Winter, 2015

HOSPICE HAPPENINGS *newsletter*

Chatham-Kent Hospice

www.chathamkenthospice.com

Construction to begin in *early Spring!*

The design plans for the new residential hospice are complete and construction is slated to begin as soon as Mother Nature allows.

The ***Chatham-Kent Hospice*** recently issued the construction tender package to six pre-qualified General Contractors for the construction of the 10-bed residential hospice that will also include associated palliative programs and services.

In November 2014, the ***Chatham-Kent Hospice*** issued a public notice requesting submissions for the prequalification process. The ***Chatham-Kent Hospice*** Construction Committee reviewed a number of submissions and scored each one based on a set of pre-defined criteria. The criteria included: experience with similar projects; quality of past work; project schedule adherence, and local community support.

Conceptual drawing of front of hospice (facing Wellington St.)

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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!

Chatham-Kent Hospice celebrates completion of a very successful Capital Fundraising Campaign

Thanks to the outstanding generosity and enthusiasm of the Chatham-Kent community, the Chatham-Kent Hospice Capital Campaign exceeded goal by raising almost $5.8 million.

The **$5 million** Capital Campaign was launched in February 2014 with the goal of raising **$3 million** to build and **$2 million** for an Operational Sustainability Fund. Over the next 11 months, a concentrated effort was made to not only fundraise but to educate the community on what a residential hospice is and its benefits.

Here are some highlights:

- 108 volunteers have been involved to date and an additional 80 individuals have signed up to assist in the future
- We partnered with all 3 radio stations and 10 community newspapers from across the municipality to reach the entire municipality
- We received support from over 225 businesses and organizations
- We benefited from 24 Fundraising Events organized by individuals and groups in our community
- We have made presentations to over 50 different civic and faith-based groups
- We have worked with local health care providers as well as hospices in other communities to benefit from their knowledge
- Our Facebook page has over 1,000 Likes and our website averages 30 visits per day
- Over 3,000 donors have supported the project and memorial donations were made in memory of more than 320 individuals to date
- 11 Foundations have supported the project so far with donations totaling $228,980

A big THANK YOU to the Campaign Cabinet led by chair John Case for their tireless efforts!

A donation by the Ursuline Sisters of Chatham for $500,000 helped the final amount far surpass the original goal of $5 million.

Construction to begin in early Spring ...cont'd

As a result of this rigorous review process, six General Contractors were prequalified and now have the opportunity to bid on the construction of our new community hospice. The construction project will be awarded to the firm meeting all stated requirements and submitting the lowest bid.

The announcement of the successful General Contractor is expected by the end of February. Construction will begin in early spring with completion targeted for the end of 2015.

Here is a site plan analysis showing the location of the hospice on the St. Andrew's block.
To see more conceptual drawings of the future hospice, visit our website at www.chathamkenthospice.com (The Project).

Hospice Heart Stories

Message from the Ursuline Sisters

As members of a community of religious women we have had the privilege of journeying together over many years. We have shared our joys and sorrows, our hopes and dreams, our work and our rest. We have come to understand in profound ways the preciousness and fragility of life at all its stages. While we have an active and diverse history with many missions and ministries, involvements and interests within and beyond our group, what we value more and more each day are the gifts of presence, of being with, of being attentive, of simply listening and loving.

We know that we have been blessed to be able to accompany each other, and many of our family members and friends as they enter the final stages of their earthly journeys. Because of the excellent health care and support that we enjoy, we have been free to attend to each other, in the community and beyond the community, in personal and precious ways. This is an experience that we hope more and more people will be able to have through the ministry of the ***Chatham-Kent Hospice***. Professional people will be able to provide the medical, psychological, physical and spiritual support to families so that they can be truly present to those they love and accompany them during final life stages. However long we live, life often seems too short to say what we need to say or do what we need to do in our personal relationships. Our hope is that the establishment of ***Chatham-Kent Hospice*** will be able to provide opportunities for the gifts we value most: peace, reconciliation, loving presence and compassionate accompaniment.

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**".

Volunteering is *Compassion*

The journey to become a ***Chatham-Kent Hospice*** volunteer is moving forward! We will be starting our screening process for all those who have applied. The screening process will include an interview, two reference checks, a police vulnerable sector check, and a health screening. We will start the interviews late February and continue through to March.

We are still looking for volunteers to apply. In an effort to serve and include the many cultures and groups residing in our community, we welcome volunteer applicants who reflect the wide diversity of our citizens. Rewarding volunteer roles include receptionist, food preparation/cook, gardener, housekeeping, friendly visitor, and complementary therapies just to name a few.

Thanks to a Libro Credit Union Community Builder Grant, we are also establishing a Youth Link Volunteer Program to engage youth as volunteers. To initiate this program we are looking for candidates for our Steering Committee to help establish and develop the program. This is a great opportunity to work with mentors to help develop leadership, teamwork, inter-personal, project management and communication skills. If you are 18-25 and are interested in this committee, please apply online and indicate your preference for "Youth Link Steering Committee".

If you have a passion for palliative care and want to make a difference please fill out an application online through our website, email Melanie mwatson@chathamkenthospice.com or call 519-354-3113.

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

In the midst of these cold winter days the fires burn bright at ***Chatham-Kent Hospice*** as our team continues to work harder than ever to bring our community hospice to life. While the hospice design will continue to refine and donor dollars are still received with welcome arms - for the most part, the design and the capital campaign are complete.

The focus of the hospice team this winter will be defining the medical model and recruiting, training the hospice volunteers and staff. Because of the generosity of our community we now have the funds to build our community hospice.

One of the most important things we will do this winter is recruit and train our volunteers. Volunteers are the heartbeat of all hospices. They transform the hospice into a home; a sympathetic ear to listen, a warm hand to hold, a chore done with grace and care.

We are so blessed at ***Chatham-Kent Hospice*** to have so many willing to give the most precious gift of all - their time. We are also very fortunate to have Volunteer Coordinator, Melanie Watson along with Volunteer Committee, Chair Lyn Rush who have worked with the Volunteer Committee to develop policies and procedures that will guide our volunteers through their activities at the hospice.

It is truly astonishing how short a time it takes for wonderful things to happen when you have a group of passionate focused volunteers.

It is a life changing experience to volunteer at a hospice and I encourage you to take stock of your many talents and call Melanie today. I assure you, you will be warmly welcomed. What better way to take the chill off a cold winter day!

Jennifer Wilson
Chair, Chatham-Kent Hospice Board

Attention Union Gas Employees, Retirees and Board Members!

uniongas
A Spectra Energy Company

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!

Chatham-Kent Hospice

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.

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