

Spring/Summer 2020

comfort in
community



Now more
than ever,
your support
matters

Keeping families connected
during difficult times

volunteer, advocate, make a gift



On behalf of St. Joseph's Villa and Foundation, we would like to thank you, our Villa family and our community for the love and support that you have shown us during this unprecedented period in our country. Your kindness has not gone unnoticed. The changes and measures that we've taken together have allowed us to protect residents and staff and continue providing the very best compassionate care possible, even in the most trying of circumstances.

While we face these challenging times, we are fortunate to have supporters like you who recognize the incredible difference that your generosity makes. As one of the oldest and largest long-term care homes in the province, your contributions help us to continue meeting the most urgent needs of our residents. Thanks to you we can support caregivers and families through our community outreach programs and services, and continue expanding our scope of service in the community with Margaret's Place Hospice at St. Joseph's Villa.

"While we face these challenging times, we are fortunate to have supporters like you who recognize the incredible difference that your generosity makes."

As we look ahead to the growing capital needs for residents in long-term care and funding for hospice care programs and services not covered by the government, we are grateful that we can count on you. Now more than ever, your support matters.

Your gift helps us to continue the compassionate care that we provide and fulfill our mission of service to the community. We invite you to consider what you can do as part of the Villa family. **Volunteer. Advocate. Make a Gift.**

You are the reason St. Joseph's Villa changes lives. Thank you for standing with us.

Sincerely,

Don Davidson
President & CEO –
St. Joseph's Villa Foundation

John Woods, President –
St. Joseph's Villa



~ Messages of love from residents to families during the pandemic.



~ Geared up in PPE, serving on the front line of the health crisis to protect Villa residents.

compassionate care

a swan's song

St. Joseph's
Villa **Dundas**
Compassionate long-term care

When Margaret retired from her long-time career in the insurance industry, she was looking forward to quality time with family and friends. A slower pace and new found freedom meant a time for a daily practice of Tai Chi, long leisurely walks and immersing herself in giving back to the community she loves.

Margaret had always been an active member of the Catholic Women's League at St. Augustine's Parish and involved in other organizations but, "The Villa was the first place I thought of to volunteer. For as long as I can remember, the Villa has always been part of my family - so many of our relatives have lived there. When you live in Dundas, it's hard to imagine another place that has done so much, for all of us," said Margaret.

For 20 years, Margaret and her sister Bernice have worked in the Villa's Tuck Shoppe, every Monday morning, rain or shine. They've never missed a day. "We look forward to seeing the residents just as much as they look for us. We get to meet the families who come by for a treat. It's the perfect way to start the week," Margaret said.

"When you live in Dundas, it's hard to imagine another place that has done so much for so many."

Last summer Margaret's husband Harry fell ill, in and out of hospital and finally needing a level of care that Margaret could not provide on her own, "It broke my heart but I knew the Villa was the right place for him," she shared. "The process to enter long-term care is challenging at the best of times," she said. "We were just lucky. I felt like I had a direct line to God with all of the priests at the Villa praying for him."

With Harry's memory failing, there are good days and bad days. Margaret describes him as a sweet and gentle man, a proud father and grandfather and a loving, caring husband with a hilarious sense of humour. Celebrating 61 years of marriage this April, Margaret and Harry have a love that will see them through any challenge.

"I feel obliged to be an advocate for the Villa. They do so much for so many. As a volunteer, they've welcomed me into the Villa family and I know I'm part of something bigger. I've watched them answer desperate calls from family members like me. The sense of relief and comfort they give you, would warm your heart.




"I know I'm part of something bigger"

All of the staff members have an instinct for caring. You can see it in the way they interact with the residents – the way they talk with them and gently hold their hands and help calm their fears and make them laugh. Their experience and expertise give me peace of mind, but it's the thoughtfulness and compassion that make the Villa team extraordinary. From housekeeping to dietary to therapeutic reaction, I think they've all answered their calling. You can't put a price on that," said Margaret.

*hope, heartache
and so much more*



 Sitting in the doctor's office with one of my best friends, we waited...waited to hear words of hope. The doctor

entered, slowly and reflectively. He was struggling. How do you explain how your patient's world is about to change and her life has been shortened?

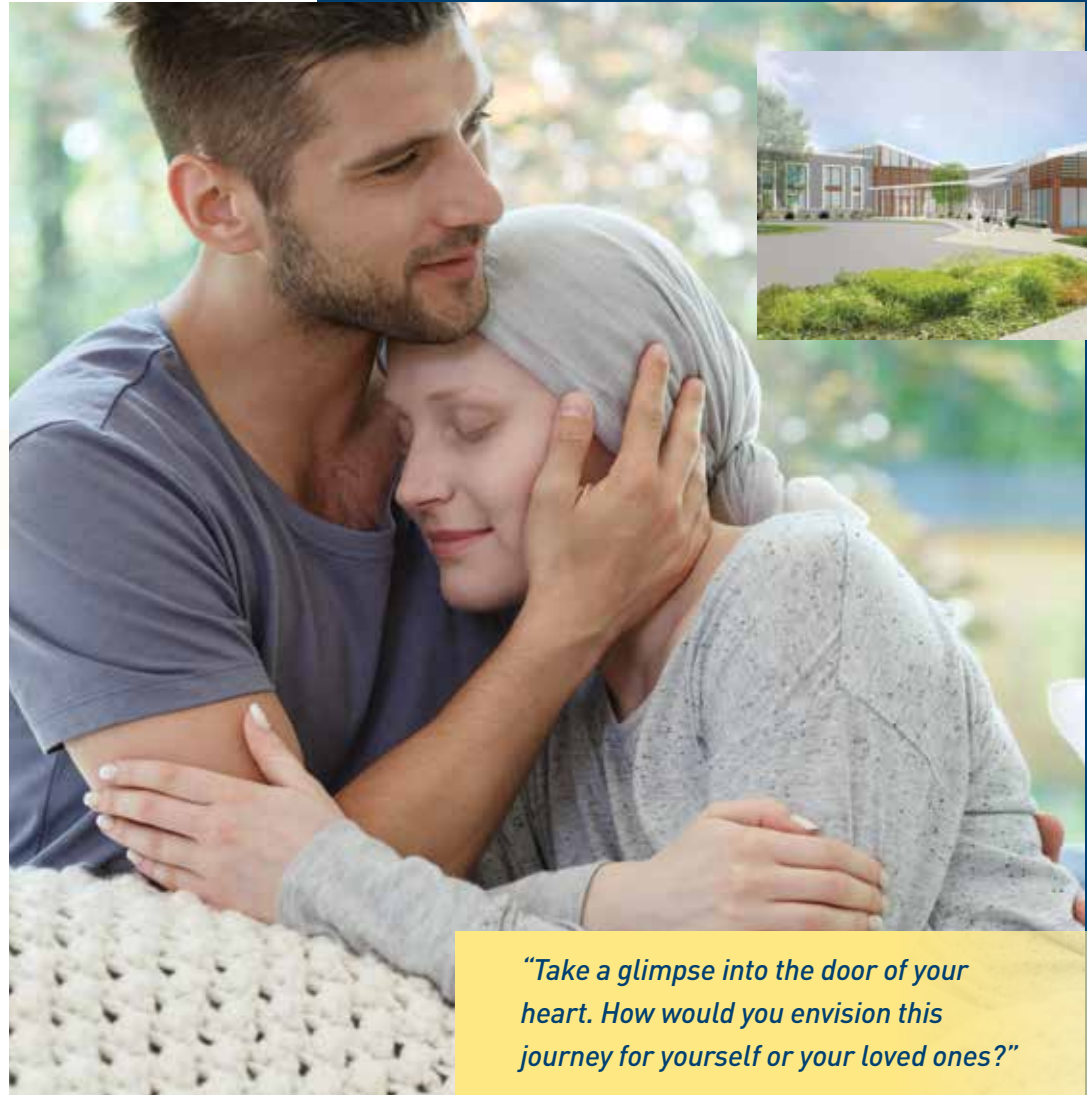
"We laughed, we cried, we made the most of every moment spent together until we said "I'll see you again"."

In that instant, she committed herself to never giving up. For her, there was 'so much more' than a diagnosis. There were relationships to nurture, memories to make, gratitude to express. She was determined to continuing 'living' for as long her journey allowed.

We laughed, we cried, we made the most out of every moment spent together until we said "I'll see you again".

When I reflect on her journey and that of so many others, it is the 'so much more' that continues to draw me back. My friend knew about Margaret's Place Hospice and the compassionate care and support that awaits patients and families once its doors open. As we were walking one day, she said, "I hope I live long enough to die there!" She knew that for those approaching the end of life, Margaret's Place Hospice will be a place of comfort and a space for joy. Margaret's Place Hospice will be a safe haven for those who need it - those facing the end of their lives and all those called to be their companions along the way. While there may be a shroud of sadness, we want to create opportunities for meaningful moments to flourish. We will invite patients and families to trust us with their hearts and nurture a spirit of gratitude for the precious moments that families and friends are able to share together. We will help them to make memories and give them peace knowing that we all did 'so much more'.

Whether it be days, weeks or months, there is 'so much more' than any diagnosis. Physical and medical care is crucial, and caring for the heart and soul is at the very core of our mission. Our hospice care team, including a host of volunteers, will ensure that favourite songs will be shared, hands will be held, and tears will be wiped away.



"Take a glimpse into the door of your heart. How would you envision this journey for yourself or your loved ones?"

We will help families tell their stories, friends to cherish each other and patients to write letters of inspiration. The halls of Margaret's Place Hospice will be filled with the sounds of loss and laughter, but most of all love.

Take a glimpse into the door of your heart. How you would envision this journey for yourself or your loved ones? When the time comes, Margaret's Place will be here to hold your hopes and carry out your dreams of 'so much more.'



thank you for standing with us



MARGARET'S PLACE
Hospice at St. Joseph's Villa

Your support matters. Give today.

Support the Margaret's Place Hospice Care Fund and provide patients and families the end-of-life care they need.

margaretsplacesjv.ca



St. Joseph's
Villa  Dundas

141 years of compassionate care for our community.

Your gift will support critical capital needs, equipment and resources for St. Joseph's Villa Long-term Care residents and improve their quality of life.

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make your gift today



ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA
FOUNDATION

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