

Your Community Hospice.

The Impact of Giving.

Annual Report

April 1, 2022 • March 31, 2023



St. Joseph's
Hospice
Sarnia Lambton

Care... Compassion... Community

Table of Contents

Mission, Vision, Values.....	2
Message from the Board Chair ..	3
Board of Directors	3
A message from the ED.....	4
Palliative Care Clinic	5
Hospice Residence	6
Supportive Services	7-9
Spiritual Care.....	10
Volunteer Program	11
Financial Support.....	12
Fund Development.....	13
Our Signature Events	14
Donor Tree of Life	
Endowment Fund	15
Holiday Mail Appeal	16-17

St. Joseph's Hospice of Samia Lambton

Our Mission, Vision, Values

Mission

Guided by the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph, we offer exemplary grief support, palliative and end of life care in partnership with all individuals and their circle of care in Lambton County.

Vision

An empowered community compassionately supporting the grieving, the dying and those caring for them.

Values

- S** Stewardship
- E** Equity
- R** Respect
- V** Volunteerism
- I** Innovation
- C** Compassion
- E** Education

A Message from the Board Chair



I would like to start by thanking the Sarnia Lambton Community for their generous support of St. Joseph's Hospice of Sarnia Lambton. Your support has allowed us to raise \$1,600,000 and achieve our fundraising goal. We also owe our heartfelt gratitude to MPP Bob Bailey and his staff who provided vital assistance in helping secure a "one-time" funding grant to not only our Hospice but was also paid to all Hospices across the province. This funding was very much appreciated. Presently, with our current funding model we must raise 57% of our operating budget. Therefore, fundraising is so important to our continued sustainability for

the future of our services to the community. Obviously, the final component of this equation is our Fundraising Team. On behalf of the Board of Directors we cannot thank them enough for their tireless dedication to the organization. We will continue to urge the government for an improved funding model, and we encourage everyone to reach out to their provincial politicians and ask for this support.

The Hospice could not function without our staff, volunteers and physicians who support us. Having firsthand experience, our staff and volunteers are special individuals. In the last year, our volunteers donated an incredible 14,378 hours to our organization. Words cannot express the proper thank you to our staff and volunteers for all they do every day!

The traditions and legacies that have been provided to us by the Sisters of St. Joseph will continue to provide the framework for our future growth and allow us to evolve. We have seen our organization adapt and adjust as necessary through the ever-changing environment we saw during

the pandemic and over the past year. We will continue our due diligence to keep those we are serving, our physicians, our staff, and volunteers safe by working in partnership with Lambton Public Health's recommendations.

Hospice will continue to provide safe, compassionate, and quality end-of-life care within the Hospice Residence. Our care extends to not just the residents, but their family and loved ones by truly giving them a feeling of being "home." We also provide supportive services, such as our Adult Bereavement Programs, our Caring Hearts Children's Program, and our Living Life Well Programs which includes our Volunteer Visiting Programs, to our families and many community members. These services are provided at no cost to the community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you again to everyone who has continued to support St. Joseph's Hospice of Sarnia Lambton.

Warmest regards,

Paul R. Lane
Board Chair



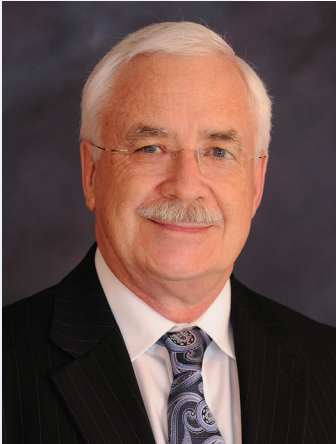
Board of Directors

2022-2023

Paul Lane, Board Chair
Lewis Mitchell, Secretary
Warren Parrot, Treasurer
Leslie Potts, Board Director
Bruce Hein, Board Director
Ed Litrenta, Board Director
Karen Dally, Board Director
Karly Somers, Board Director

Lorri Kerrigan, Board Director
Matthew Stevens, Board Director
Rob Kardas, Board Director
Richard Corneil, St. Joseph's Health Care Society, Board Director
Larry Lafranier, Executive Director
Bob Murray, Board Director Emeritus

A Message from the Executive Director



As I reflect on the fact that this will be my last annual letter due to my retirement, I am humbled and honored to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible support that I have received during my tenure here at St. Joseph's Hospice of Samia Lambton as Executive Director since March 2014. It has been a momentous and transformative journey for me personally as well.

Since its inception, Hospice would not be where it is today if it was not for our volunteers. Volunteerism lies at the heart of our organization's ethos, and I am continually inspired by the dedication you demonstrate day in and day out. Your selfless contributions of time, expertise

and passion whether as Board of Directors, reception duties, providing meals in the kitchen for our residents, facilitating bereavement groups and assisting at various fundraising events, have helped us advance our Mission and make a meaningful impact on the lives of those who have come to trust us in supporting them on their difficult journey.

I had the experience, day in and day out, in observing the dedication, compassion and unwavering support the staff provided for those in our care and their family members, at times under adverse conditions which made it very challenging. A challenge they accepted not as a job but as a vocation in the spirit of the Legacy of the Sisters' of St. Joseph, our very foundation of our existence. This is supported by the many testimonials that I have read over the years from family members expressing their utmost gratitude for the support they received during such a difficult time in their lives. In addition, I would also like to convey my gratitude for the support I had received over the years from St. Joseph's Health Care Society our sponsor.

Also, in my tenure as Executive Director, through the dedication and collaboration of all staff and volunteers, we have achieved significant milestones that have laid a foundation for a stronger and more cohesive organization.

Over the years we recognized the need to fortify our internal capabilities to support our members and further our Mission. We took strategic steps to add critical staff members and expertise to our team, which has significantly enhanced our ability to address challenges and deliver greater value to those constituents we serve within Samia Lambton.

The generosity of financial and volunteer support from those in Samia Lambton is most humbling. Support that since the inception of Hospice has been the envy of other like communities.

In closing, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers, staff, and community members, who have made Hospice what it is today. I am confident that the maintenance of strength through hard times is a testament of doing things right through leadership at all levels that will embrace the Mission while at the same time providing transformational stewardship.

Thank you,

Larry Lafranier
Executive Director

Clinic Statistics

Total Clinic Visits.....	2,440
Total Dialysis Visits.....	49
Total Nursing Home Visits.....	61
Total Home Visits.....	1,619
Total Visits.....	4,169
Total New Referrals.....	412

Palliative Care Clinic

In January of 2010, the former Community Care Access Centre (now Home and Community Care Services Erie St. Clair) established the Palliative Care Clinic at Hospice with Dr. Glen Maddison as the Medical Director. The Palliative Care Clinic offers pain and symptom management to patients with life threatening illnesses.

Originally the Clinic was located inside Hospice; however, due to the increase in additional physicians there was a need for additional space, hence the Clinic moved across the street. This location allows patients to remain connected to Hospice by linking patients and their families with the free programming that is offered by Hospice.

The Clinic is a part of the Palliative Care Consultation Team; a group made up of our community partners. This has had a measurable impact in ensuring quality of life and the choice of residency (i.e., home, hospital, or Hospice) at end-of-life. This diverts visits from the emergency department and provides service in a timely and expeditious manner in the patient's home. The Team is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Through this interdisciplinary Team, we are building lasting and meaningful relationships, supporting patients and their families through the progression of their illness. It helps shape our future Hospice Palliative Care Services in this region with a focus on individual advanced planning alternatives.

Dr. Glen Maddison, Dr. David Kim, Dr. Allison Crombeen, Dr. Evan Lilly and Dr. Orla MacSweeney, are a part of the Palliative Community Consultant Team as well as seeing out-patients in the Palliative Care Clinic.

The Palliative Care Clinic coordinates outreach care for palliative care patients throughout Lambton County. These patients are referred by family doctors, Emergency physicians in the area, as well as Oncologists practicing in Sarnia and London. The Clinic also serves to educate medical students and Family Medicine residents in advanced palliative medicine.



Dr. Glen Maddison,
Medical Director,
Palliative Care Physician



Dr. David Kim,
Palliative Care Physician



Dr. Allison Crombeen,
Palliative Care Physician



Dr. Evan Lilly,
Palliative Care Physician



Dr. Orla MacSweeney,
Palliative Care Physician



Gazebo



Great Room



Resident's Suite



Nurses' Station

Hospice Residence

As the landscape evolves under the new Ontario Health Team (OHT) West we are working to bring awareness of Palliative and End-of-Life support available to members of the Sarnia Lambton Community. In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, we admitted 185 residents of which 64% were living with a cancer diagnosis and 36% with a non-cancer related life limiting illness. Our occupancy in our 10-bed Residence was 69% with our average length of stay being 13 days. Our total resident bed days in the 2022 to 2023 fiscal year was 3,627.

Our admissions come from both the hospital and our community. With the collaborative work through the OHT we continue to foster strong relationships with our community partners. This work allows us to share the resources and support available to community members who have been diagnosed with a life limiting illness and wish to receive end of life care in our 10-bed Residence.

We continue to be humbled by the generosity and support from our dedicated volunteers, who are involved in every aspect of the residence services; cooking, gardening, cleaning, reception, direct support at the bedside, along with giving us the encouragement, support, and a kind word daily.

Recently, Dr. Glen Maddison announced his decision to retire from his practice in the spring of 2023. As always, we want to thank Dr. Maddison for his dedication and years of support as our Medical Director. We wish Dr. Maddison and his family well as he embarks on his new retirement journey.

Thank you to Dr. Allison Crombeen, Dr. David Kim, Dr. Evan Lilly and Dr. Orla MacSweeney for the ongoing support, education, and compassionate care they provide for our residents and their families.

We are extremely grateful for our generous and supportive community. It is truly a rewarding gift to work at St. Joseph's Hospice and share in the end-of-life journey with our residents and their loved ones. It is through the action of living out our Mission, Vision, and Values that our residence staff and volunteers feel so passionate about the service we provide to our community.



Dr. Maddison receiving the Recognition and Appreciation Award for Years of Outstanding Service as our Medical Director. Thank you, Dr. Maddison!

Supportive Services

St. Joseph's Hospice offers community programs to people in Samia Lambton who are living with a life limiting illness, their families and those who are grieving the death of a significant person. Support from a multidisciplinary team is available to meet the physical, emotional, and social needs in a way that is sensitive to personal, cultural, and religious beliefs and practices. Our Supportive Services are delivered by a dedicated team of trained volunteers and professionals. Services are offered through 5 main programs: The Living Life Well Program, The Adult Bereavement Program, Caring Hearts Children's Program, Public Education, and our Counselling Program.

Living Life Well Program

Day Hospice

A program for those living at home or in our Hospice Residence with a life limiting illness. Clients engage in various activities such as art, music therapy, pet therapy, supportive sharing, complementary therapies and entertainment, while enjoying a delicious meal in a group environment.

Volunteer Visiting

Individuals with a life limiting illness were matched with a trained volunteer to receive companionship, emotional and practical support. Visits were provided in the home or by telephone.

Caregiver Support Group

Caregivers of those with a life limiting illness are invited to a support group that provides peer support and covers topics that are specific to the experiences of Caregivers. Education, guest speakers, supportive sharing, and activities promoting self-care are all incorporated into these groups. We are pleased to have brought back our Caregiver Support Group in 2023 following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supportive Services Statistics

April 2022–March 2023

Living Life Well Program

Day Hospice

9 sessions held – twice monthly

*Day Hospice had been postponed due to COVID until November of 2022

Volunteer Visiting

7 individuals served.

118 support sessions held.

Caregiver Support Group

14 individuals served.

10 support groups held.

Caregiver Telephone Support

2 individuals served.

9 support sessions held.

Adult Bereavement Program

Adult Bereavement Support Groups

9 groups held.

75 individuals participated.

Walking Group

14 walks held.

22 individuals participated.

Public Education Program

Information Sessions & Presentations

115 individuals attended

6 presentations.

Caring Hearts Children's Program

Kids Grief Support Groups

2 groups held.

9 children participated.

Special Events

- Holiday Grief Packages: 30 families (47 children) received grief packages.

- Mother's Day Event: 8 children attended.

- Father's Day Event: 4 children attended.

Counselling Program

Grief & Bereavement Counselling

For those who are anticipating the death of a loved one or who are grieving the death of a loved one.

86 children served.

176 adults served.

End-of-Life Counselling

For those living in the community who have been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness.

4 clients served.

Total individuals who received counselling: 266

Total number of counselling sessions held: 784

Caregiver Telephone Support

Individuals who were caring for a loved one with a life limiting illness were matched with trained volunteers who made regular phone calls to provide the Caregiver with emotional support and companionship while they provide care for their loved ones in the home.

Adult Bereavement Program

Adult Bereavement Support Groups

Peer support groups were offered to those who had experienced a death of a significant person. Examples of groups include spousal loss, child loss, and family loss (primarily for the death of a parent, sibling, friend, or multiple losses). Groups ran 8 weeks long and were facilitated by staff and volunteers.

Bereavement Walking Group

A weekly group that meets in Canatara park in the summer and fall for a leisurely walk and companionship.

Public Education

Information Sessions & Presentations

Regular speaker/themed events for anyone in the community whether they are ill, caregivers, bereaved, or simply interested in the topic. Presentations offer an opportunity to receive resources while learning about the adjustments brought on by loss. Educational presentations were also available to other organizations in the community who are seeking to build capacity and expertise in these areas. Presentations were offered to the public, to students, professionals, volunteers, community members and more. Examples of topics include:

- Coping through the Holidays
- Understanding Grief
- Overview of Services at St. Joseph's Hospice



With the generous grant from Plains Midstream Canada, we were able to assemble 30 Family Holiday Grief Packages to support families commemorating and mourning after the death of a loved one.

Caring Hearts Children's Program



This program serves children and teens ages 6-18 in Sarnia Lambton who are anticipating the death of a loved one or who are grieving the death of a loved one.

Bereavement Support Groups

Children met with others their age in a group for those who are ages 6-9, and a group for those who are ages 10-13. Art, play, music and storytelling were used to help children express their feelings and experiences and cope with the loss of a loved one.

Special Events

Our Supportive Services Team understands how difficult holidays and special occasions can be, especially for children after the loss of a loved one. Preceding major holidays, special events are offered throughout the year (ex. Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas) that include commemorative activities and rituals of connection with loved ones who have died.

Holiday Grief Packages

Every December the Supportive Services Team provides a Family Holiday Event for community members of Lambton County. The focus of the event is to provide an environment for children and their families to participate in commemorative activities and rituals of connection with loved ones who have died. Families build gingerbread houses, write messages to their loved one who died and tuck the messages in the houses. For the second year in a row, we adapted this event to be held through recorded videos and grief packages that each family could pick up and bring home. Each package provided a family with a gift certificate for a pizza dinner, a gingerbread house, a copy of the book "The Memory Box," and a battery-operated candle.

Counselling Program

Counselling was provided by qualified professionals specializing in grief and bereavement. Individuals in our community living with a life-limiting illness, those anticipating the death of a loved one or individuals grieving the death of a significant person accessed up to eight (8) counselling sessions. Counselling was available for children and adults through virtual appointments, telephone, and in-person.

Service of Remembrance

Past resident families are invited to join us for an evening of music, reflection and fellowship to honour their loved one and their time spent with us at Hospice. In this fiscal year, we were able to return to in-person services post-pandemic and held three of them on July 10th, 11th and 12th at Samia Golf and Curling Club. These services were for the 177 families we served from April 1st, 2022 to March 31st, 2023. Over the three services we served 110 individuals representing 28 families.



Spiritual Care

Spiritual Care is foundational to the tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Mission, Vision and Values of St. Joseph's Hospice, and remains an integral part of the day to day operations at Hospice. Our Spiritual Care Coordinator is a trained professional who provides spiritual, emotional and psychosocial care to residents and their families, as well as staff and volunteers, regardless of their culture, faith, beliefs or value systems. The spiritual and religious needs of residents and their families are assessed upon their arrival at Hospice and relevant resources are provided to support them on their end-of-life journey. Collaboration with community spiritual affiliations is arranged based on the resident's needs and/or request. When the death of a resident occurs, we light our Living Life Fireplace and candle outside of the resident's door; each remain lit for 24 hours. Spiritual Care is offered through many of the Supportive Services programs and other special events throughout the year. Additionally, the Spiritual Care Coordinator offers reflection, debriefing and education for staff and volunteers around self-care strategies to support them in the care they provide.



Volunteer Program

Our Volunteer Areas

Supportive Services Volunteers

- Caregiver Volunteers
- Visiting Volunteers
- Day Hospice Volunteers
- Adult Grief and Bereavement Volunteers
- Caring Hearts Children's Volunteers
- Pet Therapy Volunteers
- Complementary Therapy Volunteers
- Vigil Volunteers
- Music Entertainment Volunteers

Residence Volunteers

- Residence Reception Volunteers
- Direct Support Volunteers
- Kitchen Volunteers
- Maintenance Volunteers
- Gardening Volunteers
- Housekeeping Volunteers
- Laundry Aid Volunteers

Resource Centre Volunteers

- Resource Reception Volunteers
- Program Team Office Support
- Board Members
- Committee Members
- Event and Fundraising Volunteers
- Gala Committee Volunteers
- Gala Event Volunteers
- Golf Committee Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer with St. Joseph's Hospice or are interested in learning more about our volunteer opportunities, please call us at 519-337-0537.

Our volunteers offer their time, demonstrate care and compassion, presence, and expertise in 24 different roles here at St. Joseph's Hospice. Their talents span a wide variety of activities of care, from welcoming our residents and clients, to assisting our professional staff with the direct personal bedside care of our residents, gardening, preparing meals, assisting in fundraising events, and leading Bereavement Programs to those grieving a loss.

Our volunteers' passionate support and unwavering commitment has allowed us to provide programs and services, care and compassion for our community. We are grateful to our volunteers for their work and commitment to our mission and vision.

Our volunteers receive ongoing support and education, specific to their roles, and are trained to assist staff in all the practical measures required to assist residents, clients, and families.

Our ancillary goal is to create an outstanding and deeply meaningful volunteer opportunity, which is highly valued by our community.

Volunteer Hours

Total volunteer hours for fiscal year: over 14,378

Caregiver Group Facilitator	20	Fire/Evacuation Drills	7
Volunteer Visiting	93	Event & Fundraising Volunteers	2727
Day Hospice Volunteers	26	Education & Training	306
Adult Grief & Bereavement Facilitator	377		
Caring Hearts Children's Program	102		
Complimentary Therapy	13		
Music Care Volunteer	11		
Pet Therapy	23		
Residence Reception.....	3958		
Direct Support (DSVs)	1513		
Kitchen Volunteers	2752		
Program Team Office Support	118		
Gardening Volunteers	158		
Housekeeping Volunteers	19		
Laundry Aide.....	125		
Resource Reception Volunteers	1943		
Board Members	82		
Vigil Volunteer	3		



Care... Compassion... Community

Financial Support

April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

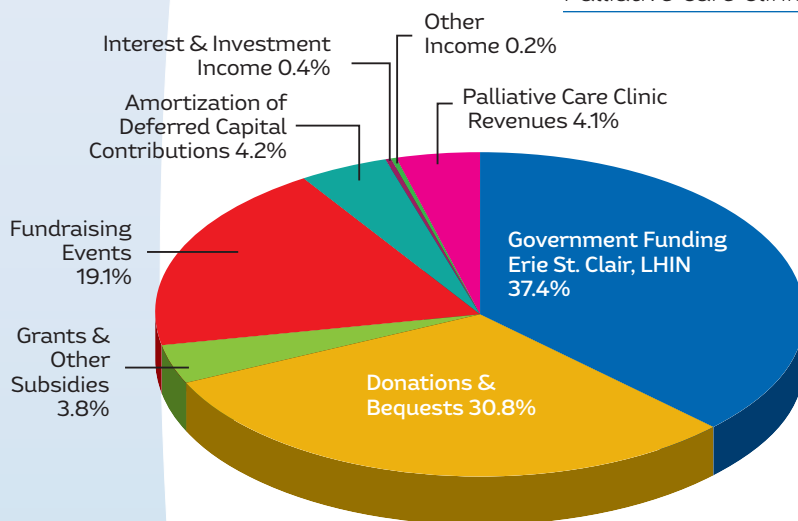
Revenue Sources

Government Funding: Erie St. Clair – LHIN	\$1,471,713.00
Donations & Bequests	\$1,212,123.00
Grants & Other Subsidies	\$151,200.00
Fundraising Events	\$752,768.00
Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	\$163,816.00
Interest & Investment Income	\$15,794.00
Other Income	\$9,238.00
Palliative Care Clinic Revenues	\$159,650.00
	<u>\$3,936,302.00</u>

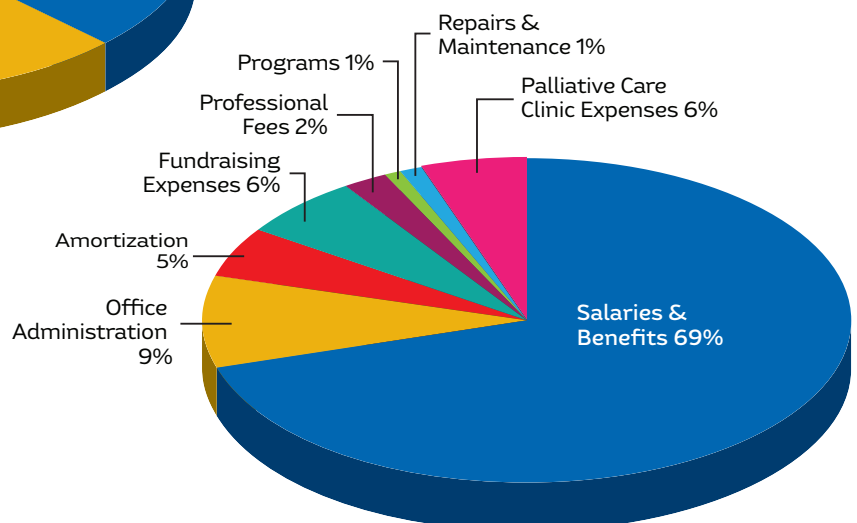
Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$2,543,205.00
Office Administration	\$340,981.00
Amortization	\$182,621.00
Fundraising Expenses	\$236,352.00
Professional Fees	\$86,540.00
Programs	\$51,696.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$51,902.00
Palliative Care Clinic Expenses	\$199,271.00
	<u>\$3,692,568.00</u>

Revenue Sources



Expenses



Notes:

- Results are for the period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023 – the fiscal period for St. Joseph's Hospice
- St. Joseph's Hospice uses the auditing firm of BDO Canada LLP

Fund Development



Fund Development, or fundraising, is an important strategic area for St. Joseph's Hospice. It underwrites more than half of St. Joseph's Hospice annual operating costs and is crucial for the ongoing operation of programs and services. This past year, St. Joseph's Hospice raised \$2,116,091 dollars. This remarkable accomplishment was made possible by our generous donations that came through many avenues, including a fall newsletter, holiday mail appeal, fundraising events, individual giving, memorial gifts and bequests. Through these ways, we ensure that our residents receive expert palliative care and their families can access our programs and services at no cost. We have increased our community awareness of the programs and services offered by St. Joseph's Hospice through numerous public presentations, as well as third-party events held by our generous supporters.



Our community came out in great numbers again this year to raise funds for Hospice through events including our Signature Events and third-party events. Our 16th Annual Dancing Under the Stars Gala continues to be a significant revenue source, as it raised \$148,000. Our Annual Alan Day Charity Open Golf Tournament was a sold-out event raising over \$71,500. We are so fortunate to have had such successful events this fiscal year, with unwavering support and generosity from our community.

Our 2022 Annual Holiday Mail Appeal exceeded expectations and raised over \$130,230. Special thanks to Nichole Thomer for allowing us to share her personal story with the community of Samia Lambton.



Third-party events are fundraisers held on behalf of Hospice and organized and managed independently. In total, 30 third-party events raised \$136,189 for Hospice. For example, included in this total, the Samia Golf & Curling Club hosted their Annual Charity Pro Am Golf Tournament and donated \$58,000 in net proceeds.

Our 12th Annual Face to Face Campaign, which ran May 1st until June 30th, is a fundraiser where we ask 100 volunteer canvassers to ask 10 people for \$10. This past year our goal of \$10,000 was surpassed by raising \$26,417. Since 2010, our Face to Face Campaign has raised a total of \$218,718.

Thank you to all who made St. Joseph's Hospice their charity of choice and encouraged friends and family to donate. We would also like to acknowledge and thank our amazing team of hard-working staff and volunteers, all the businesses, service clubs, and churches who supported us with donations, sponsorships, gifts-in-kind, and fundraisers.



3,423 Memorial gifts made in memory of a loved one

3,629 Followers on St. Joseph's Hospice Facebook

525 Holiday Mail Appeal gifts

Our Signature Events

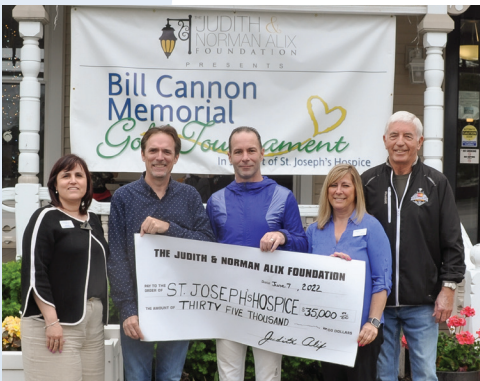
2022-2023

A sincere thanks for supporting all our signature events at Hospice. The invaluable contribution from our sponsors and supporting partners, the hard work and dedication of the organizing committees, volunteers and all who participated in these special events has helped to raise over \$240,449. Your generous contributions will have a lasting impact on the people served by St. Joseph's Hospice.



16th Annual Dancing Under the Stars Gala

Our Dancing Under the Stars Gala was held on Saturday, November 5th, 2022. We were pleased to be able to return to an in-person Gala, since the pandemic. We had a wonderful evening as we celebrated our 16th Annual Gala. Over 800 guests and over 130 volunteers arrived at DeGroot's Nurseries to an elegantly decorated venue. The 2022 Dancing Under the Stars Gala raised \$148,000 to support Hospice programs and services. Special thanks to our Supernova Sponsor, Kel-Gor.



Bill Cannon Memorial Golf Tournament

This year the Annual Bill Cannon Memorial Golf Tournament at the Samia Golf and Curling Club was once again SOLD OUT! There were 144 golfers, we raised a net profit of \$67,649, and had an outstanding day. Special thanks to our donors, sponsors, participants, and Joe O'Driscoll, Tournament Convener, for all your support! A very special thank you to our title sponsor the Judith & Norman Alix Foundation.



11th Annual Ladies Fore Hospice Charity Golf Tournament

The 11th Annual Ladies Fore Hospice Charity Golf Tournament was held on September 8th at St. Clair Parkway Golf Course. The event was sold out with a total of 144 golfers. This year we raised \$24,800 in net proceeds for St. Joseph's Hospice. Thank you to our sponsors, silent auction donors, purse donors and golfers who helped make this day such a success! A very special thank you to our premier sponsor, Cope Construction.





Every day, ordinary people become donor champions.”

– Anonymous

Bronze Leaf - Friend

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Silver Leaf - Companion

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Gold Leaf - Supporter

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Bronze Butterfly - Benefactor

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Silver Butterfly - Patron

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Gold Butterfly - Visionary

\$100,000

Stone – Founding Donor

\$500,000+



Donor Tree of Life

Our Donor Recognition Wall, located at the entrance of our Residence, acknowledges the generosity of our donors, through various donor recognition levels. Each donor receives a thank you letter from our executive director, a tax receipt, a photo opportunity, recognition in our donor newsletter and recognition on our donor wall. Gifts of \$25,000 or more receive an invitation to a donor special event.

A tree symbolizes life – most notably, strength and stability. This is what the gift of donations represents to St. Joseph’s Hospice. Hospice’s giving trees are a reminder of the selfless gifts that donors and their families have given and of the miracles that have happened. The tree’s canopy embraces the life and love that each resident receives when they enter Hospice’s door. The memory of loved ones will forever live in our hearts and the hearts of those who continue to live. Hospice’s giving trees recognize the generous gifts that donors and their families have contributed to honour the memory of their loved ones. They embody the spirit of generosity and each name on the leaves, butterflies and acorns is a legacy, not only to those who knew them but to the recipients.

The butterfly symbol is often used throughout Hospices and is a mark of respect for dying residents.

Endowment

A gift to the St. Joseph’s Hospice Endowment Fund is an investment in the legacy of care, compassion and community.

An endowment is an essential component of St. Joseph’s Hospice’s financial plan. Just as individuals save for the future and prepare for unforeseen economic conditions, St. Joseph’s Hospice is building its nest egg in order to ensure its ability to provide high-quality end-of-life services for generations. With a strong Endowment Fund, Hospice is able to offset the increasing costs of providing care amid decreasing provincial funding. The principal of the endowment is invested, and a portion of the interest earned can be made available for discretionary use by Hospice and its Board of Directors. Donors can designate funds for a specific purpose or request that support be directed where need is the greatest. Donors can support the Endowment Fund with a minimum investment of \$50,000 through a donation of cash, securities or a bequest in a will



Holiday Mail Appeal

Have you done all you want with your life? Have you given it your all?



Ken Thorner grew up in Sarnia, a man of deep faith. He became a realtor who loved golfing, watching football, travelling, and animals of all kinds, especially his love for dogs. Having found love after loss and having lived life to the fullest, his time ended too soon, at age 55. His wife, Nichole, shares his Hospice story:

Ken lost his first wife, Betty, to cancer in 2011. When she was dying, she told Ken she would send him a good Christian woman. I met Ken on November 7, 2014, and at 36, I had often wondered if I would find the love of my life. After our first date on December 3, I knew this relationship was going to be special.

I loved Ken's sense of humour and how protective he was of his family and friends. He enjoyed his work as a realtor so much and was so excited to help his clients find the perfect house that they could call home. He treated everyone the same no matter who they were.

We got married on December 3, two years from our very first date. We loved travelling – especially to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. We were even looking into getting a property there in early 2019 but in March, Ken was diagnosed with esophageal cancer.

Chemotherapy and radiation followed, and in August, Ken had an esophagectomy where most of his esophagus and part of his stomach was removed. His doctors told him they got all the affected tissue they could see, but there was always the chance the cancer would come back. His first six-month follow-up

tests were clear, but that soon changed. In November 2021, testing confirmed the cancer had returned and had spread.

He was okay for a few months. His father and his family visited in June 2022, but only weeks after they left, Ken began declining pretty quickly. He wanted to die at home, but it got to the point where he wasn't sleeping, and neither was I. I didn't know much about Hospice except that he would be cared for physically, which would allow me to focus on just being with him. Little did I know it would be so much more.

On August 1, Ken's brother, Ron, and I set up a room at Hospice with pictures and scriptures from home to make it comforting and home-like. As Ken became more used to his new surroundings, he insisted we take him for a tour. We wheeled Ken around the common areas and even took him outside to see the gardens and water feature, which he really enjoyed. Outside Ken's window were several bird feeders with so many birds. It felt so peaceful to watch.

Being allowed to stay around the clock was wonderful. As Ken was cared for by the nurses and PSWs, I felt cared for too. For example, a staff member asked if I wanted a coffee. I got distracted and the coffee went cold. I'm not sure if they knew that or thought I had finished, but they asked if I wanted another. When I said I would just heat it up, they insisted on a new cup. It was a small thing, but it meant a lot.

Every morning one of the doctors would come to see how Ken was doing. One morning, Dr. Maddison took me out of Ken's room to talk,

Thank You!

St. Joseph's Hospice would like to thank Nichole Thorner, for allowing us the opportunity to share their personal experience with the Community of Sarnia Lambton. This community of Sarnia Lambton generously donated over \$130,230 in response to the 2022 appeal.

Watching a loved one die can be difficult, especially at home. Because of our community's commitment, we have the privilege of supporting families and enhancing their loved ones' dignity and quality of life by providing round-the-clock end-of-life care in a setting as close to home as possible. The small, private rooms allow family members to come 24 hours/day and stay with the resident at all times.

We rely on the generosity of our community to financially support our yearly fundraising goal of \$1.6 million. We receive provincial funding only to cover nursing care and support workers, so every gift and memorial donation, monthly or annual giving can help provide comfort and support to our residents and their families and friends. You, too, can play a part in ensuring Hospice remains an option for those seeking dignity in dying.

The Hospice family thanks you for your continuing support and we wish you health and happiness through the holidays and the coming year.

which I really appreciated. He was professional and caring, and I didn't feel like it was a doctor I was talking to, so much as just another human being. While all the staff and volunteers were fantastic, our nurse, Rachael, was exceptional and I can't say enough good things about her.

We were only at Hospice for three days and two nights, but when he passed, everybody stopped what they were doing to honour him. His mom was especially moved by that. Everyone was respectful and gave us time with him before he was taken away. Special touches included a candle outside his door to acknowledge his passing, a choice of prayer or poem to be read and a prayer blanket to cover him before taking him to the funeral home.

Ken grew up watching football, particularly the Dallas Cowboys. He supported them passionately and vocally through their highs and lows. He loved golf and met a lot of close friends at the Samia Golf & Curling Club.

We shared a love for animals. After the three dogs we brought

to our marriage all passed, Ken got me a dog, Dallas, for my birthday. I convinced him Dallas needed a companion, and we got Darla.

He wanted to give me everything he could, and before passing he said there was so much more he wanted to give me. I hope he knew he gave me all I ever wanted. I'll never forget the time we were able to spend together, and I will never forget my love for him.



**St. Joseph's Health
Care Society believes...**

"Now, as always, the mission
of the Sisters of St. Joseph is to
respond to the needs of the
people with gentleness,
peace and joy."

185

Residents
admitted to
Hospice



64%

Living with a
cancer
diagnosis

36%

Living with a
non-cancer
diagnosis



13

Average
length of
stay
(in days)



4,169

Visits to our
palliative
clinic
physicians



14,378

Volunteer
hours
served



\$2,116,091

Dollars
raised for
St. Joseph's
Hospice and
those we
serve



475 Christina St. N., Sarnia, ON N7T 5W3

T: 519.337.0537 • F: 519.337.0540 • E: info@sjhospice.ca

Registered charity #83268 1670 RR0001



www.stjosephshospice.ca