



Margaret's Place Update

Dear members of the Hamilton Future Fund Committee,

It has been nearly ten months since the doors of Margaret's Place opened to care for its first residents. We have been touched by the impact the hospice has had on our residents and their families in such a short time. Their positive and heartfelt feedback is validation to us for taking on such a grand project. Because of our generous community, and support from the Hamilton Future Fund, we are able to provide compassionate and dignified care to our residents in their final days.

Our Foundation continues to pursue the mission to care for everyone in our community who may need it. Offering care in one of the largest long-term care homes in Ontario, various community outreach programs and services, and now hospice care, we have truly become a campus of care and an integral component of our health care system. This is because of you and our community. Because of your tenacious support, the expansion of care to our community was made possible.



Soon after ribbon-cutting in late August 2021, the hospice accepted its first resident. Since then, we have seen close to 50 residents and their families come through Margaret's Place, trusting us to guide them through their journey – each touched by their own experience.

The architectural vision for hospice was to accentuate its beautiful location on the edge of Spring Creek Ravine. We have seen the importance of this element, as the natural environment, direct access to the outdoors and the curious wildlife that are regular visitors have become a form of therapy for our residents. Nature has a magical way of providing tranquility, especially at the end of life.

Beyond the location and architecture, the exceptional care at Margaret's Place truly stands out. Hospice care is unlike any other. The focus is on comfort, quality of life and creating precious moments for families. It is a haven of rest, of tears, of laughter and reflection. Our compassionate team of staff and volunteers are at the heart of this care. They touch lives every day and help ease the difficult journey that families face.

"Families feel safe and secure to leave their loved one in our care. They've been so thankful for our nurses, PSW's and volunteers. One family member mentioned they felt they were given angels to take care of them in their difficult journey."

DAWN MARTIN, NURSE NAVIGATOR
MARGARET'S PLACE HOSPICE



As we begin to see COVID-19 restrictions loosening, we look forward to enhancing the social aspect of life at Margaret's Place. Residents and their families will soon be able to use our spacious common rooms and outdoor decks the way we envisioned – for celebrations, special occasions and gatherings with loved ones. Music therapy is powerful. Local musician, Aidan Purnell, is a regular visitor to Margaret's Place. You will see him strolling down the halls and initiating sing-alongs in resident rooms on any given day. This is truly a precious moment for all.

We have seen numerous holidays since the opening of Margaret's Place. Foundation staff, hospice staff and volunteers ensured that these days were made special for families. We wanted them to feel at home. Homemade holiday dinners with all the fixings were provided for residents and their families on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. On Valentine's Day, special meals were ordered for residents and their family members from a local Dundas restaurant. These are special days for all, filled with love and memories.

Residents are also welcome to bring their loyal, furry companions in to visit them in hospice. Acer, a luscious golden retriever, is often roaming the halls or cuddling in bed with his grand-mum as she receives care in the hands of Margaret's Place. Having Acer and her family close by in her final journey brings her joy, and is a true comfort of home.

Many families have shared their personal stories in the first few months of operations. One that stands out is from a resident who came into care a few days before Christmas 2021. On Christmas Day, with tears of gratitude, her emotional daughter said, "with my mother being here, I feel we have been given a Christmas miracle." That same day, a family of deer were standing outside her room peering in. While her family was gathered around her, nature's family was also gathering around. This is what we envisioned for Margaret's Place.

The support from individuals and organizations in our community continues. We have received generous monetary gifts in memory of loved ones who have passed at Margaret's Place, as well as corporate donations, donations of books, flowers for all residents, volunteers & staff, grocery gift cards and so much more. For those who have witnessed the peace hospice brings to families, they want to give back.

On behalf of St. Joseph's Villa and Foundation, and the thousands of families that will pass through the doors of Margaret's Place, we thank the Hamilton Future Fund for your gracious support in making hospice care on our campus possible. Your generosity provides residents and their families dignity, comfort and peace when they need it most.

