

HOSPICE HAPPENINGS

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Volunteers Make A Difference: A Teddy Bear Tale

Danielle Marshall had a specific request for Hospice Simcoe volunteers a few weeks ago. She was looking for someone who could sew...not masks and gowns this time, but something very special. Two young girls had recently lost their father and their mom wondered if a legacy project could be initiated. The project? Sewing clothes for Hospice-donated teddy bears using material from their dad's shirts. Danielle put out the call: was there a volunteer willing to take this on?

Immediately Donna Goodeill, a longtime volunteer, responded. Although Donna is an amazing quilter, she didn't feel she could take on this project. She did, however, know someone who would be delighted to do so... her mother.

Eleanore Gould, Donna's mom, is 95 years old and lives independently. A retired RN, she has spent her life caring for others; first as eldest in a family of eight, then as a mother and a nurse. She continues to care by supporting Donna in all of her volunteer endeavours. Eleanore knows that when Donna takes on a charitable task, she may be asked to help.

According to family history, Eleanore started crocheting at the age of four and hasn't stopped creating since. (She even made Donna's wedding dress and all of her bridesmaids' dresses). Donna and her mom got to work quickly. Donna rounded up the materials needed and delivered them to her mother in Collingwood. Eleanore immediately began sewing, creating adorable outfits for the teddy bears. In a short time, not only were two teddy bears clothed but two cushions created as well. Each cushion, complete with a pocket, retains the look and feel of the girls dad's shirts. And everything was completed in the space of two weeks.

Thank you so much, Mrs. Gould,
for brightening the lives of these two
young girls. And thank you, Donna, for
bringing your mom on board. You have
brought a little sunshine to a family
in need of some warmth.



*Eleanore, above,
and two happy girls, right.*



From Danielle.. "What a pleasure to work with this family and know that we could give them something that would bring them so much joy! From a terribly sad loss we were able to give the family a little bit of comfort. We are so grateful for our volunteers and their families, what a privilege to work with you all.

NEWCOMERS TO OUR HOSPICE FAMILY



Congratulations Sam & Clinton and welcome Keaton!



Sam and Clinton welcomed Keaton Henry Kingsbury-White into the world on Oct. 17th at 5:19 pm.

Keaton weighed in at 6lbs. 10oz. and was 20 inches long.

Both parents are thrilled with their wee guy.



Welcome Michelle to Hospice Simcoe's Marketing & Communications Role



Michelle Roberts is the newest staff member at Hospice Simcoe, having joined us this past September. In her role as Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Michelle will be responsible for advertising, marketing and community awareness through our website and via social media. Having graduated in graphic design from George Brown College, and after working in the GTA for over fifteen years in the field, she brings knowledge and talent to the job.

Michelle and her family moved to Barrie in 2013. During her children's elementary school years, Michelle was hired as Development Director and Marketing Coordinator at Timothy Christian School in Barrie. Working there from 2014 until 2021 she wore many hats, including fundraising, donor relations, advertising, event coordination and the corporate rebranding of the school.

Michelle sees her position at HS as a chance to expand her knowledge of web design and to do more in the marketing field. She's enjoying the opportunity of learning about all of the components of her new job and looks forward to helping however she can.

Michelle and her husband, Craig, their teens, Tye and Abbey, along with their Goldendoodle, Shelby, live in the south end of Barrie. When not working Michelle enjoys many activities including hiking, painting (acrylics), sketching, photography, camping and socializing around a roaring fire with family & friends.

HOSPICE HAPPENINGS

Jenn Miller was a member of our clinical staff who, a couple of months ago, uprooted her family and moved to Alberta. We asked her to share her Hospice story with us and to let us in on her new adventure. Thanks for getting back to us Jenn! We miss you but wish you the best of everything.

My name is Jennifer Miller. I was a registered practical nurse at Hospice Simcoe for two years.

I came to Hospice initially because of two staff members who I had worked with at a different facility. They both had contacted me and suggested I apply based on what a wonderful place it was to work.

From day one, even just at the interview meeting with Tammy, I felt the warmth and the compassion and the home-like feel. Very quickly, I was offered a full-time position and immediately was made to feel very welcomed.



Easily the best part of working at Hospice is the people. The clinical team in the back are the most caring, fun, compassionate and loving group I have had the pleasure to work with in my 20-year nursing career. The highlights were so many - most notably the friendships I made and the level of care we provided to our residents and their families. It was wonderful to assist in providing moments that will help people move on through their grief. I love that there was so much life happening there. I loved the singing and the music, the gardens, talking with families and just being able to be present.

I will definitely miss the staff that I worked with. I will miss working in such a wonderful environment and I will dearly miss the volunteers.

The decision to move west came along for our family. We have two young boys and we wanted to be able to provide a life that wasn't so fast-paced - one in which we could spend more time with them. Moving to Alberta has given me the option to stay

home with my young boys. What feeds my passion is definitely my family. They are the driving force in the decisions that I make and the life that we are building.

We love camping, we love hiking and we love the big outdoors. What better place to experience all this than in this beautiful province.

I would just like people to know that I'm so grateful for everyone I've met, for all of my experiences at Hospice Simcoe and for the lasting friendships I've made. I have attached a couple of pictures from our travels out here. Thank you so much for asking me to share a little bit of my story.



*Sincerely,
Jenn Miller*

“Change is the heartbeat of growth.” Scottie Somers

Volunteers

For the next few months, the volunteer spotlight will feature Board Directors. Although they are not as visible in their volunteer positions, their work behind the scenes is crucial to the success of Hospice Simcoe. They support and collaborate with Kelly to ensure that strategic planning, future visioning, financial viability and quality/safe care are in alignment with community need and Provincial mandates.

Volunteer Spotlight - Don Gregor, Board Director



Don Gregor
*Hospice Simcoe
 Board Director*

How long have you been a Volunteer Director for HS?

I am in my fourth year on the Board.

Why did you choose this area of volunteering?

I have had a long career in commercial real estate and wanted to move towards board activities as I start to transition to the latter part of my career and into retirement. My wife, Jane, and I had just moved to Horseshoe Valley and I wanted to give something back to the Simcoe County community where we have chosen to live - hopefully for the rest of our lives - after raising our family in Newmarket. My wife's mother had just passed from pancreatic cancer, in a long, drawn-out fight that ended in a home death. I could see the strain this put on an extended family as I didn't see my spouse for weeks at a time as she and her siblings chose to home care for their mother. I felt that Hospice really helps in situations like this where the family, at the end, is often just too tired to even grieve properly.

What excites you most? How do you find it personally fulfilling?

I come from a long family tradition of health care workers. I chose a different career path having been the youngest in my family and barely seeing my working staff doctor dad until he retired. I find the health conversations interesting, but only from a bystander level. I am happy, though, to bring my financial and real estate background to the assistance of the board.

Many thanks to Jenn and Jeff who once again prepared a Thanksgiving dinner for in-house residents, families and staff.

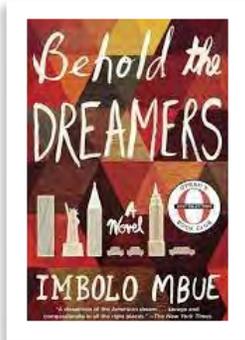
Thanks also to Dr. Mossman and her husband, David, for helping as well.



THANK YOU

BOOK REVIEW

BEHOLD THE DREAMERS



Behold the Dreamers is the first novel from Imbolo Mbue.

This story tells the tale of two families in New York City at the beginning of the 2008 recession.

Jende Jonga is an immigrant from the poverty-stricken west African nation of Cameroon.

A lucky family connection gets him a job as a personal chauffeur to Clark Edwards, an executive at the soon-to-be doomed Lehman Brothers. The families become more connected when Clark's wife hires Jende's wife, Nemi, as her housekeeper and part-time nanny to their youngest son.

The Jonga's immigrant story is typical and familiar. The family comes with nothing and works relentlessly to achieve their dream of a life in America. Jende puts in fourteen hour days and Nemi works two jobs and attends classes to become a pharmacist.

In addition to financial stresses, the Jongas are in the U.S. illegally and deportation is a constant threat. Their situation is contrasted with Jende's cousin, Winston, who grew up with him but through the US Army went to law school and is a lawyer in New York.

The author develops the Edwards family alongside the Jongas. Despite their wealth, the Edwards deal with their own family issues and personal weaknesses. Each family's life impacts the other's in ways that provide the reader with insight into the complexities of the immigrant struggle.

The Jonga family's search for the elusive American Dream will have you feeling for each character from the moment you pick this book up. A good read!

Thanks to Kathy Marshall for this book review.

Around the House



Congratulations to Garrett and his lovely bride, Adlene, on their recent marriage. The wedding took place in Caledon on Aug. 29th. *Best wishes for a wonderful future together!*

Rhoda, one of our residents, seen here with volunteer, Isabel, helped out with the laundry folding. When asked if she was being treated well at Hospice Simcoe, she replied, ***“Couldn’t be better!”***



Shelley was busy making pumpkin gingerbread cookies!



Francine & Laura Lee

Yes, those wonderful aromas are still emanating from our kitchen. Thanks to our wonderful kitchen volunteers for making the house feel - and smell - so homey!





What's Happening?

***** **LUNCH & LEARN** *****

**Friday, November 5th
12 - 1 pm**

Laura Lambert from the Barrie Public Library will be joining us and sharing updates about their in-person and online services and opportunities. **Watch for the Zoom link in your email.**

****This event was originally scheduled on Oct. 25th****

**Message from Kelly Hubbard
Executive Director**



What a beautiful fall we have had! Nice warm, sunny days, stunning leaves and so much to be thankful for!

As winter approaches and as COVID-19 lurks around us, we need to remain diligent with hand hygiene, mask use, physical distancing and vaccination. As you may be aware, we distributed a revised COVID-19 vaccine policy that is in line with our health care partners'. This policy is in support of mandated vaccines to ensure Hospice Simcoe is doing everything possible and reasonable to protect our vulnerable clients, our colleagues and our community as a whole.

The policy describes that, as of December 15th, 2021, all staff/volunteers/students/physicians and contracted providers will be fully vaccinated to enter Hospice Simcoe's facilities. Beginning November 15th, visitors will also be asked to show proof of vaccine, those who are not able/willing to provide proof of vaccine will be required to have a rapid COVID-19 test done prior to visiting.

We do not require proof of vaccine for clients/residents to participate in community programs or to receive 24/7 care. We are hoping we can open up our current visitor restrictions by removing capacity limits with this new policy. I encourage you to read the policy and reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

***** **LUNCH & LEARN** *****

**Monday, November 29th
12 - 1 pm**

**Grandmothers
and Grandothers**

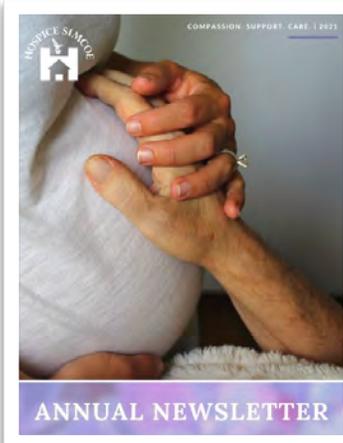
This group of Grandmothers supports the Stephen Lewis Foundation which works to mobilize support for African grandmothers raising children orphaned by AIDs.

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER and ANNUAL APPEAL 2021

By now, many of you will have received our Annual Newsletter in your mailbox and inbox. We hope you enjoy reading the stories from families and loved ones who have experienced the end-of-life care and bereavement support we provide, along with the updates from our team on our programs and services.

Included in our Newsletter is our Annual Appeal. Our goal this year... \$200,000.

For those of you who are not aware, we rely on donations for more than 50% of our operating budget. Approximately \$1.3 million must be raised annually. If you didn't receive a newsletter, and/or are interested in making a donation please give us a call at 705-722-5995 or email Judi at judi@hospicesimcoe.ca



HOSPICE HAPPENINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Golf for Hospice UPDATE

Our annual Golf for Hospice was back in full swing this year. Held on October 4th at the Barrie Country Club, this popular, sold-out event **raised \$80,000 for Hospice Simcoe.** Our sincere thanks to event volunteer Chairs Marta Duivenvoorden, Jody Patfield, and Jen Patfield-Brady for helping make this event more successful than ever.



UPDATE Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign

The Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign was more successful than ever! Thank you to the Barrie and Stroud-area Tim Hortons owners for choosing Hospice Simcoe as one of the charity recipients again this year. A special thanks to all of you for buying, and eating, lots of those delicious cookies! We are so grateful to receive over **\$85,000 from this event.** Thanks also to the HS volunteers that went to Tim Hortons restaurants on launch day and were such great ambassadors for us.

Noella Christmas Tree Lot

We are grateful to the Downtown Barrie Business Association for once again choosing Hospice Simcoe as the recipient of the proceeds from this year's Noella Christmas Tree Lot/ Memorial Square.

This year, we'll be hosting the Noella Tree & Wreath Lot on the following dates:

- Saturday, November 27
- Saturday, December 4
- Saturday, December 11
- - Saturday, December 18

Stay tuned to our social media for more information!



Hospice Simcoe Hummingbird

Handcrafted, walnut ornaments made exclusively for Hospice Simcoe by Piper Blue Atelier.

Order one today for only \$20!



Visit Piper Blue Atelier on Facebook @ misspiperblue.

ROTARY CASH CALENDARS ARE BACK!

The annual sale of Rotary Cash Calendars is here. Calendar are \$20 each with 25% coming back to Hospice Simcoe. There is a cash prize available to be won every single day of the year. Please see Josie (josie@hospicesimcoe.ca) if you would like to purchase a calendar. **They make great stocking stuffers!**



336 Penetanguishene Road, Barrie, ON L4M 7C2
705-722-5995

www.hospicesimcoe.ca

Registered Charity #134433234 RR0001

@Hospice Simcoe

@Hospice Simcoe

@hospicesimcoe

Hospice Simcoe