



Carolyn Cassin

President & CEO

Michigan Women's Foundation

Carolyn Cassin is considered a national expert in end of life care, a highly-regarded organizational development and operations expert, and is an accomplished healthcare entrepreneur.

In 2009, Carolyn accepted the leadership of the Michigan Women's Foundation, Michigan's only public statewide Foundation dedicated solely to helping women and girls realize their dreams of economic self sufficiency and social equality.

Carolyn created an innovative, strategic direction for the foundation through the development of a microloan fund for women owned and managed businesses in Michigan and a venture capital fund for women - Belle Michigan, of which she is the General Partner. Her leadership of the Foundation has resulted in exponential growth, financial stability, innovative programming and a measurable results focus on support of high impact endeavors for Michigan's women and girls.

In addition to her work with the Foundation, Carolyn also continues in a leadership capacity for the National Hospice Work Group (NHWG) after 17 years as a founding member. NHWG is a professional coalition of CEO's from the nation's largest and most innovative hospices. NHWG is committed to increasing access to hospice and palliative care.

Her professional successes include 10 years as CEO of Hospice of Michigan and the COO of VistaCare, the nation's first venture capital backed national hospice, which became a publically traded company in 2005. She also accepted an appointment to oversee Michigan's \$1.5 billion Medicaid Managed Care Program in 2001. From 2002-2008, she led Continuum Hospice Care in New York City to become NYC's largest hospice program. In 1983, she was part of a group that helped guide the first Medicare reimbursement for hospice successfully through Congress. Since then, Carolyn has taken on the challenge of advancing both the quality and accessibility of care at the end of life and leading the transformation of women owned and led businesses throughout the state of Michigan.

Carolyn gained much of her national public policy insight and acumen as Chairperson and President of the National Hospice Organization (NHO) (1983-1986) where she served as chief spokesperson and advocate. Carolyn was called upon again in 2005 to serve on the Board of Trustees of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. Of the numerous honors and special assignments given her, Carolyn is particularly proud of her achievements with NHPCO, including being honored with the 2006 Founder's Award; serving as Governor appointed Trustee, Board of Control, Ferris State University (1997 – 1999); receiving the American Hospital Association's "Circle of Life" award for innovation in 2006, earning the "Best Managed Non-Profit" award, *Crain's Detroit Business*, 1994; being named one of "Detroit's 100 Most Influential Women," *Crain's Detroit Business*, 1997; and receiving the first prestigious "Heart of Hospice Award", by NHO in 1993. In 2009, *Crain's Business Detroit* named her a "Woman to Watch," and she was named the 2013 Women Official's Network's Wonder Woman Awardee.

Carolyn earned her Master of Public Administration degree from Western Michigan University, her BA from Miami University, and the esteemed three-year National Leadership Fellowship, from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.