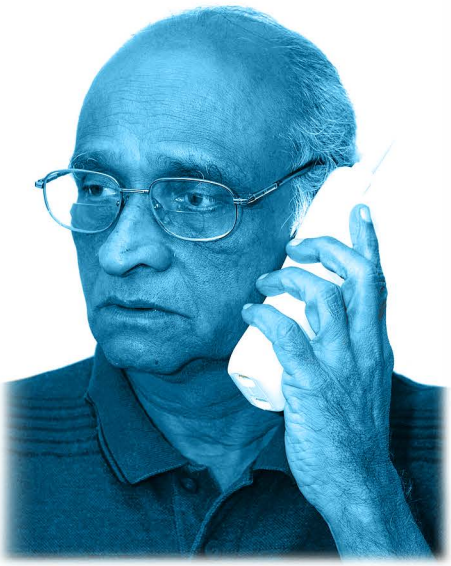


ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Elder Law of Michigan promotes, protects, and advocates for the rights, health, nutrition, housing, and economic well-being of adults and people with disabilities by providing information, legal advice, training, and professional services.

One Call For Help

ELDER LAW OF MICHIGAN

ELDER LAW OF MICHIGAN (ELM)

AN AMERICORP VOLUNTEER'S EXPERIENCE WITH ELDER LAW OF MICHIGAN

2011 laid the foundation for bringing housing services to Mid Michigan. Kimberly Chipps is an attorney in her first year of service with the Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Corps at Elder Law of Michigan. The Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Corps is an AmeriCorps program with a mission of building the capacity of certified, nonprofit foreclosure counseling agencies to serve homeowners in Michigan. This is what Kim had to say about her experience so far.

As an AmeriCorps volunteer, I wanted to spend my year of service at Elder Law of Michigan to give back and show my gratitude to the seniors who have had a significant impact on my life. At Elder Law of Michigan I have had the opportunity to play an essential role in helping launch Housing Counseling Services and the Help for Struggling Homeowners Project (our foreclosure prevention project). My role has been to help write the program policy, design marketing materials, and develop relationships with community partners.

Now that these programs are off the ground, my focus has shifted to outreach and education by spreading the word to our fellow community members about these new programs. Additionally, my position as a MSHDA certified foreclosure prevention intake specialist, makes me the first point of contact for our clients. I am enjoying the opportunity to connect Elder Law of Michigan's clients with the proper housing resources and helping families find sustainable affordable housing solutions.

This position has offered me significant insight into the process of foreclosure and gives me the chance to make a difference in the lives of those going through this devastating situation. Since our launch I have had the pleasure of completing intake for over 60 clients, and the number grows daily. I am able to assist and refer each to proper housing resources based on their individual situations, helping relieve their anxiety and fear during a very stressful time in their lives. I am grateful for my experience to serve others at Elder Law of Michigan and hope to use what I've learned to continue serving those in need the rest of my life.

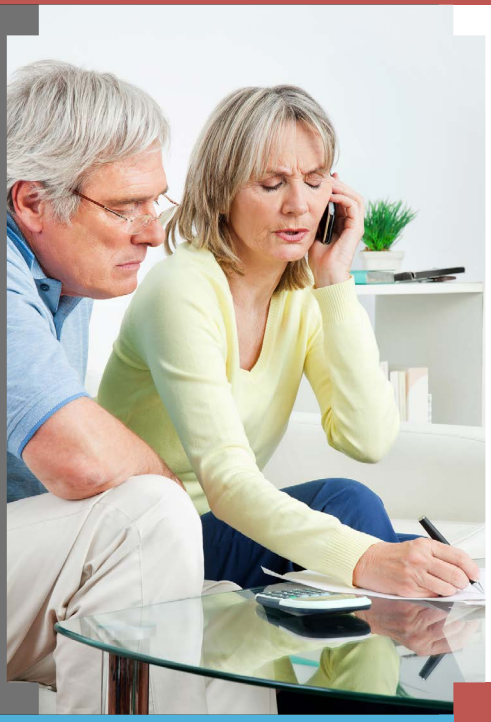
PREVIEW OF 2012

- ELM is expanding it's hotline services to include Housing Counseling.
- ELM is creating a Strategic Plan. The ELM Board of Directors along with staff worked diligently to complete a new Strategic Plan for 2012 that will set the strategic direction for the next 24 months.
- ELM is starting a new program, Help for Struggling Homeowners Project, which was created to aid local area homeowners of all ages in their battle against foreclosure.
- ELM will complete the MiCAFE Project targeting Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee counties to help those community members in need apply for benefits.

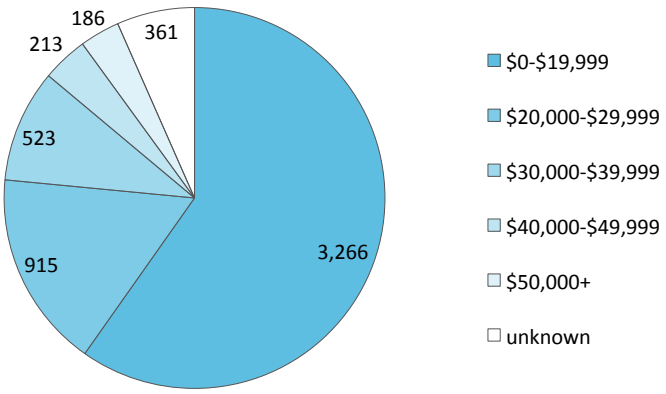
THANK YOU 2011 DONORS: Alice Moceri, Allen Nelson, Amanda Mohr, Amanda Sola, Andrea Hansen, Andrew Toth, Anna K. Gibson, Anne Marie Kwart, Anne Sennish, Anthony Dascola, Arthur Kendall, Aura Little, Barbara Carlisle, Barbara Crofoot, Barbara Roteman, Barbara Winter Gommi, Becca Budde, Berdeen Skully, Bernice Morris, Bertha Dusseau, Betsy Curtis, Bettie Jones, Betty Demeester, Betty Demond, Betty Gaffney, Beverly Stickney, Bonnie Natzman, Bradley Vauter, Bruce Timmons, Carl Peterson, Carol David, Carol Hackett Garagiola, Carol Mazur, Carol Morris, Caroline Dellenbusch, Catherine H Jacobs, Catherine Jacobs, Catherine Metzler, Charles Polzin, Charles Ruffing, Charlotte Paner, Cherie Mollison, Cheryl Thompson, Christa Schofield, Christi Barker, Christian Ferguson, Christine Caswell, Christine Walsh, Clarence Street,

OUR CLIENTS

$5.5 MILLION WAS RECOVERED FOR MID-AMERICAN RETIREES DURING 2011

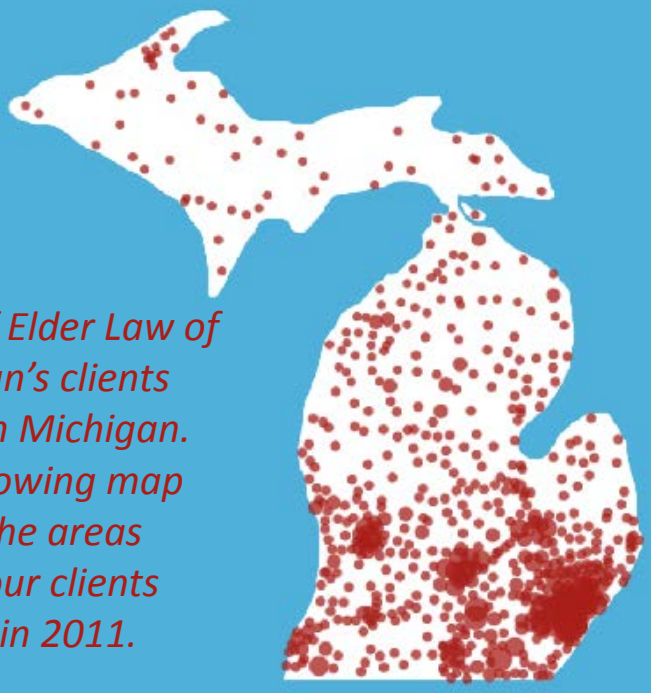


HOUSEHOLD INCOMES OF CLIENTS



We provided legal advice to 5,299 clients in 2011, 3,266 had incomes under $19,999.

CLIENT HOUSEHOLD LOCATIONS



Most of Elder Law of Michigan's clients reside in Michigan. The following map shows the areas where our clients resided in 2011.

"I had to eat whatever I could find, and it was never a full meal," Mary said about life before calling MiCAFE."

Today she receives $89 a month to help pay for her groceries.

"I am now able to buy healthy foods....I can cook whole meals with fresh fruits and vegetables, and I can even buy lean meats! MiCAFE made a big difference in my life and I now have more money to pay for my medical bills."

–Mary S., Jackson County, MI

AROUND 67% OF THE CLIENTS WE PROVIDED LEGAL ADVICE TO, IN 2011 WERE FEMALE

Claudette Robinson, Clay Ottoni, Clinton Canady, Coine Cooklin, Constance Spiteri, Cynthia Higgins, Cynthia Johnson, Cynthia Ramsey, Cynthia Zerkowski, David Allen, David Kennedy, David Landis, David Schurig, David Shaltz, Deborah Canja, Debra Alles, Delores Jarrard, Denise Chrysler, Dennis & Thais Mishler, Diane Pietrowsky, Dianna Campbell, Dick Chaffee, Dolores Bennett, Dolores Wood, Donald Christie, Donald L Allen, Doreen Lawrence, Dorne McKinnon-Rybicki, Dorothy Averett, Dorothy Brooks, Dorothy Cleveland, Dorothy Daney, Dorothy Loudon, Douglas Wozniak, Edith Marlin, Elaine Bethuy, Elaine Fischoff, Eleanor Swanson, Elizabeth Ann Muldoon, Elizabeth Prall, Emma Lutz, Eric Eggan, Evelyn Blondeau, Fae Moore, Fay Walterhouse, Ferris Moored, Floyd Brian, Frances Rosetto, Frank Glover, Fred Parks, Frederick

OUR DONORS

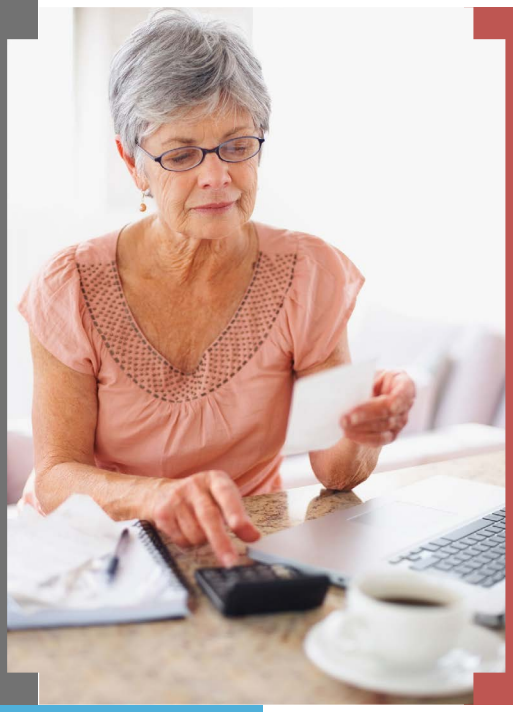
Elder Law of Michigan relies heavily on financial and in-kind support from individuals and corporations. This support is critical in maintaining and expanding the free and low cost information and services we provide to older adults.

In 2011 Elder Law of Michigan (ELM) received donations from over 300 donors who are all named along the bottom of these pages to show our gratitude. ELM also received grants and other funding from over 60 organizations, companies and foundations which are named along the back page. Without the gracious support of these groups and individuals Elder Law of Michigan could not accomplish what it does.

In order to continue meeting the growing demand for assistance for low income older adults, we need gifts of all sizes and types.

FINANCIAL POSITION

This year Elder Law made strategic investments in our staff to maintain high levels of service despite dwindling resources. During the year we developed new capacity for future growth. The investment of our reserves maintained much needed services to clients and prepared our staff for many of the challenges that lie ahead. For the specifics of our financial position at the end of 2011, please visit www.elderlawofmi.org/news_resources/recent_reports.html



"Borrowing jugs of water from friends just to meet her basic water needs, a 69 year old disabled woman from Jackson called Elder Law of Michigan's Legal Hotline, desperate for help to get her water turned back on. Not only had her landlord been delinquent on the water bill, he was being foreclosed upon, and was no where to be found. With the guidance of one of our hotline attorneys, a legal intern and community partners, we were able to help restore her water service. Through your generous support and the tireless work of our staff and volunteers, we are able to help thousands of clients like her, every single year."

THE POWER OF YOUR DONATION:

- For a contribution of $70, we can assist one older adult find a lost pension to ensure income needed for retirement will be there.
- For a contribution of $250 we can assist one low income older adult in applying for food and medical services that are worth (on average) $2,028 per year.
- For a contribution of $500 we can provide self-help materials to 50 older adults to empower them to solve a legal problem.

WAYS TO GIVE:

- Donate on-line at www.elderlawofmichigan.org/donate
- Donate by sending a check to Elder Law of Michigan, 3815 W. St. Joseph St., Suite C200, Lansing MI, 48917
- Planned Giving through a gift in your will or estate plan
- Donate stock, life insurance and other assets.
- For more information on ways to give contact Sarah Titus at stitus@elderlawofmi.org or 517-853-2370.

Baker, Gary Hayden, George Foley, George Smrtka, Gerald Connolly, Gerald O'Grady, Gladys Anna Holden, Gladys Spencer, Gloria Kling, Grace Henderson-Littlejohn, Gregory Moore, Gwendolyn Mitchell, Harvey Farrand, Helen Etkin, Helen M Kuhnmuench, Helen Sutton, Howard B Abrams, Howard Fulghen, Irene Love, Irvin & Rosemary Pasch, James Cambridge, James Justin, James Modrall, James O'Reilly, James Scott, Jane Mcnary, Jane Vinson, Janet Church, Janet Miller, Janice Kidd, Janice Rich, Jay Townsend, Jean Doss, Jean Kramer, Jennifer Matragrano, Jenny Uffer, Jerutha Kennedy, Jesse Owens, Joan Porter, Joan Smith, Joan Wheeler, Joan Willett, JoAnn Provencher, Joanne Giska, Joel Adelman, John Cahill, John Martin, John Pryor, John Svendsen, Joseph Aviv, Joshua Richardson, Joy Leuenberger, Judith Dow, Judy Padgett,

OUR VOLUNTEERS

At ELM we rely on volunteers to successfully and compassionately provide information and services to older adults. Our volunteers include law students, attorneys, retirees, and those who are simply passionate about our cause! Our volunteers logged nearly 9,000 hours in 2011. Had this work been done by paid staff at a wage of $16.00 per hour, it would have cost at least $144,000.

PROVIDING LEADERSHIP

Advisory Council

Barb Selesky
Betty Kelly-Wade
Carol Giacoletto
Clyde Sheltrown
Diane Conroy-Kellog
Floreine Mentel
Ginni Blanchard
Jackie Curtis
Jimmy Bruce
Joseph Stachnik
Julia DeGuise
Lorri Doolittle
Mary Lou Foster
Michael Pohlod
Robert Fox
Robert Hull
Robert Schlueter
Scott Funke
Sue Safir
Vicente Castellanos

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Richard Hawks
Rosemary Coscarelli
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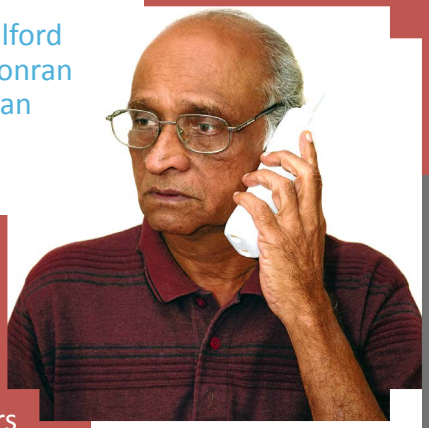
Toni Conrad
Victoria Adkins



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Roxanne J. Chang
Ryan Kenigsberg
Sam Serra
Sanford Mall
Sara Zivian Zwickl
Shawn Calabrese
Steven M. Feigelson
Thomas Stratton
Tracie Dinehart
Xiaoming Hu

BUILDING OUR FUTURE THROUGH AMERICORP & AMERICORP VISTA

Elaine Kincaid
Kimberly Chipps
Kristen Lynch
Shana Holet

PROVIDING BASIC NEEDS

Cappie Williams
Elizabeth Adkins
Jewerlean Kelly
Maceo Coleman
Mary Beth Haas
Molly Ballantyne
Nichole Lewis
Pat Hill Gray

Including over 300 MiCAFE Volunteers and nearly 100 MiCAFE Sites.

Julane Alt, June Haas, Karen L McLaren, Karen Pellow, Karen Prose, Karline Rousseau, Kate White, Katherine Rude, Katherine Smekar, Keith Cheresko, Keith Morris, Kenneth Stress, Khaya Davidson, Kim Henderson, Kimberly Hill, Krishna Swamy, Lambro Niforos, Laura Titus, Laura Witschi, Lauretta Murphy, Laurie Murphy, Lee Kaines, Leigh Miller, Leila Reece, Leonard Krol, Leonora Ivanitskaya, Linda Fischer, Linda Rexer, Lois June Sanctorum, Loraine Dietz, LouAnn Sanders, Louis Deshantz, Madiene Hall, Major Bogan, Marcia Feingold, Marcia Johnson, Margaret B White, Margaret Daidone, Marie Rose, Marilyn Roy, Marjorie Hill, Mark Meadows, Marlaine Teahan, Marshall Wright, Martha Young, Mary Birnbryer,

OUR SERVICES

SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors assisted 5,299 clients and handled 6,270 cases.
- The Mid-America Pension Rights Project recovered $5.5 million for retirees in 2011.
- In 2011 the Coordinated Community Response Coalition of Oakland and Wayne Counties brought together a diverse group of criminal justice and human service professionals to ensure that elder abuse victims do not "fall through the cracks" when seeking elder abuse prevention and treatment services.
- The Michigan Coordinated Access to Food for the Elderly (MiCAFE) assisted 3,033 people with applications for food assistance. As a result of this work, $2,620,512 in food assistance benefits were secured for 2,426 people. This is equivalent to the ability to purchase over one million meals to reduce hunger.
- The Benefits Enrollment and Options Center assisted 2,997 older adults in economic need and identified $16,468,383 in resources to increase their financial security.

TECHNOLOGY & ADVOCACY:

In addition to the direct services Elder Law provides to older adults and people with disabilities, we also provide a number of services that fall into the category of fee for service training, marketing/outreach, technical assistance and coalition building. A growing portion of our work in 2011 involved specific projects that enhanced the knowledge of the professional and lay community on elder abuse prevention, guardianship and alternatives, the effective delivery of legal services, employing technology in human services, and knowledge of public benefits programs (Medicaid, Food Assistance, Medicare Savings, etc.). Elder Law also works on systemic advocacy projects to improve the systems that serve older adults and has been a leader in the development of Aging and Disability Resource Centers around the state.

POOLED TRUST:

People living with disabilities have significant costs and often need services that those of us without disabilities take for granted. The Elder Law of Michigan Pooled Account Trust (PAT) is a great way for families, guardians or conservators to set aside extra resources to ensure that their loved ones will have the care and services they need to make the most of their lives. In 2011 the Elder Law of Michigan PAT managed funds for 165 beneficiaries and supervised $3,656,595 in assets. Our high quality service and low fees help us be one of the largest PATs in Michigan. If you have questions about our PAT or know someone who could benefit from it, visit www.elderlawofmi.org.

Mary Brown, Mary Fehribach, Mary Moore, Mary White, Michael Agar, Michael Buck, Michael Glusac, Michael Moquin, Michele Ferguson, Mildred Bamford, Mildred Rohde, Nancy McDaniel, Nancy Morris, Nancy Parsons, Nancy Smith, Naseem Stecker, Neil Hoffman, Noel Massie, Olivia Maynard, Orin Brustad, Oris Benton, Pam Canty, Pamela Carter, Pamela Wheelock, Pat Babcock, Patricia Dudek, Patricia Pashukewich, Patrick Bond, Patrick Marutiak, Paul A. Sturgul, Paul Howard, Pauline Walker, Penny Gamet, Rae Foerster, Rae Harfst, Rafael Diaz, Renee Sadler, Rex Wedge, Richard & Mary Mapes, Richard Bardowski, Richard Mapes, Richard Meisch, Richard N Snyder, Richard Randall, Rick Parker, Robert Burse, Robert Fox, Robert Mathis, Robert Treat Jr., Roderick Coy, Ron Tatro, Ronald Chojnacki, Ronald Heeren, Rosalie

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

2011 CALL TO JUSTICE

Elder Law of Michigan honored:

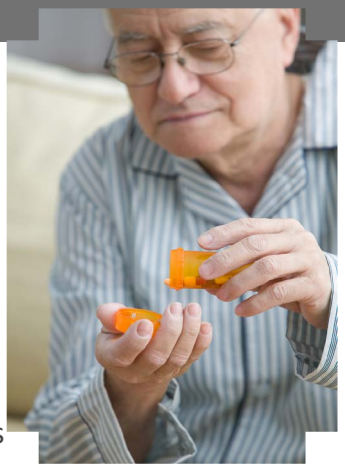
- Frank Kelley with *The Joe D. Sutton Call to Justice Award*
- Joseph Cunningham, JD, CPA with *The Contributions to Law and Aging Award*
- Judge Phillip E. Harter with *The Judicial Contributions in Law and Aging Award*
- Jerutha Kennedy, Chairperson of Michigan commission on Services to the Aging with *The Vanguard Award for Contributions in Law and Aging*
- David Hughes Duke, Living Stories with *The Media Award for Contributions in Law, Aging, and the Rights of People with Disabilities*
- Dudley Spade with *The Action Award for Contributions in Law, Aging and the Rights of People with Disabilities*
- Senator Roger Kahn, MD with *The Actions Award for Contributions in Law, Aging and the Rights of People with Disabilities*

MEDICAID BOOT CAMP

Elder Law of Michigan holds multiple Boot Camps each year all over Michigan. We help shape up others' knowledge of long-term care Medicaid for older adults and people with disabilities. The Boot Camp covers payment sources for long-term care, medicaid spend-down, calculating patient pay amounts, and strategies for protecting the community spouse from impoverishment. All participants receive ELM's informative Primer on the Michigan Medicaid Program! Learn more at www.elderlawofmi.org/events.

- Social Workers are eligible to receive Continuing Education Credits from this training.
- Proceeds of the training support Elder Law of Michigan's work for low income clients.

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS PEOPLE LIKE MR. BRUMMETT:



Lloyd Brummett worked 20 years for a company in Indiana when the plant closed in 1975. Upon turning age 65 he started searching for his promised pension benefits. After nine long years of searching, Mr. Brummett was denied his benefits, being told only that he was too young on his last day of work to qualify. Mr. Brummett was devastated when he received this information.

The Mid-America Pensions Rights Project immediately went to work fighting for Mr. Brummett. After countless letters, calls, and emails, and ultimately bringing the case to the attention of the pension plan's attorney, the Project received a letter that Mr. Brummett was indeed eligible starting from his 65th birthday. Mr. Brummett's monthly pension increased his future income by 7%! In November 2011, Mr. Brummett received his first monthly check for $132, and an additional $14,288 covering those nine years he waited to collect his pension.

Battiste, Roscoe Hires, Roy Drake, Roy Swan, Ruby Lee Roddy, Ruby Lyle, Ruby Steele, Ruby Williams, Russell Wise, S. Lee Johnson, S. Olof Karlstrom, Sally Ratz, Sandra Norton, Sara Carter, Sara Zwickl, Sarah Himes, Sarah Wohlford, Shantha Pitta, Sharon Barnes, Sharon Conran, Sharon Zimberoff, Sharron Porter, Shelby Wininger, Sherry Simpson, Shiriffa El-Mubarak, Shirley Sliker, Shoshanna Ehrlich, Sonja Brown, Stanley White, Stephen Gobbo, Stephen Poissant, Sylvia Logan, Theodore Hughes, Thomas Cleary, Thomas Cranmer, Thomas P Boyd, Tim Curtis, Tom Jennette, Tom Myler, Tom Trainer, Victor Leslie, Virginia Nolan-Stitt, Virginia Walsh, Vivian Isquith, W. Anthony Jenkins, Wilbur Klosterman, William Ard, William Dillon, William Johnson, William Marcoux, Wilma Gallandt, Wyma Warren, Zigmund Drapalsk

Elder Law of Michigan would like to thank the following for their generous support:

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Ameriprise Financial
Detroit Area Agency on Aging
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
Bond Estate Planning and Elder Law PC
BorgWarner Inc
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Kelley Cawthorne LLC
Kemp Klein
Kerr Law Firm PLLC
Law Office of Josh Ard PLLC
Mall Malisow & Cooney
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Michigan Office of Services to the Aging
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