Your Campus of Care in the ♥ of Dundas

Gratitude: DIGNITY, COMFORT, FRIENDSHIP & LOVE

My name is Shari, and I am grateful to share my family's story with you.
I share it because I want you to understand the extraordinary difference compassionate care can make during life's most difficult moments. I share it because I want you to know what your support means to families like mine. And I share it because I hope that when you are deciding where to make your year-end gift this year, you will choose to support the residents and families of Margaret's Place Hospice and St. Joseph's Villa.

Before cancer entered our lives, my husband Joel was the kind of person people never forgot.
He was my best friend, my partner, and the love of my life. Together we built a beautiful life and raised two incredible boys, Tanner and Jesse. Joel was a devoted father. He never missed an opportunity to be present, whether it was cheering from the sidelines, sharing a laugh around the dinner table, or simply spending time with our boys. They were his greatest joy.

He loved the outdoors. Cycling was more than a hobby for Joel, it was freedom. Feeling the wind on his face, hearing the hum of his tires on the road, and soaking in the beauty around him brought him peace. Anyone who rode a bike quickly became Joel's friend. In our community, he was affectionately known as the "mayor" of the neighborhood. Joel had a remarkable gift for making people feel seen and valued. He could strike up a conversation with anyone. His kindness, warmth, and genuine interest in others drew people to him wherever he went. Simply put, Joel's kind nature touched the lives of all who knew him.



Joel was the kind of person people never forgot.

Joel, Shari and Phoebe

St. Joseph's Villa Dundas

ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA FOUNDATION

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

"Then, in February 2023, everything changed."

Joel was diagnosed with glioblastoma, one of the most aggressive forms of brain cancer. Suddenly, our lives became filled with appointments, treatments, uncertainty, and fear. For nearly two years, our family did everything we could to care for Joel at home. Like so many families, we were determined to do it ourselves. We thought that being strong meant being his caregivers. What we didn't realize was that we were exhausted. We were physically worn down. Emotionally overwhelmed.

We were desperately trying to care for the person we loved most while feeling completely unqualified for what the disease was demanding of us.



Joel and Tanner

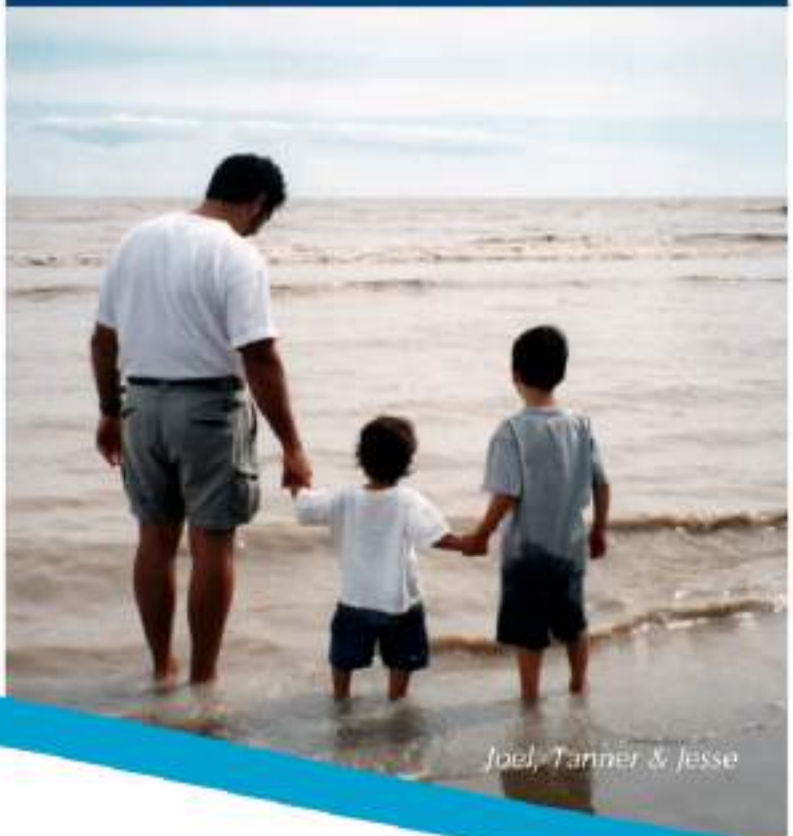
By the time we reached out for help, we needed it more than we knew. That's when Margaret's Place Hospice opened its doors to Joel, and to all of us.

The moment we arrived, we felt at home. For the first time in months, I no longer had to be Joel's nurse. I could simply be his wife. Our boys could simply be his sons.

Instead of focusing on medications, transfers, appointments, and endless caregiving responsibilities, we could focus on what mattered most: being together, sharing meals, telling stories, holding hands, creating precious memories. Making the most of the time we had left.

Against all expectations, Joel lived at Margaret's Place for nine months. Nine precious months that our family will forever treasure.

"They gave our family a gift that can never be measured: peace."



Joel, Tanner & Jesse

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

When someone you love is in hospice, you find yourself living between what once was and what is yet to come. You are caught between the life you knew and the heartbreak you know is approaching. It is a place of uncertainty, grief, hope, love, and waiting.

We survived those months because of Margaret's Place. The nurses, personal support workers, volunteers, and staff embraced Joel as if he were their own family. They welcomed our dog, Phoebe, who visited every day. They comforted us with hugs, kind words, warm smiles, and caring hearts. They provided family meals, laughter when we needed it, and quiet support when words weren't enough. Most importantly, they ensured Joel was treated with dignity, respect, and extraordinary compassion every single day.

As his disease progressed and communication became more difficult, Joel still found ways to smile at the people caring for him. He wanted them to know how much they meant to him. Because being kind to others was simply who he was.

When Joel died, surrounded by love, the team at Margaret's Place held us up, just as they had throughout our entire journey. They honoured his life with tenderness and grace. And they gave our family a gift that can never be measured: peace.

Today, I look back with immense gratitude knowing that Joel's final months were filled with dignity, comfort, friendship, and love.

Tanner, Shari, Joel, Jesse



As I reflect on our time at Margaret's Place and the grace my family has received, I think about our final journey with Joel: nine months filled with precious moments we never would have had without Margaret's Place.

Unstoppable Compassion



Compassionate care at Margaret's Place is only possible because of donors. People like you. And while Margaret's Place Hospice provided that gift for Shari and her family, every day St. Joseph's Villa long-term care provides that same spirit of compassion and care to older adults and their families.

Through exceptional care, companionship, specialized programs, moments of joy and connection, residents experience the dignity, comfort, and respect every person deserves. Families find reassurance knowing their loved ones are safe, cared for, and surrounded by people who genuinely care.

Joel's family found comfort, compassion, and precious time together when they needed it most. Your gift will help ensure that other families facing aging, illness, and loss receive the same extraordinary care at Margaret's Place Hospice and St. Joseph's Villa.
Please give as generously as you can today.

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

Ways to give

General Donations/In Honour/In Memory: Your generous contribution will directly enhance the quality of care and services we provide on our Campus of Care. Donate in honour of a special person. Donate in Memory to honour a loved ones life.

Monthly Giving: Your monthly contributions ensure we can provide compassionate care and essential services throughout the year.

Estate Planning: Including St. Joseph's Villa Foundation in your Will or Estate Plans is a beautiful way to carry your compassion forward. You maintain complete control of your assets now, while helping to create a brighter future for generations to come.

Why Your Support Matters

Everyone deserves to feel safe, comfortable and cared for. For a resident at St. Joseph's Villa, that may mean a bed that eases their discomfort or bathing equipment that makes a regular routine gentler. For someone at Margaret's Place Hospice, it may mean relief from pain, a reassuring voice in the night, or time with family close by.

Government funding covers only part of what makes this care possible. Through St. Joseph's Villa Foundation, your generosity helps provide:

- Comfort and dignity in daily care through specialized beds, bathing equipment and other essentials that support Villa residents' individual needs.
- Compassionate care, day and night through hospice nursing that helps residents feel comfortable and families feel supported.
- Support through grief and loss so families have someone to turn to during illness, after a death and in the difficult months that follow.
- Safe, welcoming places to call home and gather together through essential building repairs and improvements at the Villa and hospice.

In 2026-2027, the Foundation will provide over $2million to help meet these needs. Behind that number are people: a resident resting more comfortably, a patient receiving gentle care, a family finding reassurance during one of the hardest times of their lives.

This Christmas, your gift helps make that care possible, and helps ensure it continues long after the season has passed.

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

PLEASE JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR SIGNATURE EVENTS!

HIKE THE VALLEY



Celebrate, Honour and Remember loved ones past and present as you hike the stunning Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club
May 18, 2027

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 23, 2027

Anne & Neil McArthur MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



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 28, 2027

Holiday HANDBAGS



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 24, 2027

ST. JOSEPH'S VILLA FOUNDATION