

SEPT 2005

ShareCare Shares

HELLO! We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves to those of you who don't know us? We are the ShareCare family of Leelanau County, over 300 caring members and staff who are dedicated to serving the senior community. We have been doing this for a dozen years.

For the next year our goal is to publish this column monthly to explain our mission. If we describe our organization perhaps you will be moved to join us in our efforts. In an attempt to strengthen our membership we are seeking 100 new members and plan, with permission, to mention each new member in this column.

WHAT WE DO. We help the elderly remain independently in their homes longer by offering professional and volunteer services. A registered nurse assesses members' needs, the safety of their home, and coordinates health care as required. Our staff assists members in finding reliable caregivers, housekeepers and tradesmen. The staff also coordinates volunteer members to provide transportation to medical and other appointments, to help with shopping, household chores, delivering hot meals, and visiting shut-ins. Free medical equipment such as wheel chairs, walkers, and bath benches are available to all ShareCare members.

WHAT WE DO IT WITH.

One wonderful registered nurse – Anne Kelly
One competent Office Manager – Deb Wetherbee
Over a hundred generous member volunteers

WHY JOIN SHARECARE?

We need you
Someday you may need us
We're peace of mind to your children who may be a thousand miles away
You will feel good about helping others
You will meet a lot of great caring people

WHY JOIN NOW?

Join earlier for lower enrollment fees and annual dues
If only those in need join, there will be no volunteers, no staff, no ShareCare
It takes the senior community joining together to support this unique, private sector care group.

AMAZING VOLUNTEERS: Volunteering is not a requirement, but it is a very important component of the organization. ShareCare's volunteers are a dedicated group of people who strive to meet other members' needs, and sometimes they do more than one thing for a member when given an assignment. Here are a couple of examples. One of our members gets her hair cut on a regular basis. Our Driver-of-the-Day takes her right up to the door at the hair salon, and while she's getting her hair cut, our driver goes to the store

and gets her groceries. In a similar situation, we had a member who was feeling too poorly to get herself to the doctor. A volunteer from her area picked her up, took her to the doctor, and then got groceries for her.

Hopefully from our columns, you'll see that ShareCare is an amazing organization that welcomes your involvement at any level. If you would like more information about ShareCare call Deb Wetherbee at 231-386-0028 or 231-386-2273(CARE), or visit our web page at www.sharecareleelanau.org. Our office is located in the lower level of Leelanau Memorial Health Center—we'd love to have you stop in! **ShareCare thanks board member and volunteer, John/Jane Doe, for sponsoring this month's column.**

SHARECARE NEWS COLUMN FOR OCTOBER 2005 2nd DRAFT

HELLO AGAIN from the ShareCare family of Leelanau County. Last month we gave you some basic facts about our organization. Today we focus on stirring your interest enough to call us or to ask one of our members about us.

SHARECARE'S GOAL is "to promote independence and well being for the elderly, enabling them to stay longer in their homes for as long as possible". We monitor their conditions, arrange transportation, and provide other basic services such as friendly visitors, handymen, and respite caregivers. We do all of this with a registered nurse, an office coordinator and over 150 terrific volunteers.

SPEAKING OF TERRIFIC VOLUNTEERS, Board member Jay Littell, who also acts as a volunteer driver-of-the-day and office helper, organized ShareCare's October 15th fall clean-up day to help get their yards ready for winter.

STAYING HOME LONGER has emotional and possibly financial advantages for the elderly. Folks love their own surroundings and privacy, and moving to a retirement home may be a challenge. Costs in the range of \$5000 per month are not unusual, so staying in one's home for, say, even another year is important. Someday the change may be necessary, but until then ShareCare can help.

HEALTH FUTURES. Would that we could predict our senior years. One ShareCare couple, in their vigorous sixties, learned that the husband was a cancer victim. Now, in spite of two years of the finest medical care, he is gone. During that difficult time, ShareCare was able to give comfort and help to him and his spouse. Now she is a dedicated ShareCare supporter.

PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATION. There are several local agencies supporting seniors and we need them all. ShareCare as a non-governmental, non-profit, member-funded, volunteer-driven, small-staff organization, immune to the exigencies of public sector funding is unique. As a 501-C-3 organization, those who are inclined are able to give tax-exempt donations.

NEW MEMBERS

- Ms. Catherine Caraher, Northport
- Ms. Susanna Linburg, Northport
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Waldron, Suttons Bay

FINALLY, we hope that we have stirred your interest enough for you to call us or talk to a ShareCare member. Any of our members will eagerly explain our merits. If you would like more information about ShareCare call Deb Wetherbee at 231-386-0028 or 231-386-2273(CARE), or visit our web page at www.sharecareleelanau.org. Our office is located in the lower level of Tendercare-Leelanau Memorial Health Center—we'd love to have you stop in! Watch for our column in November. **ShareCare thanks Gilbert and Annette Deibel for sponsoring this month's column.**

ShareCare Cares-2nd Draft (Nov 05)

SENIOR CITIZENS, specifically, people over 65, number about 5000 in Leelanau County. The genius of ShareCare is that it creates an interactive, caring community that recognizes the needs of its elderly members as they progress through their retirement years. This is not an easy task, but many dedicated persons have worked to build and shape this terrific organization. Volunteers help everyday to continue this effort. So let us talk about some of these efforts.

VOLUNTEERS, about 150 of them, are organized into regions with the boundaries set by the four school districts of Leelanau County. Each area has at least two captains who arrange schedules for driving and other needs of our elderly members. The Driver-of-the-Day program, widely used by members, has volunteer drivers who stand by on their chosen day, and when a member calls the office for a ride, the volunteer is contacted with the request to drive. By the time the drive is complete, often a new friendship is made. Stories abound of the joys from these meetings, finding common interests in music, books or careers. This, in part, is what we mean by the genius of ShareCare.

CIRCLE OF CARE, started by dedicated volunteer Bev Almquist, is a new service ShareCare offers. It addresses those seniors who may live alone and go day after day without seeing anyone. Bev and her Circle arrange for daily phone calls to these members to make sure that all is well. How reassuring to them and their families that this cost-free service is available. Maybe it's not genius, but it sure is a good idea.

MERRY MARKETPLACE, an annual one-day market in the Old Art Building in Leland, uses volunteers in a different way. Knowing that fundraising is a necessity, ShareCare volunteers not only staff the booth, but also kindly provide the handcrafted items for sale at the Marketplace. Stop by the Old Art Building in Leland for some holiday shopping (candy, jewelry, clothing, woodcraft, seasonal items, etc.) on Saturday, December 3rd. Also, orders are being taken for Cermak's famous frozen, homemade apple pies. Call the office (386-0028) to reserve one for the holidays.

NOW YOU SEE how the genius in ShareCare lies, in large part, on its members who volunteer to help with the services we offer. You can enrich your retirement by joining a great group of people who feel good about helping others. This sharing in caring builds community relationships far and above the casual level.

WE HOPE that we have stirred your interest enough for you to call us or talk to a ShareCare member. If you would like more information about joining ShareCare call Deb Wetherbee at 231-386-0028 or 231-386-2273(CARE), or visit our web page at www.sharecareleelanau.org. Our office is located in the lower level of Tendercare-Leelanau Memorial Health Center—we'd love to have you stop in! Watch for our column in December. **ShareCare thanks Judith and Clifford Egeler for sponsoring this month's column.**

SHARECARE NEWS COLUMN FOR DECEMBER 2005—2nd Draft

HOLIDAYS for the elderly can be lonely, but for certain, being in one's own home this time of year, is comforting. Family and friends can visit and help amid familiar surroundings. ShareCare's number one purpose is to enable the elderly to stay in their own homes as long as possible and to monitor their needs and to help with friendly volunteers or in finding qualified help.

MEDICARE PART D PRESCRIPTION has been in the news for the past months and many are confused about what to do. Volunteer Tom Evans arranged for two briefings this month by a government official, one in Omena and another in Empire. About fifteen people attended each briefing and were aided by ShareCare volunteers Dr. Jim Fenton and Barb Coye. Since many issues are involved, including whether or not a plan is needed, seniors should be cautious when choosing a plan. Also note that while the program starts January first, you have until May 15, 2006 to join without possible penalty.

VOLUNTEERS are the backbone of ShareCare. For those who are blessed with the need to lend a hand to their fellow man, we offer you the perfect opportunity to help others. ShareCare lets you get involved with a time commitment that best suits your needs, and as a bonus you get to know some dedicated people in one of the county's most respected organizations. Whether driving fellow members once a month, helping with minor home chores, or delivering a meal, you decide when and how to make a difference in serving the elderly, and our staff will make the arrangements.

WHAT DOES IT COST? ShareCare maintains a minimum staff of two: an office manager and an experienced registered nurse in the Leelanau Memorial (Tendercare) facilities in Northport. As a private sector 501C3 organization, funding comes from tax-deductible enrollment fees, annual dues and donations. Our fee schedule shows that the earlier you join the lower your costs. It's interesting to note that in most cases **YOUR ENTIRE LIFETIME COST OF BELONGING TO SHARECARE WILL BE LESS THAN THE COST OF YOUR FIRST MONTH IN A RETIREMENT HOME.** When you need us, perhaps after several years as a volunteer, we will be there to return the favor of helping you to stay in your home as long as you wish. By then we will be great friends.

FINALLY, we hope that we have stirred your interest enough for you to call us or talk to a ShareCare member. Any of our members will gladly explain our merits. If you would like more information about ShareCare call Deb Wetherbee at 231-386-0028, or visit our web page at www.sharecareleelanau.org. Our office is located in the lower level of Tendercare-Leelanau Memorial Health Center—we'd love to have you stop in! Watch for our column in January. **ShareCare thanks Georgiana and James Fenton, MD for generously sponsoring this month's column.**

BECAUSE SHARECARE JUST MAKES SENSE

Many people have memories of suffering through the exasperating experiences of moving to a new home. Often, the move is exciting, but a lot of times the decision can be traumatic. Then there's the sorting, the packing, the storing, and knowing a move away from dear friends, a favorite church and a familiar community is eminent.

Imagine though, not having the option to stay or move... Circumstances change rapidly, and a desire to live independently may be out weighed by health issues, accidents, or family crises. One may unexpectedly be forced to seek alternate senior housing, and few people actually plan for such a situation. Decisions made hastily and under the pressure of events too often become inappropriate for the long term. That is why a thoughtful decision to join ShareCare can provide peace of mind and allow seniors who live in Leelanau County the opportunity to remain in their familiar surroundings as they age. It's a comfort to know that needs will be affordably met and professionally managed.

Participating seniors enjoy a unique program designed and implemented by the retirees themselves. Although not required, many choose to play an active role in making the program successful by volunteering to serve on the Board, or by providing services such as transportation, hot meals, minor repairs, respite care and friendly visits to less active neighboring members. The camaraderie ShareCare members' share through participation adds to the quality of life.

Many people join ShareCare early in their retirement years because they see the long-term value of the program and want to help while they continue to remain active in their community. Also, since the initial charge and annual dues are based on age at the time one joins, the sooner they sign up, the lower their dues remain throughout the rest of their membership years.

Each new member receives an in-home assessment by ShareCare's RN, Anne Kelly, to record important health information and wishes should a health-related situation occur. Also available are free professional care planning, coordination and advocacy, monitoring by home visits, family consultations and free loaner medical equipment. Lastly, ShareCare maintains a list of qualified independent contractors for home repairs and maintenance, as well as carefully screened personal caregivers.

When all of these services are combined, it makes the approach to comprehensive assisted-living in your home as economical as possible. ShareCare has made sense to hundreds of families in Leelanau County for over 12 years, and its affordable membership and annual dues are fully tax deductible!

If you have questions or would like more information, take a minute to call to the office and talk to Deb Wetherbee (231-386-0028), or visit our web page at www.sharecareleelanau.org. Our office is located in the lower level of Tendercare-Leelanau Memorial Health Center—we'd love to have you stop in! Watch for our column in April. **ShareCare thanks Alison and Conrad Heins and Sally Booth for generously sponsoring this month's column.**

THE ROYAL BANQUET, ShareCare's annual Valentine's Day celebration, was attended by over 80 members and friends at King's Challenge Steak Haus. It was a joyful occasion with a great meal provided by Pete Bardenhagen and his staff. President Judy Egeler presided over an applause filled program of events that honored faithful and hard-working members. The coveted Gordon Robertson Award was presented to Kalin Johnson for his invaluable service as vice president, board member, and active volunteer. Mac Thomas, Janice Ball Fisher and Chuck Ballance were proclaimed Kings and Queens for the honorable distinction of turning 90 years old. Then in a royal procession arranged by Maryellen Hadjisky's committee, past presidents Barb Coye, Gordon Robertson (represented by his wife, Paula), Ray Heine, Ginny Willard, John Cermak and incumbent Judy Egeler were honored. Thanks to all who made this such a successful event.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME could be ShareCare's motto. Its goal is to help elders stay in their own homes as long as possible. In subsequent columns we will discuss this very important issue. Take a look at some facts from a recent New York Times article about a Boston-based program similar to ShareCare:

- More than 80 percent of the nation's elderly wish to remain in their homes as they confront advancing age.
- Community-based models for "aging in place" are the wave of the future, an alternative to nursing homes and assisted living centers.
- Elders want to remain at home even after transportation and household chores become difficult and dangerous.
- Many want to avoid dependence on adult children.

SHARECARE, A COMMUNITY-BASED private sector nonprofit organization, assesses the needs of its members and arranges, with professional help, for the regular and coordinated support that allows elders to remain in their homes. New members get a visit in their own home from our registered nurse, Anne Kelly, to record important health information and wishes should a health-related situation occur. Other services include:

- Professional care planning, coordination and advocacy
- Monitoring by home visits and family consultations
- Free loaner medical equipment
- Lists of qualified independent contractors for home repairs and maintenance
- Lists of carefully screened caregivers.

IN ADDITION, about 150 volunteers provide transportation to medical appointments, shopping, hair appointments and the like. The result of all this is economical and comprehensive assisted living in your own home. Our affordable membership and annual dues are fully tax deductible. Your lifetime cost for all of these services from ShareCare will be less than your first month in a typical retirement home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION please call Deb Wetherbee (231-386-0028) or visit our web page at www.sharecareleelanau.org. Our office is located in the lower level of Leelanau Memorial Health Center-Tendercare please stop in! Watch for our column in March and April. **ShareCare thanks Board secretary Alison Heins and Conrad for generously sponsoring this month's column.** If you wish to sponsor a future column, call Deb.

This one came out
16” and cost \$112!

ShareCare

HELLO AGAIN to all of you from the ShareCare family of Leelanau County, pioneers in community-based assistance to the elderly. We have been at it for over 12 years and we are the local experts in helping the elderly to stay in their homes as long as feasible. We have heard of similar organizations around the country, but not many have been at it as long as we have. A talented group of retirees founded this entity—doctors, nurses, ministers, and business people, probably your neighbors. Who better to understand the issues of growing old in Leelanau County?

AS A LOCAL RETIREE PUT IT, it is time to get on with the day’s inactivity. With all joking aside, it seems that growing old is not for the meek of heart and presents many challenges—some good and some not so good: keeping busy, enjoying life, controlling pain, surgical needs, pharmacy costs, transportation, family crisis, and sometimes just getting the right food or sleep.

SHARECARE’S GOAL is to help the elderly with many of these needs in an economical and coordinated manner that allows them to stay in their own homes. Last month we told you that 80 percent of American elders want to “age in place”, that is in their own homes. Our mission is to help them do that with these actions:

- Monitoring your health issues and needs by home visits and family consultations from our registered nurse, Anne Kelly
- Providing services by our 130+ volunteers, such as transportation to appointments, friendly visits, and light handy work
- Recommending screened caregivers
- Providing free medical equipment
- Suggesting qualified contractors for home repairs and maintenance

SOMETIMES RELOCATING IS PAINFUL. Do you remember how hard it was to move to a new home? Now in our older age the thought of moving is something we prefer to avoid, especially to the uncertainties of a group setting. Someday this may be required, but until then, ShareCare can help. There is a joining fee and annual dues, but the lifetime sum of these we expect to be less than your first month in a typical retirement home. So take our offer to postpone that next move for as long as possible. If you are inclined, join early for better rates and help us as a volunteer. You will find yourself among some very fine people!

SHARECARE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS: Carol Bawden and Scott Craig (Leland), Buff Witteveen (Suttons Bay), Alexandra and Robert Jackman (Suttons Bay), Dorothea and Robert Pitcher (Leland), Penelope and David Gordon (Suttons Bay).

FOR MORE INFORMATION please call Deb Wetherbee (231-386-0028) or visit our web page at www.sharecareleelanau.org. The ShareCare office is located in the lower level of Leelanau Memorial Health Center-Tendercare—please stop in! **ShareCare thanks Jay Littell of Leland for graciously sponsoring this month’s column.**

April Enterprise Column

ShareCare

—LOGO—

SHARECARE, a Leelanau County organization that helps seniors remain independently in their homes for as long as possible, has many upcoming events. Hopefully our presence in your neighborhood will encourage you to join this great organization.

- May 9: Annual Meeting at the Leland Lodge. Registration and coffee, 10:30 to 11:00. Guest speaker, Michael McCarthy of Parkside Management will talk about the planned assisted living complex on the former Leelanau Memorial Hospital site. Lunch to follow at noon.
- May 10: Business Expo at the Strongheart Center in Peshawbestown
- May 26 & 27: Bake sale with the Conservancy on the Village Green in Leland.
- June 20: Senior Expo at the Suttons Bay High School.
- August 17: 2nd Annual Golf Outing, sponsored by the Homestead.

Please call the office (231-386-0028) for information on any of these activities.

IN RECENT COLUMNS we've talked about the great services we provide to our members. Now we'd like to take this opportunity to recognize two local businesses that help us meet our members' needs. **The Homestead** has held several outings, with the proceeds benefiting ShareCare. Anne Kelly, ShareCare's RN, makes around 30 home visits a month. **Van's Garage** of Leland donates gas to help defray the cost of mileage. We'd like to offer our thanks for their support.

LIKEWISE, we rely on the support of our volunteers. While their volunteerism is important to our success, they tend to enjoy their experience. Volunteer Gayle Harlow said, "I enjoy the feeling of being able to contribute, by helping people get to doctor appointments, or simply by assisting them to run the occasional errand that needs to get done. It makes me feel good."

SHARECARE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS Evelyn Mater (Elmwood), Gaytha McVay (Lake Leelanau) and Ellen and Robert Pisor (Leland). We'd love to have you join us too!

FOR MORE INFORMATION visit our office on the lower level of the Care Facility in Northport, call Deb Wetherbee at 231-386-0028, or go to www.sharecareleelanau.org.

ShareCare

Logo

“THERE’S ALWAYS something to be done”. When you live alone, own and love a home, and you want to stay there as long as you possibly can, those are words that are often spoken. If you belong to ShareCare, those words are heard, and ShareCare volunteers spring into action! The “working volunteers” for ShareCare have done everything for members from fixing leaking showers to moving furniture, to putting down rugs, to cutting down trees and fixing the railing that the tree fell on (not as a result of the cutting!) Volunteers help ShareCare members anytime during the year.

JOAN BUCHMAN, a recipient of ShareCare’s benevolence says, “It’s so wonderful that ShareCare volunteers are willing to do all the little things that I cannot do. It’s so hard to find people to do little things”. Joan is hoping that volunteers can caulk a gap in her crawl space through which cold air is getting into her house. Mary Russell thanks all the “generous and willing people” who have helped her over the years. She has had her dog walked, her garden weeded, her yard raked and trimmed, and even a porch step replaced!

A SPECIAL SPRING CLEAN UP DAY is planned for Friday, June 23. On that day, a legion of volunteers is available to help members in their gardens, rake or trim yards, set up the porch, and generally get things tidied up for summer. Helen Huey, who calls ShareCare “the most wonderful, unusual organization in the world”, is having her porch furniture put into place this weekend.

IF YOU HAVE “FIXER-UPPER” TALENTS and are interested in helping others, or are bemoaning the fact that your house gets ahead of you, think about joining ShareCare! ShareCare will not only help you take care of your health, it will keep you close to your own hearth!

SHARECARE WELCOMES Maryann Barrell (Leland) and Janet Slater (Lake Leelanau).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, call Deb Wetherbee at 231-386-0028, or go to www.sharecareleelanau.org. Jay Littell of Leland graciously sponsors this month’s article.

ShareCare



“WE COULDN’T GET ALONG WITHOUT THEM,” is the unanimous response from members who have caregivers monitored by ShareCare. “I am thrilled that ShareCare does such a great job of locating and screening caregivers”, said George Basta, who has had the pleasure of the company of several ShareCare-sanctioned caregivers. “Kerry and Nancy are tremendous and indispensable; they do everything for me!” Barb Wisniewski responded.

FINDING CAREGIVERS is probably one of the most important services that ShareCare can do for its members. Sometimes members only need help for a week or two when they return home from surgery or a stay in the hospital. Occasionally, members need caregivers for a parent or spouse while they are “up north” for the summer. Often, caregivers are hired for an extended period of time; either as the sole caretaker for a member who lives alone and needs daily help, or as a respite care person for a spouse who needs some free time.

“I JUST CALLED SHARECARE and told them what I needed and they found people to fill all the times that I required help”, said Barb. George stated, “I’m amazed that my caregivers are so willing to do things, like laundry and cooking. They are just great people!” “Their extra help makes all the difference. My husband can now get out and play golf and play in his band,” said Lauren Gilbreath.

SHARECARE’S STAFF, Anne Kelly, RN and Deb Wetherbee work with knowledgeable Board members to interview and screen potential caregivers. Then Anne and Deb place caregivers in members’ homes and stay in touch, to make sure that everything remains harmonious. “I plan to keep my caregivers ad infinitum”, said Barb. That is a pretty good testimonial!

SHARECARE WELCOMES Janet Slater (Lake Leelanau) and Maryann Barrell (Leland).

FOR MORE INFORMATION visit our office on the lower level of the Care Facility in Northport, call Deb Wetherbee at 231-386-0028, or go to www.sharecareleelanau.org. Mr. and Mrs. John Scott graciously sponsored this month’s article.

ShareCare



MANY OF US ARE TRANSPLANTS to beautiful Leelanau County, which offers us the opportunity to become a member of ShareCare. We are blessed to have this very unusual “sharing, caring” organization available to us as we age.

A MEMBER OF THE SHARECARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS recently had the opportunity to spend a day with Anne Kelly, ShareCare’s nurse and case manager as she made scheduled home visits. It was a delight for the Board member to observe Anne’s case management talents and her friendly manner with each individual (and in two cases, their caregivers and pets). All members offered a welcome into their home, and it was touching to see the pleasure and pride that these members had in their ability to remain in their beloved homes in spite of their frail health status.

SHARECARE ENCOURAGES PEOPLE to join when they are independent. This offers them the opportunity to share their time and talents with those members who are experiencing decreasing independence. Members may find themselves driving a fellow member to appointments or shopping; providing companionship to a shut in; helping with seasonal home clean-up or minor household projects; or providing occasional meals to a member who recently returned home from a stay in the hospital. Borrowing medical equipment and attending scheduled social and educational events are included in the membership fee and dues.

A MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES access to a list of paid services, such as caregivers, snow removal, plumbers, and electricians that ShareCare has evaluated for their reliability and reputation. Health care case management by our nursing staff is available to each member.

SHARECARE WELCOMES new members Sally Neal, Jim and Pat Ganter, and John and Josephine McCormick.

FOR MORE INFORMATION visit our office on the lower level of the Care Facility in Northport, call Deb Wetherbee at 231-386-0028, or go to www.sharecareleelanau.org. Claudia Goudschaal graciously sponsors this month’s article.

ShareCare



RECOMMENDING CAREGIVERS for its members is one of the most important roles that ShareCare may play in a member's life. A recent column discussed how members who are receiving care-giving support admire their caregivers. But those who do the giving say that their rewards are equally great.

“THIS HAS BEEN A BLESSING IN MY LIFE,” stated Patti Anderson, a ShareCare caregiver. “You get back one hundred fold what you give, and I have met some of the nicest, kindest people, who have great stories to share.”

MARY DIETRICH, A SHARECARE NURSE and caregiver said, “The people themselves are the reward that I get back.” Mary pointed out that she has a knowledge base that families might not have, and added, “It is magic to see the changes in people as I am there. It may take some time, but they allow a stranger to provide comfort and help”.

“WE BECOME PART OF THE FAMILY,” said Joie Christiansen, who works four days a week for a ShareCare family. “We are doing what generations before us have always done; taking care of our sick and elderly.”

PRIMARY CAREGIVERS, typically a spouse, have an overwhelming job to do, and need a break from the daily routine. It is imperative that they get some time to leave and relax, so they can give quality support to their loved one.” For Anne Kelly and Deb Wetherbee, the ShareCare Nurse and Office Administrator, managing caregiver services is a major commitment; a job they take seriously.

PATTI SUMMED IT UP when she said, “ShareCare is my backup system.” “They have done all the background work and are there to solve problems, if there are any. It is extremely comforting to all those involved that ShareCare is there.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION call the ShareCare office at 231-386-2273 or go to www.sharecareleelanau.org. Adele and John Cermak graciously sponsor this month's article.