

In Memoriam

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Michigan Parkinson Foundation Profile

Michigan Parkinson Foundation (MPF), established in 1983, is a Michigan non-profit 501(c) (3) organization. Its mission is to educate and provide support to Parkinson's patients, their loved ones and care partners, and the physicians and allied health professionals who diagnose and treat those affected by the illness.

The Michigan Parkinson Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors who provide fiduciary oversight and a Medical Advisory Board who provide medical expertise for our patient and professional education programs. Executive officers are:

- Board Chairman, Jeff Laethem, President, Ray Laethem Motor Village
- Board President, Paul A. Cullis, MD, Chief of Neurology, Ascension Health Michigan
- Board Treasurer, Larry Millman, CPA, Grant, Millman & Johnson
- Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board, Peter A. LeWitt, MD, Director of the Parkinson's Disease & Movement Disorder Center, Henry Ford Health System

Parkinson's disease

Parkinson's is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder resulting from the loss of nerve cells in a specific region of the brain. The consequence of this loss of cells is the reduction in the chemical dopamine. Dopamine deficiency leads to problems with movement. The most common symptoms include tremor, slowness in movement, rigidity of the limbs and trunk and impaired balance and coordination.

30,000 people in Michigan have Parkinson's disease (PD). The average age of diagnoses is 58 and men are 1.5 times more likely to have Parkinson's than women. Those with the disease incurred Parkinson's-related medical expenses \$12,800 higher than someone without Parkinson's. Approximately 57% of excess medical cost is associated with higher use of nursing home services.

The Michigan Parkinson Foundation's goal is to help people with Parkinson's live an optimal quality of life, ensuring that each patient receives compassionate quality care. In 2018 our programs and services reached people in the following ways:

- 25,260 received patient education material through the mail
- 2,200 participated in a MPF Parkinson patient education program.
- 1,645 participated in a MPF Parkinson Support Group meeting
- 710 MPF Parkinson support group meetings held in 74 cities.
- 156 Parkinson Support Group leaders participated in MPF-funded, two day training programs.
- 2,583 participated in MPF special events
- 640 hours of paid respite care provided in a pilot program

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