



Thank you for your support in these challenging times

To our Hospice Supporters,

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every area of our lives, including the way we die.

With strict safety protocols in place, there is a growing strain on our ability to connect with our patients and families, and with one another. What a challenge this is for our compassionate, hands-on care team for whom companionship and connection is integral to their work.

Because of you, we are still very much here for our patients and families and we continue to provide grief and bereavement support. But it's not the same. The absence of our incredible volunteers on our Unit is a very large, noticeable gap, adding stress to our already busy care teams trying to manage their own very real personal concerns. Isolated patients experiencing their end-of-life journeys are being supported by our care

teams when their families cannot be there. Now more than ever, your support means so much.

"We are not accustomed to putting restrictions upon our visitors," says Hospice RN, Tracy McConnell. "We love when family and friends come and visit because we can truly connect and learn more about our patient with shared stories. It's a very difficult time."

Thanks to your continued support, we are hard at work to maintain connections. Our team has come up with creative ideas for virtual and remote visiting sessions with several iPads now available on our Unit for patients. Our Palliative Response Team continues to provide care to patients and families in their homes. Our counsellors are conducting sessions over the phone or by teleconference to help those experiencing grief during this especially difficult time.

The courage, strength and resiliency our dedicated care team has demonstrated over recent weeks is inspiring. Despite all the restrictions, they have risen to the challenge and continue to provide the very best possible end-of-life care. They could not do it without you and your continued compassion and support.

On page 4 of this newsletter you will find a donation form. If you are able to make a donation at this time, thank you. Your gift will give our care teams a boost and will help fund our programs and services including the purchase of critically needed medical supplies and vital counselling sessions. But please know, whether you can donate at this time or not, we appreciate you and we will continue to support you just as you support us.

Thank you for empowering Victoria Hospice to provide the best end-of-life care for our patients and families during this stressful time.



Fashion for Compassion



On Sunday, March 8th—before the need for social distancing began—two hundred guests arrived at Church and State Wines to delight in our first-ever *Fashion for Compassion presented by Amica Senior Lifestyles!* This sold-out afternoon featured a luxurious lunch, jewellery sale, live and silent auction, raffle featuring WestJet tickets, and a unique fashion show. The generosity surrounding the event was truly heartwarming and over \$58,000 was

raised for compassionate end-of-life care! Our eight fabulous models—including doctors, nurses, counsellors, and volunteers from Victoria Hospice—showed off unique and one-of-a-kind outfits from Turnabout Luxury Resale and guests were able to shop their favourite looks at the pop-up boutique right after the show!

If you weren't able to attend, you can still take part through Victoria Hospice's clothing resale account. Bring any designer, gently used clothing to Turnabout at 1844 Oak Bay Ave and let them know you'd like the resale to go to Victoria Hospice. Visit www.turnabout.com for current drop-off instructions. They will automatically donate sixty percent of the sale price, when sold. It's a great way to give beautiful

clothing a new life, and support your community at the same time.

Victoria Hospice would like to thank our guests, sponsors, community donors and volunteers for making Fashion for Compassion such a big success. With special thanks to our title sponsor:

AMICA

SENIOR LIFESTYLES



Meet Your Models



Adrienne Rogers

LICENCED PRACTICAL NURSE

Adrienne's favorite part about nursing at Victoria Hospice is the connection with patients. She says it is "hands down, every time, the very best part of my day."



Deedrie Ballard

BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
VICTORIA HOSPICE SOCIETY

A philanthropist and community champion, Deedrie's leadership, dedication and passion for all that she takes on exemplifies the Hospice spirit.



Emily Spargo

EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Emily first joined Victoria Hospice as a co-op student. She is curious, thoughtful and engaged in every initiative she takes on—from education events to assisting in research projects.



Katie Tarasiouk

DAUGHTER OF HOSPICE
PATIENT

Katie's mom Elena spent several months at Victoria Hospice during her end-of-life journey. She fondly recalls singing to her mom at her bedside and spending time on the magical rooftop garden.

Forty years of care: Carol-Ann Staples



It's a feeling no family wants when they lose a loved one, the feeling of being alone. That was how Carol-Ann Staples and her family felt when her mother died due to a brain aneurysm in the mid-70s. The family wasn't involved much in the care and they could only briefly visit her in the hospital.

"It just wasn't right to any of our family," she says.

This very personal experience inspired Carol-Ann to take an interest in Hospice. She took a course with the Victoria Association for the Care of the Dying, an early supporter of Hospice Victoria. With her training as a nurse, she had the opportunity to do a preceptorship with Victoria Hospice.

Through tragedy and experience, a career of volunteering with Victoria Hospice that

lasted over three decades was kick-started. "It was just a wonderful opening in my life," says Carol-Ann.

Early on, Carol-Ann recalls volunteering on the unit at Victoria Hospice's location on Bay Street. She describes the centre courtyard, an outdoor space patients and families could enjoy. A mother could curl up, in her bed, with her 10-year-old daughter and enjoy the warmth of the sun. It's a memory Carol-Ann remembers vividly.

"This is what I think Hospice gives," she says, "time for families."

Carol-Ann has supported Victoria Hospice in many roles, from working with the Child and Youth Bereavement Program to caring for patients and families on the unit. The gift of volunteering, she says, is having the time to spend with people.



Michelle Dale
UNIT COUNSELLOR

Our unit counsellor for 13 years, Michelle is a person of integrity, extraordinary compassion and a wit as quick as they come, who truly connects with everyone she meets.



Sabrina Gustafson-Vickers
PALLIATIVE CARE PHYSICIAN

A bright light with seemingly endless energy, Sabrina's exceptional compassion, kindness, and presence in the most critical times are greatly valued by everyone she works with.



Sheridan Cooper
VOLUNTEER

Sheridan has volunteered with Victoria Hospice for 10 years, and her focus is always on the specific needs of each and every patient and all of their family members.



Suman Aryal
LICENCED PRACTICAL NURSE

Suman is known for his generosity of spirit, his compassion and attention, his wisdom, his gracious sense of humour, and his presence and style!

Families would come onto the unit stressed and worried about the future, she says. Through the compassionate care of nurses, doctors, and volunteers, “you could just see people’s shoulders relax.” A simple hand on a shoulder during a consult would go a long way to bring comfort to families.

“I saw all these measure that brought comfort and a home-like atmosphere to their care.”

One memory stands out for Carol-Ann. A family came on to the unit, terrified for the death of their father. Within 24 hours, experiencing the care of doctors, nurses, and volunteers, children were skipping down the hallway. There was time for his wife to make a cup of tea.

“They were gaining back the opportunity to be family, a spouse, partner or parent

instead of a caregiver,” says Carol-Ann. As she reflects on her time with Victoria Hospice, Carol-Ann emphasizes how much the experience has meant to her. It’s given her the chance to help support families through the loss of a loved one. She says she’s lived long enough to know that care and kindness goes a long way in support of those who are losing a loved one.

“I’ll be forever grateful for the opportunity to be a volunteer at Hospice,” she says. It’s why today, because of volunteering, she has the ability to “go out in the community and tell people how wonderful and fortunate we are to have it.”

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To see more of Carol-Ann’s story, please visit victoriahospice.org/stories



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CAROL-ANN STAPLES



Your Donation Makes a Difference

YES! I would like to provide care to patients and families in need.

Donation preference: ☐ One-time ☐ Monthly / My donation: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other

Name

Address

City/Province

Postal Code

Phone

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Credit card type: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx

Card #

Expiry date: ____ / ____

My donation is in memory of

Please send an acknowledgement letter to

Name

Address

City/Province

Postal Code

☐ I would like to receive Victoria Hospice e-newsletters.

☐ I wish to remain anonymous.

☐ I have included Victoria Hospice in my Will.

☐ I am interested in finding out more about including Victoria Hospice in my Will.

You can provide hope and inspiration today for patients & families tomorrow.

The world is changing around us, but thanks to your incredible support, Victoria Hospice remains steadfast in providing compassionate end-of-life care and comfort during these especially difficult times.

Many of the programs and services that deeply impact the lives of our patients and families today, have been made possible through the support of people, like you, who through vision and foresight, have taken the inspiring step of leaving a gift in their Will to Victoria Hospice. Legacy gifts bring hope and comfort to countless families, by ensuring hospice care continues

into the future. “Legacy giving is my opportunity to help others receive the care that my mother, my friends and I received,” says Renée Bauert, a Victoria Hospice Legacy Donor.

Legacy giving is also an important part of Victoria Hospice’s current operations, enabling programs like bereavement services, volunteer services, and the Palliative Response Team to be accessible to patients and families; at a time when they need it most.



Shelley Engelhardt, who oversees our Planned and Legacy Giving program, has seen firsthand how gifts of any

size can make a big difference in the lives of patients and families in our care. “There are many ways someone can leave a compassionate gift to Victoria Hospice

for future care, with no financial impact in their lifetime. Legacy gifts, can also be a special way to honour a loved one. I am inspired by our legacy donors and grateful for their commitment to ensuring our care is available today, and into the future.”

Quite simply, Victoria Hospice would not be what it is today without the legacies planned by those who seeded our programs of care long ago. Your gift can shape the future, ensuring comfort and dignity for patients and their families in the years to come.

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If you are in the process of creating or reviewing your estate plans, and would like to learn more about simple ways to leave a legacy, please call Shelley at 250-519-1743, email Shelley.Engelhardt@victoriahospice.org or visit victoriahospice.org/gifts-in-your-will

Your enquiry will be kept in confidence.

Let’s stay connected with events!

Victoria Hospice events have always been a wonderful way our community has come together to show their support and raise critical funds for the end-of-life care needs of patients and families. In this time of physical distancing, it’s more important than ever to stay connected so here are two great ways you can help keep that incredible community spirit alive.



1. Join Hike for Hospice

Hike for Hospice has been postponed until later this fall, which means there is still time to show your solidarity by signing up online! Until such a time as we can “Hike” together, we are encouraging you to get out for a walk and to show your support by taking a photo using the hashtag #Hike4Hospice! Getting out for a walk with your household (while practicing physical distancing), is a great way to stay active and relieve stress.

2. Host a Virtual Fundraising Event

All it takes is a little creativity to make a big difference in the lives of hospice patients and families. Consider hosting a virtual happy hour with friends, doing an online performance, or creating a micro-match with friends. For example, donate the money you saved from buying coffee for a week and challenge your friends to do the same. Every donation, no matter what the size will help provide care and comfort to those in need.

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If you’re interested in hosting a virtual fundraising event or need some help getting started, contact Anita at Anita.Rozell@victoriahospice.org

Stay connected with the latest event information through our social media channels and on our website at victoriahospice.org/events. You can also sign up for our newsletter by emailing contact@victoriahospice.org

Compassionate care at Victoria Hospice is made possible through the generosity of our community. The individuals listed below have been remembered by friends and loved ones with gifts to Victoria Hospice, In Memory and In Honour. These meaningful gifts honour precious lives and help to enhance quality of life for other patients and families in need. Gifts made In Memory or In Honour between January 1 and February 29, 2020:

IN MEMORY

Peter Ager
Desmond J. Ahearne
Shelley Armstrong
Jeannette Ballard
Pamela Barry
Dave Beaulieu
Bonnie Bell
Lucille R. Bishop
Glenis M. Boudreau
Eva G. Brethour
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Lillian Rendell
Barbara Roberts
John Robertson

Milforde Rose
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Robert Rouse
Marjorie E. Schweitz
Theresa Seward
Jean Shand
George Shaw
Don Shorting
Malcolm Shrimpton
Shirley Simpson
Suzanne Skedgel-Hill
Patricia Smith
Rita Smith
William Snow
Sheryl Steeves
Terry Stewart
Edna Szabados
Elaine Tiffen
Phonyin Tim
Patricia Turnbull
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George Waugh
Chester Wells
John Wells
William J. West
Gail Whitaker
Christina Widenmaier
Susette Wills
Marion Woiblet
Barbara Woodruff
Tyler Wormell
Jörg Wybranietz
Dao Jun Xu
Olga Yakimovich
Philip Young
Keith Young
Ian M. Young

Victoria Hospice Vision

Quality palliative and end-of-life care for all

Victoria Hospice Mission

To enhance the quality of life for those facing life-limiting illness, death and bereavement, through patient and family centred care, education, research and advocacy

Victoria Hospice Society Board of Directors

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transitions

THE NEWSLETTER OF

VICTORIA  HOSPICE

Would you like to share your Hospice story? We would love to hear from you.

Contact Misha Handman,
Annual Giving Officer
at 250-519-1744 or
Misha.Handman@VIHA.ca

Thank you.

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info@VictoriaHospice.org
www.VictoriaHospice.org

Charitable Registration Number
11928 4230 RR0001

Victoria Hospice respects your privacy, and we do not sell, trade, lend or rent any of your personal information.

Let's stay in touch!

Please call or email us and let us know your email address, and we will keep you updated about important news from Victoria Hospice.