Even though we are going through a very difficult and emotional time as a family, Angel Foundation has helped us find joy in our day-to-day lives. We are very grateful for that."

The Weinlicks also want to call out the Angel Foundation staff. "They warmly drew us into their fold in what was an extremely raw, vulnerable time for our family," Bethy shared. "Dave and I feel like we can call upon them for absolutely anything. You can't say that for many people in your life, much less a whole group of people. They get that a stage 4 cancer diagnosis changed everything overnight. Their support has made all the difference for us in surviving the first six months after being diagnosed."



"Our family feels very fortunate to have found Angel Foundation," Bethy says. "Following Dave's diagnosis, we attended Angel's Education and Support Series, where we met other families dealing with cancer. We gained a better understanding of how to communicate with our kids about cancer. Our ability to talk openly and honestly as a family has been a blessing. The kids also attended Camp Angel this past summer, which is magical place that holds a special place in our hearts."



All of us at Angel Foundation want to thank Dave and Bethy for helping increase awareness and support of our programs. We are truly honored to play a part in their very special story.



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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Since 2001, Angel Foundation has served thousands of individuals and distributed nearly \$8M in emergency financial assistance to local adults with cancer and their families.

**Mission Statement**

Through an innovative and integrated approach of financial assistance, education and support, Angel Foundation helps adults with cancer and their families so that they may live life well with stability, strength and resilience.

# Upcoming Events & Programs

## Program Calendar

**Kids Night Out**

December 7, 5 - 6:30 p.m.  
Angel Foundation  
Mendota Heights

**Teen Outreach: Movie Night**

December 15, 6 - 8:30 p.m.  
Angel Foundation  
Mendota Heights

**Teen Outreach: Escape Room**

January 12, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Escape MSP  
Minneapolis

**Caregiver Support Group**

January 15, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Common Roots Café  
Minneapolis

**Parenting Through Cancer Meet-up**

January 28, 1 - 3 p.m.  
Angel Foundation  
Mendota Heights

**Parenting Through Cancer**

February 3  
10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
*and/or*  
February 6  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Angel Foundation  
Mendota Heights



**Teen Outreach: Whirly Ball**

February 15, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Whirly Ball Twin Cities  
Maple Grove

**Winter Retreat**

February 24, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
St. Paul

## Events Calendar



**Angel Gala**

January 13  
5:30 - 11 p.m.  
Hilton Minneapolis  
Minneapolis

**Angel After Hours**

March 6, 5 - 8 p.m.  
Tattersall Distilling  
Minneapolis



**Camp Angel Luncheon**

May 11, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
JW Marriott  
Minneapolis Mall  
of America  
Bloomington



**Angel & Eagles Golf Classic**

July 23  
9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Minnesota Valley  
Country Club  
Bloomington



**Angel After Hours**

September 27, 5 - 8 p.m.  
The Food Building  
Minneapolis