

Help when cancer strikes

**angel**  
foundation

Spring / Summer 2017

# angel *Insider*

## Skateboards, *Sharpies* and Cancer



### *Inside this edition:*

President's Message .....	2
A Celebration of Survivorship .....	3
Angel Teens Express Themselves .....	4
Susan G. Koman Minnesota .....	6
Community Spotlight.....	7



# Letter from the President

Hi Everyone,

As the days grow longer and we feel the warmth of Spring in Minnesota, I want to catch you up on the latest happenings around the office:

We completed an update to our strategic plan at the end of 2016 and are focusing on two key initiatives this year: increasing our individual giving base and maximizing attendance across our Facing Cancer Together programs. We have revamped and updated our curriculum across our programming, and now more than ever feel that we have valuable offerings all along a family's cancer experience.



**1** We hired our new Vice President of Development in January, and yours truly could not be happier! Kathy Tolo comes to Angel from CommonBond Communities and Habitat for Humanity, and brings with her a wealth of fundraising experience. It feels great to have our development team complete again. If you haven't already, I'm sure you'll be hearing from Kathy soon.

**2** Angel Gala 2017 broke every record on the books, from the number of guests (780!) to the amount raised to help local families when cancer strikes (\$620,000!). It was truly a magical night - I can't tell you how many people stopped me to say how moving and fun it was. And there were lots of new faces this year, something we love to see! Thank you to all of our guests and volunteers for making it happen.

**3** We recently received great news from Susan G. Komen Minnesota about a generous grant to help breast cancer patients through our Emergency Financial Assistance program. See page 6 for more information.

**4** Lastly, we are busily planning for Camp Angel this June and August. I love hearing the conversations around the office about how we're going to show the kids some fun, new activities this year, all the while making sure they feel safe and supported to share their own personal cancer stories. Camp Angel is truly some of the best work that Angel does. Please let us know if you'd like to volunteer!

I've been at Angel for a little over a year now, so I'm able to talk about what we do with more clarity: from the feeling of being completely overwhelmed immediately following a cancer diagnosis, to the goal of helping families lead a life of wellbeing, regardless of cancer outcome, Angel Foundation is there every step of the way. Thank you for being an important part of our Angel Community.

Warmly,



# A Celebration of Survivorship!

For the past four years, our friends at Minnesota Oncology have hosted an incredible event corresponding with National Cancer Survivors Day®, celebrated on the first Sunday in June. Hope in Motion is Minnesota's National Cancer Survivors Day Celebration, including:

- 5K Run/Walk
- 1-Mile Family Walk
- 1K Kids Dash
- Wellness Activities
- Entertainment
- Speakers and More!

Participating in Hope in Motion is a HEALTHY, FUN, and EASY way to support Angel Foundation, as all proceeds directly support our programs!

This year, Hope in Motion is partnering with recent castaway on the CBS Survivor season Survivor: Millennials vs. Gen X, Sunday Burquest, who is the featured speaker for the event. Sunday is a survivor of breast cancer who competed in Fiji not long after completing her breast cancer treatment at Minnesota Oncology. She has an incredibly inspiring story, and we are thrilled to include her in the festivities this year!



Hope in Motion  
Sunday, June 4 | Registration at 7:30 a.m.  
Lake Phalen Regional Park | St Paul  
**Register: <https://register.chronotrack.com/r/28508>**

**Save the Date!**  
Join us!  
Friday, June 23 • 5 - 8 pm  
Modist Brewing  
505 N 3rd St., Minneapolis  
MODIST BREWING CO.

Join us for our 15th Annual Golf Classic  
angel & eagles  
July 24, 2017 | Minnesota Valley Country Club  
Register at [mangel.org](http://mangel.org)

# Skateboards, Sharpies and Cancer: Angel Teens Express Themselves!



Once a year, teens from our Facing Cancer Together Teen Outreach program are invited to take part in a four-week expressive arts series. These programs, which vary in medium from year to year, are designed to utilize art-making as a fun and therapeutic tool, giving teens the opportunity to come together and process, well, being a teen. More specifically, a teen whose parent or caregiver has, or has had, cancer.



This spring, Angel Foundation partnered with Mark Rivard to produce "Skateboards and Sharpies" for its 2017 series. Rivard is a local fine artist, writer, educator and entrepreneur. Both his work as an artist and his arts education program, Rivard Art Education, are highly regarded, and his unique approach to art-making (building designs on skateboards using Sharpie markers) made for a truly unique experience for our teens.

During the creation process, Rivard instructed the teens on techniques using the medium, but more importantly, provided them with a safe space to just "be". Every teen approached the project in a different way. Some used the opportunity to reflect on their cancer experience, to honor or remember their loved one. Others created designs meant to be purely self-expressive, a depiction of what they like, who they are and what they value.



Facing Cancer Together Director, Melissa Turgeon, who stood side-by-side with the teens through the series (even doing some sketching of her own), had this to say about the experience:

*Over four weeks, it was incredible to see the art process at work as imagery, color and design unfolded. The teens worked diligently, and while conversation wasn't necessarily at the forefront, as art happened, connections about cancer were made. These kinds of casual interactions are so important to our teens, who sometimes have a hard time speaking out about important things they're experiencing in their lives. This is why our Teen Outreach program exists.*

Angel Foundation would like to thank Mark Rivard, Michael Belotti, and Debbie Woodward for making this program happen. We are incredibly grateful for your support.

*"I was honored and nervous to begin the project with the artists and kids that were a part of the show. Art is very much about storytelling and these young artist all had incredibly rich emotional stories. I think the final product was very much representative of those stories and how cancer has affected each artist's life. It was in the process of creating and the development of the show, that's where the magic lived. The magic was evident in the final gallery exhibition. It was truly a special experience [for me]."*

— Mark Rivard

2015

Angel Foundation partnered with independent photographer, Perry James Smith, to create a collection of photographs designed to capture each teen's individual cancer experience (in just one image). These framed photographs are still on display in the Angel office.

2014

Participants of Teen Outreach worked with fellow teen, Katie Jecha, author of "Reflections: Teen Thoughts on Having a Parent With Cancer" to create collage art. Their work was ultimately constructed into their own book, "Through the Eyes of a Teen" (copies available at the Angel Foundation office).



# A Special Thank You

Angel Foundation is blushing pink this month thanks to receiving a generous \$50,000 grant from Susan G. Komen® Minnesota. A long-time partner and one of our strongest supporters, Susan G. Komen Minnesota has granted nearly \$900,000 to Angel Foundation over the last decade — and we couldn't be more grateful.

While most people think of research when they hear the name "Susan G. Komen," the Minnesota affiliate also partners with local organizations that focus on breast cancer awareness and education, outreach, screening, preliminary treatment and patient advocacy. Through events like Komen Twin Cities Race for the Cure®, they have invested more than \$45 million in Minnesota nonprofits and Angel Foundation is honored to be among those chosen for funding.

Support from Susan G. Komen Minnesota makes a big impact. More than 4,300 Minnesotans are diagnosed with breast cancer annually, and many patients in the Twin Cities metro seek assistance from Angel Foundation. In fact, while Angel Foundation assists adults with all cancer diagnoses, requests from breast cancer patients comprise nearly a quarter of our total applications each year.

At Angel Foundation, our goal is to ensure local families don't have to face cancer alone. Thanks to the \$50,000 grant, we will be able to assist an additional 60-100 breast cancer patients in 2017, helping reduce their financial stress and giving them a greater ability to stay in treatment and focus on healing and survivorship.



# CALLING ALL SUPERHEROES!

Three days of therapeutic (and fun!) activities for children and teens with a parent or caregiver who has, or has had, cancer.

**JUNE 15-17 OR  
AUGUST 15-17, 2017**  
9:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

For more information visit [mngel.org](http://mngel.org).



## Community Spotlight: Paul Jarvi



Paul Jarvi was introduced to Angel Foundation in 2013 during his first year working for UnitedHealth Group. UHG has long provided volunteer support for our annual Angel & Eagles golf event, and Paul jumped at the opportunity when offered a volunteer slot. After his morning volunteer task was complete, he found himself seated for lunch with Angel staff, board members and founder, Margie Sborov, who quickly filled him in on the history and mission of Angel. Before lunch was over, Paul had been recruited to assist with another fundraising event: Angel's Attic.

Paul recalls his first day volunteering for Angel's Attic, "[The lead volunteer] grabbed me and hugged me and said 'I've been waiting for you!' It couldn't have been a more welcoming experience."

Every Tuesday and Thursday night, he found himself looking forward to his volunteer shift, moving furniture and sorting goods, prepping the warehouse space for the garage sale. After the event, Paul's efforts shifted to the Angel Gala 2014 Steering Committee, and then back to Angel & Eagles (where he has served as the Steering Committee co-chair ever since).

Like many in our community, Paul has a personal tie to our mission: he lost his brother, Mark, to esophageal cancer in 2002. He has another brother, Philip, who is courageously winning an on-going battle with cancer which has shown up on his brain. Paul feels privileged to honor both brothers through his volunteer work at Angel.

"Angel Foundation has given me an understanding of giving... I have gained a new perspective on volunteering and social responsibility on a larger scale. If I can do something for the world that will help someone have an easier time with cancer, I will. Additionally, if I can support anyone who commits to making a difference in this world, I will." Paul is as good as his word and currently serves on the Social Responsibility Team at UHG, crediting Angel Foundation with influencing his decision to join this group.

*"Angel Foundation has given me an understanding of giving... I have gained a new perspective on volunteering and social responsibility on a larger scale. If I can do something for the world that will help someone have an easier time with cancer, I will."*

Angel Foundation is honored to have people like Paul in our volunteer community. If you would like more information about the volunteer program, visit our website: [mngel.org/volunteer](http://mngel.org/volunteer).



1155 Centre Pointe Drive, Suite 7  
Mendota Heights, MN 55120

**PHONE:** (612) 627-9000

**FAX:** (612) 338-3018

**EMAIL:** info@mnangel.org

**WEB:** mnangel.org

Since 2001, Angel Foundation has served thousands of individuals and distributed over \$7M 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

## Programs Calendar

**Family Open Art Studio**

May 13, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Angel Foundation Office  
Mendota Heights

**ComedySportz**

May 19, 6 – 10 p.m.  
Calhoun Square  
Minneapolis



**Camp Angel**

June 15 – 17 & August 15 – 17  
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Camp Eden Wood  
Eden Prairie

**Wheel Fun Rental**

July 11, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Lake Harriet  
Minneapolis



**Urban Adventure**

July 13, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Various Locations  
Downtown Minneapolis

**Summer Experience**

July 16, 7:30 – 10 p.m.  
Apple Valley Aquatic Center  
Apple Valley

## Events Calendar

**Camp Angel Luncheon**

May 19  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Pinstripes  
Edina



**Angel After Hours**

June 23  
5 – 8 p.m.  
Modist Brewing  
Minneapolis

**Angel & Eagles Golf Classic**

July 24  
9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Minnesota Valley  
Country Club  
Bloomington

