

NEWSLETTER



Pandemic Exposes Need to Overhaul Funding of Hospice Care

Article by Dr. Darrin Cargill

“ The COVID-19 global pandemic has led to many paradigm shifts in the delivery of healthcare, such as virtual care. But there is one change requiring a paradigm shift that has not yet happened: how Ontario funds hospice care.

Residential hospices are built through philanthropic giving and fundraising. While the government partially funds the clinical operation of hospices, it is estimated that more than 50 per cent of the overall operating expenses must be raised year after year to make up for shortfalls. Hospices also rely heavily on volunteers, who are the lifeblood of hospices.

Hospices survive due to the generosity of their communities and the unfailing commitment of staff. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed many shortcomings in our healthcare system and our funding of hospices is no exception. Donations have slowed to a trickle and it is unclear when fundraising activities will be able to resume. Even then, it is uncertain if fundraising will continue at pre-COVID levels given record unemployment and significant losses in the markets. Many volunteers are no longer able to support hospices due to the risk posed by their age or medical conditions. While some volunteers may be able to return in time, there is a very real possibility that most hospices will need to adjust to life without the irreplaceable volunteers.

In no other area of medicine would we tolerate this level of uncertainty and lack of support. **Imagine a patient being told their chemotherapy or surgery was delayed or unavailable due to a slow year of fundraising.** ”

Hospice Quinte is committed to addressing the serious gap in health care in our region by building the Hospice Quinte Care Centre. An important aspect of our fundraising campaign is the Growth and Permanence Fund. As noted in the article above, hospices are only partially funded by the Government. In our 2019-2020 fiscal year, only 29% of our revenue was from the Ministry of Health (MOH).

The total annual operating budget for the Care Centre is projected to be \$1,443,815. Of this, the MOH will fund \$785,482 annually, with the balance derived from revenue through our annual fundraising program. The Growth and Permanence Fund will ensure the increase in operating funds are available over the first five years of operations, should it be needed. As experienced by other hospices across Ontario, it will allow us to build a strong and diverse fundraising program over the next three-five years to ensure the long-term sustainability of the new facility.

Continued Support from our Communities!



Top row (Holding quilt, L-R) Bev Stewart & Marg Smith.
Bottom row (L-R) Marie Beaudrie, Louise Wood (Hospice Quinte) and Cheryl Mound

Emmanuel United Church Women have been supporting the capital campaign since it launched, raising funds through quilt raffles and social events such as teas. Although sales were tougher in light of COVID-19, they still raised \$1,025 in support of the campaign through a recent quilt raffle. The raffle took place at the church on June 24 and Ernest Finkle of Belleville was the lucky winner and was ecstatic to have won!

Emmanuel is continuing their fundraising efforts with another quilt raffle taking place in 2021. We are thankful for the awareness and support that has been generated throughout their congregation!

Did You Know?



Jennifer May-Anderson and Jan MacInnes

Please help us spread the word about the new Hospice Quinte Care Centre by sharing this newsletter with a friend or family.

 Hospice Quinte

 @HospiceQuinte



Wendy Warner and Jennifer May-Anderson

Hospice Quinte is grateful for the generosity of the Kay Stafford Memorial Fund through the Trenton Memorial Hospital Foundation. Their recent donation of \$25,000 will go towards the purchase of a bariatric lift, which will aid residents with getting in and out of bed. Thank you to TMHF for joining us in making the Hospice Quinte Care Centre a reality!

Two in three Canadians surveyed strongly supported enhanced hospice and palliative care. Frontline providers were also in strong support of both (71% doctors, 80% nurses and 80% pharmacists). – Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) via the Health Care in Canada Survey.

Jennifer May-Anderson, Executive Director, and Jan MacInnes, Visiting Services Coordinator, were members of two Hospice Palliative Care Ontario (HPCO) committees from June 2019 to March 2020. These committees were responsible for drafting the new accreditation standards for Ontario hospices. Jan was a member of the visiting services standards committee, while Jennifer was a member on the committee that focused on governance, administration, fundraising, communications, and human resources standards. This means Hospice Quinte's input will impact all hospices in Ontario once the new standards are adopted. There are 105 hospices in Ontario and only four committees reviewing and rewriting the standards. This is an impressive accolade for Hospice Quinte to have two of our staff on those committees.