



*When comfort matters most
Sous l'aile du réconfort*

April 2, 2020

Dear friends,

Since our Hospice Matters newsletter was laid out for print, a lot has changed in the world with the COVID-19 pandemic upon us. We are living through extraordinary times. We hope you and your loved ones are staying well.

First, thank all of you for incredible support over this trying time. The hard work and positive attitude of our staff and volunteers has been amazing. Despite the challenges that COVID-19 is imposing on our health care system and the residents of our community, Hospice Care Ottawa is continuing to provide key services while ensuring the safety of our staff, volunteers and clients.

Our community programs have been suspended for the time being, but all of our clients are receiving regular calls from staff and volunteers. At this time, we continue to admit and provide end-of-life care to patients in our Hospice residences. Strict screening and visitor processes have been implemented. In addition, staff providing direct care are wearing personal protective equipment (masks and face protection), to ensure their safety as well as our residents. It certainly gives a different look and feel at Hospice, but we assure you that Hospice continues to provide excellent and compassionate care.

You will see in this newsletter that we have had to make some hard decisions with our upcoming fundraising events. Please note the following:

- *Hike for Hospice* will still take place on Saturday, May 9, but virtually. For more information on how you can still participate visit <https://www.hospicecareottawa.ca/hike-for-hospice-2020>
- Our June 24th *Soirée* is postponed. We hope to schedule a new event in the Fall

This year will be tougher than ever for us to raise the necessary funds to support the palliative and end-of-life clients at Hospice. We recognize this may be a challenging financial year for many of you as well due to job lay offs, cutbacks and the financial market uncertainty. If you are able to, we hope you will consider keeping Hospice Care Ottawa in your charitable giving plans this year. Maybe, you're even able to chip in and make a donation today. Together we can ensure that end-of-life hospice care can continue to be provided at no charge to families. Special care that is much appreciated.

Thank you for your care and support. Keep well.

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