

## Tim Roslund's Journey: The introductions



Tim Roslund grabs his fish as he packs his room at Woodland Hospice in Mt. Pleasant and gets ready to head to his apartment. He said his friends brought the fish from his home when checked in to hospice. (Sun photo by LISA YANICK-JONAITIS/@lisaj\_msun)

By **Randi Shaffer**, *The Morning Sun*

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Editor's note: Tim Roslund's Journey is an ongoing multimedia project, in which Morning Sun staffers follow the life of a terminal cancer patient.

Tim Roslund's fingers flicked against the smooth surface of his iPad, tapping and sliding across the backlit screen to share photos, videos and text through his Facebook page.

"I love the Internet; it's like my best friend," Roslund said demurely, setting his iPad aside, smiling and clasping his palms together in his lap.

The Mt. Pleasant resident, 28, relies on his Facebook page to share updates about his daily life, like most users of the social network site.

But unlike most users, Roslund's spends his daily life locked in a battle with terminal liver cancer.

"I'm using Facebook by getting online, talking with friends, keeping in contact so everybody knows more about my situation, my cancer," he said. "(I'm) giving them updates, telling them the progress of it."

Roslund said receiving comments on his Facebook, reminding him "Keep the faith," "There's hope," "Stay strong" and "You'll get through it," makes him happy.

Roslund was born to a Hepatitis B-positive mother in Peru.

"I don't remember much," Roslund said. "All I remember is you could fit me in the palm of your hand. I weighed three (pounds), 11 (ounces). I was a premie."

His parents, Lori Kirk and Jack Roslund, adopted him from South America when he was just an infant.

Roslund said his parents adopted him knowing full well that his birth mother's condition would inevitably cause health complications of his own, and he was diagnosed with liver cancer about three years ago.

He said he kept getting sick in the bathroom at work, and was at first diagnosed with a common cold.

He was told it was cancer after getting a second opinion.

Still, Roslund said, he was surprised when he received the diagnosis.

"We left the room and my mom said, 'Do you realize what you have?'" he said. "I said, 'no,' and she said, 'You have cancer.'"

After the shock set in, Roslund said he started aiming to make the most of his life, despite the terminal illness.

"They didn't give me a number; I don't believe in numbers," he said. "I say when the Lord's ready to take me, the Lord's ready to take me. I'm living day to day."

Roslund had his initial diagnosis in Mt. Pleasant, and he went to the University of Michigan hospital in Ann Arbor for follow-up appointments and chemotherapy.

Roslund has had multiple rounds of chemotherapy, and said that his body cannot accept any more treatments.

During a 2011 surgical procedure, Roslund had 80 percent of his liver, which was roughly the size of a football, removed.

"There's no more they can do," he said. "They tried everything, so it's pretty much just to wait and see what happens."

He has been admitted to Woodland Hospice in Mt. Pleasant twice, most recently in mid-April, but has since moved back to his Winchester Towers apartment.

Roslund said he plans to take it easy at his apartment.

"I can't do what I used to do, be running around, you know, up and about," he said.

In his free time, Roslund said he hangs out with his friend, pieces together puzzles, reads and keeps up with his social media.

He enjoys visiting his parents and step-father Rod Kirk.

Roslund said the journey has been rough on his parents.

"The journey? It's been hard. It's been not easy," Roslund said. "It's been rough, it's been hard, it's been not easy, but I roll with it and go through it, you know?"

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[Back to top](#)