

Fall, 2014



HOSPICE HAPPENINGS *newsletter*

www.chathamkenthospice.com

Chatham-Kent Hospice *NEEDS YOU!*

Melanie Watson, Volunteer Coordinator

It's hard to believe summer is over and fall is upon us – such is the nature of the seasons!

My name is Melanie Watson and am the new Volunteer Coordinator for the **Chatham-Kent Hospice**.

I am so excited to be a part of this amazing community service that is much needed. It will take many volunteers to help create a home-like setting for the residents and families who will have access to outstanding care and bereavement support.

We are looking for kind, compassionate people of all backgrounds, skills and experience who are willing to dedicate their time to help with a range of roles from cooking, cleaning, gardening, greeter, office help, and bedside care. These are just a few of the many opportunities we have for volunteers willing to give of their time and talent.

As you can see, volunteers are a key component to the success of our residential hospice. Due to the sensitive nature of our work, all our volunteers undergo thorough screening which includes an interview, reference checks, a Police Vulnerable Sector check, 30 hours of training and ongoing supervision and feedback. This is to ensure that we match your interests with a volunteer role that best meets the needs of the **Chatham-Kent Hospice**. If you are looking for a challenging yet rewarding volunteer position that will make a difference in someone's life, including yours, please apply online today – visit www.chathamkenthospice.com or give me a call at 519-354-3113.



We match your interests with a volunteer role that best meets the needs of the Chatham-Kent Hospice.

Changing moments, changing lives.

Our mission is to provide care that changes how families live the important experiences near the end of life.

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Save the Stamp! If you have received a paper copy of this newsletter and have an e-mail address, please send it to us at info@chathamkenthospice.com. We will send you an electronic copy of the newsletter instead. It helps us save money and it is environmentally friendly!

Thanks for Giving Campaign Surpasses \$250,000 Goal

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised over \$341,000 in our Thanks For Giving Community Campaign. The Community Campaign was launched on September 25th with the announcement of donations totaling \$250,000.

The public was then challenged to match this amount over the next few weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. An information package was distributed through local community papers across the municipality encouraging people to participate and daily radio interviews highlighted the reasons why individual donors supported the project.

The total amount raised was announced at a celebration event on October 15th at the John D. Bradley Convention Centre where supporters gathered in the morning.

Our community donated generously in the Thanks For Giving Campaign bringing our new total of dollars raised to \$4,341,000 - so very close to our goal of \$5 M!

If you have not had an opportunity to donate - please donate now - we still need your help to open the doors to a residential hospice in our community.



Jennifer Wilson – Chair, Chatham-Kent Hospice Board; John Case – Chair, Capital Campaign react to hearing the total raised

On-line donations can be made on our website www.chathamkenthospice.com, you can mail or drop off a cheque to **Chatham-Kent Hospice**, 99 Park Street, Chatham, ON, N7M 3R5 or credit card donations can be made over the phone at 519-354-3113.

CAMPAIGN GOAL:	
Building Cost:	\$3 million
Operational Sustainability Fund:	\$2 million
	\$5 million

Making progress on the hospice design!

The excitement is building as we continue with the hospice design. ROA Studios, a local architect firm, has been working closely with our many community volunteers to arrive at a design which will be functional, practical, affordable and beautiful!

The hospice will have a 'home-like' atmosphere, housing ten large, private bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms and views to beautiful outdoor space so residents can enjoy every precious day. Sleeping spaces for families, a cozy living room, dining room and kitchen will assist loved ones to be comfortable and supported.

The hospice will also serve others in our community who are



living with life threatening illness, dealing with grief, or needing a place to meet with their palliative care practitioner. Day programs, support groups and education opportunities will be provided in hospice common spaces and meeting rooms.

The jewel of the hospice will be a central courtyard garden which residents can access whether they are able to travel by wheelchair or are wheeled in their beds. There will also be a lovely spiritual space adjacent to the gardens where families can gather to celebrate milestones like weddings, take part in cultural or spiritual rituals, or spend time quietly in reflection or prayer.

A large portion of the hospice will be one storey, except for the front of the building facing Wellington Street which will house a partial upstairs and basement to provide space for offices, meeting rooms and support programs. Natural finishes will help our hospice blend into the neighbourhood and help promote a home-like environment connected with the nature in our community.

Visit www.chathamkenthospice.com (under Capital Campaign/The Project tab) to see this photo as well as a Block Plan design.



Hospice Heart Stories

Elisabeth Hitchcock: "The hospice was a true blessing."

Elisabeth Hitchcock, of Chatham, learned that even though she and her children were committed to caring for her husband, Lyle in his last days, sometimes love is just not enough. Elisabeth and her family gave up their jobs and normal lives in order to be home and care for Lyle after he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. But eventually, Elisabeth realized they were not able to give the 24-7 care needed and that their own health and lives were suffering.

"When I brought my husband through the doors of the Windsor Hospice, I'll never forget what they said to me... 'You can relax now. We will take over and look after him'. I didn't realize until then how overwhelmed we had been with my husband's care," says Elisabeth.

"The hospice was a true blessing," says Elisabeth. "The hospice gave my husband the special care he needed in his last days and it saved my children and me both physically and spiritually."

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to write a letter of support or shared their story with us. You helped give us the start we so badly needed.

If you have a story to share, please:

- Email it to info@chathamkenthospice.com
- Mail it to 99 Park Street, Chatham, ON N7M 3R5

And we may include it in a future edition of "Hospice Happenings".

COMMUNITY events

Thank you to the Chatham Anglican Community for hosting the **Fish Fry Dinner** in September. Close to 600 meals were enjoyed raising almost \$7,100 for **Chatham-Kent Hospice**.



Also in September, "**Rock the Barn**" was held at the Fisher Farm and raised close to \$20,000. Thank you Anne & Pete!



Here is the list of upcoming events in support of **Chatham-Kent Hospice**. Visit our website for more information.

Friday, Nov. 21 & Saturday, Nov. 22 – Christmas Party Fun – raiser featuring "Ted Oliver's Dueling Pianos" in support of the Children's Safety Village & Chatham-Kent Hospice

Wednesday, Dec. 17 - Sounds of Christmas featuring the Chatham Concert Band presented by Battery Boy

We are very grateful to ALL the community groups and individuals who have organized an event to benefit **Chatham-Kent Hospice** – Thank You! If you have an idea or event, please contact us or visit our website to learn more about how we can help you.

Stay in Touch



Follow the progress of the Chatham-Kent Hospice project:

- Visit our website at www.chathamkenthospice.com
- Join our email list. Sign up on our website's home page.
- Follow us on Facebook
- Read the **Hospice Happenings** Newsletter and share with family and friends
- Have questions? Give us a call at 519-354-3113

Message from the Chair

On the farm the Fall is always synonymous with harvest, an exciting time when all the fruit of the fields can be brought safely under cover. In the same way our fundraising campaign has gathered a harvest, a harvest of our community's wishes and dreams for a better ending for the ones we love.

The Thanks For Giving Community Campaign has truly been a bountiful harvest for our community. It is with these dollars that we can begin to build a better end of life for those unable to stay at home but do not need a hospital and support those left behind so they are not left alone in their grief.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the hospice fundraising team - headed by Jodi Maroney, assisted by Mike Genge, who led the amazing hospice campaign team of John Case (Chair), John Lawrence, Wes Thompson, Bryon Fluker, Adam Vandermeij, Nathan McKinlay, Charlie Mitton, Barb Carruthers, Jason Mallory, Jeff Wilson and Keith Graham. This team has worked relentlessly over the past 9 months, connecting with potential donors and community leaders, outlining the benefits of hospice in a community that was scarcely aware of the project a year ago.

As well, thanks to our Hospice Heroes-enthusiastic, cheerful fundraisers, who know that big things can be accomplished with small asks.

My most important thank you is to our donors, you have made the difference between a poor harvest and a bountiful harvest. Because of your generosity we can move forward with confidence on the important work of building our community hospice. You have truly made 2014 the year of the hospice for Chatham-Kent and I am deeply grateful.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Wilson'.

Jennifer Wilson
Chair, Chatham-Kent Hospice Board

Attention Union Gas Employees, Retirees and Board Members!



Chatham-Kent Hospice qualifies for the *Spectra Energy Matching Gift Program* for donations of \$50 or more. This program encourages and supports the generosity and community involvement of employees, retirees and board members by providing matching funds to the charitable organizations employees, retirees and board members personally support.

If you would like to take advantage of this program, visit www.easymatch.com/Spectra-energy or call **Chatham-Kent Hospice** at 519-354-3113 for an application form.

What a wonderful way to make the most of your donation!



Compassionate,
end-of-life care in a
home-like setting.

You can donate:

Online: www.chathamkenthospice.com

By mail to:

Chatham-Kent Hospice
99 Park Street
Chatham, ON N7M 3R5

Or call: 519-354-3113

We are grateful for your support of Chatham-Kent Hospice. If you would no longer like to receive a copy of this newsletter, please email info@chathamkenthospice.com or call 519-354-3113 and ask that your name be removed.

Charitable Status #: 843944430RR0001