

because you care Community Update

FALL 2021

Thank you

The clinical care team at Rotary Hospice regularly receive heartfelt messages and cards of thanks from grateful families. Sometimes, the messages so perfectly capture the hospice experience, we ask permission to share – as we did with this one. We hope that should you ever find yourself in a similar situation you will know that, in the words of this family, a place like this exists.

When our mother's health landed her in the hospital, we knew it was serious. They said weeks, not more. We were exhausted and very afraid. And then we got a call from you.

When we pictured hospice, we thought of a sort of quieter version of the hospital - nurses in scrubs, dim lights, hushed voices, an overall feeling of sadness. We didn't know what else to expect, but we knew we couldn't do this ourselves, at home.

It was nothing like we had imagined. It was, honestly, magical. We didn't know that a place like yours existed and we feel so lucky that Stratford and area has this facility. We were surprised and impressed and overwhelmed, and now that our lives have settled a bit, we want to make sure we reach out and tell you how important you were to us.

Thank you. Thank you for telling us it was okay to stay, and that it was ok to go home, and that you'd call us (you



did) and that it would be ok no matter what we decided (it was).

Thank you for meeting us where we were, even though we didn't know where we were.

Thank you for looking after all of us, not just Paula – thank you for understanding so beautifully that we were there as a family and doing this together. Thank you for the baked goods and the puzzles, and for embracing our sense of humour and never making us feel like we were too loud, too happy, or too sad.

Thank you for letting us be Paula's children and not her caregivers.

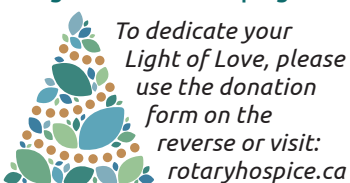
Thank you for knowing that it was about living while she could, and not just about her dying.

~ Paula's family

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



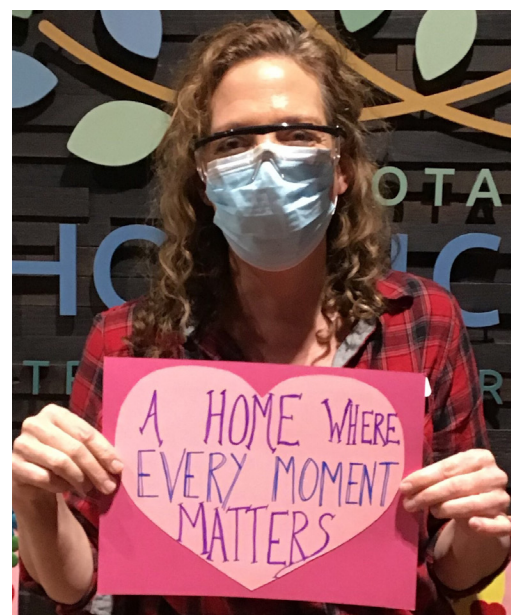
Help light up Rotary Hospice with love and join us virtually December 2 at 7:00 pm for a tree-lighting ceremony to launch our 3rd annual Lights of Love campaign.



What Hospice means to me

It's been an honour for me to work at Rotary Hospice for the last two and a half years. I started my journey as a palliative care nurse with a local home care agency about 12 years ago and I would often witness the struggles that came with caring for a dying loved one at home.

One thing I love about our hospice is the home-like atmosphere. As caregivers at Rotary Hospice, we wear many hats. While our priority is managing residents' physical, spiritual and psychological symptoms, we also care for this home like it's our own. For example, we ensure that the residents rooms stay neat and tidy. I have often heard the surprised comment from family or residents themselves "wow, you do it all!". That is another reason I love my job; a simple task like cleaning their room provides a more relaxed, comfortable opportunity for some



residents to share their feelings and concerns about what they are going through.

I'm very proud and pleased to be part of the team here at Rotary Hospice. I count it a privilege that families entrust their loved ones to us and allow us to be part of their journey during a vulnerable time. ~ Val Agra, RN

Donor Spotlight

MAKING EVERY DAY COUNT

“It is never easy to say good-bye to a loved one. When my family learned about mom’s cancer diagnosis, we were devastated. We knew we wanted to make the most of the time we had left to spend with her. The decision to enter hospice was difficult at first, but that mostly resulted from us not truly understanding what exactly hospice care entailed. I can tell you, with the utmost conviction, it was the very best decision for mom and the rest of our family.

The care and compassion mom received was top notch. The special touches included: the warm blankets (that mom loved and reminded her of visiting her newborn grandkids in the hospital decades ago); the manicures (courtesy of one of the lovely volunteers – a special treat for mom);



the fantastic spa bath (mom would have stayed in there all day if she could have); bacon and eggs, cooked to order (one of mom’s favourite meals); and, wheeling mom’s bed into the courtyard so she could feel the warm autumn sun on her face.

I could go on for pages about all the warm memories! As a family, we

had a lot of questions. The staff was never too busy to meet and guide us through this challenging time. The nurses and staff were amazing, warm-hearted people who will likely never realize just how much they came to mean to us. We miss mom a lot. She was such an amazing woman! Thanks to the hospice staff, we were able to cherish her until her last moment.

~ A.J., daughter, Hospice supporter

\$350

That’s the amount Rotary Hospice is required to fundraise per day, per resident room. When you make a gift in this amount, you may dedicate it to a loved one on a day of your choosing.

Our thanks to those who have already paid for a day of care. To read their stories and to learn more, visit: rotaryhospice.ca/every-day-counts

Hike, Handbags & heartfelt thanks!

WOW. Once again, you have amazed, inspired and supported Rotary Hospice in incredible ways this past year. Your gifts ensure quality hospice palliative care at no cost to the resident. To view photos, video and details, please visit: rotaryhospice.ca



SAVE THE DATE
June 5, 2022
This family event continues to grow, raising \$108,000 in 2021. Consider joining us next June!

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:

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

☐ 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 ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard Card # _____ Exp / _____ CVV _____

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



My light is ☐ in memory of ☐ in honour of:

Name: _____

Message for online dedication (optional): _____

☐ 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