

A Christmas Miracle

My mother Greta was a very strong woman. She held three university degrees, and took pride in her accomplishments and independence. If you knew Greta, you'd know her career as a special-education teacher made so much sense. She was progressive beyond her time and bestowed so much confidence in her students. And all the while, she had a sense of humour like no other. Every deep conversation was met with humour, even through the struggles of her final years.



There's no bond quite like mother and daughter.

In 2014, we noticed Greta's memory progressively worsening and it raised some concerns. Testing showed it was the beginning of her journey with Alzheimer's Disease – a very difficult disease to watch any loved one go through. We watched our mom transition from the strong woman we knew to one of co-dependence and vulnerability.



Christmas celebrations at Margaret's Place Hospice

Things got increasingly difficult when my mom was diagnosed with cancer in 2019. We spent so much time in and out of the hospital. We decided it was time to pursue a memory care home for mom as the cancer worsened her Alzheimer's. While she bounced in and out of these facilities, our family spent every waking moment by her side.

In late 2021, it became clear the end was near. We needed to consider what a "happy death" would look like for my mom. It was around this time where we learned about Margaret's Place, Hospice at St. Joseph's Villa...

(back)

Your Gift, Your Way

- ☐ I wish to remain anonymous
- ☐ My gift is in honour of _____
- ☐ My gift is in memory of _____
- ☐ I have made provisions in my will for St. Joseph's Villa Foundation

ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA
FOUNDATION

St. Joseph's
Villa Dundas

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

I'd like to stay in touch, here's my current:

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Your privacy is important to us. We do not share, trade or sell any information collected. If you wish to be removed from our list, please contact the Foundation at 905-627-9011.

Charitable Registration: #11918 4430 RR0001
Receipts issued for donations of \$10 and over unless otherwise requested.

Though we weren't sure of what to expect of Margaret's Place, we knew the hospital wasn't the place for our family to spend mom's final days. From the smells of cleaning bleach to the sounds of intercoms to the shared patient rooms, there was never a feeling of comfort or relaxation. I just knew we needed a more home-like space for us all.

When we walked through the doors of Margaret's Place, we were immediately greeted by nurses Shelley and Dawn. They so kindly, graciously and gently took my mom into their care and said to me, "You can rest now. We're going to take care of your mom." I was in shock. After months of providing around-the-clock care, suddenly I was no longer her caregiver... ***I was just her daughter again.***

That day, the nurses told me I could go home, shower and get some rest. If you would have told me beforehand that I would choose to go home, I never would have believed you. But because I had so much faith in the staff, I did. I needed sleep. I needed sleep and time alone so I could be present with my mom when I got back. And that's what Margaret's Place is all about: being present with your loved ones.

Come Christmas day, our family was together at Margaret's Place. We laughed, we sang, we reminisced, and we sat in awe of the natural beauty of Margaret's Place. Deer peered in mom's room as we spent that Christmas day with her. I truly felt like we were given a Christmas miracle; it's the only way I can describe it.

My mom passed, very fittingly, on that New Year's Eve. When I woke up that morning, I knew it would be the day. Our family finally had what I call "the quiet" – the inner calm you can hear when you're not riddled with chaos and anxiety. We were all at peace with the inevitable.

There are so many stories of impact across our Campus of Care; St. Joseph's Villa and Margaret's Place Hospice. Carrie's Christmas miracle is just one of them. Our journey to build Margaret's Place was long and difficult, but every effort is made worth-while when you see how it impacts families in our community. This impact is felt throughout Long-term-care and Hospice.

Your Gift of Care will impact thousands of lives in our community this coming year! Help us continue to deliver the compassionate care we are known for. Carrie's family today, may be your family tomorrow...and we will be here for you!



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

Gift of Care

One-Time Gift

- ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500
☐ \$250 ☐ \$100
☐ OTHER \$ _____

Monthly Gift

- ☐ \$100 ☐ \$75
☐ \$50 ☐ \$25
☐ OTHER \$ _____

For monthly giving by cheque/direct debit, please enclose a blank cheque marked VOID. Please make cheques payable to:

Credit Card Information

FULL NAME: _____

CARD NUMBER: _____

EXPIRY: _____ CVV: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PROV: _____

CITY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

EMAIL: _____

St. Joseph's Villa Foundation
56 Governor's Road
Dundas, Ontario, L9H 5G7

Charitable Registration: #11918 4430 RR0001
Tax receipts issued for donations of \$10.00 or greater.



YOU CAN ALSO DONATE ONLINE

← Scan the QR code
with your phone!