

Your Campus of Care

in the  of Dundas

Stronger Together.

A STORY OF
QUIET MOMENTS,
PRIVATE MOMENTS,
FINAL MOMENTS. TOGETHER

They met in the most ordinary of places, but their love story would become anything but ordinary.

Their story began at the Dundas Legion, where a single glance changed everything. Mike had never been married, but when he saw Joan walk in, he knew. "I'm going to marry that girl," he told his friends.

Joan was raising her two teenage daughters, Lisa and Barb, when Mike stepped into their lives. He embraced not only Joan, but the family and lifestyle that came with their marriage, devoting himself fully to fatherhood and navigating adversity, challenges, and growing pains with a steadfast belief in their shared future. Through his unwavering support, Joan and Mike's relationship continued to deepen, growing into an enduring and lasting love. The couple's life consisted of peaceful evenings with shared dinners, background music, and familiar routines. What may have seemed unremarkable at first glance soon revealed itself to be deeply meaningful, a quiet reflection of the life they built and cherished together.

Retirement opened a new chapter in Joan and Mike's lives, one in which they wholeheartedly dedicated themselves to service and community care. Joan began volunteering at St. Joseph's Villa, a commitment that blossomed into 20 years of devoted service. Mike devoted much of his adult life to the Executive team at the Dundas Legion Branch 36, continuing his contributions both during his career and after retirement.



Mike and Joan Alkerton

The couple established themselves as a gentle and compassionate presence within the local community through their shared values of devotion, generosity, and humanity.

COMPASSIONATE CARE SINCE 1879



In 2019, Lisa and Barb noticed a change in their mother's behaviour. Joan couldn't remember names of her favorite musicians, struggled to pronounce words like escargot (one of her favorite dishes), and was unable to locate her room during a family vacation. The family rallied for an explanation behind the changes in Joan's behaviour. In 2021, the diagnosis came: Alzheimer's.



Barb, Mike, Joan, Lisa

In 2021, the diagnosis came: Alzheimer's.

Joan and her family began preparing for the difficult days ahead; however, Alzheimer's could not take everything from her. Lisa recalls one afternoon when Joan sat down at her piano and played a classical piece almost perfectly, as though the disease had momentarily disappeared. It was a bittersweet moment of grace and elegance that Lisa will carry with her forever. Thankfully, she was able to capture the moment on video. As Joan had never played piano in public, it was a rare and meaningful moment for the family to cherish.

By 2023, Joan's disease had progressed and she required specialized, compassionate care. Miraculously, a space became available at St. Joseph's Villa. The long-term care home where she had dedicated 20-years of service to others had now become her sanctuary, and in a full-circle moment, many of those she once supported were now caring for her with the same compassion she had always shown.

During her time at St. Joseph's Villa, Joan received extraordinary care grounded in steadfast compassion. Her family was finally able to rest knowing that she was in safe, loving and competent hands.

In 2024, Mike's health declined rapidly and he required palliative care. Once again, the family turned to the St. Joseph's Villa campus; however this time to Margaret's Place Hospice. A husband and wife facing their final days simultaneously, with different care needs, yet only steps away from one another, both surrounded by compassion, dignity, and family.



St. Joseph's Villa long-term care facility and Margaret's Place Hospice's unique shared campus allowed Joan to visit Mike during his final days. After he was admitted to Hospice, Joan was wheeled along a short path connecting the Villa to Margaret's Place; Joan and Mike were reunited.

Quiet moments. Private moments. Final moments. They were able to share these together.

Shortly after their visit, Mike passed away. Several members of the Dundas Legion arrived in the morning for a visit, a testament to the extensive roots he had nurtured in the community.

Joan remained at St. Joseph's Villa for another six months, until her journey too, came to an end.

The St. Joseph's Villa campus will forever hold sacred meaning for Lisa and Barb. It was a place of refuge that eased their fears, supported their family, and ensured their parents were surrounded with the dignity and compassion they so deeply deserved in their final moments together.

They shared quiet moments.
Private moments.
Final moments, together.

Unstoppable Compassion is at our core.

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



This kind of ending doesn't happen by accident. It happens because a community believes in compassionate care. Because donors invest in places that treat people not just as patients, but as people: husbands and wives, volunteers, neighbours, and human beings with lifelong stories.

Today, Joan and Mike's legacy lives on; through the Dundas Legion, St. Joseph's Villa, Margaret's Place Hospice and through the continued support of the Campus of Care that gave them such a beautiful and dignified end.

Lisa and Barb remain a part of the Villa and Hospice family, participating in annual fundraising events to continue to support the care that their parents received. In doing so, they are carrying forward the legacy Joan and Mike began.

Your support will ensure that Compassionate Care will be here for you and your family today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

Remember us in your Will



Why Planned Giving Matters

Planned giving helps ensure our mission continues for generations. Because government funding does not fully cover care and capital needs, legacy gifts bridge the gap between basic services and exceptional care, supporting upgraded equipment, enhanced programs, hospice and family services, and dedicated staff. Through options such as a bequest, life insurance, securities, or other charitable gift arrangements, you can make a lasting impact without affecting your finances today, while potentially receiving tax benefits and ensuring your values live on in our community.



Lunch & Learn

"What Will Your Legacy Be?"

Join us for a meaningful Lunch & Learn on planned giving and the impact of leaving a lasting legacy. Andrew Brown Lawyers will present "What Will Your Legacy Be?" - an inspiring session designed to help you reflect on your values and explore ways to make a lasting difference.

Enjoy a complimentary lunch while gaining practical insights to guide your future planning.

June 12, 2026, 11am, Margaret's Place Hospice

Reserve your spot: ddavidson@sjv.on.ca
or by calling 905-627-9011 ext 2293

MONTHLY GIVING



Planting for Tomorrow

A Community That Shows Up All Year

Spring reminds us that growth happens quietly and steadily. Monthly donors embody that same steady commitment. They ensure that, even during traditionally slower fundraising periods, the doors remain open, the lights stay on, and compassionate care never wavers.

By becoming a monthly donor to St. Joseph's Villa and Margaret's Place Hospice, supporters provide more than funding; they provide certainty, dignity, and hope. And that makes all the difference.

Monthly giving transforms generosity into sustained impact. A gift of \$25, \$50, or \$100 per month may feel manageable individually, but collectively, these contributions:

- Strengthen financial stability.
- Enable thoughtful, long-term planning and program growth.

Most importantly, monthly donors become partners in care, standing with residents and families through every season.

**Donate today. Support tomorrow.
Make a difference - every day.**

Contact Us Today!

St. Joseph's Villa Foundation
56 Governors Road, Dundas, ON
905-627-9011

www.sjvfoundation.ca foundation@sjv.on.ca

Stay connected with us on Social Media!



MAKE YOUR DONATION ONLINE!

www.sjvfoundation.ca

Charitable Registration # 119184430RR0001

SIGNATURE EVENTS: PLEASE JOIN US IN MAKING MEMORIES!



Celebrate, Honour and Remember loved ones past and present as you hike the stunning Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club
May 26, 2026



THE HOUSE OF PROVIDENCE PICNIC EST. 1879

Celebrating a rich history dating back to 1879, Join us for an afternoon of live music, delicious food, and fun for the whole family.

St. Joseph's Villa grounds
June 24, 2026



Pack your clubs and join us at the beautiful Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club for this fall classic! Register early to secure your foursome! This event sells out fast!
September 29, 2026



Kick off the holiday season at the stunning LiUNA Station and join us for a night of fine dining, wine, live entertainment and festive shopping! Our biggest fundraiser of the year.
November 25, 2026



 **ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA
FOUNDATION**