

Driven by compassion *Palliative Response Team on the move*

The Victoria Hospice Palliative Response Team (PRT) covers a lot of ground. They travel more than 35,000 km every year, providing 24-hour crisis intervention for patients and families right at home, from Victoria to the Saanich Peninsula and the Highlands and Western Communities.

That's thanks to long-time Victoria Hospice donors Dick and Linda Auchinleck. Their recent gift of a new car for the Palliative Response Team is the couple's second donation of wheels to Victoria Hospice in seven years.

"When we heard the first vehicle needed replacing, we were so pleased to do it again. It's the first time in my life I was happy to hear a car got worn out," says Dick, who collects and

restores vintage cars. "It shows the vehicle is absolutely necessary to the people who use it to deliver such important services."

The Palliative Response Team provides crisis treatment for physical and emotional symptoms that might otherwise require stressful emergency room visits. Staffed by nurses, counsellors and palliative care physicians, the team is also available to help support a death at home.

"Support for the PRT is more important than ever in this pandemic year," Victoria Hospice Medical

Director Dr. Amy Tan says.

"The Palliative Response Team has really risen to the occasion to support not only more complex symptoms but also more complex psychosocial needs and the sense of isolation that many of our patients have right now at a very poignant time in their life," she says. "Many patients are choosing to stay at home longer in their disease process or until



their death because of the necessary pandemic-related visitor restrictions in hospital and at Hospice."

Providing compassionate care for loved ones at home strikes a chord for the Auchinlecks.

"We both have the experience of our elderly parents needing care in a facility and needing care at home," says Linda. "The PRT support helps people stay in their own homes – that's an amazing service."

The new vehicle makes a big impact in the team's ability to reach patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, says PRT Counsellor Michele Butot.

"The PRT car means the world to us," she says. "Having a reliable car helps us travel around our extensive service area, providing symptom relief and emotional support, and allowing Hospice patients to remain safely and with comfort in their own homes."

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The new car helps the team visit an average of four patients every 12 hours, with at least two hours spent behind the wheel every shift.

“Having a vehicle for all-weather driving in the farthest reaches of the service area is so reassuring for the team,” says Community Response Coordinator Sue Stone. “Not everyone drives a car suitable for the remote side roads, so having a safe reliable vehicle is so appreciated.”

“To have a dedicated car for PRT is huge,” she says. “If the team had to use their own personal vehicles, they could only carry a fraction of the supplies. The PRT car allows the

team to have access to a wide range of supplies that can be quickly accessed to make a huge difference to the clients and families they support.”

Making that difference is what fuels Dick and Linda’s generosity.

“For the two of us, hospice really clicks. The people we meet at hospice care so much about people who need end-of-life care,” Dick says. “To meet the challenge of getting to know people who are going to pass away at some point in time, you’ve got to be very strong in character and mind to go and

deal with that on a continuing basis.” “We both have so much time for the people at hospice. They’re really quite remarkable.”



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE



Virtual Teeny Tiny Garden Tour starts Sunday, June 13

Join us for a glimpse into some of Victoria’s best backyard gardens during this year’s Virtual Teeny Tiny Garden Tour.



Find ideas and inspiration for your own garden or simply soak up the beauty!

In lieu of a ticket, pick up your copy of the **2022 Teeny Tiny Garden Tour Calendar**.

This beautiful compilation featuring exquisite photos from local gardens is sure to delight and inspire all year long.

www.victoriahospice.org/teenytinygardentour

The Cycle of Life Tour presented by Think Communications

100+ cyclists from across Vancouver Island are pedaling with all their hearts to raise funds for hospice care.



During this year’s virtual event, riders are participating in a variety of fun cycling challenges leading up to a big virtual ride on July 24. Join the ride at cycleoflifetour.ca

To help raise funds, the riders are hosting an online silent auction from June 1 to 15 with some amazing items and local experiences.

Place your bids at

www.32auctions.com/cycleoflifetour

Hike for Hospice September 15–30

Hike for Hospice returns this fall from Sept. 15 to 30 to honour loved ones and support end-of-life care.



Walk or hike in your neighbourhood or on your favourite trail or join us for the physically distanced version of this meaningful event starting at the Community Support Centre (dependant on public health orders).

Register today!

VictoriaHospice.org/events

Victoria Hospice calls for support on the frontline of compassion

Everyone has a pandemic story. For people facing death and bereavement, the pandemic plot twist has been heart-wrenching.

Visitor restrictions and other COVID-19 precautions, while necessary for safety, can seem at odds with what palliative and hospice care is all about.

“Palliative care isn’t only about managing symptoms and making people physically comfortable. It’s about closeness and

humanity. It’s about helping families through the hardest days of their lives,” says Victoria Hospice Medical Director Dr. Amy Tan. “Visitor restrictions and other COVID-19 precautions have massively



affected palliative care just as they have complicated acute care.”

The staggering effect of the pandemic on the health care system tops the headlines every day. But Victoria Hospice physicians, nurses and counsellors are reporting on the lesser-known effects on people facing end of life, their loved ones, and bereaved people.

“The huge impact of COVID-19 on the health care system includes palliative care,” says Victoria Hospice CEO Kevin Harter. “Hospice and palliative care teams everywhere are being called upon to meet unprecedented challenges. I’m so proud of our team at Victoria Hospice—despite the pandemic challenges, they’re standing strong and providing the highest quality compassionate end-of-life care people need right now.”



With nearly half its funding provided by donations, Victoria Hospice is calling on supporters to help the organization write a new chapter of resilience in its Frontline of Compassion appeal.

“Our supportive community has been absolutely essential to our services for more than 40 years,” says Harter. “In these difficult times, their help is more important than ever.”

Learn more about how you can help at victoriahospice.org/compassion.

Meeting the tsunami of grief: News from Bereavement Services

When we think about the death of a loved one, most of us picture ourselves at their bedside. We want to be there with our loving presence to comfort and reassure them.

Instinctively, we feel that if we are beside them, holding their hands, our loved one’s last days and moments will be eased. They’ll be sure of our love, and how much they matter to us.

Attending to people we love at their death is for many, one of the most meaningful and important moments in our lives. But virtual goodbyes can never replace our loving embrace.

The pandemic has robbed thousands and thousands of these acts of love. That count grows higher every day as waves of the pandemic roll across the country.

Visitor restrictions applied in all health care settings during this pandemic—while important for everyone’s safety—massively interfere with our

ability to demonstrate love at the end of life, and in turn, to grieve.

Victoria Hospice bereavement counsellors are seeing first-hand just how devastating the pandemic and its restrictions have been on people experiencing grief and loss.

Vulnerable and marginalised people, and people with pre-existing mental health concerns, are especially at risk of prolonged grief now.

Even well-resourced people who might normally navigate grief with the informal support of friends and family and the comfort of community rituals are now seeking professional bereavement support and counselling.

The agony of separation from loved ones at the end of life has triggered a tsunami of grief in the community. And that tsunami is right at Victoria Hospice’s front door.

Victoria Hospice bereavement counsellors are responding to this unprecedented need. They walk alongside people with support for each person’s unique path in bereavement.

Your support has been essential for our Bereavement Services programs and services this year. Thank you for walking alongside us.

Learn more at VictoriaHospice.org/how-we-can-help/bereavement-services/



Volunteer Spotlight

Although our volunteers' presence on the Inpatient Unit has been halted by provincial health orders, a few currently support our administration from home. Six-year hospice volunteer Renée has been doing the joyful work of extending our thanks to donors. Meet Renée!



Renée, why did you become a Victoria Hospice volunteer?

It's not an original reason, but a very sincere one: to give back. My mother, several friends, and I have all benefited from what Victoria Hospice does, for patients and for family members too. I want to do what I can to make sure those services are available to anyone else who needs them.

How has volunteering impacted your life?

The most positive impact has been during these last challenging, unusual months. I've continued volunteering by reaching out to donors to thank them. This connection has helped reduce any feelings of isolation that I've had.

What do you want people to know about Victoria Hospice?

I want everyone to know just how special the staff and volunteers are. This dedicated and caring team has created a safe and welcoming place. This atmosphere allows us to create new and lasting memories: the joy on a friend's face when I brought her wee dog to visit her; enjoying a private harp concert in a friend's room, sharing a piece of cake in the family lounge, quiet time together in the meditation room, and, of course, visiting the rooftop garden.

A special gift for future care

Victoria Hospice would not be what it is today were it not for the foresight, dedication and generosity of people who took the extraordinary yet simple step of including a gift of compassionate end-of-life care in their will.

Legacy donors are people just like you who have chosen to show their commitment to Victoria Hospice by ensuring hospice care is available for people who need it—whatever the future may hold.

A legacy gift in your will ensures the causes you care about flourish in the years beyond your lifetime. Here's why some of our legacy donors have chosen to support compassionate end-of-life care long into the future.

The care and kindness my wife Jennifer received from the professional and volunteer staff were exemplary as was the support provided to me by both the counselors and volunteers. They make Victoria Hospice a special place which is certainly worthy of a legacy gift from my estate.

MIKE W.

One of my cousins, an uncle, an old family friend, my neighbour—all were in hospice recently. I'm incredibly thankful that this important and necessary service was there for them in their final days. I started thinking, 'What if we had no such service?' That's why, in addition to my annual donation, I have become a legacy donor.

D. ROTHSCHILD

I have seen firsthand the kindness, compassion, and care staff and volunteers bring to hospice patients and their loved ones.

W. DIRKS



Your Donation Makes a Difference

YES! I will join the Hospice Hearts Monthly Giving Club!

My **monthly donation** will be: \$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other

My **one-time donation** will be: \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other

Name
 Address
 City/Province
 Postal Code
 Phone
 Email

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

- Please send me Victoria Hospice Connections e-newsletters.
- I would like to find out more about including Victoria Hospice in my will.
- I have included Victoria Hospice in my will.
- I wish to remain anonymous.

ON POINT: stylish gift boxes support Victoria Hospice and local merchants

Fashion-forward Victoria Hospice supporters know compassion never goes out of style. With end-of-life care needs magnified by the pandemic, that's more important than ever before.

Last year's Fashion for Compassion event raised more than \$60,000 for end-of-life care. In a pandemic-induced pivot, Victoria Hospice and presenting sponsor Amica Senior Lifestyles brought fashion and fun directly to supporters this year with Kits for Compassion.

Guaranteed to inspire self-compassion through style, taste and the senses, Kits for Compassion are curated gift boxes filled with stylish selections from local makers and merchants, with 100% of the funds raised supporting Victoria Hospice.

Kits for Compassion sold out! On May 2, hospice volunteers delivered more than two hundred Kits for Compassion to doorsteps around the Capital Region from Sooke to Sidney.

That evening, Kits for Compassion purchasers tuned in to an exclusive virtual event hosted by Veronica Cooper from CHEK News featuring door prizes, fashion tips from Turnabout Luxury Resale, and a live performance by vocalist Stephanie Greaves.

Hospice supporter Tia Cooper received her Kit as a gift from her daughter. "I was gobsmacked. It felt like the nicest thing



that's ever happened to me. I can hardly wait to use each of the fabulous items!" Interim Director of Development Wendy Innes says the community spirit for this event was heartening. "Since we weren't able to gather around the runway for our signature Fashion for Compassion event this year, it was wonderful to bring the spirit of the event right to our supporters," she says. "We're all finding ways to do things differently this year. But one thing never changes: the compassion of the Victoria Hospice community."

Supporting local merchants and artisans during this difficult time was also key to the event. The financial contribution from sponsors, alongside the generosity of the participating businesses made it possible to include incredible products from Elate Cosmetics, Flux and Stone, Hands on Clay Collective, Love Medals, Melinda's Biscotti, Metchosin Soapworks, The Still Room Perfumery, Rock Coast,

Turnabout, and Tofino Towel.

Sponsors included Amica Senior Lifestyles, Peninsula Co-op, Broadmead Pharmasave, Horne Coupar LLP, Megson Fitzpatrick, BMO, VandeRuyt Wealth Management, Sands Funeral Chapel Victoria, and Used.ca

Thanks to the overwhelming response from the entire Victoria community Kits for Compassion raised over \$87,000.



DID YOU KNOW

Victoria Hospice has a resale account at Turnabout Luxury Resale

Bring on-trend, contemporary or designer labels to Turnabout at 1844 Oak Bay Ave and ask that the resale go to Victoria Hospice. 60% of the sale price will go to support end-of-life care.

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 21 and May 3, 2021:

IN MEMORY

Sharon Dolce	Orest	David Parry	Sheryl Steeves
Agnes Aberdeen	Hryhoryshen	Evalyn Partridge	Sandy Stewart
Renee Abrioux	Lesley Hulme	Rita J. Paulhus	Terry Stewart
Eileen Atkins	Evelyn Jones	Tom Pirinis	Cordelea Stokes
Gordon Ayre	Ed Kay	Carol Pitt	Francis I. Stuart
Jeannette Ballard	Ryan C. Krisher	Sylvia B.	Deb Switzer
Pamela Barry	Pui Kwun Kwan	Plumridge	Edna Szabados
Dave Beaulieu	Kenneth C.	John Plumridge	Barbara Tabata
Bonnie Bell	Lawrence	Marilyn D. Posner	Allan Tarras
Pieterella	William J. Lawson	Charles Price	Ilse Thiessen
Bezemer	Ann Lazear	Miles Primrose	Phonyin Tim
Norma Biggs	Dolores Leavitt	Doris I. Purdy	Ed Timmermann
William Birge	June Lee	Ian G. Pyper	Dot Tonkin
Larry Borgerson	Edmond Letain	Donald A. Rahrck	David Vaillancourt
Marie Boudreau	Kenneth Lorenz	Norma Randle	John C. Wallace
Shannon Bowie	Nick Lundhild	Michael Real	Leonard R.
Arlene J. Boyden	Stephanie Lysyk	Candy Reed	Watkins
June Bregg	Russell	Olga Reid	William J. West
Margaret Brown	MacFarlane	Susan M. Remmer	Marina Westhaver
Bette Browning	Mike Macfarlane	Joan Richmond	Penny White
Bob Buckingham	Ruth Mackie	William Riehm	Jennifer Whybrow
Ted Button	Ernie Malanchuk	Elizabeth Riehm	Doreen Williams
Doug Cake	Donna Marshall	Gert Robertson	Ruth Williamson
Margaret E.	Shirley Mawdsley	John Robertson	Donna Wood
Campbell	Len Maycock	Milforde Rose	Barbara Woodruff
Gerald Carriere	Thomas G.	Tara S. Ross	Jörg Wybranietz
Wayne Carson	McCool	Robert Rouse	Wendy E. Wyles
Ann Chaland	Joe McGregor	Victoria	Kamal Youakim
Robert Chaland	Colin A. McNeil	Rutherford	
William G. Chaniw	Bruce Milburn	Margaret Shaw	IN HONOUR
Michael L.	Margaret Minnis	William Sheldrake	Frances Gaudet
Chupick	Tara Mogentale	Evelyn G.	Jade Simms
Ambriss Clermont	Claude Morin	Sheldrick	
Barbara J. Coffey	John Motala	Ann Sinclair	
Keri L. Coles	Jean Mozley	Renal Singh	
Barkley Cox	Thomas Murray	Suzanne Skedgel-	
John Crossley	Jeannine A.	Hill	
Agnes Crossley	Notenberg	Walt Slocomb	
Stephen Crothall	Eliane Nugent	Ray Smith	
Darren	Ken Nutt	Renice Smith	
Cryderman	Dorothy J.	Gordon J. Smith	
Jean Davie	O'Donnell	John Smith	
Janet Davies	Peter Olsen	Margaret Smith	
Norm Debieenne	Rod Parkhurst	Audrey Stafford	

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

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transitions

THE NEWSLETTER OF



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

Contact Carlie Curry
Annual Giving Officer
at 250-519-1744 or

Carlie.Curry@VictoriaHospice.org

Thank you.

3rd Floor, Richmond Pavilion
1952 Bay Street, Victoria BC V8R 1J8

250-519-1744

info@VictoriaHospice.org

www.VictoriaHospice.org

Charitable Registration Number
11928 4230 RR0001

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