

U.P. Home Health & Hospice - Our Roots



**CINDY NYQUIST, OWNER/FOUNDER** 

The story of U.P. Home Health & Hospice began long before we opened our doors—it began in 1952, when I was just a 4-year-old girl. At the time, I had a 2-year-old sister, a 7-year-old brother, and a mother we loved deeply. Then, just like that, she was gone—taken by breast cancer that had spread to her brain.

I remember the confusion and the silence.

Where did she go? What happened to Mommy? Who's going to take care of us now?

No one had the answers, or if they did, no one shared them—because back then, grief wasn't something you talked about, especially with children.

As time went on, the pain dulled, and life moved forward. My father remarried, and soon we had a new mother and three more brothers. But the questions I had as a little girl never truly went away—they were buried deep, waiting to resurface.

Fifteen years later, they did.

I was 19 when we lost our second mother—this time to esophageal cancer, a disease with no cure at the time. Even as a young adult, I found myself asking the same questions: Why? What now? Society still hadn't found a better way to talk about or cope with death, especially when it came to supporting families and children.

That search for a "better way" became my life's mission.

In my research, I came across a term that was almost unheard of in the U.S. back then: Hospice. Through the pioneering work of Dame Cicely Saunders in England, I found a philosophy of care that answered the questions I'd been carrying for years—offering dignity, comfort, and support for both patients and families.

Those seeds of loss and love, along with my growing knowledge, began to take root in Michigan in the early 1970s. I was a non-traditional student at the time, pursuing a nursing degree while raising a child and navigating life as a wife and mother. I quickly realized that many people being discharged from hospitals weren't receiving the skilled nursing and symptom management they truly needed. That gap in care was the spark.

And so, with the experience of personal loss, a passion for nursing, and a vision for compassionate care, I founded U.P. Home Health & Hospice—the first private skilled home health and hospice agency in Marquette County.

This is my story—but everyone who walks the Hospice path brings their own. That's the beauty of Hospice care: it's rooted in shared humanity.

As I reflect on these past 51 years, I'm in awe of the incredible people who've joined our team over the decades. Each person brings their own experiences, compassion, and professional expertise to help us grow and improve "the better way" we care for others.

It's been a privilege to walk alongside so many extraordinary individuals—staff, volunteers, patients, families—each one contributing to the heartbeat of our organization. Together, we've built something truly special.

We're here for YOU.

Call us. Hospice is about LIVING—through PEP: Priorities, Education, Empowerment, and Palliation.



Program

### Introduction

Welcome	Dave Aro, Executive Director of the U.P. Hospice Foundation Cindy Nyquist, Founder of U.P. Home Health & Hospice and the U.P. Hospice Foundation		
Guest Performance	Current & Past DWOS Dancers - Country Hoedown - "Footloose" by Blake Shelton		
Walk down Memory Lane and Introduction of the Entire Cast of "Dancing with our Stars Marquette County Style" – All-Star Party Edition			
<b>Welcome Hosts &amp; Judges</b> - Faye Elder, Rob Shirlin, Maureen McFadden, Doug Garrison, Don Ryan, Jill Grundstrom			

#### Performances

Toga Party	Shawn and Chris Owsley Jazz – "A Little Party Never Killed Nobody" by Fergie, GoonRock, Q-Tip	
Glow in the Dark Party	Mariel Morton and John Cappoferri Samba – "Rhythm is a Dancer" by Thea Austin and Snap	
Studio 54 Party	Kaylee and Taylor Birmann Viennese Walz – "I Got You Babe" by Sonny and Cher, "Let's Groove" by Earth, Wind, and Fire	
Tailgate Party	Stacy and Jared Haughey Argentine Tango – "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor	

Intermission

### Performances

2024 Guest Performance	2024 Congeniality Winners Sam and Chris Durley (DJ Barbie) Fox Trot – "By Your Side" by Calvin Harris ft. Tom Grennan	
Slumber Party	Melodie and Travis Alexander Paso Doble – "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)" by Eurythmics	
Pool Party	Julie and Ty Hartung Lindy Hop – "California Gurls" by Katy Perry & Snoop Dogg	
Mardi Gras Party	Karen and Ryan Kovacs Hip Hop – "Throw Me Something" by Jay Da Wizard & Sambo	
Murder Mystery Party	Alyssa and Pat Digneit Salsa – "Like Father Like Son" by Nathan Johnson, Toxic by Vladimir Pena, Toxic by 2WEI	

8

#### Closing

<b>2024 Guest Performance</b> Corey and Wendy Hanycz (Airforce Pilot Barbie), Tango – "Take My Breath Away" by Berlin				
Group Dance	Entire Cast of Dancing w	ith our Stars - "Shut Up and Dance with Me" – Walk the Moon		
Presentation of Congeniality Trophy (Wednesday)		Presented by 2024 Congeniality Winners, Sam and Chris Durley		
Presentation of the Fan Favorite Trophy (Thursday)		Presented by 2024 Fan Favorite Winner, Dr. Michael Grossman		
Presentation of the Mirro	or Ball Trophy (Thursday)	Presented by Lindsay Hemmila, Event Coordinator of Dancing with our Stars, and Jill Grundstrom, Director of Dance for Dancing with our Stars		

Toga Party The Stars: Shawn & Chris Owsley The Dance: Jazz The Pro: Kaitlyn Frotton

THE SPIRIT OF ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME COMES ALIVE IN A JAZZ-INFUSED PERFORMANCE INSPIRED BY A TOGA PARTY. TEAM OWSLEY WILL TAKE YOU ON A RHYTHMIC JOURNEY WITH SMOOTH JAZZ MOVES AND LIVELY BEATS. WILL THEIR DANCE MOVES BRING A LIVELY CELEBRATION, FOCUSED ON EMBRACING THE FUN AND WHIMSY OF ANCIENT FASHION IN A MODERN CONTEXT?





#### Shawn & Chris Owsley

Chris and Shawn Owsley first competed on Dancing with Our Stars, Disney Edition in 2019! They were very fortunate to be paired with first-time pro, Gracie Fries. Together they competed with a jazz style dance to a Monsters Inc. theme. Competing in Dancing with Our Stars was a joyful, exciting and memorable event that they will cherish for a lifetime. Who knew Chris could have moves like that on stage and the experience reminded Shawn how much she loves to perform!

When they aren't dancing, Chris is the Partner Installs Manager at Easy Ice and Shawn works with the amazing team at Marquette County Title. In their spare time they enjoy golfing, bike rides and especially going to camp in Baraga County. Their favorite pastime though is watching their niece and nephew excel at all the sports they love. You'll find Auntie and Uncle at many hockey games, cross county meets, soccer games, and dance competitions! Chris and Shawn also enjoy a quiet life at home with their two dogs, Zuri and Ollie.

When the call came to participate once again in Dancing with Our Stars, All-Star Edition, it should be no surprise that Shawn couldn't wait to dance and perform again, and Chris, simply said YES to his wife! They are excited and honored to be a part of the All-Star Edition and can't wait to raise some much needed funds for Hospice and put on a great show!

#### Kaitlyn Frotton

Kaitlyn is thrilled to be joining the talented DWOS team this year. Kaitlyn is a current NMU Adjunct Instructor and Box Office Manager with many years' experience performing and teaching nationally and abroad. As a child, she competed in tap, jazz and musical theatre with the dance team at NJ Center of Dance and later went to undergrad at Rider University as a Musical Theatre major, which offered further training at Princeton Ballet School. She went on to work in various musicals and plays Off-Broadway, on Cruise Ships, and in London, Edinburgh, Las Vegas, and more before pursuing roles teaching and directing. NMU directing credits include Footloose and Frankenstein. She is set to direct Six Men Dressed Like Joseph Stalin which runs May 15-17th in the Panowski Black Box.



Glow-in-the-Dark Party

# The Stars: Mariel Morton & John Cappoferri The Dance: Samba The Pro: Ann Marie Frenn

THE RHYTHM OF BRAZIL MEETS THE NEON GLOW OF THE NIGHT! TEAM CONGO MIGHT LIGHT UP THE FLOOR WITH A DAZZLING SAMBA PERFORMANCE, COMPLETE WITH GLOW-IN-THE-DARK EFFECTS THAT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A HIGH-ENERGY CARNIVAL. WILL THERE BE COLORFUL COSTUMES AND VIBRANT ENERGY THAT LIGHT UP THE NIGHT WITH EVERY BEAT?



#### Mariel Morton & John Cappoferri

You met them last year, you probably fell in love with the old guy, or you've at least stopped at Congress for some "snake nuts" since their winning performance!

Our west end couple, Johnny and Mariel are back for the All-Stars season of Dancing With Our Stars and they are SO excited! Born and raised in Ishpeming, John is one of Marquette County's most iconic bartenders (at least west of the Carp River, as he's been told) AND a soon to be grandpa! Also born in Ishpeming, Mare is Johnny's partner in crime, whether it be dancing, working, or just having fun! Both are still slinging drinks at Congress Pizzas in Ishpeming, so they will be sticking with the name "Team Congo," as that's what the locals know them for.

Hospice still holds such a special place in both their hearts, they couldn't say no to another season of fundraising! Their goal is to live by the words of Tim McGraw's wellknown song, be humble and kind, and always help the next in line and they feel very blessed to have the opportunity to do it!! So, their name and their stance on the cause remains!

However, the one thing that may have changed since last season is John's dance experience! He has been working out and working his way up the dance ladder. Keep your eyes peeled for him and Mariel in Ishpeming's rendition of Swan Lake, performed as "Mud Lake (coming soon near you)!" Mare is simply just excited to be dancing again!! As for this year, both dancers are hoping for their beloved choreographer Kimber

again (we love you!!). But as Johnny always says, "this isn't Burger King, you don't always get it your way." Therefore, whatever happens happens and these two will be sure to give their audience the performance of a lifetime!

Once again, they are so excited to be a part of this year's DWOS All-Stars crew! They would also like to send a HUGE thank you to their west end community for all the support they received last year. Team Congo cannot wait to show this year's couples what the west side is all about!

Finally, Johnny has not retired yet, he's just continuously tired, so cut him some slack with his dance moves!

#### Ann Marie Frenn

Ann Marie Frenn is a proud graduate of MSHS and NMU and currently serves as the Territory Manager for Apria Healthcare. A lifelong dancer, Ann Marie began her journey at the age of four, training locally at Trisha's School of Ballet, Marquette Center for Dance, Dawn Dott Dance, Third Street Dance Company, Queen City Dance, and Superior Dance Academy. With over 25 years of teaching experience, she is currently an instructor at New Attitudes Dance Studio.

Ann Marie has also enriched her craft through workshops and summer dance camps at Western Michigan University, dance classes at NMU, Cecchetti dance seminars, and various other dance, workshops to continue expanding her expertise. She held the title of Miss Marquette County from 1992 to 1993, representing the U.P. at the Miss Michigan pageant.

In her free time, Ann Marie enjoys spending time outdoors, traveling, and sharing moments with her friends and pets. An avid traveler, she strives to visit a new country each year.

As a passionate advocate for healthcare providers and patients, Ann Marie is thrilled to return for a second year to support this meaningful event, raising funds for U.P. Home Health & Hospice.



Studio 54 Party The Stars: Kaylee & Taylor Birmann The Dance: Viennese Waltz The Pro: Lauren Culpepper

STEP BACK IN TIME TO THE GLITZY, GLAMOROUS WORLD OF THE '70S AT STUDIO 54. WATCH AS TEAM BIRMANN GLIDES ACROSS THE FLOOR IN A GRACEFUL VIENNESE WALTZ, CHANNELING THE ICONIC ENERGY AND STYLE OF ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS NIGHTCLUBS IN HISTORY. WILL THERE BE GLITTERING LIGHTS, DISCO BEATS, AND SPARKLING ATTIRE TO TRANSPORT YOU TO AN ERA OF PURE DISCO DECADENCE?



#### Kaylee & Taylor Birmann

Taylor and Kaylee Birmann are back and ready to bust a move... again! After previously stepping onto the dance floor for Superheroes and Villains, Taylor and Kaylee are returning with even more energy! This time, they're not only aiming to fundraise even more for the U.P. Hospice Foundation, but they're also determined to stay faaaaaar away from the ER, and, of course, take home the coveted Mirror Ball trophy!

Michigan made and now based on the West End, the Birmanns are originally from Kalamazoo where they grew up just a few miles apart. They first crossed paths during their freshman year of high school and quickly became inseparable. After graduating as high school sweethearts, their story continued, and they've now been together for sixteen years; happily married for two.

The Birmanns chose to participate again to honor the incredible care and compassion Hospice provides during life's most challenging moments. Their previous participation in Dancing with Our Stars not only strengthened their connection to the cause but also inspired Kaylee to take a more active role in the foundation's work. Kaylee's involvement as a board member for the U.P. Hospice Foundation has given her a deeper understanding of how these funds directly benefit local families in need. Now, when it comes to dancing... the Birmanns aren't exactly ballroom pros. Their

only real experience comes from a crash course two years ago with their saving grace and coach, Kristen Beth Ludwig. While they're praying for anything but hip-hop this time around, they're crossing their fingers for a style that allows them to get a little rowdy and have some fun. With their naturally competitive mindset and a fresh set of tricks, Team Birmann is ready to hit the dance floor and take down the competition—kindly, of course.

Taylor and Kaylee often find themselves reminiscing about their first Dancing with Our Stars journey, especially the moment it all began, over that initial lunch with Lindsay. Looking back, they both agree that while supporting such a genuine and impactful cause is incredibly rewarding, it's the people who made the experience unforgettable. From their coach and her family to fellow cast members and their loved ones, the connections they built feel more like family than friendships.

A final request from the Birmanns: please refrain from saying 'break a leg!

#### Lauren Culpepper

Lauren Culpepper is excited to be returning for her second season as a Dance Pro for Marquette County's Dancing with Our Stars! Since last season she has obtained her 200 hour Registered Yoga Teacher certification from Pinecone Yoga Institute, adopted a dachshund puppy named Winnie, and celebrated her first wedding anniversary with her husband, Owen. Though she misses her dance instructors terribly; Ms. Pamela Precezski and Mr. Alex Young of DanceSport Academy of Michigan, she continues to love teaching private ballroom dance lessons here in Marquette. When Lauren is not teaching, she loves being a student of dance herself, and participates in various performance opportunities throughout Marquette and the U.P. Lauren looks forward to the performances of this monumental milestone for DWOS and U.P. Home Health & Hospice and wishes all of the teams good luck!

Tailgate Party The Stars: Stacy & Jared Haughey The Dance: Argentine Tango The Pro: Sylvia Gravel

THE INTENSITY OF THE ARGENTINE TANGO MEETS THE EXCITEMENT OF A TAILGATE PARTY. TEAM HAUGHEY'S FIERCE AND PASSIONATE PERFORMANCE WILL BRING THE HEAT OF THE ARGENTINE TANGO TO LIFE, WHILE THE FUN OF A PRE-GAME CELEBRATION ADDS A PLAYFUL TWIST. WILL THERE BE RED-HOT MOVES, COOLER DRINKS, AND A STADIUM VIBE, ALL WRAPPED UP IN THE SEDUCTIVE ALLURE OF THE ARGENTINE TANGO?





#### Stacy & Jared Haughey

Jared grew up in the crossroads area of Marquette County and graduated from Gwinn Area Community schools. He attended Lake Superior State University earning a bachelor's degree in business administration and public relations. After college he ventured out to Boulder, Colorado where he enjoyed the niche market of wire harness and fiber optic sales, while also taking in the sights and culture of the area.

In 2008 he gave in to the call of the U.P. and returned home. He started with Cleveland Cliffs and is a proud member of the Pit Operating Team and Local #4950. Jared has previously served on the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marquette County Board and the Forsyth Township Fire Department. He is currently training to help as substitute bus driver for Gwinn Schools.

Stacy grew up in Powers and graduated from North Central Area Schools in Menominee County. She then attended Northern Michigan University earning a bachelor's degree in business management and public relations. In addition, while earning her master's in public administration she was the head coach of the Wildcat Cheerleading team. After graduation she has served on the NMU Alumni Board, and was named "Outstanding Young Alumni," in 2011.

After NMU she worked in community relations and development at OSF St. Francis hospital, served as the Northern Michigan representative for Governor Granholm and then moved to Washington, D.C. where she was the Deputy Chief of Staff for

Congressman Bart Stupak and served as his campaign manager. In 2008 she was hired as the UP Field Deputy for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, a position she is proud to still hold.

Jared and Stacy were married in 2012 and welcomed daughter Maddilyn Josephine in 2013, and their second daughter Vivian Flynn is 2016 and they are their pride and joy! They love spending time together as a family, especially outdoors with their yellow lab.

The couple also both recently started pursuing additional interests, including joining the Knights of Columbus (Jared) and the Heath Wood Products business he recently started with two other partners (and friends). Stacy just launched "Stacy's Sauna Scents," focused on enhancing our U.P. tradition. They are extremely appreciative of the family and friends that have supported them in all their adventures, including

this opportunity to contribute to their community.

The Haughey's both feel strongly about giving back and they are truly honored to represent the Gwinn area community, support Hospice and believe in the U.P. Home Health & Hospice Mission. Jared's family lost his Grandfather Thomas in 2014 and Grandmother Dorothy in 2023. Stacy's family lost her Grandmother Josephine in 1997 to cancer. They have both witnessed the impact of Hospice care, and they will be forever grateful for their compassion.

#### Sylvia Gravel

Sylvia Gravel received a BS in Dance from NMU in 2023. She is currently the shop manager at MQT Nutrition and has spent the last three semesters as the CO/LAB Dance Co. intern/assistant, where she has had the opportunity to choreograph and gain experience in stage and company management. During her time as a student, she performed and choreographed for CO/LAB and dance team, focusing on jazz and contemporary styles. In June 2024, Sylvia was a showing artist at the first annual Dancing In Summer, The Festival (Ypsilanti, MI). She has also recently been teaching drop-in classes at First Class Dance Co.

This is Sylvia's second season as a Dance Pro for Dancing with Our Stars, and she is thrilled to return and participate in such a great cause!



Slumber Party The Stars: Melodie & Travis Alexander The Dance: Paso Doble The Pro: Skylar Taavola



PREPARE TO BE SWEPT OFF YOUR FEET AS TEAM ALEXANDER PERFORMS THE DRAMATIC PASO DOBLE, BRINGING THE INTENSITY AND PASSION OF THIS TRADITIONAL SPANISH DANCE TO THE INTIMATE WORLD OF A SLUMBER PARTY. WILL THIS BE A COZY AND WHIMSICAL ATMOSPHERE, COMPLETE WITH PAJAMAS AND PILLOW FIGHTS, WHERE THIS PERFORMANCE MIGHT FUSE FIERY FOOTWORK WITH A RELAXED VIBE FOR A PLAYFUL AND **PASSIONATE SPECTACLE?** 



#### Melodie & Travis Alexander

Hey everyone! Let us introduce ourselves to you! We are Travis and Melodie Alexander of Marquette and own a Personal Training Gym called TM Fitness. We are Personal Trainers who strive to help individuals achieve their specific health goals. While we are this during the day, we also juggle our professional lives with our 6 beautiful children: Mallorie 11, Makenzie 8, Tucker 6, Tripp & Tanner 3, and Tate 2. The ability to do all of this is what we can call "teamwork." The ups and down, the chaos, and the most importantly, the love & fun. We wouldn't change it for a minute, well maybe a couple hours with the help of family or our team of babysitters.

The ability to help raise awareness and funds in our community for Hospice is more than just a moment. It hits us on a personal note as we have had family members and friends utilize this service during a very difficult time in their lives. This is essential to help so many throughout the year. We are excited to help once again.

Last time we danced to win the "Fan Favorite" and this time, our eyes are on the "Mirror Ball Trophy." Thank you everyone for supporting this great event!

#### Skylar Taavola

Skylar Taavola is the owner of Northern Sky Dance and Fitness, the home to the Shooting Starz Adaptive Dance Program, in Marquette MI. Skylar is from Negaunee and grew up studying multiple genres of dance, along with aerial silk, competitive dance, and gymnastics. Skylar began teaching dance at the young age of 14, and has experience teaching many different genres of dance, at New Attitudes Dance Studios in Marquette, Julie's Top Hat Dance studio in Iron Mountain. She has also choreographed five Superior Arts Youth Theater musicals and Marquette's Nutcracker Ballet. In 2019 Skylar created Shooting Starz, Marquette's first adaptive dance program. Shooting Starz is a free and volunteer-based program for children with intellectual and physical disabilities. In-2021, Skylar was lucky enough to be an intern at Miss Kim's Children's Dance and Arts, in North Carolina, where she learned more about teaching youth and children with disabilities. Skylar graduated from Northern Michigan University in 2022, with a degree in Management of Health and Fitness, and a Dance minor, where she was a four-year member of the NMU Dance Team and the president her senior year. After graduating, she has spent the past two summers at Bay Cliff Health Camp as the Performing Arts Instructor for children with disabilities. When Skylar is not teaching dance, she is a Coach at Fit Body Boot Camp. Skylar is excited for her second year choreographing "Dancing with our Stars Marquette County Style," and very thankful for the opportunity.



Pool Party The Stars: Julie & Ty Hartung The Dance: Lindy Pop The Pro: Don'Tae Mitchell

TAKE A DIVE INTO FUN AS TEAM HARTUNG BRINGS THE HIGH-ENERGY LINDY HOP TO A POOLSIDE EXTRAVAGANZA. THIS MIGHT BE A FUN, FLIRTY, AND FAST-PACED PERFORMANCE THAT WILL HAVE YOU SMILING FROM EAR TO EAR. WILL THIS BRING THE FEEL OF THE SPLASH OF WATER, POOLSIDE DRINKS, AND DAZZLING DANCE MOVES, WHERE THIS PERFORMANCE MIGHT COMBINE VINTAGE SWING WITH MODERN FLAIR, ALL SET TO THE RHYTHM OF THE **CLASSIC LINDY HOP?** 





#### Julie & Ty Hartung

Well, here we go, again! Seems like just 7 years ago, we were in the same position .... oh, wait, it was 7 years ago! Time sure does fly when you're having a ball! Julie and Ty Hartung, here, and we're looking forward to once again participating in this great event for an even better cause. A little background on us, as some things have changed since we last introduced ourselves. Julie and Ty have been together for roughly 23 years, 20 of those as a married couple. We currently live in Marquette and have one son, Landon, who is 15 years old. We moved to Marquette from Ishpeming in July of 2016 and have absolutely loved living in Marquette! So, let's get into a little of our history so you can understand a little more about who we are.

Julie Hartung moved to Marquette in 1993 after graduating from Jeffers High School. Upon her arrival in Marquette, she attended NMU for a few years, then moved on to bartending at The Shamrock...great memories for most us, I know! After spending almost 10 years there, she moved on to UP Mortgage Specialists and that led to her current position as co-owner and Vice President of Great Northern Title and Abstract. Her dedication to her company, employees and clients is second to none...

Ty moved to Marquette after graduating from Green Bay West in 1996 and began his studies at NMU in the fall. After just shy of seven years (no, he's not a doctor), he decided to join the workforce with Julie at the Shamrock...talk about meant to be! Well, after about seven years there, he decided to branch out and see what the 'real job'

world was all about. Since that time, he's had a number of jobs and has enjoyed them all! Currently, he works for Base Hospitality Group and has been employed there since 2022. He looks forward to what the company will do next, as it's always exciting!

We're excited to join Dancing with Our Stars again in 2025...we are really looking forward to getting to know all the couples better and expand our 'circle.' We feel very fortunate to be in the position to help the U.P. Hospice Foundation again, as they provide so much help and guidance to so many families. Thanks again for the opportunity and to the rest of the couples, we truly hope everyone has fun! Let's get it!!!!

#### Don'Tae Mitchell

Don'Tae Mitchell is a passionate sophomore musical theatre major at Northern Michigan University. As the second ever "Bro Pro" for Dancing with Our Stars, he's super thrilled to bring his unique flair and energy to the stage.

Dontae's love for choreographing shines through in his love for the arts. Some of his most recent credits include Rocky Horror, Co/Lab, Creative Composition, Home for the Holidays, and more. To stay updated follow him on Instagram: Dontaedamarcuss



Mardi Gras Party

The Stars: Karen & Ryan Kovacs The Dance: Hip Hop The Pro: Gabrielle Revord

GET READY FOR A WILD CELEBRATION OF COLOR, MUSIC, AND DANCE AS TEAM KOVACS BRINGS THE ENERGY OF MARDI GRAS TO LIFE WITH A HIP-HOP TWIST! THIS DANCE MIGHT BE BURSTING WITH VIBRANT COSTUMES, FUNKY BEATS, AND HIGH-ENERGY MOVES. WILL THIS PERFORMANCE HAVE YOU ON YOUR FEET FEELING THE RHYTHM OF THE PARADE AS IF YOU WERE IN THE HEART OF NEW ORLEANS?



#### Karen & Ryan Kovacs

Ryan and Karen Kovacs are the perfect match of sweet and spicy. Ryan runs his own appliance repair and handyman business and serves on the township volunteer fire department. Karen is the City Manager for the City of Marquette. Karen and Ryan once lived on opposite ends of a farm field in a small town downstate where their paths would often cross at the four-way stop heading into town. Fate ultimately brought them together when Ryan and his two young daughters bumped into Karen in the frozen food section at the local grocery store.

Ryan always had a love for the Upper Peninsula and during a fall trip to Marquette, he asked Karen to promise if there were ever an opportunity to move the U.P., they would pursue it. With young children and a growing hobby farm, Karen figured they had a good 10 years before they would be able to consider it...after all, pinky promises have no expiration date. Only a few months later, a surprise opportunity presented itself and everything quickly fell into place. The Kovacs family began their big adventure in Marquette during the summer of 2021.

It's true, Karen tricked Ryan into accepting the Dancing with Our Stars call, but once he found out it was for an important cause, he willingly agreed.

Supporting Hospice care is especially near and dear to Karen's family. Karen grew up thinking Hospice nurses had a special connection to angels after her father told

her a story about his grandmother passing away peacefully at home. Karen's father mentioned the comfort and support that the Hospice team provided to his family during his grandmother's last few days. When the time came that Karen's nana needed Hospice care, Karen was reminded of that distinct peace and comfort the Hospice team brings with their presence. There is still a part of Karen that believes Hospice care workers are somehow connected to angels.

#### Gabrielle Revord

Gabrielle Revord is a dance pro for the second time with us here at DWOS Marquette County Style. Her first year, she was a dance pro for Jack and Kim Frost, dancing the Disco in 2017.

Revord graduated from Northern Michigan University, with a B.S. in Health and Fitness Management and a Dance Minor. She also is a 200HR RYT of Hatha and Vinyasa styles of yoga, certified by the YogaRenew School based out of Hoboken, NJ.

Currently, Gabrielle is an Adjunct Special Instructor at Northern Michigan University teaching Somatic Practice and Mindfulness in the Theatre and Dance Department. She also owns Bijou Movement, a pop up yoga studio in Marquette, currently teaching at The Strength Collective, New Attitudes Dance Studios, and virtually as well.

She has 23 years of dance experience and 12 years of teaching experience in various forms of dance. In her collegiate years, Gabrielle assisted Jill Grundstrom on various projects including "Scrooge," (2016) "The Addams Family," (2017) as well as dance on film for the up and coming film, "Our State Fair" (2017). In her time at NMU, Gabrielle was also the President of NMU Hip Hop Dance Crew, where they competed in the Red Bull Dance Bracket Reel Challenge, as well as taking first place in the Team Champion Dance Competition in Minneapolis (2016-2017).

Gabrielle is happy to be back with us here at Dancing with Our Stars Marquette County Style, and looks forward to the upcoming season!

Murder Mystery Party

The Stars: Alyssa & Pat Digneit The Dance: Salsa The Pro: Kimber Schumann

GET READY FOR A SIZZLING SALSA PERFORMANCE, PACKED WITH DRAMA AND INTRIGUE. WILL TEAM DIGS TAKE THE STAGE TO HEAT UP THE DANCE FLOOR WHILE A THRILLING MURDER MYSTERY UNFOLDS? HOW WILL CLUES BE DROPPED TO REVEAL THE ANSWERS? KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED—THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET SPICY!





#### Alyssa & Pat Digneit

Patrick Digneit was born in California but raised in metro Detroit. Pat grew up with a love for the outdoors leading him to become an Eagle Scout and starting a summer camp for kids called Camp Valor. Pat is thankful for his parents in pushing him to explore his creative outlets, which landed him in Marquette for a state ski meet and he knew in his heart that this amazing Northern Michigan town would become his home & went on to get a degree in Hospitality Management at NMU. When Pat and his brother Bill were 18 they started a DJ company called Double Trouble Entertainment, which grew to become a staple in the Marquette Community!

Alyssa Digneit (Pilot) was raised in Spread Eagle, WI. (yes that's a real place) She grew up on a lake with a passion for water, exploring the outdoors, spending time with family and riding horses on her parents horse farm. Alyssa found her passion for the hospitality industry and cooking at her mother's restaurant, The Chuckwagon, and by cooking meals with her family. She attended NMU and also earned her degree in hospitality management.

Under the fluorescent lights in a Jacobetti classroom, Pat first laid his eyes on Alyssa as she was giving a presentation in one of her classes. Shortly after, he met her out with mutual friends where they shared their first conversation about passions in life and their shared desire to travel the world. This conversation led to a first date filled with red wine and bruschetta, marriage, LOTS of fur babies, nonstop adventure,

travelling to over 20 countries together and buying & operating DIGS in downtown Marquette. Their introvert (Alyssa) & extrovert (Pat) personalities give them a perfect dynamic to conquer all that life has to offer - never a dull moment!!!

They both enjoy donating their time and passions to support those within the Marquette community & around the world. Through utilization of Double Trouble Entertainment & DIGS they support many community and fundraising events by providing flavor, fun & wild outfits! They are looking forward to ANOTHER ROUND of Dancing with our Stars by supporting the U.P. Hospice Foundation, building new friendships, throwing unforgettable fundraisers & learning how to properly dance.... Again.

#### Kimber Schumann

Kimber is the owner of Dawn Dott Dance Studios. She purchased her childhood studio, where she danced for ten years and taught for two, from Dawn Dott in August 2007. The Marquette native attended Central Michigan University, where she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Interior Design and a minor in Industrial Engineering Technologies. While attending CMU she danced with the Orchesis Dance Company studying Modern, Jazz, Tap, Clogging, Stomp and Lyrical. She also competed at the collegiate level with this group.

After graduation she married her love, Bill, and they moved to Milwaukee where she worked for a large architectural firm designing hospitals, schools and assisted living facilities. They also lived in Holland, MI for a short time where Kimber worked with a design firm that gave McDonald's their new "cafe look". They moved to Ann Arbor, MI where Kimber got back to designing hospitals, in fact she was the interior designer for Bell Hospital, right here in Ishpeming.

When Kimber got the opportunity to move home and purchase her childhood dance studio and she took it without looking back! Like a lot of Marquette natives, she wanted to raise her son, Grady here. Kimber is now 1 of 13 teachers that teach classes in Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Ballet, Musical Theatre, Pom Pom, Modern, Kindergarten Combo, Tots and Competition classes. What she loves the most about owning the studio is building relationships with her students and their families and watching them gain confidence through dance.

Kimber is honored to be part of this amazing event!



Our Hosts



#### Faye Elder

Faye has enjoyed an extensive career primarily in Southern California in professional entertainment. As an actress, vocalist, comedian, and stunt person, she has performed with the Industry's finest. Known regionally for her past "Mrs. Consumer" radio and television commercials, she also continues as the annual host of our wildly successful "Dancing with our Stars Marquette County Style" local fundraiser since the beginning. Faye appeared this past year in local Theater productions; Scrooge and The Full Monty with Northern Michigan University Forest Roberts Theatre and The Dixie Swim Club with Lake Superior Theatre. Faye continues to lend her expertise and talents to many various media projects. She loves her hometown of Marquette and always knew she would go into semiretirement here. She is delighted to "Hit the stage now and then."

#### Rob Shirlin

Rob Shirlin has traveled the country performing onstage, backstage, teaching and sharing his love of theater wherever he can. He has performed onstage from Texas to the Carolinas, Weidner Center to the Kennedy Center and many places in between. Rob works with students and adults in our community from the high schools, Lake Superior Theater and other professional productions. Rarely seen on stage anymore, you can still find his work in commercials and hear his voice promoting all this area has to offer. Rob graduated from NMU with a double major in Theater and Broadcasting. He is grateful to call Marquette his home. You can often find him at his business downtown, The Edge of Reality, where he shares the world of virtual reality with gamers, Hospice patients, medical patients, Veterans, Scouts, students and anyone with a curious nature. He is proud to have been with "Dancing With Our Stars Marquette County Style" since the beginning and believes that we can all find ways to give back to the people that call this place home.



JUDGES SCORE ON A SCALE OF 1-10 ON THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS OF EACH DANCE: Presentation, Use of Dance Floor, Audience Engagement, Dance Ability/Technique, Chemistry Together.

Each couple can get a maximum score of 150 points each night.

Our Judges



#### Maureen McFadden Assistant Director of Dance

Maureen McFadden has been teaching dance for over 20 years, She graduated with a minor in dance from Northern Michigan University. Maureen founded Upper Peninsula Dance Outreach and has also been a dance pro for our local Marquette County Dancing with Our Stars for the past 8 years. She is currently the Senior Services Manager for the City of Marquette.



#### **Doug Garrison**

Doug is a local media personality who has hosted television programs including The Doug Garrison Show and Doug Garrison's New Year's Eve LIVE. He is currently the publisher of Word on the Street, a weekly blog about things of interest in Marquette County. His media experience has given him the opportunity to discover and feature many different area artists including singers, musicians...and dancers! Doug was one of our original judges and is excited to be brought back for the All-Star Edition.



#### Don Ryan

Don Ryan is a lifetime Yooper whose experience includes working in radio and television, government and private industry. His early career in broadcasting included serving as news, sports and weather reporter at WLUC-TV in Marquette. While there, he was also promoted to management positions including Operations Manager and Station Manager.

In 1975, Don was appointed District Representative for Congressman Phil Ruppe, and he joined the staff of The Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company in 1977 and was promoted to District Manager of Public Affairs in 1982.

He returned to WLUV-TV in 2003 as the Host and Producer of The Ryan Report, and continues to work today as a member of the TV6 News Department.

Ryan's interest in economic development included serving in leadership positions with the Lake Superior Community Partnership, Operation Action UP, the Lake Superior Jobs Coalition, the Ishpeming Chamber of Commerce and the Central Upper Peninsula Job Force Board.

In 2019, WLUC-TV6 & FOX UP named him as the first recipient of the Carl V. Pellonpaa Lifetime Achievement Award because of his dedication to area businesses and the community.

While not involved with dancing, Don has always had an interest in show business, producing some entertainment specials for TV6, and serving as part of Ishpeming's Allegro singing group where he was their master of ceremonies and writer and performer in some of their special productions.

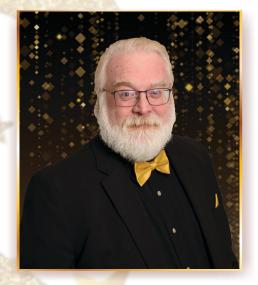


#### Jill Grundstrom Director of Dance

Jill Grundstrom is Artistic Director, Assistant Department Head, and an Assistant Professor in Northern Michigan University's Department of Theatre and Dance. She holds a B.S. from NMU in Secondary Education with majors in English and French, an M.A. in Dance Education from New York University, and an Ed.S. from NMU in Educational Leadership. Jill is pursuing an Ed.D. in Dance Education with a concentration in Dance Science at Columbia University.

She is certified in the Luigi Jazz Technique, American Ballet Theatre's National Training Curriculum, is a Certified FLX Conditioning Specialist, and is a Hamrick Method Master Trainer. Jill has choreographed over 30 full-length musical and dance productions in New York City, Los Angeles, Italy, and the Upper Peninsula, including a full-length, original ballet, East of the Sun, West of the Moon (NMU). She also choreographed an independent feature-length film, Our State Fair. She has previously worked with Superior Arts Youth Theatre, the National Dance Education Organization, American Ballet Theatre, and Fox's So You Think You Can Dance.

Backstage Team



#### Rusty Bowers Stage Director

Having appeared in a variety of venues in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and beyond, Rusty is an accomplished actor and singer. His credits include Outdoor Dramas, World Premiere performances, appearing at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., regional television commercials and performing for a number of years for the Walt Disney Corporation. Some of Rusty's favorite roles include: Tevve in Fiddler on the Roof. Sancho Panza in Man of LaMancha, Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol, and Captain Petroff in Beacon on the Rock. When not performing on stage, Rusty can be found backstage. He has technical credits for Sound Design, Lighting, Make-up Design & Application and Stage Management. He is a founding member of the Lake Superior Theatre board and a past board member of the First Nighters Club for the Forest Roberts Theatre at NMU and also former Chair of the Arts and Culture Committee for the City Commission of Marquette. Presently he is President of the Peninsula Arts Appreciation Council for the Vista Theater in Negaunee. He is an avid vinyl and comic book collector. He also has an incredible knack for music trivia. He is the owner of his own business, Rusty Bowers Entertainment, a Studio Production facility and Professional Mobile DJ Service. Rusty is a graduate of NMU's Communication and Performance Studies Department.



#### Stephanie Jones Backstage Handler

Although you have seen Stephanie Jones in front of the camera on TV6 talking real estate, she started backstage with Trisha Signs' ballet school in the 70s and has been backstage ever since. From dinner theater productions to pageants, fashion shows, to fundraisers, she has been backstage for it all. And we/she is just delighted to be with Dancing with Our Stars since the beginning of this fabulous event to support Hospice!



#### Jessica Mariin Hair and Makeup

Jessica Mariin, founder of Fresh Coast Beauty, is one of Michigan's top professional hair and makeup artists. Trained at Northern Michigan University and Renaissance Academy of Beauty, she also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from NMU. Jessica and her team specialize in modern wedding makeup and hair styling. She provides full salon services at her studio, specializing in dimensional color and extensions. Jessica has also created her own makeup line, showcasing her passion for enhancing natural beauty. Her work has been published nationally and has been featured on TV6 & FOXUP, including Halloween hair and makeup for the Early News Team for the past four years. This is her second year providing hair and makeup for Dancing With Our Stars. Jessica is proud to support the Hospice foundation, valuing its positive impact on the community businesses and the community.

Production Team



#### Andy Ferns Videographer

Andy Ferns is excited to be supporting the UP Hospice Foundation by sponsoring Dancing with our Stars (DWOS). Andy's role involves creating the dancers' introduction videos that play right before they hit the stage.

As owner of Superior Design, he generously prints and donates banners, signs, and stickers to help make this event a success. DWOS and his business were created mere months apart in 2013. It's kismet to have Superior Design as a sponsor since the beginning.

In his free time he likes to cook delicious meals with his wife Brooke, and play disc golf with his friends. He has two dogs, Pippa and Frieddie. He plays for Superior Design in the Negaunee Hockey League, and is part of the Yoopers United hockey team.

"Supporting Hospice has grown more and more meaningful to me over the years. The people I've met along the way are inspiring, and I'm truly honored to contribute to such a wonderful cause. I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in making this event successful."

#### Daniele Carol Director of Photography

Daniele Carol Co. has been a Marquette staple for over 10 years now. In 2017 the studio owner purchased a sweet piece of Marquette real estate, landing them on 3rd Street in Marquette. Their business model proudly supports the art of printing your images for longevity and history preservation. The studio started out with weddings and in the following years, it has grown to include newborns, families, and branding commercial work for local businesses. Due to the studio's amazing quality and outstanding service, it has won the Mining Journal's Reader Choice award for best local photographer for the last four consecutive years. Daniele studied at Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara California and then relocated to Michigan in 2004. She currently resides in Negaunee with her three children, Miriam, Silas, and baby Asher. She has been a continued proud supporter for the "Dancing with our Stars Marquette County Style" event for the past nine years and is the Director of Photography for the event. She believes her talent is a great way to give back to the community and support local friends and their journeys as they participate in this event.

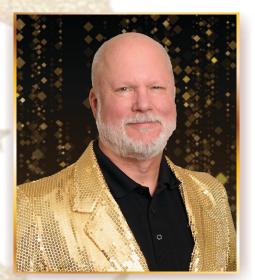




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Thank you to Marie Peasley and First Position Creative for the design and creation of the DWOS Website and Program.

DWOS Coordinators



Dave Aro Foundation Executive Director

Dave has been the Executive Director of the UPHF since April of 2013 in a volunteer capacity as well as working off and on for UP Home Health & Hospice since 1990, currently consulting in business development and outreach. Prior to overseeing the UPHF, Dave oversaw the Bell Foundation for a number of years, including the final stages of a \$7.2 million campaign to build the new Bell Hospital in 2008. Dave received training from the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy at their Madison Institute, which focused on efficient, effective health related foundation management. Other volunteer work includes being the founder of UP Children's Therapy, which focuses on health and safety for kids, and the Suicide Survivors Fund, which supports families left behind after suicide. Dave's paying work includes being a partner and General Manager of Superior Rehabilitation and Professional Services and the Active Physical Therapy clinic in Ishpeming. Dave lives in Marquette with wife Joy and bulldogs Henry and Lola.



#### Lindsay Hemmila Event Coordinator of Dancing with our Stars

Lindsay Hemmila has been the Event Coordinator for Dancing with our Stars Marquette County Style, motivating and getting the community pumped up, since the event's inception. She is a 1999 graduate of Negaunee High School and a 2006 graduate of Northern Michigan University with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations and Speech Communication. Lindsay began her career with U.P. Home Health & Hospice in September 2012. Prior to working with UPHHH, Lindsay was the Director of Public Relations and Marketing for Lake Superior Community Partnership where she worked for five years. Lindsay now is the Director of Sales and Marketing at Brookridge Heights Assisted Living and Memory Support.

Lindsay is a past Board Member of the Greater Ishpeming Negaunee Chamber of Commerce, 40 Below-Marquette County's Young Professionals and Steering Committee for the Evergreen Award of Marquette County. Lindsay has an extreme love for fundraising and it shows as she expresses such passion for the event...it's contagious!



#### Kori Bjorne Director of Community Services

Kori Bjorne has been the Director of Community Services at U.P. Home Health & Hospice since 2019. She is a 1997 graduate of Westwood High School, and she received her Bachelor of Science degree in English in 2001 and her Master of Arts Degree in English in 2003, both from Northern Michigan University. Kori has spent her career working in various nonprofits including Finlandia University, Bell Hospital, the Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter.

Kori currently serves on the board of the West End Health Foundation as secretary, The Evergreen Award of Marquette County as chair, the TruNorth Federal Credit Union Board of Directors, and is a member of the Zonta Club of the Marquette Area. She is excited to work with the great team behind Dancing with our Stars-Marquette County Style!

Your Generosity Creates Meaningful Moments



Most Hospice organizations rely on the incredible generosity of donors through time, money, and compassionate support. As one of the very first three hospices to operate in the United States, U.P. Home Health & Hospice is proud to carry that legacy forward.

Over the past 50+ years, we've been uplifted by countless acts of kindness: volunteers giving their time, families donating unused medical equipment, and community members supporting our work financially. But what truly sets us apart is this: **100% of all donated funds go directly to hospice patients and their families.** Not a single dollar is used for administrative or overhead costs.

Our non-profit foundation is guided by a dedicated, all-volunteer Board of Directors made up of local leaders and community members. They ensure that every donation goes where it matters most—providing comfort, dignity, and care to those facing life-limiting illnesses.

In 2024 alone, our Foundation approved approximately \$60,000 in direct support to hospice families in need.

#### How Your Donation Can Make a Difference

#### 🌸 Comfort Care

Gentle massages, foot and nail care, and haircuts help our patients feel pampered and at ease in their own homes small touches that bring great relief.

#### 😿 Grief Support

Our Summer Memorial Service at Carp River Gardens allows families to release butterflies in remembrance, while our Winter Candlelight Services in Marquette and Ishpeming offer warmth and reflection during the holidays. Donations also support supplies for ongoing grief support programs.

#### - Community Education

We're passionate about shifting the narrative—Hospice is about living fully. Donations help us run our Hospice Month Education Campaign and care for the peaceful Serenity Garden near Presque Isle, offering a place of quiet reflection for all.

#### 🛏 Patient Needs

We provide essential items not covered by insurance—like medical supplies, Ensure, personal hygiene items, sensory aids, and transportation for patients who are medically fragile. Our Hospice Loan Closet and comfort items like fidget blankets or leg massagers help meet patients' unique needs with dignity.

#### î Resident Care

When caregivers need a short break, our respite care program steps in—ensuring that patients continue to receive high-quality support while loved ones recharge.

#### ϔ The Make-A-Memory Program

This heartfelt program brings joy and connection to our patients through once-in-a-lifetime moments:

- A grandmother watches her granddaughter's wedding from her bedside.
- A patient journeys to the rolling hills of Italy through virtual reality. These moments matter—and your donations make them possible.

#### Want to Help? Lets Make More Memories Together

To make a donation, please call us at 906-225-4545 or visit www.uphomehealth.org.

Every dollar you give helps someone live more fully, more comfortably, and more meaningfully—right here in our community.



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Marquette County Style with their time and talents.

## Previous Winners



2024 Mirror Ball Trophy Winners Mariel Morton and John Cappoferri



2024 Fan Favorite Rachael Grossman and Dr. Michael Grossman



2024 Congeniality Winners Samantha and Christopher Durley

"You treat a disease, you win, you lose. You treat a person, I guarantee you, you'll win, no matter what the outcome." ~Dr. Patch Adams

**Program and Artwork Created and Donated by Marie Peasley** 



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