

NEWSLETTER



(L-R): Kim Lee (Alterna Savings/Quinte First Credit Union), Jason Lott (Alterna Savings/Quinte First Credit Union) and Sandi Ramsay (Hospice Quinte Donor Relations Manager)

Alterna Savings Helps Hospice Quinte Make It Happen!

On Thursday, February 25th, Kim Lee and Jason Lott, on behalf of Alterna Savings (formerly Quinte First Credit Union), proudly presented Hospice Quinte with a generous donation of \$2,500 to the **Heart & Home Building Campaign**.

Your support of the future Hospice Quinte Care Centre means the world to us. Thank you for your generous hearts, community spirits, and for helping us **#MakeItHappen**



Bardon Supplies In-Kind Gift For The Future Hospice Quinte Care Centre

Last month, Hospice Quinte received an unexpected in-kind donation from the fantastic folks at Bardon Supplies Limited in Belleville. Bardon Supplies has generously acquired 10 automated faucets that will be included throughout the Hospice Quinte Care Centre. The inclusion of these faucets will allow us to provide an even safer and healthier environment for our staff, volunteers, clients and visitors. Hospice Quinte thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for your thoughtful contribution.



Delicious heart-shaped brownies baked by Rachel.

Online Community Bake Sale Feeds Hospice Quintes' Heart!

Hospice Quinte sends a heart-felt thank you to Rachel Herrington of Quinte West. Rachel's passion, community spirit and philanthropic heart has generated \$545.00 in support for the future Hospice Quinte Care Centre! Rachel, a full-time student enrolled in the Social Service Worker program at Loyalist College, generously organized a pandemic-friendly bake sale online through different community groups and yardsale groups on Facebook.



Rachel preparing packages.

"I have been extremely motivated and empowered by the amazing group of people I work with every day, and it inspired me to do something to help the community. I feel very passionate about the new Hospice Centre in Quinte West, and I wanted to see what I could do to help. I was very nervous at the beginning that the pandemic would cause potential issues with the success of the fundraiser. However, I decided to just go with the flow and see what would happen. We have an absolutely wonderful community that were all very excited to be part of the fundraiser and help support the new Hospice Center!"

- Rachel Herrington



Robyn-Rose May (right) and her Mother.

What Hospice Means To Me

Robyn-Rose May has shown Hospice Quinte incredible generosity and support. Her personal experience with hospice palliative care inspired her to make a donation to the **Heart & Home Building Campaign** in memory of her late mother. Robyn-Rose has also been kind enough to share the following story about her experience with hospice palliative care.

I drove the highway twice a day, everyday, for two weeks. I passed the sign: "Future Home of..." I hoped she would hang on; survive long enough to spend her last days there. She didn't. My best friend, soulmate and mother passed away in a local hospital, quietly and alone.

My first encounter with hospice care came on a sunny January day in Florida as my step-mother (I'll call her Mary) was succumbing to ovarian cancer. I was nervous about walking into the building, knowing this was one of the last times I would see her. Calming music and bouquets of flowers welcomed me as I entered the building. The nurses spoke quietly at their station and each greeted me with a smile and a "How are you?". One directed me to Mary's room.

Instead of a sterile, colourless, gloomy hospital room, I walked into the most beautifully decorated, serene space. It was like nothing I had imagined. It was elegant yet simple. The light from the patio door and window lit the room and highlighted the scenic paintings on the walls and sprigs of flowers Mary had received. On her bed was the homemade quilt her sister had given to her at Christmas.

Mary had photos of loved ones displayed on her table so we sat around her as she told us stories of each person. I could see the love in her eyes and she was at peace. A nurse came in and offered us coffee, juice and cookies. She spent time with us, talking about the native trees outside the window and the fresh flowers that were delivered daily by volunteers. I was given a tour of the unit and told to make myself at home. Refreshments and snacks were always available, the nurse said.

On nice days, we took Mary outside for fresh air; to take in the sights and sounds of birds and to smell the blossoms. Those were the times Mary loved the most. Those were the times Mary felt free and her illness was the furthest thing from her mind. We laughed, we cried, and we held each other tightly. We reminisced and we dreamed.

Mary died soon after my arrival. While painful, her passing was dignified, and in her last days she was surrounded by love, compassion and respect by both family and staff. The kindness shown to our family by the nursing staff was incredible.

So, while my mother didn't have the opportunity that Mary did, she is always with me; in my heart and in my soul, and will forever be a part of Hospice Quinte.