

Team Janice: “Why We Hike for Hospice”

On June 25, 2023, my family and our friends will once again hike for hospice in memory of my mom, Janice Beirness, to raise funds for the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth. Mom spent time at Rotary Hospice in August 2021 before losing her short, but hard fought, battle with cancer.

Mom was a loving wife to my dad, Scott, for 34 years and a supportive mother to me and my brother, John. She was also a caring daughter, sister, aunt, and friend to many. With a gentle soul, Mom was soft spoken and had a knack for problem solving and critical thinking. She worked hard as a young woman to become an accountant. Mom's career led to an accounting position with the City of Stratford where she worked for many years. She loved this community, her friends, and coworkers. She was so kind to everyone and never complained. Mom especially loved her family, camping, and a good book.

Mom's cancer diagnosis in February 2021 was sudden and shocking; however, she stayed strong and kept her outlook positive. After a long hospital stay, the time came to decide on palliative care. Mom chose hospice.

When she moved to Rotary Hospice, our time together became abundant. Mom's parents and siblings began visiting, and the calm environment allowed us to be a family and spend valued quality time together.



The staff went above and beyond to not just make Mom comfortable and cared for, but they constantly made sure we were too. The accommodations they made, like helping us spend time outside, gave us some last special memories.

Our experience showed us the importance of having a hospice within the community, not only for the residents but for the families as well. Team Janice hikes to raise funds that will help provide more families with the same support and caring experience as we had.

~ Brittany Beirness

Sunday June 25th | Hike with us to make sure every moment matters >

Dear friends,

Because you cared...Rotary Hospice was here when Brittany's mom and her family needed help.

Today, Rotary Hospice is asking for your continued care.

Every day counts



March 14 | This day is special because ...

Rotary Hospice provides end-of-life care 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at no cost to residents. As you read in Brittany's story, we're here to care for you and your loved ones at the most vulnerable time of your life.

But we can't do it without you.

Ministry of Health funding covers 50 % of operating costs. This means Rotary Hospice must raise \$350 per room from our community – 365 days a year.

Today, I'm asking you to dedicate a special day with a gift of \$350.

- Recognize a friend or loved one's special birthday or anniversary
- Honour the memory of someone special
- Mark a significant company milestone

Help us meet our goal to ensure everyone who needs care has it...on

the day that they need it. Because we never know when that day may come.

Buy a special day at \$350. Help fill the calendar for 365 days so everyone who needs care has access to it – for no cost.

My family has picked two days. Which day will you pick?

In the words of a dear friend, “what a loving pass-it-on gift...”. Please join me in giving so that others like Brittany's family may experience the same end-of-life compassionate care at no cost.

With gratitude,

Sarah H. *Chair, Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation*

P.S. A gift of \$30 a month will pay for one day of care. Please join me in picking a day that's special to you and help make it special for someone else. If you've already picked a day, thank you!

A family finds the special moments

I had heard of a hospice before. I had driven past a hospice before. But I did not plan to go into one. That is, until my dad, Gerry, required one on his final journey of life.

When the day came for Dad to begin his stay at the Rotary Hospice in Stratford, it was tough for all our family. As soon as we arrived, however, we were greeted by the most wonderful and helpful nurses, volunteers, and staff.

Dad's room felt like an apartment and was beautifully decorated with a fireplace, large TV, comfy couch, and a recliner. His bed had everything needed to provide him with the best possible care. Dad asked me how he could stay. He was happy to hear that the answer was for as long as he needed and so were we.

For us, Rotary Hospice felt like home; it was a comfortable and welcoming place for our entire family. We used the common living room for down time to watch hockey, movies, play games, and talk. Sometimes we enjoyed dinner in the dining area where there were always delicious soups, cookies, and muffins.



Jes making her dad laugh

As Dad's stay continued, and especially towards the end of his life, we sometimes spent the night sleeping on the pull-out couch or in the reclining chair in his room.

We spent many nights together laughing and enjoying as much time together as we could.

As Dad's stay continued, and especially towards the end of his life, we sometimes spent the night sleeping on the pull-out couch or in the reclining chair in his room.

I wouldn't have wanted Dad to be anywhere but at Rotary Hospice for his final journey of life. The kind, friendly staff and volunteers always showed the utmost compassion, caring, and support, which made for a calm and peaceful final journey for Dad. For that my family and I will be eternally grateful.

~ Jes Cousineau

Your gift to Rotary Hospice makes these special moments happen. Thank you.

HIKE for hospice

Sunday, June 25th

Join us at Stratford Perth Museum or "Hike on Your Site"

TRAILBLAZING SPONSOR

Help us meet our Hike for Hospice goal of \$100,000 this year!

\$900,000! That's what Rotary Hospice must raise every year.

When you hike for hospice, you are ensuring that others like Brittany and her family have access to the same care and support.

To donate or register, visit: rotaryhospice.ca. All donations are gratefully accepted. Donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt.

APRIL 16 - 22 Volunteer Appreciation Week

Did you know? Rotary Hospice relies heavily on the support of over 150 volunteers. From greeting visitors at reception to directly supporting our residents, from helping at events to sitting on our two operational boards, we could not make every moment matter for those in our care without their help.

Katie Jervis, Coordinator of Volunteers, is honoured to lead such a dedicated group of people who understand the importance of surrounding our residents and their families with love and support at such a vulnerable time.

Thank you to all our Volunteers!

For information on becoming a volunteer and the many roles available, visit: rotaryhospice.ca/volunteer Or contact, Katie at 519.508.4900 ext. 730 or katie@rotaryhospice.ca



Are you caring for a loved one and wanting to know how to access services? Visit: rotaryhospice.ca

Handbags for hospice

SAVE THE DATE
October 19, 2023

Donations of \$2,500+, will be acknowledged on the annual giving wall, which is updated annually and cumulatively.

Donations can be made securely on our website at rotaryhospice.ca

For more information contact: Lucie Stuart, Director Fund Development and Stewardship 519-508-4900 x720 lucie@rotaryhospice.ca

DONATION FORM

I/we would like to make a difference with the following donation:

\$2500 \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Frequency One-time gift Monthly Quarterly Annually

Pay for a Day of Care for one resident \$350 Pay for a Week of Care for one resident \$2800 My special date(s): _____

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more. **Total Donations** \$ _____

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____ Prov: _____ Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: for tax receipt _____

Payment by credit card Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp / CVV _____

Payment by cheque Please make cheque payable to *Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation*

This gift is in memory of in honour of: _____
(Name) _____

Please contact me, I am interested in:
 making a gift with securities (stock)
 leaving a gift in my will

To keep you up to date on the impact of your gift, you will be added to our e-news mailing. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Please mail this form with payment to:
Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation
80 Greenwood Drive, Stratford, ON N5A 0J1
t. 519-508-4900