

BETH SANDON-KLEIBOER

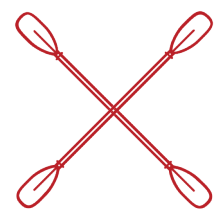
When I began my work as the Nurse Manager of the Hemophilia Program at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in the mid-1990s, the 340B Factor Programs were just beginning to take shape. Cascade Hemophilia Consortium quickly emerged as a model for those of us in Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTCs) across the region as we developed our own programs. Bill Sparrow, the founder and Executive Director of Cascade, became both my mentor and my friend.

Bill possessed remarkable knowledge and an extraordinary willingness to share it. He was kind, patient, and endlessly generous with his time; especially as I wrestled with understanding the complexities of this new federal program. Bill also had a wonderful sense of humor, often lightening tense moments with a witty remark or a funny cartoon.

What I did not anticipate was that, after 25 years working in the Bleeding Disorders Program, I would one day have the privilege of serving alongside Bill on the Board of Cascade Hemophilia Consortium. Through that experience, I came to appreciate even more deeply the exceptional work Cascade does for our region.

Bill was truly a gift to the Bleeding Disorders community. Through his vision and leadership, he built an outstanding organization that continues to provide vital financial support to HTCs and foundations throughout the region. His influence extended nationally—through the founding of the Hemophilia Alliance and his collaborations with leaders across the country.

Bill was a mentor, supporter, and dear friend to so many within the Bleeding Disorders community. His presence is profoundly missed, but his legacy continues to inspire us all.



AS WRITTEN IN:

"Heroes in Our Midst: Personal Stories of Courage and Achievement" (1998)

"Bill Sparrow is a modest man with a deep and sincere streak of altruism flowing through his veins. For the past 10 years, he has served the hemophilia community as president of the Michigan chapter, as a leader on the NHF Board and now as the executive director of the not-for-profit Cascade Hemophilia Consortium. Bill is a hero of the "white hat" variety; one of the good guys who looks for the most effective ways to help the community and then makes them happen. His integrity, perseverance, and dependability are a blessing to those he works with."

Jackie Campbell

Executive Director of Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan (1996-2000)



November 20, 1945 - December 28, 2025

Cascade Mission Statement

To provide a compassionate and connected care partnership for individuals with bleeding disorders – delivering accessible, affordable, high-quality care while equipping patients and their families with the knowledge and support needed to manage their health with confidence.

Cascade... A Trusted Partner in Your Circle of Care

2025 Traverwood Drive, Suite A
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

Hours: M-F 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Available for after hours emergencies

Phone: 734-996-3300
800-996-2575
Fax: 734-996-5566

www.CascadeHC.org
info@CascadeHC.org

Officers

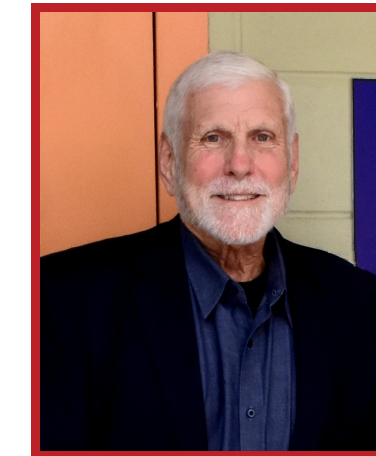
Elizabeth Sandon-Kleiboer (President)
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Bill Berk, MD (Treasurer)



March 2026

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Stephanie Raymond (CEO, Cascade)
Derek Robertson
Charity Stadler



Bill Sparrow
November 20, 1945 - December 28, 2025

This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to Bill Sparrow, founding Executive Director of Cascade Hemophilia Consortium. Sadly, Bill passed away in December, and this dedication provides an opportunity to show our love and gratitude for the crucial role he played in improving the care of people with bleeding disorders both regionally and nationally. Bill lived a remarkable life and was front and center through much of the troubling times in our community's history. He also witnessed and contributed to the periods of tremendous growth and positivity we have experienced.

Bill was the founder of Cascade but also a true pillar in the bleeding disorders community. He was a dedicated and highly respected leader—not only in our region, but also nationally. He was well-known and admired as a stalwart advocate for the community. Bill's passion, vision, compassion, and wonderful sense of humor touched countless lives. Bill was my boss, my mentor, and my friend. His remarkable legacy will continue to guide and inspire us all for years to come.

Stephanie Raymond
Chief Executive Officer



Celebration of Life - Open House

March 20, 2026 from 12:00 to 3:00 pm

Memorial to begin at 12:00 - Stories Welcomed

Cascade Hemophilia Consortium
2025 Traverwood Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Light Lunch and Refreshments Provided

RSVPs appreciated, but not required to: mlaustroer@cascadehc.org

Donations can be made to the Bill Sparrow Memorial Fund at: www.cascadehc.org.
Funds will be solely used to benefit the bleeding disorder community.

CASCADE

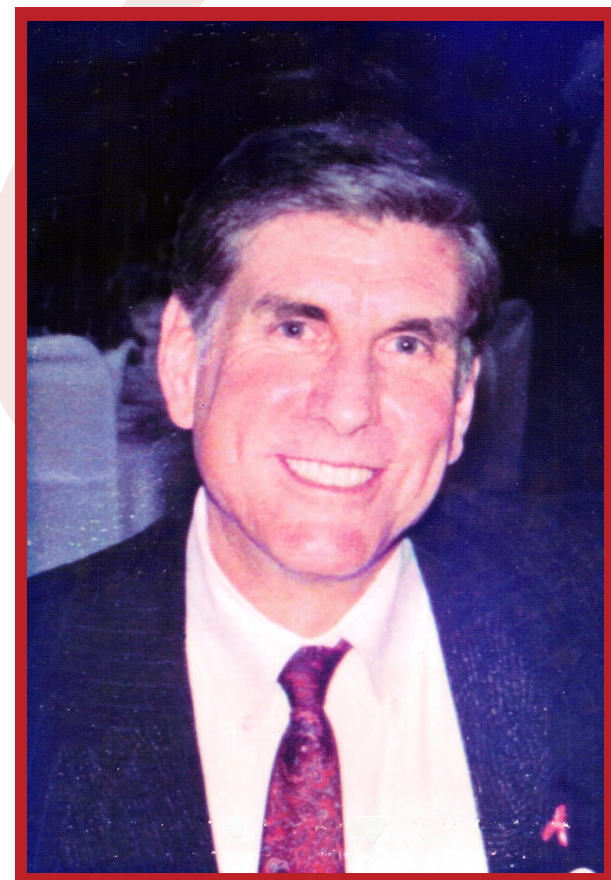
Remembering Bill Sparrow: A Life Well Lived

Devoted to Service, Strengthened by Friendship, and Gifted with a Wit Both Quick and Endearing

Bill Sparrow, founding Executive Director of Cascade Hemophilia Consortium and a lifelong advocate for justice and community, died on December 28, 2025, at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. Born in Baltimore on November 20, 1945, Bill was the son of William Thompson Sparrow Jr. and Mary Jane Romine Sparrow, and the beloved husband of Laura Sparrow, his partner of 60 years.

Bill's commitment to equality began early. In 1963, as high school class President and Captain of the State Champion debate team, he and his teammates were denied service at a restaurant because one member, an African American student, was not allowed to enter. Using his sharp debate skills, Bill challenged the owner's assumptions and then led his team out the door, an early example of the moral courage that would define his life.

His work as a community activist gained national significance in the late 1980s when Bill publicly disclosed his hemophilia during hearings in Ann Arbor, at a time when fear and misinformation led some on the city council to consider quarantining people with HIV. Many individuals with hemophilia had contracted HIV from contaminated pooled plasma treatments; thousands died as a result. Bill's advocacy humanized the issue and demanded compassion and reason.

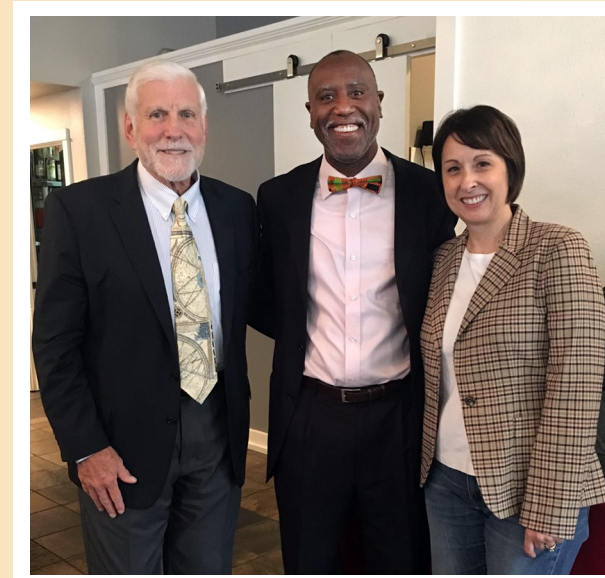


In 1986, an Arcadia, Florida family's home was intentionally burned down because their three sons, who had hemophilia, also contracted HIV through their treatments. Upon hearing this, Bill acted immediately. He worked with the media, contacted the family, and flew them to Michigan where the boys were able to enjoy a normal summer camp experience at the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan's Camp Bold Eagle while their parents found refuge staying with Bill and Laura. Many were touched by his empathy, generosity, and quiet resolve.

Bill served the hemophilia community at state, national, and international levels, including as Board Member and President of the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan, a member of the Committee of Ten Thousand, and founding board member of the Hemophilia Alliance. Bill was also the Vice President of the National Bleeding Disorder Foundation and recipient of many national awards for outstanding service and vision, including one for creating a large database on the devastating effects of AIDS on individuals and families.



While attending the 1994 World Federation of Hemophilia Conference in Mexico City, Bill learned of an opportunity through a new federal program that would change the future of hemophilia care. Alarmed by the soaring costs of newly developed, safer factor products, often exhausting lifetime insurance caps, he envisioned a nonprofit 340B program in our region to protect patients from financial ruin. Through the work of a dedicated group of community leaders and clinicians, Cascade Hemophilia Consortium was incorporated on September 23, 1994.



Bill, Derek Robertson, Stephanie Raymond

Bill became Cascade's first Executive Director, initially running the organization from his basement with little more than a desk, phone, and notebook. Through collaboration and persistence, he helped establish national standards for 340B bleeding disorder pharmacies, working closely with peers and federal agencies. Today, Cascade serves over 1,000 patients and employs 38 staff members. Bill's enduring legacy of access, stability, and care for the bleeding disorder community lives on today.

Beyond his professional achievements, Bill embraced life boldly. A passionate long distance kayaker, he paddled thousands of miles down America's rivers, including the Hudson, Mississippi, Ohio, and lower Missouri, despite severe joint disease. He hiked in the Swiss Alps, the Tetons, and the Badlands, became a glider pilot, and never allowed hemophilia to limit his dreams.

Bill's success is measured not only by institutions and honors, but by the countless lives he touched with humility, empathy, dry wit, and kindness. A true gentleman, collaborator, and friend, he will be remembered and deeply missed.



Bill and Laura Sparrow



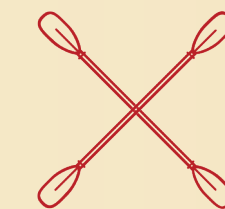
In Remembrance...

DR. BILL BERK

For over 30 years I served as the kayak buddy of Bill Sparrow—The Birdman. We had many great times out on the water. I kayaked with him on parts of his complete journeys on the Mississippi, Ohio, and Illinois Rivers. We also paddled together around Manhattan Island and across Lake St. Clair. When the seasons permitted, evenings we paddled the Huron River in Ann Arbor, starting about a mile from his and Laura's house.

Being out in a kayak was freedom for Bill. Because of arthritis in his legs, his strength was in his upper body. And this was prodigious! He estimated it took 3 million strokes to complete the Mississippi all the way from Lake Itasca in Minnesota to Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico. On one level, it was just some physical therapy which resolved a "tweak" he had had in his left shoulder.

His comfort on the water—which was contagious—led to many fascinating intimate conversations as well as shared experiences—and of course concocting plans for the next trip. It took me a while but 2 of the things I took home from these talks were: when he said I'm up for anything, he meant it. And never, ever say to Bill that his next idea is crazy, impractical, or dangerous: that only would increase his determination to do it! And you know what: he usually did!



DR. JIM FAHNER

With the passing of our dear friend and treasured leader Bill Sparrow, the entire hemophilia and bleeding disorders community has lost a wise mentor, a savvy strategist, a warm wit, a fierce advocate and a deeply caring and compassionate colleague. I will always remember and profoundly miss Bill's keenly analytical mind, but even more so, his patience, warm humor and the thoughtful humanity of his generous spirit. Around the board table, I remember Bill as an attentive listener, inquisitive questioner and quiet thinker, and when he did speak up, it was like a scene from those classic old E. F. Hutton TV ads: when Bill spoke, people listened! Above all, Bill Sparrow was the quintessential servant leader: he was the last to take credit, even when the idea was his, and he was the first to take responsibility, even when the fault was not. We will all miss you deeply dear friend; goodnight, and flights of angels. Your friend, Jim Fahner