



# We Give You Space to Live Before You Die

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

A NOTE FROM OUR

## Board Chair

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2022–23 Annual Report for Hospice Halifax. As Chair of the Board of Directors, I am honoured to share with you our achievements and progress made over the past year.

Last May, we welcomed Jeff Chant, a former United Church Minister, counsellor, and organizational consultant, as our new CEO. Jeff has spent the last year working closely with, and learning from, the board, his team, and the many patients and families we have served. While Jeff has been taking care of operations, the board has been focused on developing our 2024–28 strategic plan, which has involved considerable consultation with the community.

We are also working closely with community partners to explore expanding hospice care into other communities in the Halifax region. Our donors and community members continue to support us generously, and our team remains passionate about providing the best end-of-life care possible to as many people as possible.

I want to thank the board and committee members for their thoughtful contribution to our success, along with Jeff and his team for their hard work and dedication, and the donors who make all of this possible.

With an exceptional team, a clear direction, and strong financial stability, I am confident in Hospice Halifax's continued success.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

**Phil Otto**  
Board Chair

A NOTE FROM OUR

## CEO

I started my journey with Hospice Halifax in May of 2021 and it has been a whirlwind!

Our incredible team of healthcare professionals and volunteers have continued to provide compassionate care to our residents around the clock. I have the privilege of witnessing daily the positive impact our services have on patients and their loved ones. This year we served 118 patients and their families and provided grief and bereavement support to hundreds of Nova Scotians.

We have hired a volunteer coordinator to lead our dedicated volunteers who inspire us every day. Our fund development team significantly increased donor awareness and engagement, thus allowing us to grow our services and maintain financial sustainability. Our clinical team continues to offer compassionate and appropriate care and this year, in collaboration with the Dalhousie Department of Family Medicine, we became an academic teaching site for Family Medicine Residents and post-graduate Enhanced Skills Trainees in Palliative Care. Our housekeepers, food services, operations team, and others ensure we pay attention to every detail in order to create a home-like environment and exceptional experience which is reflected in our family surveys.

We held several successful events over the past year, most notably the launch of Light Up a Life and the return of our signature gala Feeling the Love.

I am proud of our team's unwavering commitment to creating space for people to live before they die, and thank each of our board members, staff, volunteers, donors, and the broader hospice community for their belief and support of our mission.

I hope you'll enjoy hearing their stories and celebrating our successes throughout these pages.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

**Jeff Chant**  
CEO



A NOTE FROM OUR

## Treasurer

Like most organizations, Hospice Halifax was forced to operate in a challenging environment as the world weathered the COVID-19 pandemic. More recently, the economic fallout of the pandemic has meant we have also had to navigate rapid inflation and interest rate hikes. Despite these challenges, and because of our committed staff, volunteers, and donors, Hospice Halifax has maintained a solid financial footing, without sacrifices to the quality of care we provide. In fiscal 2022-23 we continued to successfully manage costs and fundraise the necessary revenue to sustain operations and we are well positioned moving forward.

**Jonathan Caldwell**

*Treasurer*

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A NOTE FROM OUR

## Medical Director

Hospice Halifax continues to receive exceptional patient and family satisfaction feedback for the palliative care it provides each year for Nova Scotians. It takes skilled and compassionate clinicians, volunteers, and teams to provide this care. Through additional teaching funding, and in collaboration with the Dalhousie Department of Family Medicine, we are offering training to Family Medicine Residents and Enhanced Skill trainees in Palliative Care. Together we learn, so together we can care for you everyday you live.

**Dr. Stephanie Connidis**

*Medical Director*

*“I will be  
grateful for,  
and sing  
the praises of,  
Hospice Halifax  
for the rest of  
my life.”*

- PATIENT FAMILY MEMBER

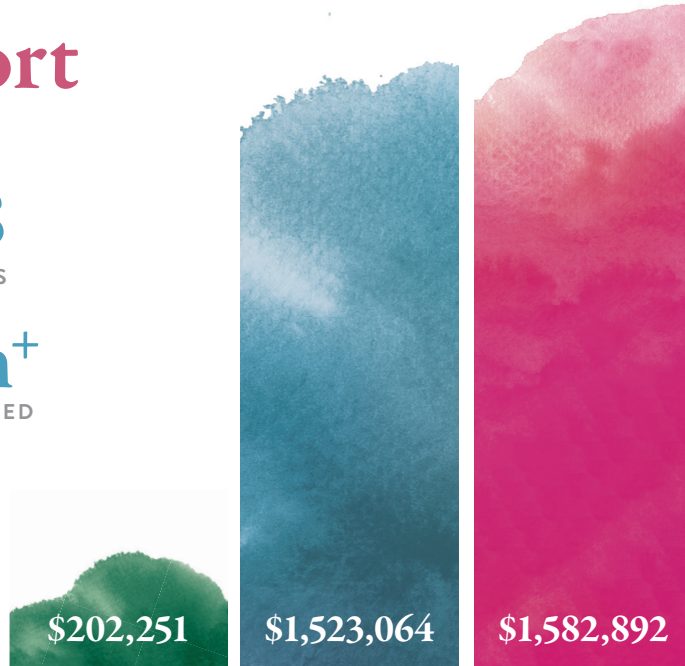
# Financial Report

4,728

TOTAL DONORS

\$1.5m<sup>+</sup>

IN FUNDS RAISED

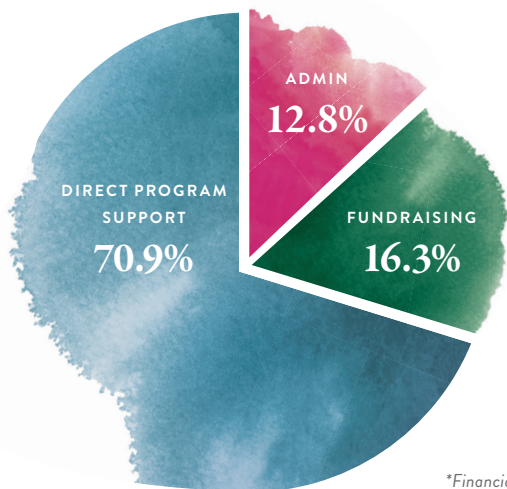


## REVENUE

OTHER

GOVERNMENT

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



## EXPENSES

*Core Mission Support*

To review our full 2022/23 Audited Financial Statement and previous Annual Reports, visit [HospiceHalifax.ca/Reports](https://HospiceHalifax.ca/Reports)

\*Financial information subject to change during auditor verification

# Fundraising Highlights

TRIBUTE  
\$139,886

PLANNED  
\$144,594

LIGHT UP A LIFE  
\$33,798

HEART OF HOSPICE:  
MONTHLY GIVING CLUB  
\$43,297

FEELING THE LOVE  
\$267,543

## The Compassionate Closet

REACHED 2,000 DONORS IN 3 YEARS



We are incredibly grateful to our volunteers, donors and shoppers who are the heart of Hospice Thrift Store.

With the name change to Hospice Thrift Store, we are excited to see the store continue to grow and serve our community with the same level of dedication and compassion.

The Hospice Thrift Store has faced many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are immensely grateful for the resilience and dedication the team and our community showed during these trying times.

We are confident that the Hospice Thrift Store will continue to thrive and make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

The Compassionate Closet has been instrumental in supporting our mission to provide exceptional end-of-life care and support to those in our community. We are thrilled to reveal that The Compassionate Closet will now operate as the Hospice Thrift Store.

Over the years, the Compassionate Closet has become an integral part of the community. In the past 2 years, over 2,000 donors have made the Hospice Thrift Store possible.

HOSPICE  
thrift store 



# Bereavement & Support Programs

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT  
GROUPS ACCESSED

307 times

383 MUSIC THERAPY  
SESSIONS

628 ONE-ON-ONE  
COUNSELLING  
SESSIONS

## Hospice Halifax continues to expand its range of services to better meet the needs of our community.

We remain committed to decreasing barriers to accessing professional bereavement services while increasing our capacity. The Support Services team at Hospice Halifax has had an exceptional year, providing our patients and families with an array of meaningful and engaging experiences. Their innovative approach to care has resulted in countless memorable moments for our community, including movie nights, fishing “expeditions”, and mother-daughter bonding events. We are grateful for their creativity and unwavering dedication to enhancing end-of-life care.

In addition to our bereavement services, we are proud to have become a Nav-CARE hub site, providing comprehensive navigation

and support services to individuals living with life-limiting illnesses and their families. We have also expanded our music therapy services and made use of innovative approaches to care, including the home delivery service offered through the Halifax Public Libraries. Finally, we are pleased to have expanded our pet therapy programming, with the addition of cats to our team of therapy animals. Thanks to the support of various shelter and rescue organizations, we have been able to provide our patients and families with the unique and therapeutic benefits of interacting with animals. At Hospice Halifax, we remain committed to providing compassionate care to those in need.

Our support services are available to all patients and their family members and friends, providing a range of options to meet their unique needs.

## Social Work

Supportive conversation, counselling, resource navigation, advocacy, referrals, legacy work, end-of-life planning, special requests, family meetings, programs, and services.

## Music Therapy

Therapeutic sessions with live music foster comfort, relaxation, and self-expression. Meaningful shared experiences in one-on-one and/or group sessions.

## Bereavement Counselling

Counselling focused on grief, loss, death, and all its impacts. Provided by a licensed professional.

## Professional Volunteers

Massage therapy, haircuts, pet therapy, yoga, meditation, photography, nail care, arts and crafts, and more.

## Spiritual Care

Attending to spiritual and religious needs. Connecting to community spiritual care providers and faith leaders. Provision of sacred tools, resources, and materials.



## Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone of Hospice Halifax, and we are incredibly grateful for their unwavering support and dedication. This past year, our volunteers contributed more than 4,900 hours of service, providing compassionate care and support to our patients and families. Whether they were serving meals, providing companionship, or assisting with administrative tasks, our volunteers demonstrated their commitment to our mission every day. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, our volunteers continued to show up, adapt, and innovate, finding new ways to support our community and make a difference. We are honoured to work alongside such an amazing team of individuals and are grateful for all they do to help us provide exceptional end-of-life care and support.



59

NEW VOLUNTEERS

203

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

4,914

VOLUNTEER HOURS

*“June’s time at Hospice Halifax was amazing for us. The people and the care she received made all the difference for our family.”*

— BERNIE, JUNE’S BROTHER

## IN MEMORY OF JUNE



In September of 2022, June arrived at Hospice Halifax. Our team didn’t take long to notice that she loved to colour—and encouraged her to colour as much and as often as she wanted.

For June, this love of colouring was more than just something to pass the time - it gave her purpose and joy. So when she wanted to find a way to share it with others, Hospice Halifax connected with the Point Pleasant Child Care Centre, and June’s colouring pages were delivered.

At Hospice Halifax, our team is dedicated to providing patients with comfort, dignity, and quality of life during their stay. June’s love of colouring brought joy to her life, and it also touched the lives of others. Her colouring pages brought a smile to children’s faces at the Point Pleasant Child Care Centre, and her passion for life and kindness left a lasting impression on everyone she met.



IN MEMORY OF  
**Peter “Garnet” Cross**



Peter “Garnet” Cross, my dad, was a patient at Hospice Halifax from February 2, 2022–February 25, 2022.

Garnet has four sons, and everyone knew him from always being on the pool deck, at every swim meet, being a supportive dad. He liked to keep his mind and body active—a regular at the Dalplex. He was a math teacher and loved to keep notes and write poetry.

When Dad was diagnosed with cancer and 90 years old, it was a surprise to him. He always said, “I’ll be here long after you’re gone,” if he had a tiff with anyone. He thought he’d live forever. And for a bit, he continued to surprise his doctors. He saw another Christmas, and he saw his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

As his illness progressed, we were unhappy with the care he was getting at home, so we turned to Hospice Halifax. Dad took this as a big blow, a death sentence. He knew that getting into hospice meant he wouldn’t live forever.

But, as soon as he got to Hospice Halifax, it changed. I arrived just minutes behind him on his first day, and from that very first moment coming into the space, he was happy.



Hospice Halifax as a whole made a difference for my dad; the staff, the environment, the colours, the music, and the attention that everyone gave him. It’s what he had been longing for—he loved attention, and there was unending attention here for him.

I’ll never forget the moment I knew Hospice Halifax really saw and respected my dad for who he was; it was when he was ordering ice cream. He said, “I’d like some white ice cream in a black dish and brown ice cream in a white dish.” Dad was particular, and he wanted things just so. And as meticulous as his order was, his ice cream arrived just as he asked—in separate, different coloured dishes.

Hospice Halifax gave my dad dignity. When you’re surrounded by people who are genuinely caring, nice, and pleasant, and the whole environment is like that, it really changes the experience. I really appreciated that, and I know my dad did too.

Thank you,

Jason Cross

*“Hospice Halifax gave  
my dad dignity.”*

– JASON, PETER’S SON



## Randy's Tea Room

Randy was a patient at Hospice Halifax in 2022. In his time here, you could often find him upstairs in the Great Room or outside his room in the Tea Room—usually using the space to stretch or grab a cup of coffee.

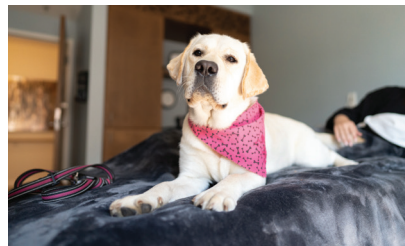
Randy was thankful for his time at Hospice Halifax. He felt cared for and felt at home. He wanted to pay it forward to future patients

and families like his and decided to make a gift and create a legacy: Randy's Tea Room.

In Randy's memory and honour, you'll find "Randy's Tea Room" at the end of the hallway at Hospice Halifax. A place to grab a hot beverage, like Randy's family often did. Or just a place to step into for a moment of space, like Randy and his stretches.

### Animal Volunteers & Visitors

At Hospice Halifax, we are incredibly grateful for the support and companionship provided by our animal volunteers. Our furry friends have brought joy and comfort to patients, families, and staff alike, and we have been fortunate to welcome a wide variety of animals throughout the year. Whether it be the soothing presence of a new kitten, the gentle strength of a horse, or the loyal companionship of a dog, these animals have had a profound impact on the well-being of everyone at Hospice Halifax.



We are deeply grateful to our pet volunteers and their handlers for their dedication and compassion, and we look forward to continuing to welcome them into our Hospice family.

### Feeling the Love

Hospice Halifax's Feeling the Love event was a huge success thanks to the incredible support of our community partners and sponsors. Hosted by Mayor Mike Savage, the event featured an inspiring interview with guest of honor Donna Reid, who shared her touching story of her mother's care at Hospice Halifax. The interview was conducted by Doctor Lisa Barret, who provided valuable insights and perspective. We were touched by the outpouring of support and love from everyone in attendance. We are grateful to all our sponsors and partners for their unwavering support of our mission to provide exceptional end-of-life care and support. The event was a testament to the power of community and the importance of coming together to support those in need.



### Light Up a Life

Hospice Halifax's Light Up a Life event was a truly heartwarming and moving tribute to the loved ones who have died. It was an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the lives of those who are no longer with us. We were thrilled to see so many people, with over 400 attendees who dedicated a light in memory of their loved ones.

The Light Up a Life gathering provided a space for our community to share in a collective moment of reflection and remembrance, and the community memorial wall was a beautiful display of the names of those who were honoured at the event. This event was a reminder of the importance of community and how coming together can provide comfort during times of grief. We are grateful for the overwhelming support of our community, and we look forward to continuing this tradition in the years to come.



*Hospice Halifax would not exist without the continued support of our community who believe that end-of-life care can look different for Nova Scotians.*

*Thank you.*

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