



COMMUNITY OF CARE

SPRING 2023

Team "One Love" Hikes the Valley in honour of their beloved Lynne Tracy

St. Joseph's Villa and Margaret's Place Hospice are the cornerstones of the Villa Campus of Care. The compassionate care we deliver would not be possible without the incredible support of a caring community. Hike the Valley is one of our annual fundraising events that holds a special meaning for many.

This year, we are privileged to have the Tracy family joining us, hiking in memory of Lynne, beloved mother to Logan and Lucas, and wife to James, who passed away at Margaret's Place Hospice in October 2022. Lynne's journey with cancer was a difficult one, and her family found comfort in the care she received in hospice.



The Tracy Family

It was in 2016 when the Tracy family first learned of Lynne's cancer diagnosis. After a self-screening, Lynne noticed a lump that would later test positive for breast cancer. She began treatment immediately and by the following year, she was cleared. Lynne was cancer-free!

"We were ecstatic," says her husband, James. "We were so relieved to get that news and get back to the life we had always envisioned with our two young boys."

Life was back to normal for them for a few years, but in December 2021, Lynne's cancer came back, and this time, more aggressively. After over 20 rounds of radiation and one month spent in a hospital bed, there was little progress. As Lynne faced the prospect of spending her final days in the hospital, the Tracys felt it was time to explore hospice care options.

When James first toured Margaret's Place, Hospice at St. Joseph's Villa, he knew it was perfect for Lynne and his family. "It brought me so much hope," says James. "We no longer had to be confined to a shared hospital room. Margaret's Place was a space I knew Lynne would be comfortable in."

Continued →



HIKETHEVALLEY.CA

TUESDAY, JUNE 27TH

7:00 PM @ DUNDAS VALLEY GOLF & CURLING CLUB

Celebrate, Honour, Remember - Join us as we hike around Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club in support of St. Joseph's Villa & Margaret's Place Hospice.

Register Here



While moving to hospice care was a difficult decision given what it meant, it was one that significantly improved the quality of life Lynne and her family had left together.

"It was a blessing," says James. "We had a private room with plenty of space, natural light, our own back patio and gathering spaces where we could have friends and family. Lynne loved being able to be outside on the patio, with the sun on her face, watching our boys play outside. We even got to celebrate her 44th birthday with our loved ones in the Great Room on a beautiful, sunny day."

The Tracy family's experience with Margaret's Place inspired them to participate in the St. Joseph's Villa Foundation's inaugural Hike the Valley last year.

Their team was named "One Love", chosen by her best friend Antonija and inspired by the local musician who would sing to her at the hospice. The One Love team raised over \$6,400, making them the top fundraising team for the peer-to-peer fundraising event.

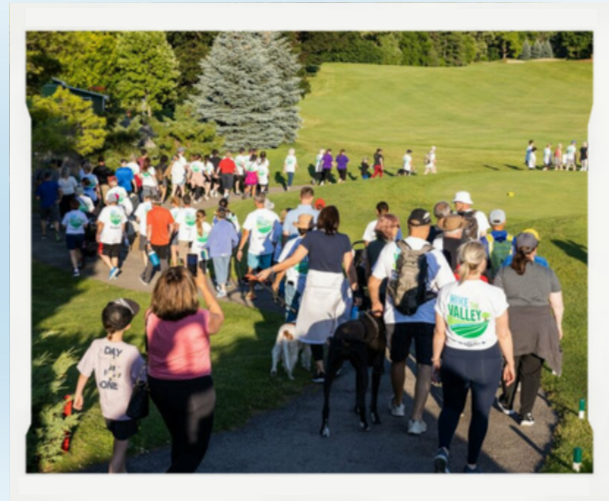


The Tracy family celebrating Lynne's birthday on the Great Room deck at Margaret's Place

"We had many supportive friends and family who were so grateful for the care Lynne was receiving. Everyone was eager to give back." And though Lynne wasn't feeling up to joining them for the hike that evening, she was there in spirit as they hiked in her honour.



Furry friends at Hike the Valley 2022



Hundreds of hikers walking Dundas Valley in support of our care

That October, Lynne comfortably passed away with her family and loved ones by her side. "We were so lucky we could have those final months at Margaret's Place Hospice. The comfort and quality of life it provided for her certainly gave her more time with us, and for that, we're forever grateful."

Lynne's passing was devastating to her family, friends and caregivers at Margaret's Place, but they were all inspired by the love, strength and determination she showed throughout her journey.

This year, though Lynne might not be with us physically, she is with James, Logan and Lucas in their hearts. And she'll be there with them and the rest of team One Love on June 27th when they Hike the Valley in Lynne's memory. Their love will continue to lead the way.

"It's going to become a tradition for our family. Every year we can get everyone together, enjoy a summer's evening and make a difference for the lives in our community – all in Lynne's memory."

A RICH HISTORY OF COMPASSIONATE CARE



If you ask any resident of Dundas about St. Joseph's Villa or the House of Providence, you will hear a treasure trove of memories. My parents were residents; I was a volunteer; my first job; and so many more. One memory that will bring a smile to every face that mentions it is...*"I remember the House of Providence Picnic!"*

The cornerstone of the mission of St. Joseph's Villa was established in 1879 when our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton, pioneers of Canada's healthcare system, opened the House of Providence to care for the elderly and the disadvantaged.

It's hard to believe that the compassionate care the Sisters began delivering to our community continues to be delivered 144 years later. When you think of the number of people who have received or have been touched by that care, we are talking millions.

144 years of constant care and a mission that remains as strong today as it was then. This mission of compassionate care has withstood two world wars, the great depression, multiple fires at the House of Providence, and the rebuild of our Campus of Care with St. Joseph's Villa as it stands today and the newly opened Margaret's Place Hospice.

Today, St. Joseph's Villa is home to 425 residents, 59 convalescent patients, an Adult Day Program that serves hundreds of clients in our community, as well as a community hub with many community clinics and services.

Everyday life at the Villa is just that...*life*. On any given day you will find Peter delivering the newspaper to staff, Kathy making her Avon sales, and Poet Glenn finishing off his latest poem. Nothing makes us feel as good as a trip to our hair salon that is busy cutting and setting hair daily. Our Cassaday Cafe is serving up breakfast, lunch and creating a gathering place for residents, families and staff to sit, relax and enjoy time together.

The first fundraiser held on our campus was in 1879, when the first House of Providence Picnic was held. It all started when Father McNulty purchased the House for a price of \$10,000, but he had a \$2,000 shortfall. The picnic was established to raise that amount. It went on for over 100 years before it came to an end during the redevelopment of St. Joseph's Villa in the early 2000's. We now look forward to bringing this honoured tradition back.



Sisters of St. Joseph with Hamilton Tiger Cats Coach, Ron Lancaster, 1999 at the Villa Picnic



The Villa Picnic in the 1990's

Step back in time and join us at the “House of Providence Picnic” presented by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Canada to celebrate the care and residents at St. Joseph’s Villa and Margaret’s Place Hospice.

This year's picnic celebrates staff, residents and families. Festivities include live music, entertainment, BBQ, ice cream, arts, crafts, games, and a historic presentation by Austin Strutt of Dundas Museum and Archives. We look forward to seeing you there!

THE HOUSE OF PROVIDENCE PICNIC EST. 1879

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 1-4 PM AT ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA

Join us at St. Joseph's Villa for the return of the House of Providence Picnic celebrating staff, residents, families & a rich history of care on our campus!

Live Music - Entertainment - BBQ - Ice Cream - Arts & Crafts - Games

Everyone welcome!

A Message from President & CEO, Don Davidson

The Tracys' story is a special one. It is testament to the power of dignified, compassionate care. Being able to receive this care in a space of their own, surrounded by loved ones, is truly invaluable and essential for dying with dignity. Having an opportunity to be together as a family in those final days is immeasurable. It is *everything*.

Since opening our hospice doors in September 2021, we have provided care to many families. We are able to provide that care because of you. The Tracys' experience at Margaret’s Place is proof of what can happen when a caring community comes together. We feel blessed to have played a role in their journey, and so blessed to have had you support us in their journey.



While Margaret’s Place is new to our Campus of Care, compassionate care is not. St. Joseph’s Villa has been a dynamic, nurturing home to seniors and those most at risk in our community for over 144 years. We are leaders in long-term and palliative care, committed to resident and family-centred care and looking after each resident’s unique physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Our mission of compassionate care is what sets us apart.

I have personally witnessed the power of this care as my own family members received it. My dad Ernest, mom Isobel, and my stepmom Jaqueline were all residents at St. Joseph's Villa, and I can attest to the exceptional level of compassion and support they received, and we are grateful to have witnessed it firsthand. This is why I am now dedicating myself to ensuring that others receive the same care and attention my family did. St. Joseph's Villa is truly the next best place to home.

We are privileged to be able to support our residents and their families during their most difficult moments, and we invite you to join us in this important work. **Your Gift of Care** will enable us to provide for the evolving needs of our residents and families, both now and in the future. Your generosity will profoundly impact the lives of those in our care today and tomorrow. **Please join us in supporting compassionate care by making a Gift of Care today!**

With sincere thanks,
Don Davidson

