

# because you care Community Update

FALL 2023

## Light up hospice with love this season

*"Grief tends to set in deep in those moments that I just want to call my mom...but can't."*

When Brittany Petrie spoke these words at the 5th annual Handbags for Hospice event earlier this fall, it was a reminder that for those grieving, or spending time visiting their loved one in hospice, this time of year can be especially difficult.

We will all experience grief and loss. Brittany beautifully captures the important role Rotary Hospice played in her mother's end-of-life journey.

*"My name is Brittany Petrie and I am the daughter of Debra Ann Sterkenburg. My beautiful mom died at the age of 61 at Rotary Hospice on October 10, 2022.*

*She was vivacious, she loved to socialize, travel, play sports, paint ceramics; and most of all she was determined not to let*

*an illness hold her back from creating lasting memories with loved ones. In July 2022, my mom's care became more complex, and her symptoms were rapidly changing. She was considered terminally ill with no treatment options left.*

*This is when my mom made the decision that hospice care was the next step. We spent up to 8 weeks in the hospice and, on the day that my mom passed away, the staff supported us by explaining what was happening.*

*As my mom took her final breaths, there were two words that I told my mom: she was safe and she was loved. It felt like those words came out so naturally, it's not what I thought I would say.*

*But I truthfully think that I said those words because safety and love is what hospice care is."*



Brittany and her mom Debra

To watch Brittany's Story, please visit [rotaryhospice.ca/video-stories](http://rotaryhospice.ca/video-stories)

Your gift to Rotary Hospice made these moments happen. Thank you.

Let's light up Rotary Hospice this holiday season so that those who call it home can feel the support and love all around them.

**Dedicate a Light of Love** with a donation. At your request, your dedication message will be included on our in-house recognition wall and at our lighting ceremony. To donate visit: [rotaryhospice.ca/lights-of-love](http://rotaryhospice.ca/lights-of-love)



**JOIN US!** | Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 pm

For more information or to donate, please visit: [rotaryhospice.ca](http://rotaryhospice.ca) or call Lynne Williams at 519.508.4900 x702. All donations gratefully accepted. Tax receipts issued for donations of \$20 or more.

*Every moment is made glorious by the light of love.* RUMI



## Grief has no timeline

**Meet Jaclyn Turpin MSW and Melissa McManus MSW**

"Our Care and Bereavement program is essential in our hospice and community. Our program consists of emotional support for the hospice residents and their loved ones. This includes our legacy program, where we work with residents and their families to create legacy activities such as voice recordings sewn into a stuffed bear, writing cards for special occasions, creating thumbprint family trees and many more. We have a Coffee Connection program that encourages anyone supporting someone at our hospice to connect with others facing a similar experience. As well, we have a new Steps for Support Program, a walking group offered to families who have lost a loved one at Rotary Hospice.

We live in a society where conversations about grief don't often come up for fear of bringing up emotions or saying the wrong thing especially during the holiday season. Our role is to provide support through opportunities for conversation."

Jaclyn and Melissa are Bereavement Social Workers and provide support to residents and their loved ones during and after their stay.

E-mail [jaclyn@rotaryhospice.ca](mailto:jaclyn@rotaryhospice.ca) or [melissam@rotaryhospice.ca](mailto:melissam@rotaryhospice.ca)



## Donor Spotlight MONTHLY GIVING

When asked why she recently signed up to become a monthly donor, reception volunteer Susan Bidgood shared the following:

“As a hospice volunteer since its inception, I have been thinking of ways to support financially. Monthly giving was the easy solution.

My monthly \$30 allows me to factor the cost into my overall budget instead of finding a one-time larger gift. It exceeds \$20 so I'll receive a tax receipt, and my annual gift of \$360 supports one day of care for a hospice resident.

*I have a sense of peace and tranquillity when stepping inside our hospice. A place where young and older residents and families are surrounded by loving care and compassion. For me, being part of this is so gratifying and rewarding - "it fills my cup."*

Our community and surrounding area are fortunate to have this valuable facility in our midst, together with the caring staff and a dedicated team of my fellow volunteers.” ~Susan Bidgood



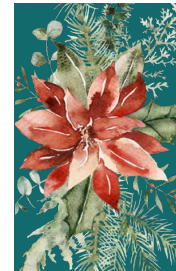
## REFLECTIONS on the past year

“It's hard to believe I joined the hospice team one year ago! Reflecting on the past year as Executive Director, several things immediately come to mind. Rotary Hospice is a home for those seeking end-of-life care and their loved ones. During the past year, I have witnessed this home-like feeling firsthand and have been awed at how our hospice has blossomed and flourished as we have learned to adjust to post-Covid times. It is beautiful during my day to hear music filling the hallways, families gathering, and precious moments and memories being made, understanding what this means for our residents and their loved ones.

I am often asked, “Is it not a sad place to work every day?” My response: I am inspired not saddened each day, by the moments that matter, and feel privileged to be a part of something that is so important for our community.” ~Louise Lepp

# \$350

That's the amount Rotary Hospice is required to fundraise per day, per resident room. When you make a gift of \$350 (or a monthly gift of \$30) you may dedicate it to a loved one on a day of your choosing. To learn more, visit: [rotaryhospice.ca/every-day-counts](http://rotaryhospice.ca/every-day-counts)



### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

A dramatic reading with musical guest, Loreena McKennitt.

**Sunday, December 17 at 7pm**  
Avondale United Church

Tickets \$50 | To purchase visit [rotaryhospice.ca/news-events](http://rotaryhospice.ca/news-events)

## Hike, Handbags and HEARTFELT THANKS!

Once again, you have amazed, inspired, and supported Rotary Hospice in incredible ways. **Thank you!** You made these moments matter. Visit [rotaryhospice.ca](http://rotaryhospice.ca) to see more!



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](http://rotaryhospice.ca)

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

## DONATION FORM

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

Dedicate a Light of Love:  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pay for a Day of Care for one resident \$350  Pay for a Week of Care for one resident \$2800  Please contact me so I can provide my chosen date and story

One-time gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Monthly gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL Donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by  Visa  Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp / CVV \_\_\_\_\_

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

MY LIGHT is in  memory of  honour of:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Message for online dedication (optional):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me, I am interested in:

- making a gift with securities (stock)  
 leaving a gift in my will

Please mail this form with payment to:

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