



A Gift of a Lifetime

The Villa became more than a care facility; it became their second home

George Schwamm was a man of few words, but his actions spoke volumes. Born in Germany and immigrating to Canada in 1954, George, along with his wife Ursula, built a life that was marked by love, resilience, and deep care for those around them. They settled in Hamilton, where George worked as a tool and die maker at Stelco, and Ursula created a warm and inviting home. Their love for each other was evident to all who knew them. Their home was a place where laughter and friendship were abundant, and their compassion for others was felt far and wide.

In 2011, Ursula's health began to decline, and her need for care grew more urgent. George, ever the devoted husband, made the decision to place her at St. Joseph's Villa, a decision that would change the course of their lives. Recognizing the exceptional care and compassion Ursula would receive there, George moved to the nearby St. Joseph's Estates on the St. Joseph's Villa Campus, just steps from Ursula's new home. Every day, he visited her, bringing with him the warmth and love that had defined their relationship for decades.

The Villa became much more than just a care facility for George and Ursula. It became their second home, a place where they were embraced not only as residents but as part of the Villa family. The staff's unwavering support and care helped make Ursula's time at the Villa filled with dignity and comfort. For George, the Villa provided him with a community of support and connection during a difficult and lonely time.

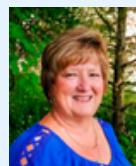
When Ursula passed away in 2013, George's connection to the Villa remained steadfast. He found comfort in attending Men's Nights, sipping coffee in the Villa's café, and sharing stories with other residents. Even after Ursula was gone, George continued to be a cherished member of the Villa family, always grateful for the kindness and compassion he had experienced.

But George's story didn't end there. Deeply moved by the care and love that had been shown to both him and Ursula, George wanted to give back. He and Ursula had always believed in the power of community, and George knew that others would benefit from the same support that had meant so much to them. Their experience at St. Joseph's Villa inspired them to leave a legacy – a legacy of generosity, compassion, and care.

In 2021, George passed away, but his love for Ursula and his gratitude toward the Villa lived on. Through a planned gift of over \$750,000, George and Ursula ensured that their legacy would continue to touch the lives of Villa residents for generations to come. Their gift was a testament to their unwavering belief in the importance of community, and their deep gratitude for the support they had received during some of the most challenging years of their lives.

Today, thanks to George and Ursula Schwamm's extraordinary generosity, St. Joseph's Villa is able to continue offering exceptional care and support to its residents, making their home a place of comfort, love, and hope for those who need it most. The Villa's residents and staff will carry on their legacy, always remembering the quiet man and his devoted wife who, through their generosity, ensured that the Villa's mission of compassion would endure.

For more information on Legacy Giving options:



***Lori Carey, Manager of Planned Giving.
Contact me at 905-627-9011 ext 2399.
I look forward to hearing from you***

Thank you for your support!

For 47 years, the Foundation has worked hand-in-hand with donors, families, and partners to ensure that St. Joseph's Villa and Margaret's Place remain a place of safety, comfort, and dignity.

While government funding covers daily operations for long-term care and part of the operating costs of the hospice, donations are crucial for critical needs like specialized equipment, programs, capital improvements and any unfunded operations in the hospice.

Through events, donations and partnerships, St. Joseph's Villa Foundation raises the necessary funds to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Through every change in health care, the Foundation has helped fund vital equipment, technology, and renovations — always focused on improving the lives of residents and families.

From its beginnings in 1879 to the vibrant Campus of Care it is today, St. Joseph's Villa remains a living expression of the Sisters of St. Joseph's mission: compassionate service, community partnership, and care for all.

The magic still happens when we bring opportunities, caring people, and donors together.

Dundas' Campus of Care

St. Joseph's Villa is one of Ontario's largest and most innovative long-term care homes, with 425 residents and a vibrant network of programs that serve thousands more across Dundas and surrounding communities.

Margaret's Place Hospice is an 11-bed residence offering comfort, dignity, and peace for individuals and families living with life-limiting illness.

At St. Joseph's Villa Long-Term Care home and Margaret's Place Hospice, the needs of our residents and their families are at the heart of everything we do. As we look to the future, we are committed to meeting the evolving challenges of providing compassionate, high-quality care in an environment that supports dignity, comfort, and peace.

We have identified several critical needs for the coming year to enhance the care and support we provide to our residents and their families:

- \$360,000 investment for phase two of the resident call bell system upgrade
 - Ensuring compliance with new Ministry of Health standards
 - Providing immediate access to assistance for residents across 18 home areas
- Increased financial commitment to Margaret's Place Hospice
 - Annual obligation now exceeds \$1,000,000
 - Supports enhanced family programming and services
 - Funding for key capital improvements to enhance the resident and family experience

These are just a few of the essential needs that will help us continue to provide exceptional care and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Your generous support is crucial to helping us meet these goals.



You can impact lives!

Providing a gift today will support the most urgent needs on our Campus of Care. Remember us with a Legacy gift in your will & estate planning will **support for our future** while not impacting you financially today. **Create you own Legacy!**