



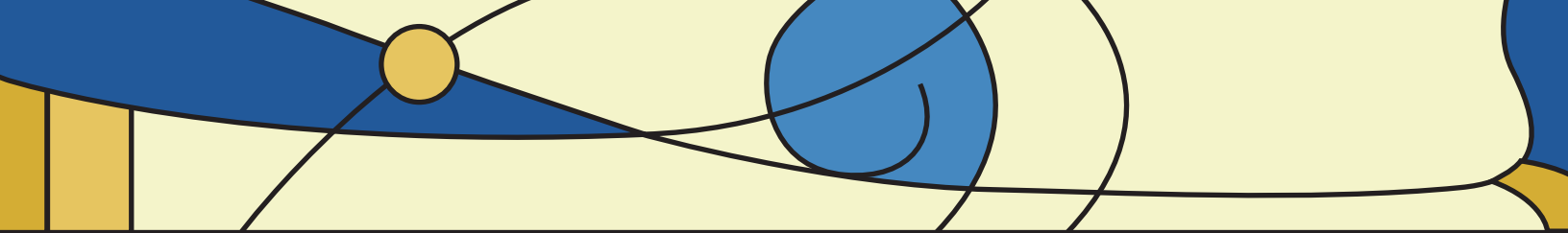
# GRATITUDE REPORT 2025-2026

(519) 974-7100 | [WWW.THEHOSPICE.CA](http://WWW.THEHOSPICE.CA)



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# MISSION

We provide expert hospice palliative care, supporting individuals and their loved ones with dignity, comfort, and compassion at end of life.

# VISION

Leading the advancement of high-quality, accessible hospice palliative care.

# VALUES

## COMPASSION

Compassion is at the heart of our hospice philosophy, shaping how we listen, understand, and accompany individuals and their loved ones throughout the end-of-life journey.

## RESPECT

Respect upholds the dignity, choices, beliefs, and lived experience of each person in our care, guides inclusive and equitable approaches, and shapes how we relate to one another.

## COLLABORATION

Collaboration recognizes that strong relationships across disciplines and with caregivers, volunteers, donors, and community partners strengthen coordinated care, deepen shared understanding of Hospice, and help us remain responsive to community needs.

## EXCELLENCE

Excellence reflects our commitment to high standards of clinical practice, interdisciplinary expertise, continuous learning, and the advancement of hospice palliative care.

## STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship affirms our collective responsibility to act with accountability and transparency, sustain community trust, and advance our mission with integrity.

# ABOUT OUR HOSPICE

Founded to provide compassionate, clinical, end-of-life care, The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County has been caring for our community since 1979.

Our Hospice believes in equitable access to care for all. We provide specialized, wrap-around services to adults, children, and their caregivers, in the setting of their choice – whether it be in our Residences or in their home.

With only partial government funding, it has been through the generous support of our volunteers and our community that we have continued to provide memorable care, meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of patients and their loved ones.



## Hospice Residence: Our Care

Hospice operates two Hospice Residences, one located in Windsor and one, our Erie Shores Campus, located in Leamington.

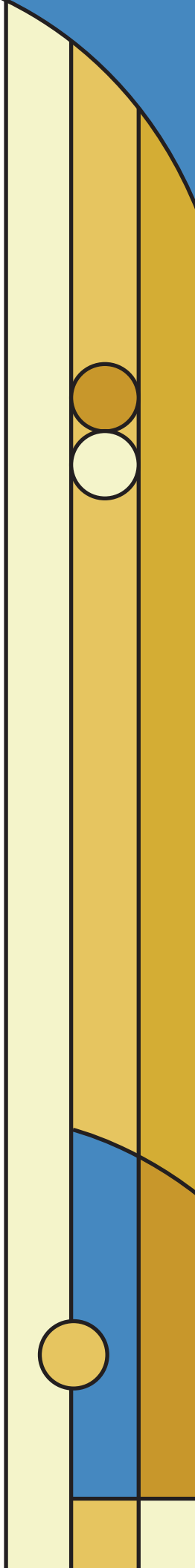
- Our Residences offer a total of 24 rooms to provide care at no cost to our patients and their loved ones
- These spaces offer 24-hour, state-of-the-art palliative care provided in a home-like setting by our Hospice Team. The care is provided by specially trained medical care staff and volunteers.
- They are an inviting space where families can visit freely, use our family rooms for gatherings, and stay overnight, all without the worry of providing day-to-day care

## Palliative Medicine Program: Shared Care in a Person's Home

- This program allows patients to stay in their own home environment; our team comes to you. Our doctors, nurse educators, social workers, and supportive care coordinators provide support to patients and their loved ones through in-person home visits, as well as virtual (video) appointments.
- We also partner with Ontario Health atHome (OHaH) if hands-on nursing or PSW care is required
- We do not replace primary care doctors; instead, the care and support we provide focuses on supporting pain and symptom management, providing education/support for a diagnosis, and offering support for caregiver(s)
- This program allows our patients to be cared for, at no cost to them, in the place they are most comfortable – their own home

## Supportive Programs

- Group programs are facilitated by Clinical Social Workers and/or Supportive Care Coordinators for clients and families who are registered with Hospice or referred by Ontario Health atHome
- Groups are available in a variety of ways, including in person at our Windsor and/or Erie Shores Campuses, and/or virtually



# IN 2025/2026 OUR HOSPICE...



- Cared for over 450 patients across both our Windsor and Erie Shores (Leamington) Residences.
- Had over 500 active Hospice Volunteers in many different roles, across both campuses and in our community.
- Cared for over 1,200 patients in our community, in their own homes, through our Palliative Medicine Program.
- Completed over 72,000 volunteer hours across our organization and in the community
- Provided grief and bereavement support to over 700 individuals across Windsor and Essex County
- Worked with community partners to provide education and improve palliative care knowledge in our community
- Raised over \$103,600 for the 23rd Annual Hospice Face to Face Campaign, supporting patients and their loved ones
- Raised over \$611,200 at the 29th Annual Hockey for Hospice Tournament, bringing the 29-year total to over \$6.4 million

# A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the past year, our Hospice community has continued to grow, evolve, and strengthen in meaningful ways. Every initiative — large or small — reflects the strong foundation our Hospice is built upon: compassion, collaboration, innovation, and a deep dedication to quality care.

Across our clinical programs, especially within our Palliative Medicine Program, teams worked to enhance both patient care and community support. From launching a Clinical Coach position and improving collaboration, to strengthening after-hours supports and introducing regular quality improvement huddles, our focus remained on ensuring the best possible experience, while recognizing the importance of supporting our team and health system. We also strengthened partnerships with healthcare providers across our region, including EMS, hospitals, and community organizations.

Within our Nursing and PSW teams, professional development and education remained a priority. Teams participated in training in areas such as symptom management, dementia care, wound prevention, and safety practices. Important upgrades and workflow improvements included expanded medication storage and preparation spaces, new therapeutic equipment trials, accessibility enhancements, and the opening of an additional residence room in Erie Shores.

Our Psychosocial team responded to the growing need for grief and bereavement support by expanding services and developing new programs focused on wellness, accessibility, and community connection. At the same time, our Community and Volunteer Engagement team streamlined volunteer onboarding processes while connecting patients and loved ones through therapeutic activities and memorial initiatives. This year also saw the installation of two new Trees of Remembrance in our Windsor Residence, along with the development of a new tracking system to support these initiatives.

Supporting all of this work behind the scenes, our Finance, HR, IT, Education, Reception, and Health and Safety teams worked to strengthen the organization operationally. From cybersecurity enhancements and the implementation of new learning systems, to updated policies, improved recruitment processes, and expanded staff safety measures, these efforts ensure Hospice remains prepared for the future and helped ensure compassionate, high-quality care was possible each day.

As a collective, we proudly celebrated the successful completion of our 3-Year CARF Accreditation. The process is extensive and requires the commitment of our entire team; this positive outcome was truly made possible through collaboration and teamwork.

This year also marked important planning for the future of our organization. Together with our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and community partners, we developed a new Mission, Vision, and Strategic Plan that will guide Hospice through 2031. This work reflects our shared vision for the future - one that honours our strong foundation while continuing to grow services, strengthen partnerships, and respond to evolving needs.

To our staff, volunteers, Board Directors, donors, partners, supporters and community members - thank you. Your compassion and commitment continue to shape the care and comfort we provide, and together, we continue building toward an even stronger future for Hospice.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Bortolin'.

*Katharen Bortolin*  
Executive Director



## A LETTER FROM OUR HOSPICE BOARD CHAIR

It is my pleasure to share the following message with you.

Hospice has been recognized as a trusted expert provider of palliative care in Windsor and Essex County. In the past year, we continue to evolve in response to the needs of our community. We had a productive campaign with many accomplishments, some of which I like to highlight below:

- **Accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)** - In April we participated in an accreditation by CARF. We have been awarded a Three-Year Accreditation status. The surveyors were impressed with our organization's rich culture and also, our team's delivery of patient-focused compassionate care. With over 1,000 standards, there was only one partial recommendation for us to implement. Our administration team led by Katharen, Hospice's dedicated staff, and the amazing volunteers are to be congratulated for this remarkable achievement.

- **Strategic Plan** - After an extensive consultation with both internal and external stakeholders, we now have a new Plan for the next five years. The new strategic priorities will enable our organization to advance high quality compassionate hospice palliative care for those who need it.

- **New Bylaws** - The Board of Directors, with guidance from our legal counsel, have adopted a new set of bylaws. The changes in this document are consistent with the Ontario Not For Profit Corporation Act.

- **Board Governance** - Our Board participated in two sessions led by a consultant to review and learn about best practice in board governance. It was well received by everyone.

We have one retiring Director from the Board this year. Mr. Scott Lockwood, well respected in our community, has served nine years with distinction. We appreciate his immense dedication and leadership in promoting the mission of Hospice. We wish him every success in his future endeavours.

In closing, on behalf of my colleagues on the Board, I like to express our gratitude to our many supporters, donors, and Erie Shores Health Foundation for their unwavering commitment to ensure the success of our programs.

We are looking toward the future with confidence and excitement.

*Dr. Gary Ing*  
Chair, Hospice Board of Directors

THE HOSPICE OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Dr. Gary Ing**  
CHAIR

**Mark Nazarewich**  
VICE CHAIR

**Jim Macri**  
TREASURER

**Mary Beth Valentine**  
PAST CHAIR

MEMBERS AT LARGE

**Baseerat (Basee) Adams**

**Patricia Best**

**Quinn Bowman**

**Dorothy Davis**

**Patti Lauzon**

**Scott Lockwood**

**Sarah Morris**

**Michael Steffler**

THE HOSPICE FOR LIFE FOUNDATION

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jane Wiens**  
CHAIR

**Jim Macri**  
TREASURER

**Veronique Mandal**  
PAST CHAIR

MEMBERS AT LARGE

**Frank Chalmers**

**Kathryn Hengl**

**Josie Hope**

**Tim Jones**

# THE HOSPICE FOR LIFE FOUNDATION

Established in 2011, the Foundation is committed to cultivating a model of community engagement and philanthropy, working diligently towards endowment building and maintaining the highest standards of donor respect, integrity, stewardship, and public accountability. As The Hospice for Life Foundation receives gifts, these valuable dollars are properly invested, closely monitored, and allocated to various needs at Hospice. A portion of these dollars are dispersed each year, to support the operations of the Hospice. The balance of funds remain invested, which allows these funds to grow, to ensure sustainability for the future of Hospice.

## A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDATION CHAIR





Since 2011, the Hospice for Life Foundation has been committed to ensuring sustainable financial stability in order to further the Hospice of Windsor and Essex County's Mission and Vision. This means supporting their exemplary quality of care to patients and their families at no cost to them. This includes providing funds toward programs and services, patient empowerment, and education. The Foundation also assists in facilitating research and capital building projects. With help from trusted advisors, the Foundation is guided by a dedicated, volunteer Board of Directors.

I want to extend my sincerest thanks to both current and past Foundation Board members for their unwavering commitment and excellent stewardship.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. J. Wiens".

Jane Wiens  
Chair, The Hospice For Life Foundation



-  Funds from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
-  Funds from donations

## HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

Our Hospice is blessed with the support of a caring community, but we need your help. We must raise \$2.1 million every year to continue to provide compassionate care for our community. 100% of the care and support we provide is at no cost to patients and their families. Receiving 50% of our operating funds from the Ministry of Health, we rely on donations from our community to fund the remainder.

## WAYS TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT:

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

The Hospice has a number of naming and memorial opportunities available at a variety of donation levels.

### BEQUESTS BY WILL

Designate a bequest of property or funds in your will. A charitable tax receipt will be issued to your estate.

### ENDOWED GIFTS

An endowed gift will provide stable income in you or your loved one's name, ensuring income for a program of your choice.

### HOSPICE'S WISH LIST

Every year, The Hospice updates an ongoing file of Wish List items. Speak to a member of our team today to find out what kind of opportunities are available.

### CASH DONATIONS

The Hospice For Life Foundation is pleased to accept cash gifts of any amount desired.

### LIFE INSURANCE

Name The Foundation as the beneficiary and/or as the owner of an insurance policy.

### GIFTS OF PROPERTY

A gift of property to The Hospice during your lifetime or in your will. Such gifts may include a personal residence or other items.

### SECURITIES

A gift of securities to The Hospice for Life Foundation during your lifetime or in your will. Connect with us to find out about different types of securities.



# 2025/2026 FUNDRAISERS

Hospice Signature Events are annual events that raise funds and awareness for The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County.

## **HOSPICE DOVE PINS**

APRIL 24 - 27, 2025

The Hospice Dove Pin is a heartfelt way to show your support for Hospice. All proceeds directly support care for Hospice patients and their loved ones in our community.

## **RUBBER DUCK RACE**

JULY 25, 2025

Bring your friends and family to this fun-filled event, and help us make a splash for Hospice! Purchase your very own duck for a chance to win!

## **SAVOUR THE WINE TOUR**

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Jump on a bus for an afternoon of tours and tastings around Windsor and Essex County wine country at this fan-favourite event!

## **FACE TO FACE CAMPAIGN**

AUGUST 15 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

The Hospice Face to Face Campaign raises funds for The Fairley Family Transportation Program, which ensures much needed rides are available to our community.

## **HOCKEY FOR HOSPICE**

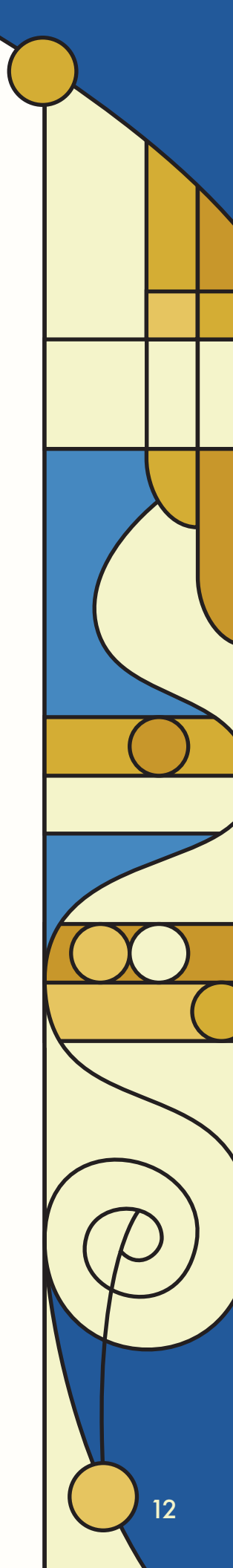
DECEMBER 27 - 29, 2025

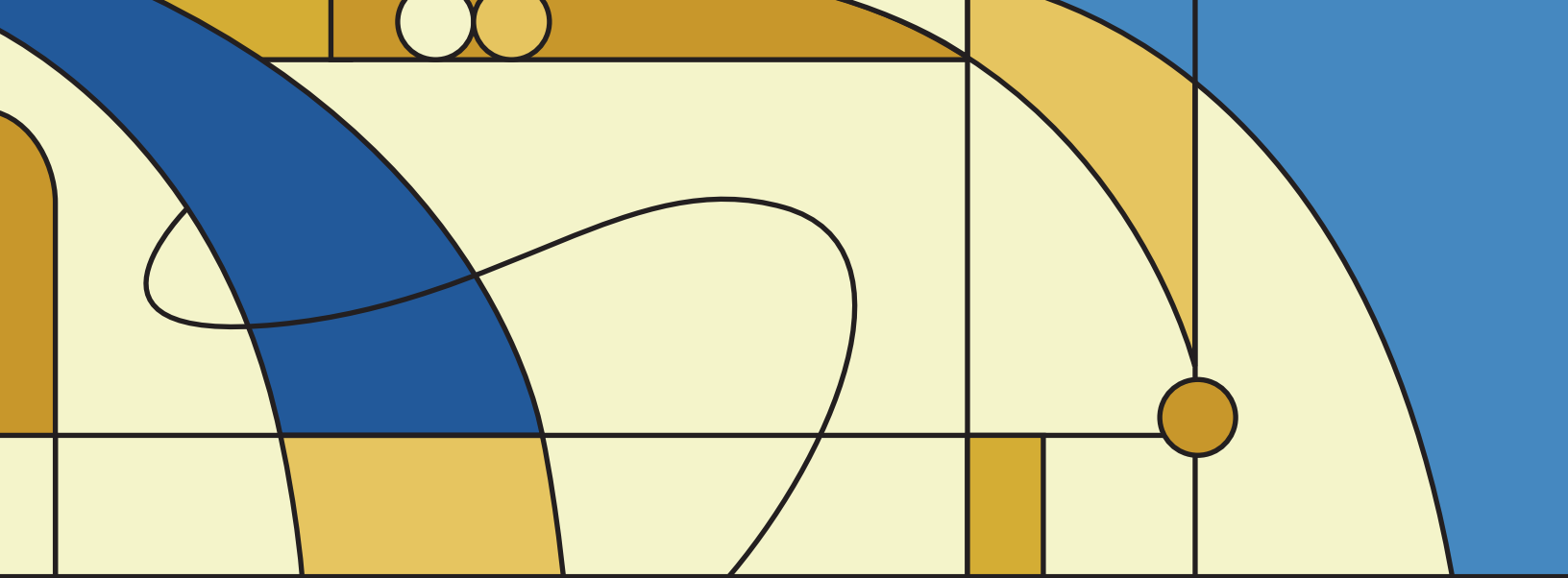
Hockey for Hospice is held every year from December 27th - 29th. To date, the tournament has raised more than \$6.4 million in support of Hospice care in our community.

## **THE HOSPICE GALA**

MARCH 28, 2026

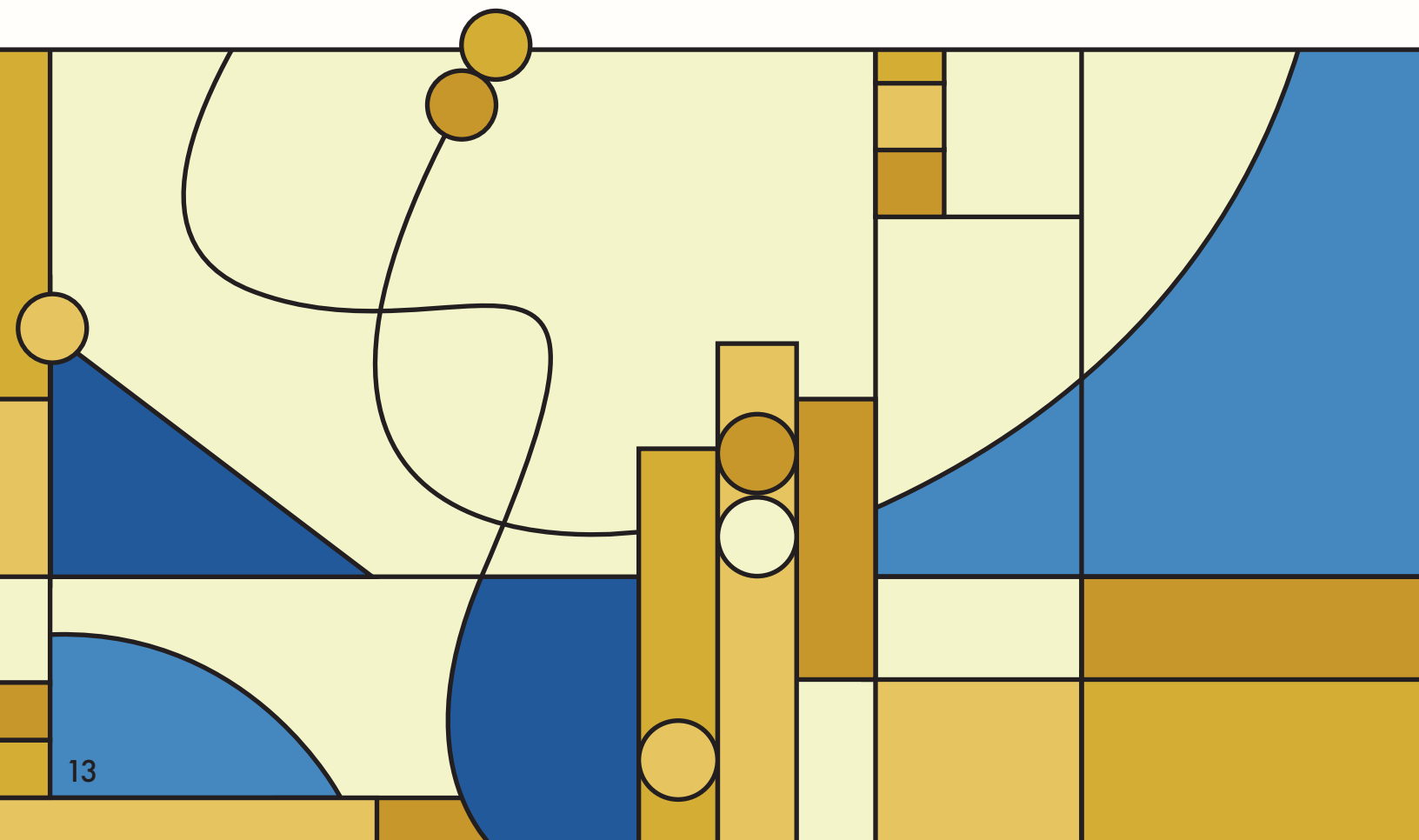
For over 45 years, this gala evening has been our signature event of the year, and has highlighted the immense support our Hospice receives from our community.





# OUR TEAM

Hospice is proud of our wonderful staff who work alongside our volunteer team to provide quality programs and services to our community at no cost to them.







# VOICES OF GRATITUDE

## HEARTFELT REFLECTIONS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

"Hospice is a beautiful place. They really help families during difficult times. All the volunteers are wonderful. Thanks for making people's day a little easier when they are going through the hardest times in their lives!"

- Kim J.

"Your staff and volunteers are amazing. They go above and beyond to make life for the patients and their families a little bit easier. They make Hospice feel like home, and everyone there is family. Truly a blessing for all who go there."

- Athena L.

"My husband passed away at Hospice; he was only 40. Hospice Windsor was amazing. They opened up the apartment so my kids could stay as well and spend as much time as possible with their dad before he died. I am forever grateful for them."

- Day M.

"Hospice is truly amazing. My sister had at-home care, and Hospice workers came to us. They became family. Forever grateful for all of them."

- Jenn G.

"We are very fortunate to have this amazing, comforting place for people to find peace on their final journey. My dad passed here, and everyone was so amazing. Thank you all."

- Michelle F.

"Nino was cared for in a palliative care room at Erie Shores HealthCare before being moved to Erie Shores Hospice. The kindness, dignity, and support shown to him - and to us - will never be forgotten. In our hardest moments, they gave us comfort, peace, and the ability to simply be together. That kind of care is truly priceless."

- Patti R.

# HEART & SOUL AWARD

## OUR AMAZING STAFF

The Heart & Soul Award is a distinguished honour designed to recognize members of our workforce who continuously go beyond the call of duty. Winners will have shown outstanding service and exceptional devotion, exemplifying the heart and soul of our Hospice. Their contributions will have led to compassionate, respectful, and positive experiences for our patients, their loved ones, and our community.



**HAROLD NEICE**  
MAINTENANCE MANAGER

Harold is the Maintenance Manager at our Hospice, but his job role extends far beyond his official description. His attention to detail and empathy for what patients and their loved ones are going through are unmatched. He is always willing to lend a helping hand, no matter the day or time. His reliability, integrity, and humility inspire trust and admiration from all who work with him.



**LINDA D'ERRICO-MCCORKELL**  
RECEPTIONIST

Linda is our Receptionist Extraordinaire at our Windsor Admin Building. She is the first impression of our Hospice that most people receive, both on the phone or in person, and she truly embodies the Heart and Soul of Hospice. She is always willing to lend a helping hand, and goes above and beyond in all that she does, every day.

*Thank you so much to our friends at Windsor Chapel Funeral Home by Arbor Memorial for not only sponsoring this award, but for choosing the recipient each quarter based on staff nominations.*



Windsor Chapel  
Funeral Home  
by Arbor Memorial

# THE HOSPICE G.E.N.I.E.

## A DIVISION OF THE FAIRLEY FAMILY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The G.E.N.I.E. Transport program, a collaboration between Hospice and Essex-Windsor EMS, was launched in 2022 to offer exceptional experiences to patients receiving Hospice care. Through this program, we offer the opportunity for patients receiving Hospice care, whether in Hospice Residences or in their own home, to request special trips or outings. We aim to bring moments of joy and happiness to individuals facing the challenges of a terminal illness.

Since this program was launched, our Hospice, along with help from Essex-Windsor EMS, have been able to provide countless trips and outings across Windsor and Essex County for our patients, including the wedding of Katie and Peter last summer.



Katie and Peter had been planning their wedding for months, but when Katie's Mom, Jacqueline, was admitted to the Hospice Residence in June, everything went into "high gear."

"It was so important to all of us to have my Mom at the wedding," says Katie. "But, she was so weak, we didn't know how we could safely get her to our backyard ceremony in Belle River."

In a unique twist of fate, Peter saw a story online that week about the Hospice G.E.N.I.E. Program, and it seemed like the perfect solution.

Peter is a paramedic with Essex-Windsor EMS, so he knew who to call. The ride for Jacqueline came together in just a few days, and co-workers of Peter's were the team who brought Katie's Mom to the ceremony.

***"It was so special to have her there. She was comfortable and safe, and so happy be with her family," says Katie.***

Volunteer EMS team members Daina and Sarah brought Jacqueline to the ceremony in Peter and Katie's backyard and kept her cool and sheltered from the sun so she could enjoy the celebration.

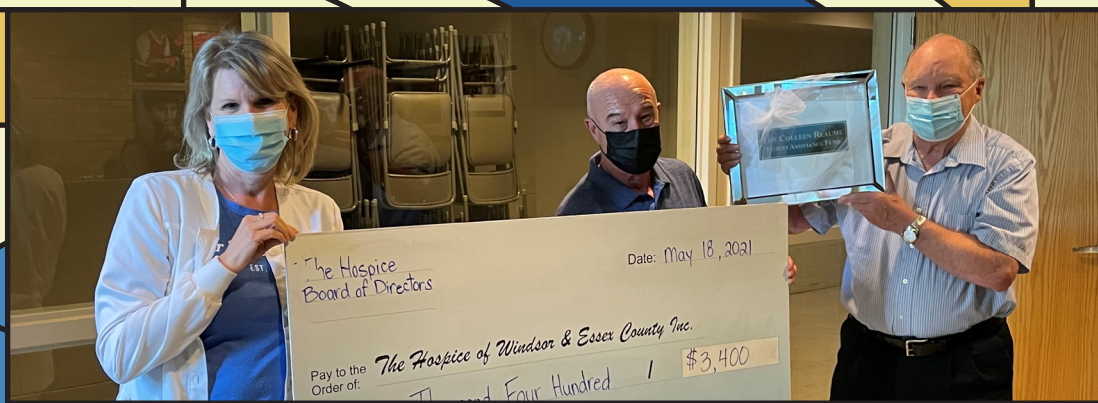
For Katie and Peter and their whole family, that day shared with Jacqueline is a memory that they will always cherish. A celebration, a family brought together, that's the Hospice Way!

*Your support can extend the reach of programs like the G.E.N.I.E., allowing us to create more extraordinary experiences for our patients and their loved ones.*

# THE COLLEEN REAUME PATIENT ASSISTANCE AND EXPERIENCE FUND

*At Hospice, our team strives each and every day to provide expert hospice palliative care, supporting individuals and their loved ones with dignity, comfort, and compassion at end of life.*

*The Colleen Reaume Patient Assistance and Experience Fund directly supports this mission.*



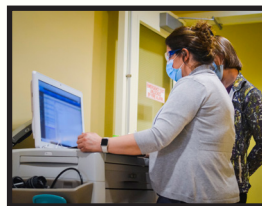
## About The Colleen Reaume Patient Assistance and Experience Fund

- At end-of-life, there are many uncertainties and unexpected expenses. In 2018, Colleen Reaume, Hospice's Executive Director at the time, established this Fund to help alleviate some of those burdens, and assist patients at a time when it is needed most.
- The Patient Assistance and Experience Fund provides financial support to people who are actively receiving services from our Hospice, and are living with a life-limiting diagnosis.

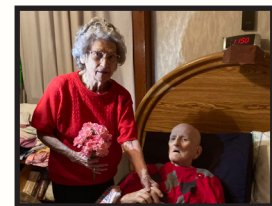
## This Fund Has Supported Hospice Patients and Families By:



Allowing our patient to attend her granddaughter's graduation via livestream, and purchase a gown to help her celebrate.



Purchasing out-of-pocket or unfunded medications that make a patient more comfortable.



Supporting a Hospice patient in our community as they hosted a wedding at home, ensuring the day was extra special.

*To donate in support of the Colleen Reaume Patient Assistance and Experience Fund, please visit [www.thehospice.ca](http://www.thehospice.ca) or call 519-974-7100.*

# OUR HOSPICE HEROES

Each month, our Hospice staff has the opportunity to recognize two Hospice Volunteers as "Hospice Heroes."

A "Hospice Hero" is a stand-out volunteer who has stepped up, and gone above and beyond to support our organization.

This award and special presentation acknowledge our amazing volunteers and all that they do as part of our Hospice Team.



# Congratulations to our 2025/2026 Hospice Heroes:

- Ruth Ann W.
- Nora M.
- Deanna K.
- David Z.
- Michele W.
- Melissa B.
- Janet A.
- Betty P.
- Gloria T.
- Maria P.
- Judy S.
- Bonnie B.
- Mary Jane L.
- Mary N.
- Kathy M.
- Glennis D.
- Debbie W.
- Barb B.
- Denise N.
- Murray S.
- Linda P.
- Louise S.
- Elfrieda B.
- Ed H.

Thank you to John Max Sports & Wings for sponsoring our Windsor Hospice Heroes.  
 Thank you to The Main Grill and Ale House and Wild Wing Leamington for sponsoring our Erie Shores Hospice Heroes through the Erie Shores Health Foundation.





# APRIL'S GARDEN

*"A PLACE TO REFLECT, TO SHARE AND TO LOVE."*

*April's Garden was presented to the residents and families of the Hospice Village at our Windsor Campus on August 3rd, 2011. Since that time, this light-filled gathering space has held many celebrations, including:*



## Wedding Anniversary

We hosted a celebratory dinner for Deb and her husband's wedding anniversary, with elegant décor, florals, real china, and the couples' favourite food and desserts.



## Christmas in July

Unsure whether Mom, Roz, would be here to celebrate Christmas with the family, The Renaud Family celebrated in July with decorations and all the family recipes.



## Birthday Celebration

We had the pleasure of hosting a beautiful birthday celebration for our resident, Lydia. She spent her special day enjoying a delicious cake with her family and friends.

*April's Garden is a beautiful "place to reflect, to share and to love."  
Special thank you to the Francis-Keystone Foundation, Ron and Noella Truant,  
and all the supporters who made this vision a reality.*

# HOSPICE DOVE PINS

***SHOW YOUR LOVE, WEAR A HOSPICE DOVE!***

The Hospice Dove Pin is an iconic and heartfelt representation of not only our Hospice, but the thousands of patients and families we have had the privilege of caring for, right here, in Windsor and Essex County.

Introduced in 2022, we asked our community to wear one in memory of a loved one, in honour of our Hospice patients and families, or to show their support for our Hospice.

These Dove Pins were generously donated, designed, and manufactured locally, with the help of our friends and partners at Ground Effects LTD and Mega Mold International.

Each Dove Pin is offered by donation, and all funds raised directly support care for Hospice patients and their loved ones.

***SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 22-25, 2027***





# DON AND GAIL RODZIK EDUCATION ENDOWMENT

*SUPPORTING EDUCATION AT HOSPICE*

## 80%

of ALL of Hospice employees took at least one optional education course supported by The Don and Gail Rodzik Education Endowment in 2025.

Since July 2022, The Don and Gail Rodzik Education Endowment has supported educational opportunities related to palliative care for our Hospice staff and volunteers.

In addition, the Endowment funds wider group education opportunities for the Hospice team, as well as the chance for Hospice to hire two part-time student nurses each year to work at The Hospice, Windsor Residence.

## 100%

of our of our Registered Nurses, Registered Practical Nurses, and Personal Support Workers took part in Clinical Professional Development Days.

“Hospice has always been close to our hearts,” said Don and Gail Rodzik. “The opportunity to support Hospice, as well as promote educational opportunities for their team, made this donation all the more important to us. These funds will directly impact and improve the future of healthcare in our community, and we are thrilled to show our support.”

Hospice has always been a leader in palliative care, and this Endowment ensures that remains true for years to come. Thanks to the support of Don and Gail Rodzik, the Hospice frontline team will receive top-tier educational opportunities and be able to apply everything they learn towards providing quality, memorable care for patients and their loved ones in our community.



# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF HOCKEY FOR HOSPICE!

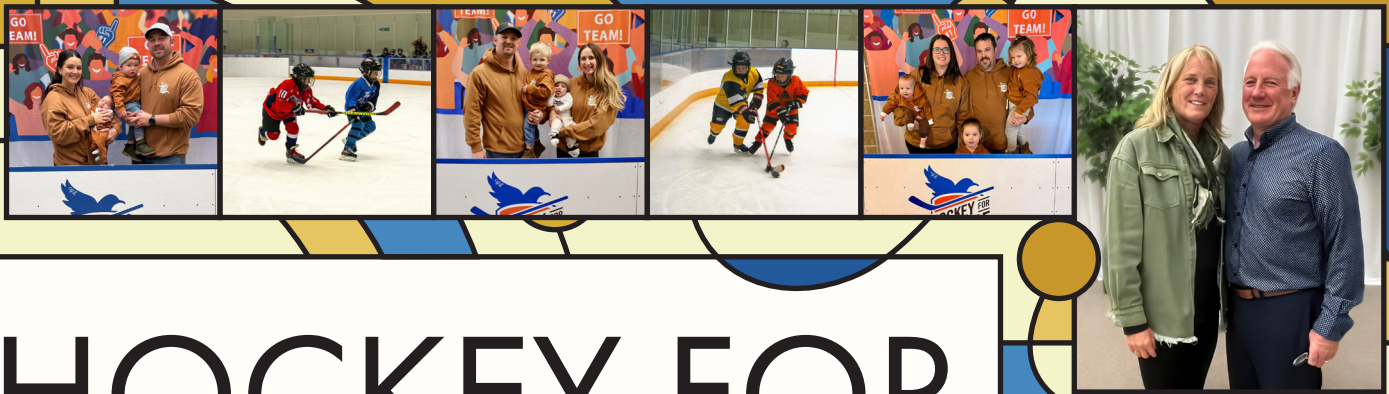
Hockey For Hospice is an annual event, held every year from December 27th to December 29th. The tournament hosts approximately 2,000 young hockey players annually, at a number of local arenas. Each of the players collect pledges from friends and family, and to date, they have raised more than \$6.4 million for Hospice.

Hockey For Hospice not only allows children to take part in a fun, well-organized hockey tournament, it also teaches them the importance of giving back to their community from a young age. The Hockey for Hospice Committee is made up of dedicated volunteers who work year-round to ensure a fabulous event and are always looking for opportunities to grow and improve.

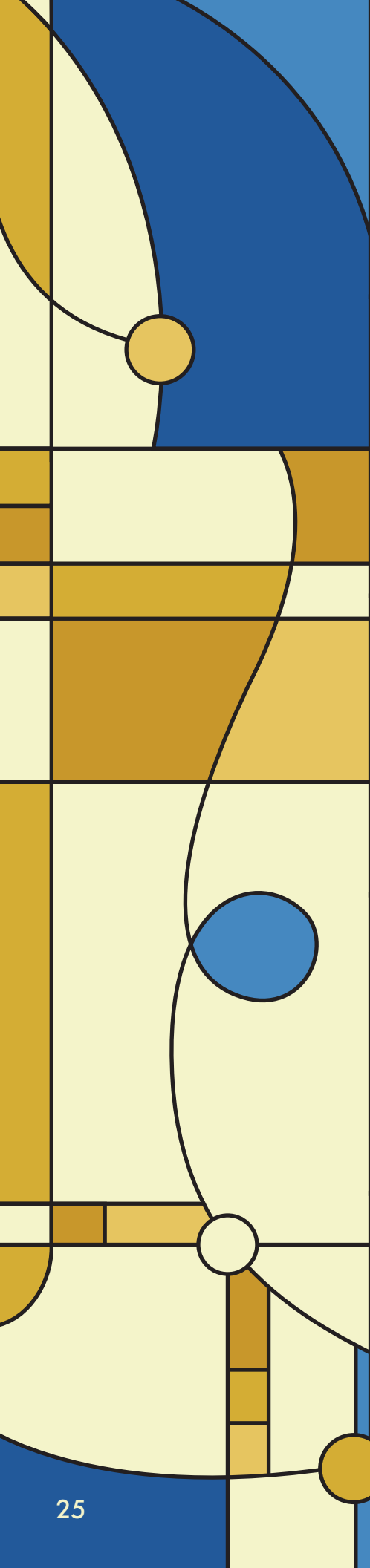
“Different families have different types of holiday traditions – for our family and friends, Hockey For Hospice has been a 29-year tradition,” said Tim Beaulieu, Tournament Co-Founder and Co-Chair. “We are absolutely amazed at what these young players have done in support of our community, year after year, and we look forward to our next tournament.”

“These young athletes impress us every year - not just through their abilities on the ice, but through their generosity and commitment to giving back,” said Katharen Bortolin, Executive Director of The Hospice. “Hockey For Hospice is a true community effort, and its continued success reflects the dedication of players, coaches, officials, families, volunteers, sponsors and our organizing committee. We are deeply grateful to everyone who supports Hospice and helps us deliver compassionate care to those who need it most across Windsor-Essex.”

*The 30th Annual Hockey For Hospice Tournament will be held December 27-29, 2026*



# HOCKEY FOR HOSPICE



# VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF HOSPICE

## 2025 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Each year, Hospice hosts a Volunteer Awards Night to celebrate some of the many wonderful volunteers we have here at our Hospice. We would not be able to provide such amazing care at no cost to our patients and their families without the help of our volunteers.

Congratulations to our 2025 Volunteer Award Recipients:

### **THE CAROL DERBYSHIRE HEART OF HOSPICE AWARD**

*John Fairley*

### **THE MARJORIE AND STUART LESCHIED AWARD**

*Jackie & Ken Vickers*

### **THE JEAN ECHLIN AWARD**

*Frank White*

### **THE JANE BOYD COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD**

*Roger Salter Memorial Golf Tournament & The Salter Family*

### **THE PENNY CRAIG UNSUNG HERO AWARD**

*Maria Hillier*

### **THE JAN DENNIS SPIRIT OF YOUTH AWARD(S)**

*Aleena Kappadakunnel | Isidora Sekaric*

### **THE DR. JAMIE HENDERSON VOLUNTEER BUSINESS/ COMMUNITY GROUP AWARD**

*Windsor Spitfires Inc.*

### **THE REVEREND PAUL CHIDWICK HEART TO HEART AWARD(S)**

*Bob Bechtel | Fernanda Gillis*

### **THE JOHN MARTEL TRUSTED PARTNER AWARD**

*Kenwil Services Limited*

THE HOSPICE OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY

# MEMORIAL SERVICE

## HONOURING YOUR LOVED ONES

Each April, our Hospice Supportive Care Coordinators pay tribute to those who have passed in the previous year with a connection to Hospice through our Hospice Memorial Services.

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, In Honour Of The Ones We Love, as well as The Hospice For Life Foundation for their continuous support.

We would also like to thank our Supportive Care Coordinators Maria Giannotti and Sue Timpson Mannell for hosting, as well as Sarah Overton, Danielle Gagnier, and all Hospice Volunteers who helped make these events possible.

The Memorial Services are available on the Hospice Windsor YouTube Channel to watch at any time.

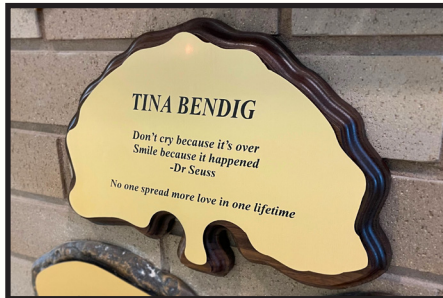


## THANK YOU TO ANITA IMPERIOLI AND IN HONOUR OF THE ONES WE LOVE

We are so grateful for your continuous support of our Hospice. You have helped us touch many lives, not only through our Memorial Service, but your ongoing generosity helps us provide care at no cost to patients and families across our community.

THINKING OF THE FUTURE

# LEGACY GIVING



Christina “Tina” Sweet lived a life dedicated to family, service, and community. After leaving her life as a nun, she married Ray Bendig in 1971 and raised four children in Woodslee, balancing a teaching career and later working with the VON, where her passion for palliative care began.

Tina’s volunteerism spanned decades, from the Catholic Women’s League to Hospice, where she touched countless lives with her warmth and commitment. While Tina’s life was certainly the perfect example of “a life well-lived,” her passing became absolutely representative of a legacy.

“She spent the last five years of her life making sure that everything was in order,” explains daughter, Carrie. “She considered that she and Dad had been so blessed in their lives, and she put all the plans in place to ensure that their blessings were shared with the organizations that they loved.” As evidence, Tina made generous Bequest Donations to her favourite charities, including one to our Hospice.

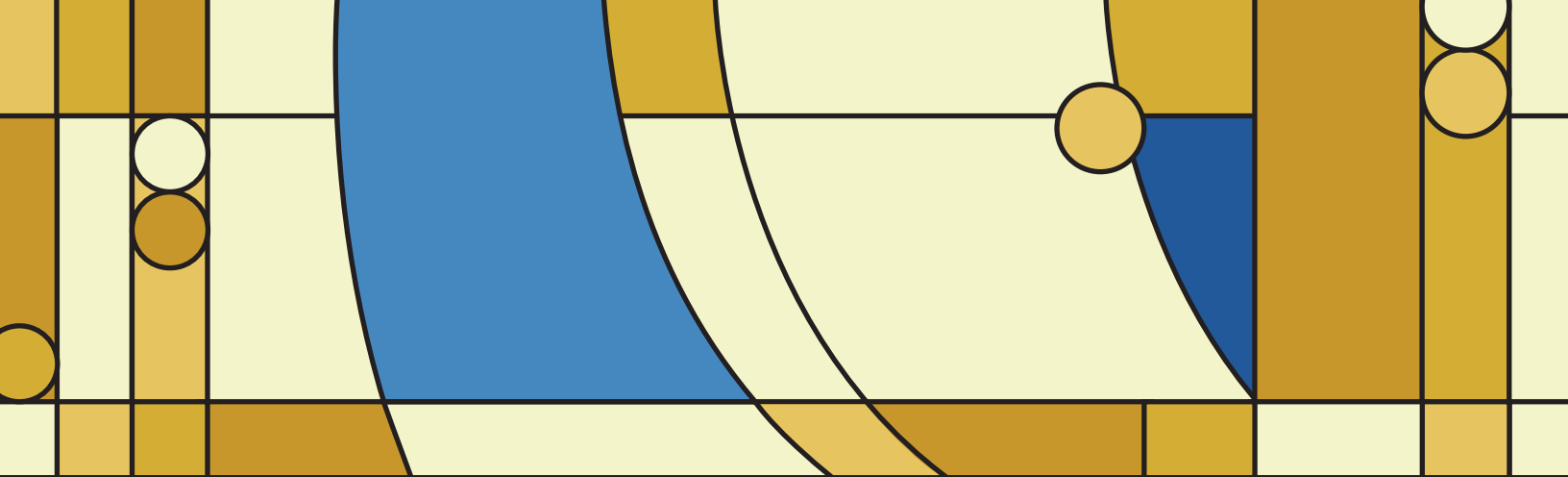
“Mom loved Dr. Seuss, and she read all the books to us when we were kids. So, we all got together and chose a quote from those books to honour her – ‘Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened,’” says Carrie. “She wanted people to be happy when they thought of her.”

This quote defined Tina’s life, and her wonderful Bequest to our Hospice defines her legacy. Thanks to her thoughtful planning, many, many of our Hospice patients and their families will benefit from the Memorable Care our Hospice team will be able to provide because of her generosity.

Tina lived her life determined that she would not be left behind, but what she did leave behind is a testament to strength, dedication, and a passion for her community. We are honoured to have been part of that legacy.

**To learn more about legacy giving at Hospice, or to chat with a member of our team, please call (519) 974-7100 or visit [www.thehospice.ca/legacy-giving](http://www.thehospice.ca/legacy-giving).**

*We strongly advise you to talk to a lawyer or estate planner before confirming your legacy to The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County or The Hospice for Life Foundation.*



# FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY



**FINE N' DANDY FUNDRAISER**  
APRIL 2025



**RUNNING FACTORY SPRING THAW**  
APRIL 2025



**WOODY'S HOODIES FUNDRAISER**  
MAY 2025



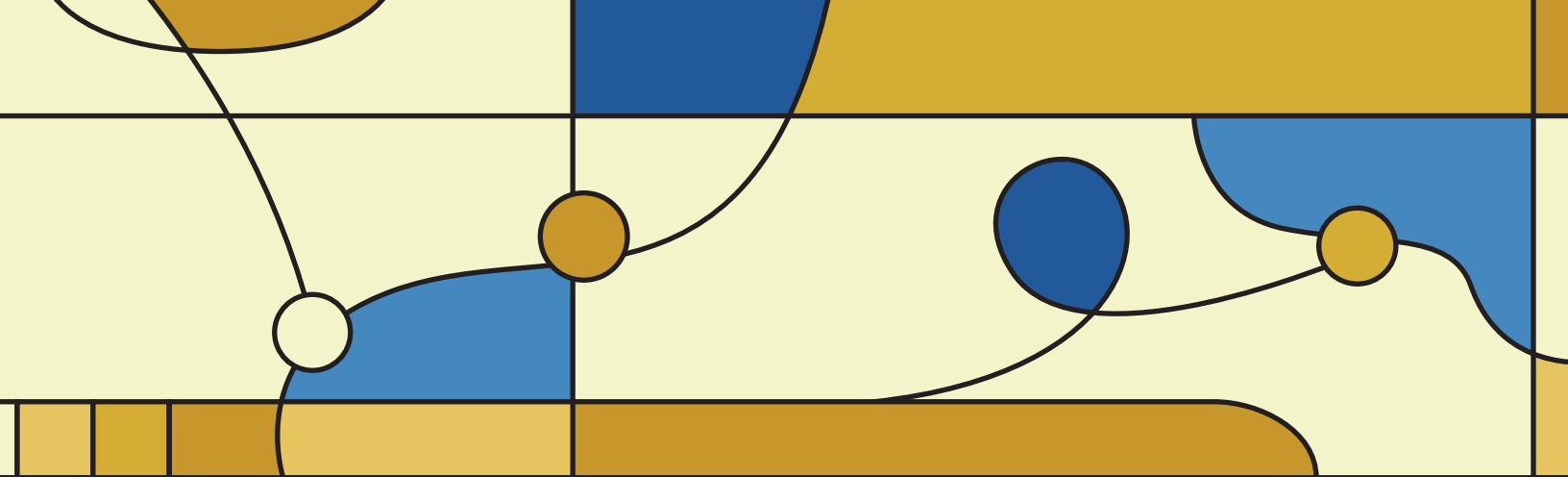
**INTERNATIONAL FEMALE RIDE DAY**  
MAY 2025



**ANNUAL SPECTRE FINANCIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
JUNE 2025



**LAVISH HAIR CONCEPTS HOSPICE MONTH**  
JUNE 2025



Without our amazing community, there would be no Hospice. It's thanks to people like you that we can offer programs and services at no cost to patients and their loved ones across Windsor and Essex County. Raising funds for Hospice is simple and fun, and your support helps to ensure that we can continue to deliver memorable care to patients and their loved ones in our community. Here are just some examples of events and fundraisers put on by our generous Hospice supporters in 2025/26.



**ED JOVANOVSKI CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC**  
JULY 2025



**5TH ANNUAL STEPS FOR SUE FUNDRAISER**  
JULY 2025



**HAUNTED HOUSE FOR HOSPICE**  
SEPTEMBER 2025



**ANNUAL SAIL FOR HOSPICE FUNDRAISER**  
SEPTEMBER 2025



**FARMER MAC'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**  
OCTOBER 2025



**RETRO TRUCK MINIS & VENDOR EVENT**  
DECEMBER 2025



# THESE BEARS ARE TRULY MAGIC

*We're honoured to share this story of a daughter remembering her dad, while helping her little girl cherish the special bond she had with her grandfather. It's a reflection on love, family, and the small comforts that helped them through — with a little help from our Hospice team.*

Dear Hospice Team,

The day my Dad was admitted to the Hospice Residence in Windsor, we brought our little 5-year-old, Isabella, to see her Nonno. Isabella and Nonno had a very special bond. It was when Dad became Nonno that we finally saw cracks in his tough exterior - there was nothing he wouldn't do for his little granddaughter!

We had explained to Isabella what was happening with Nonno. She knew he was sick and would not get better and that he would die - but we didn't know when. She wanted to visit him and was so brave, until we pulled into the parking lot. At that moment, she somehow sensed the gravity of the situation, and she started crying and was almost inconsolable.

We were so fortunate when we entered the front doors with our scared little one that Dad's nurse, Therece, happened to be in the foyer, and she knew exactly what was needed. After chatting with us for a minute, she stepped away, only to reappear seconds later with a box of Hospice bears. She offered Isabella a bear and one for her sister at home. Isabella started calming down as Therece explained that these Hospice bears had magic powers! If Isabella was feeling sad or scared, nervous or angry, confused or anxious, all she had to do was squeeze her bear tight and her new friend would magically make those feelings better and give her some comfort.

Let me tell you, that bear truly is magic! Isabella hugged that bear tightly the whole walk down the hallway to see Nonno in Hospice for the first time.

She stopped crying and was able to stand next to Nonno and talk to him calmly (even though he was not able to communicate with her). Even more remarkable, when family came to visit that evening and one relative was very emotional in the hallway, Isabella offered her bear to her Zia, explaining that it was a magic bear and Zia could squeeze it tight to take away her sad feelings.

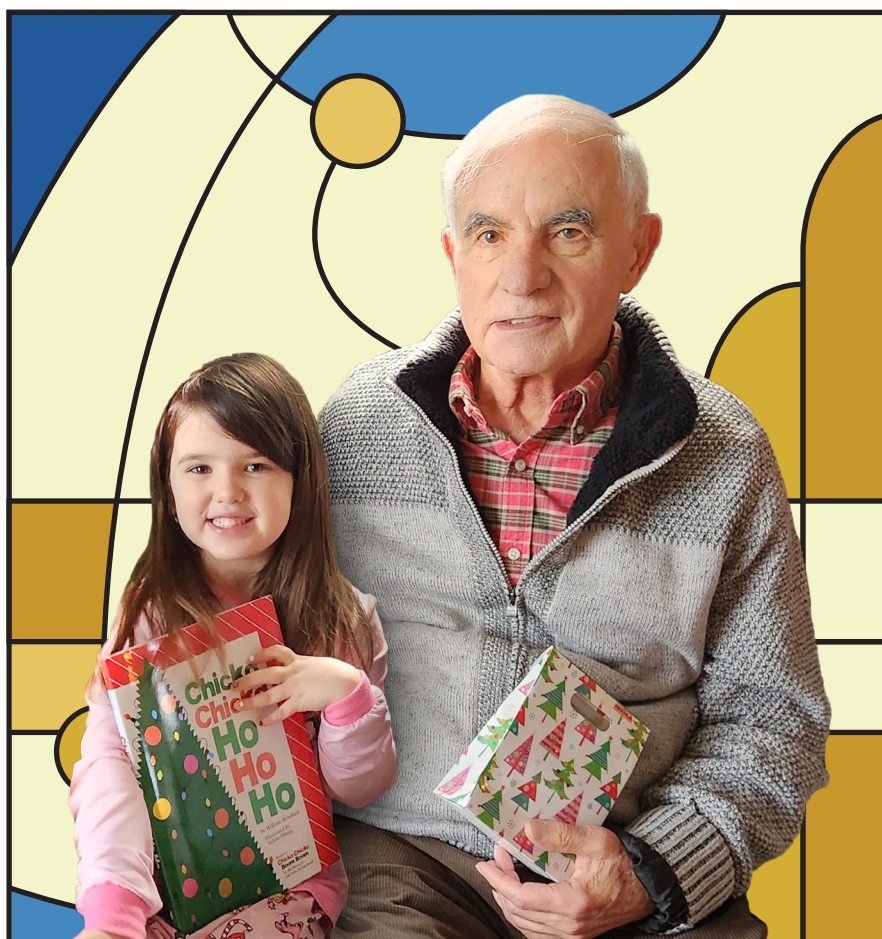
That night at bedtime, Isabella told us she had decided on her bear's name, "Mamma I'm going to call it Feelings Bear, because its magic takes care of all my feelings."

The next day, Isabella took Feelings Bear to school with her. We gave her teachers a "heads up" so they would understand and could help. Feelings Bear came with us to visit Nonno at Hospice that night too and sat right beside Isabella while she coloured pictures for Nonno's room. The next morning we had to break the news to Isabella that Nonno had died. Feelings Bear to the rescue yet again - that little bear hardly left Isabella's arms that day, and all the next week. Feelings Bear joined us at the funeral home, and all through the services. Feelings Bear has been a snuggle buddy at bedtime ever since and has been a catalyst for Isabella to talk about Nonno and talk TO Nonno, however and whenever she needs in her own moments of grief. We have already had many conversations in our house about Isabella's Nonno memories using Nonno Bear - happy conversations about happy memories.

As parents, we are beyond thankful; this bear is truly magic and helped us have conversations no-one ever plans to have with a 5-year-old. It helped with some big feelings in such a little human and has given her courage in ways we never expected.

With deepest appreciation,  
Maria

***For more than 20 years, Hospice bears have been handmade with love by our dedicated volunteers, and we are forever grateful.***



# VOLUNTEER WITH HOSPICE

***Volunteering with Hospice may be one of the most fulfilling things you ever do.***

We have a variety of volunteer opportunities - whatever your passion, we can help you to express it through service to the Hospice! Our volunteers are an essential part of Hospice, we would not be able to offer all of our programs and services at no cost to the community without generous people like you!

If you are interested in becoming a Hospice volunteer, please call (519) 974-7100 or visit [www.thehospice.ca](http://www.thehospice.ca).

## HOSPICE RESIDENCES

*AT BOTH OUR WINDSOR AND ERIE SHORES (LEAMINGTON) CAMPUSES*

### **PATIENT CARE ASSISTANT**

Volunteers assist the nurse and/or personal support worker with physical care for residents

### **FOOD SERVICES**

Prepare meals/snacks daily for our residents, track grocery lists, and organize the kitchen

### **RECEPTION**

Volunteers greet guests, answer phones, and create a welcoming atmosphere.

# HOSPICE RESIDENCES AND IN THE COMMUNITY

## VISITING

Support through visiting or relief for caregivers.  
Only companionship; no personal care provided.

## PHONE CALL SUPPORT

Provide support to clients and/or caregivers via a phone conversation

## PET THERAPY VISITATION

*Pets must be St. John's Ambulance certified*

Volunteers visit with their pet to provide joy, stress relief, comfort, and companionship to patients in the Hospice Residences

## TRANSPORTATION

*Must be 25+ years, have 3+ years of experience transporting passengers in a commercial setting, and have valid Ontario driver's license and insurance*

Provide patients with rides to medical appointments or to Hospice using an agency van or personal vehicle

## NO ONE DIES ALONE (NODA)

Provide support for clients near death or actively dying and their caregivers

## SUPPORTIVE CARE

Offer companionship, supportive presence, conversation, creative activities and/or spiritual support in our Residences or in-home.

## ENERGY WORK

*Must be certified in Reiki, The Radiance Technique®, and/or Therapeutic Touch™*

Assist clients/caregivers in reducing stress and promoting relaxation

## G.E.N.I.E PROGRAM

*Must be a current or retired EMS professional*

Granting Exceptional N' Impactful Experiences, the G.E.N.I.E. program offers the opportunity for patients receiving Hospice care to request special trips/outings

# INDIRECT SERVICE VOLUNTEER ROLES

## COMFORT BEARS

**Erie Shores Campus** - create comfort bears, quilts, and other items for patients and families

## KNITTING GROUP

**Erie Shores Campus** - volunteers crochet and knit items such as lap blankets or slippers for patients and families

## LOTTERY BOOTH

*Must be 19+ and trained*

Help sell Ontario Lottery & Gaming Corporation tickets at Caesars Windsor

## HOSPITALITY & FUNDRAISING

*Assist prior to/day of event*

Roles may include staffing information booths, greeting participants, helping with registration, selling raffle tickets, road marshalling, etc.

## BURDEN BEARS

**Windsor Campus** - sew bears/blankets to provide comfort to patients and families

## GARDENING

*Seasonal: March-November*

Keep the gardens on Hospice property healthy, cultivated, and attractive

## E-BINGO

*Must be 19+ and trained*

Assist at e-bingos by greeting patrons and clearing the tables

## GENERAL OFFICE SUPPORT

Provide support in the administration offices with a variety of office tasks (i.e. data entry, mailings, filing, making phone calls, etc.)



Inspiration for this year's Gratitude Report was drawn from the beautiful stained-glass window located in the lobby of the Administration Building at our Windsor Campus, pictured above.

The window's abstract design invites personal interpretation, allowing each viewer to find meaning through the lens of their own life journey. A variety of symbolic elements are woven throughout the artwork, while flowing and structural lines combine to represent the paths, experiences, and connections that shape our lives.

The story behind the window holds special significance. In 1979, Paul Chidwick convened the first meeting of what would become The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County. At that time, the organization had neither a name nor financial support.

Prior to the meeting, a friend unexpectedly donated \$100 to help purchase materials needed for the evening. The total cost came to \$92.50. In addition to the abstract design, the receipt from that very first purchase was etched into the glass - a lasting reminder of our humble beginnings and how far we have come as an organization.

## WINDSOR CAMPUS

6038 Empress Street  
Windsor, ON N8T 1B5

## ERIE SHORES CAMPUS

197 Talbot Street West  
Leamington, ON N8H 1N8

