

Gabby's Ladder, Inc.

Board of Directors

P.O. Box 2107

Monroe, MI 48161

(734) 242-8773

Renee Darrow, President

Mrs. Darrow is a Registered Nurse who actively supports programs for children and adults. She currently serves as the School Board Chair for St. Mary Catholic Central High School. She is also involved in the University of Michigan Transplant Department.

Laurie Berry, Secretary

Mrs. Berry is proprietor of Monroe Home Care Shoppe, Inc. She is a provider of home care items and actively supports programs for families dealing with loss.

Kira Kline, Board Member

Mrs. Kline is a residential designer who lives in Temperance, Michigan. She extends herself to supporting any volunteer activities, and is excited to help expand Gabby's Ladder to the southern county of Monroe.

Bill Bacarella, Board Member

Mr. Bacarella is the owner of Bacarella Funeral Home in Monroe, Michigan. He currently serves on the Mercy Memorial Hospital Patient Ethics Committee and The Mercy Memorial Hospice of Monroe Advisory Board.

Barb Mazur, Board Member

Mrs. Mazur is a L.P.N. and is the Executive Director of the Frenchtown Senior Center. She does community service for Lake Erie Transit Commission, Frenchtown Charter Township Recreation Commission, and Monroe Aging Consortium.

Sara Waldecker, Board Member

Ms. Waldecker is a Certified Executive Chef currently employed at Monroe Housing Commission as the Resident Services Coordinator. She serves on several community organizational boards including Monroe County Community College Culinary Board.

Susan Vanisacker, Board Member

Mrs. Vanisacker is the Director of Organizational Effectiveness & Community Relations at La-Z-Boy, Inc. She is an Executive Board Member of The Monroe Family YMCA and the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce.

Kaye Lani Rafko-Wilson, Executive Director

Mrs. Wilson is the Executive Director for Gabby's Ladder and a non-voting member of the Board. She is a professional nurse and was crowned Miss America 1988. Her platform as Miss Michigan and Miss America was Hospice and Family Grief Support. She is a public speaker and continues to promote the need for these services on national speaking tours.

Honorary Board Members ~

Jan Baden, Co-Founder/Past Executive Director

Mrs. Baden is Co-Founder of Gabby's Ladder. She was a licensed professional counselor and professional nurse and certified in trauma and loss with over 20 years of experience in bereavement counseling. She touched many throughout the Monroe County area and continued providing grief support until her death July 2010. We treasure her gifts and will miss her dearly.

The Honorable Joseph A. Costello, Jr.

Judge Joseph Costello is a judge of the 38th Circuit Court in Michigan. He is a strong advocate for children and families throughout Monroe County.

The Reverend Dr. Ellen McGormley

Reverend Dr. McGormley was co-pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Monroe before retiring with her husband. She was a committed pastoral supporter of Gabby's Ladder.

Ellie Mruzek, Co-Founder

Mrs. Mruzek is a professional nurse and author. She is the Co-Founder of Gabby's Ladder and creator of the image of Gabby. She is certified as a trauma and loss facilitator.

Jeff Rupp

Mr. Rupp is the owner of Rupp Funeral Home. He has been a dedicated volunteer since the beginning of Gabby's Ladder and provides assistance with the funeral session in our Family Grief Recovery Workshops.

David Taylor

Mr. Taylor was the Superintendent of Monroe Public Schools for 19 years before his retirement in 2010. He is a dedicated educational leader who values the grief support services of Gabby's Ladder for students and their families.

**Board meets bi-monthly, on the 4th Thursday of the following months:
January, March, May, July, September and November at
Gabby's Ladder 431 E. Elm Ave., Monroe, MI 48162
5:30 p.m.**