

because you care Community Update

FALL/WINTER 2020

A year in review, a year of gratitude.



“For human beings, life is meaningful because it is a story, and in stories, endings matter.” Atul Gawande, author of *Being Mortal*

July 3, 2020 marked one year since the first resident moved into our hospice home. Since that day, 100 individuals – not to mention their loved ones – have called Rotary Hospice home.

For many, this selection of photos may seem like everyday occurrences. Yet for the loved ones of those 100 individuals, these images capture moments that mattered; many in their own quiet way.

Quality hospice care neither hastens death nor prolongs life. The care team at Rotary Hospice has worked hard to make all residents feel that this is their home, and to make hospice a place of peace and comfort during their last days.

Visitors, while limited*, are still welcomed by our reception volunteers. As with everything this year, they have adapted and found meaningful ways to connect.

The team regularly receive messages and cards of thanks from grateful families. One recent resident was a long-time Rotarian, Mr. Angus MacDermid. His wife, Joan, gave us permission to share the message she sent to the team:

To the staff of Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth, my thanks and gratitude! Angus could hardly wait to go to Hospice in his last days. He was so well cared for. I am grateful that he was so comfortable, and you looked after me as well. Needless to say I miss him; his big chair looks very empty in the evening. However I am relieved that he is at peace, and not suffering. I felt very happy that Angus' connections, friends, and business associates felt compelled to make a donation in his memory. It is a wonderful facility, and worthy of our support.

In a year like none other, Rotary Hospice has continued to give people like the MacDermids the opportunity to create endings that matter. You made these moments possible.

Thank you.

*For up to date COVID-19 visitor guidelines, please visit: rotaryhospice.ca



Hike, Handbags & Smile Cookies!

WOW. In this uncertain time, YOU have amazed, inspired and supported Rotary Hospice. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

For event details, please visit: rotaryhospice.ca



Lights of Love Holiday Campaign

The Lights of Love Holiday Campaign will run again this year until December 31st. Last year, not only did the lights add seasonal sparkle for hospice residents and guests, the holiday campaign raised almost \$50,000 - thanks to YOU!

Consider sponsoring a Light of Love in honour or memory of a loved one. Names will be added to the online Lights of Love page (and more!) until December 31, 2020.

This season, let's come together to light up Rotary Hospice with love.

To donate visit:
rotaryhospice.ca

Every Day Counts

Making every day, and every moment, count is integral to the care at Rotary Hospice.

In the video, *Carolyn's Story: a family's experience at Rotary Hospice* (video is on our website), Carolyn Clark explains that the greatest gift Rotary Hospice gave her was the gift of quality time with her husband Bruce 'Rooster' Withers. "It meant I could finally be his wife again."

Every day Rotary Hospice must fundraise \$350 per resident room to continue providing care and support to those in our area with a life-limiting illness. All at no cost to the resident.



Is there a special day in your life you would like to commemorate?

Please consider a donation to our Every Day Counts campaign by paying for a day of care. To learn more, please visit: rotaryhospice.ca

Loss and grief during the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is forcing many of us to change the way we go about our daily lives. With those changes, some of us are experiencing a wave of losses: economic, social, physical and emotional. For some, these losses may build up and lead to feelings of grief. Why is it important to accept and allow these feelings? Only by acknowledging the grief we're going through can we take steps to heal.

For more, visit: mygrief.ca



We miss our volunteers but are so thankful to have welcomed back some of our Reception Volunteers!



What Rotary Hospice means to me...

"Dear Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth, words cannot express how grateful our family is to you for your kind and compassionate care to Dad and us in our time of need. Thank you to all the special people who work in hospice care!"

~BH & MH

"To each and everyone, I just want to give you all a big thank you for the care given to my friend Dianne and also to myself. You are all special angels and each one of you has a special uniqueness.

Missing you all." ~DH

Donor Spotlight WILL POWER

"When I came to hospice as a direct support volunteer, interacting with residents and their families, I quickly discovered that hospice was a gift to this community and my participation in this beautiful home was a gift to me. I believed that hospice was a place to come to die but instead realized

this is a place to live fully until the final breath. For these reasons, I have named Rotary Hospice as the recipient of a bequest in my will. Doing so will help to ensure Rotary Hospice can continue to provide quality care at the end of life for many years to come".

Elaine Strawbridge, Hospice supporter

Did you know?

Annually the Rotary Hospice is required to fundraise more than \$900,000 to cover the portion of our operations budget not funded by the Ministry of Health.

Every donation has an impact on those who have – and will – call Rotary Hospice their final home. *Your gift matters.*

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

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

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

DONATION FORM

I/we would like to make a difference:

Sponsor a Light of Love: \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Pay for a Day of Care for one resident \$350 Chosen date: _____

Pay for a Week of Care for one resident \$2800 Chosen date: _____

Make a general donation: Amount \$ _____ Total Donations \$ _____

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____ Prov: _____ Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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:

becoming a monthly donor

making a gift with securities (stock)

leaving a gift in my will

I would like to receive your e-newsletter

Please mail this form with payment to:

Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation
80 Greenwood Drive, Stratford, ON N5A 0J1
t. 519-508-4900