

# Red carpet rollout at Girls Night Out

BY JESSICA CUNHA

[jessica.cunha@metroland.com](mailto:jessica.cunha@metroland.com)

Hospice Care Ottawa is rolling out the red carpet for its 11th annual Girls Night Out event on May 26.

The theme for the evening is “red carpet glam” and more than 600 women are expected to attend the fundraiser, which supports the non-profit’s palliative and end-of-life services.

“Girls Night Out is great and I take advantage of it to

bring together a great group of friends — enough to fill two tables,” said longtime supporter Shirley Greenberg. “It ranges from hilarious and enervating to just a super get-together.”

The fête features plenty of fun, beginning with a firefighter escort down the red carpet. It includes dinner, wine and dessert, a special gift, a live and silent auction, entertainment, dancing, a photo booth and more.

“It’s a fun way to spend a Friday evening with your girl-

friends,” said Susan McIntosh, manager of fund development at Hospice Care Ottawa. “Girls Night Out is a fabulous event that many ladies look forward to year after year.”

Phil Massad, with BMO Nesbitt Burns, has sponsored the event for the past two years after his family experienced the care provided by those with the organization. Although the event is ladies only, it’s his way of being able to give back, he said.

“(It’s) my way of thanking

the dedicated staff and volunteers of Hospice Care Ottawa for the tremendous care and compassion shown to my aunt, and our entire family, during her final days at the May Court Hospice,” he said. “We are so fortunate as a community to have access to Hospice Care Ottawa’s services and programs.”

All services — including residential and in-home care, bereavement and caregiver services, and day programs — are provided at no charge to individuals living with a life-limit-

ing illness and their families.

“I am in awe of the staff and volunteers who work directly with those facing the end-of-life or dealing with a life-limiting illness,” said Mary Ann Smythe, hospice and event volunteer. “I feel privileged to support Hospice Care Ottawa in any way I can — whether it’s spending a few hours on the reception desk or gathering auction donations for the fun and fabulous Girls Night Out. It’s so rewarding to see the community come together.”

Last year’s event raised approximately \$77,000 for the charitable organization, which has hospice sites in Kanata, Orleans, Old Ottawa South and west Ottawa.

## DETAILS

Tickets for the event are \$85. Girls Night Out will take place at Algonquin College on Friday, May 26, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [hospicecareottawa.ca](http://hospicecareottawa.ca).