

**Hamilton Future Fund Board of Governors**

C/O City of Hamilton, Office of the City Clerk
71 Main Street West, 1st Floor, Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5
Attn: Alicia Davenport

January 8, 2020

We would like to extend our thanks to the Hamilton Future Fund Board of Governors for your support of Margaret's Place Hospice at St. Joseph's Villa. Your significant gift, along with the generosity of many others in our community has made it possible for us to bring our vision of care into reality.

We are pleased to share with you that in November 2019, the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care granted us final approval of our site plans and construction for Margaret's Place Hospice. This enabled us to move ahead in awarding the construction contract to a local Hamilton-based firm, Ira McDonald Construction, one of six companies that were pre-qualified in the summer of 2019.

With the support of Donna Skelly, Local MPP (Flamborough – Glanbrook), the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care also awarded us capital funding for all 10 hospice beds instead of six, in November 2019. This funding provides an additional \$800,000 towards the project to cover construction costs.

Construction site preparations have begun, with digging expected for later in January 2020. The construction phase of the project will span approximately 14-16 months. By 2021, we anticipate the hospice doors will open to welcome patients and families and begin providing palliative care.

The Villa's executive team has also been focusing on organizational development for Margaret's Place Hospice that will continue while construction is underway. This includes staffing, recruitment and the provision of care, volunteer engagement and training, therapeutic programs (in-house and through community outreach), the development of community partnerships and in-kind resources.

The Villa Foundation continues its fundraising efforts to surpass its \$13 million goal and support additional construction costs. The team is also preparing to wrap up its highly successful Gift of Love Campaign by the end of March 2020, at which time all of its focus will turn to raising funds in support of hospice care programs and operations, in addition to the Foundation's other funding priorities.

We look forward to sharing further updates with you in our July/August 2020 report and the opportunity to host members of the HFF Board of Governors for a tour of the construction site. Thank you again for the dignity, comfort, peace and compassion you are helping to provide for patients and families in our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Davidson".

Don Davidson
President & CEO, St. Joseph's Villa Foundation