LEGACY of hope











FALL 2016

Karmanos Cancer Care the Best Option for Patient

In 2007, Tom Kalas of Rochester Hills had a wife, family with three school-aged children and his own law practice. His world changed in November of that year when he received a devastating diagnosis of Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML), a cancer of the blood and bone marrow. Tom was just 44 years old. "When diagnosed, my world shattered," said Tom. "I was not ready to die, and I was fearful of what the immediate future would be like. I initially went out of state for a second opinion and treatment. I didn't realize at the time that the best comprehensive cancer center for treatment for my cancer was right here in Detroit at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute."

Tom's second opinion confirmed his diagnosis, and he was told that he urgently needed a bone marrow transplant if he was to survive beyond three months. Tom was in the hospital for six weeks and became gravely ill with 105-degree fevers and numerous side effects and reactions to treatment. "I experienced one complication after another," shared Tom. "I found myself away from home, frustrated, angry and ultimately afraid for my life."

During the weeks out of state,
Tom's wife, Nickie, had begun
consulting with Voravit
Ratanatharathorn, M.D., an oncologist
and co-leader of the Bone Marrow
Transplant team at Karmanos Cancer
Institute. With his condition rapidly
deteriorating and learning of the

expertise and the resources at Karmanos, Nickie suggested to Tom that they go home. Tom agreed. "I was so sick and weak that I was incapable of making decisions, but when Nickie recommended we go home, I felt comfort and relief for the first time."

Against doctor's orders, Tom and Nickie flew home two days before Christmas, and on Christmas Eve morning, they met at length with Dr. Ratanatharathorn and the transplant and infectious disease teams at Karmanos. "They had reviewed and highlighted all my records and had answers for my questions," said Tom. "Dr. Ratanatharathorn called me at home on Christmas Day and gave me his cell phone number. I was so impressed and comforted by his

dedication, knowledge and confidence in knowing what to do." Tom's fevers went down and he was able to have outpatient treatment so he could be at home

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Nurse practitioner, Stephanie Mellon-Reppen, Tom and Dr. Voravit Ratanatharathorn celebrate each year at a holiday dinner.

Planned Giving Advisory Committee Members

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with his family until his transplant. On January 24, 2008, Tom had his lifesaving bone marrow transplant at Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Today, almost nine years later, Tom has been able to see his children graduate from high school and attend college. He is practicing law and giving back by providing volunteer leadership as a member of the Karmanos board of directors. Tom also participates on the Karmanos Patient Quality Care Committee, bringing his first-hand knowledge as a patient to help improve care. "Tom is involved at every level, from leadership, advocacy, philanthropy, events and more," commented Gerold Bepler, M.D., Ph.D., Karmanos' president and chief executive officer. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience both professionally and personally to our board, and we are so grateful for his contributions and his dedication to making a difference for other cancer patients."



Tom with his wife, Nickie (front row), and children. Bill. Leah and Joe.

"From the doctors to the nurses to the receptionists, it is such a special place. I am so grateful for the compassion and knowledge of the Karmanos team that saved my life," Tom said. He encourages others to also give back, including by making a planned gift to Karmanos through a trust or will: "Your support will make a difference. I am living proof of this."

REMEMBER KARMANOS

Your future gift to Karmanos Cancer Institute through your will or estate plan will help us stay at the forefront of cancer research, providing the best possible outcomes for our patients. Contact Lynn Fisher at 313.576.8119, to learn more about our Dr. Vee Legacy of Hope Society and how your gift can make a difference.



Tom at his fifth-year celebration "Superman" party with Dr. Voravit Ratanatharathorn, Dr. Joseph Uberti (second from left), family and friends.



Racing Toward a Cure for Melanoma

In 2011, Ken Grulich was diagnosed with stage 2 nodular melanoma and was successfully treated at Karmanos, prompting him to combine his love of racing with his passion to help others.

3 Balls Racing, LLC, a high-performance driving group based in metro Detroit, was started in 2005 by Ken Grulich of Holly, Michigan, and his friends. 3 Balls Racing events give individuals of all driving experiences the opportunity

to drive their cars at a high rate of speed in a controlled, open-track environment.

"After my experience, when I learned about the innovative melanoma cancer research taking place at Karmanos, there was no question that we would fundraise for this," Ken said. "It is rewarding to



give back and see the results of our efforts."

The fifth annual 3 Balls Racing Karmanos charity event was held in August at the new M1 Concourse in Pontiac. Ken hopes to exceed \$100,000 for their five-year donation total for melanoma research.

When caught early, melanoma is very treatable—
the five-year survival rate for early-stage
melanoma is 92 percent. Those numbers drop when
the disease spreads through the body regionally (63
percent) or to distant tissues or organs (17 percent).
Newer therapies like the ones available at Karmanos
can give melanoma patients some dramatic benefits.
For more information on our efforts to improve
melanoma treatments, call 1.800.KARMANOS
(1.800.527.6266) or visit karmanos.org.

Despite cold temperatures, clouds and dreary weather, winter sports lovers are still at risk for sun damage and skin cancer. Use a broad spectrum (UBA/UVB) sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher whenever spending extended time outdoors.

Estate Gifts Transforming Cancer Care

We express deep appreciation for the following deceased benefactors whose legacy gifts provided nearly \$6 million to cancer care and research at Karmanos.*

Bernard J. and Frances Angel Anonymous David George Ballentine Dail R. Bay Arnold S. Berg Madelyn Blend Robert C. Borst Gerald D. Carney Thomas K. Coyne Kathryn E. Cramer, M.D. Constance Cremer Samuel Morse Devo Irving and Olga Dworkin Cynthia S. Fay Llewellyn Fiedler Helen D. Funke Lela Marguerite Hawk Amelia R. Huot Gladys R. Kleist Patricia J. Knox Lillian I. MacLean Mildred Maxfield Mary Ellen Minbiole Richard E. Morand Margaret Fell Nemethy Margaret O'Gorman **David Page** Diana Ratkowski Marilyn V. Snodgrass Walter H. and Ella Stevenson Gertrude Stutzer Craig Suwinski Dr. Mildred Ethel Tanner

Every gift makes a difference for our cancer patients and their families.

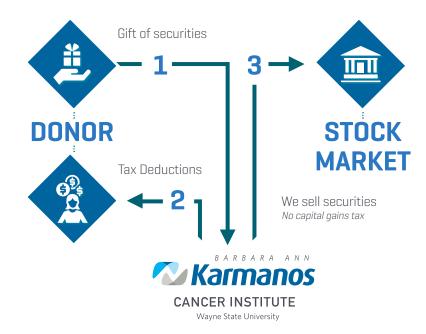
*Represents August 2014 through August 2016.

Francis E. Wood

Giving Stock Makes Sense for You and for Us

According to a 2016 Gallup poll, more than half of Americans own stock. Donating appreciated stock to the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute is an easy way to benefit the cancer care and research efforts taking place in our cancer hospital without paying capital gains tax.

By design, investment portfolios fluctuate throughout the years. If you opt to sell investments that are worth more than what you originally paid for them, you must pay capital gains tax. Instead, consider using your appreciated stock for your donation to Karmanos. Your gift of stock will help us save more lives today and move us closer to a future that is cancer-free. **See chart at right.**





If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift directly to Karmanos Cancer Institute from your IRA. This law allows individuals 70½ and older to transfer up to \$100,000 directly to a qualified charitable organization. Because we receive the gift directly from your IRA plan administrator, the distribution bypasses you entirely. This means you avoid having to recognize the income in the first place.

Not 70½ Yet?

You can still help. Simply name Karmanos Cancer Institute as a beneficiary of your account, and we'll receive the funds, or the portion you designate, after your lifetime.

For more information about giving opportunities, contact Lynn Fisher at 313.576.8119 or fisherl@karmanos.org.



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Gerold Bepler, M.D., Ph.D.

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