



***When only moments remain, every moment matters.***

*“She was always worried there would be pain.”*

Mike’s wife of 32 years was in her final moments. Like most of us, she had no idea what to expect. Mike never let go of her hand, squeezing to let her know he was right there.

**Pat squeezed back. The nurses had made sure she was comfortable, warm and safe. There was no pain. Only love.**

For Mike and his four sons, losing their wife and mom was unimaginable. Pat was one of those women who seemed superhuman. *“She was the most talented person in the world. She could do anything,”* says Mike.

So when she was diagnosed with colon cancer at age 45, Pat got ready to fight. Five years passed by cancer-free until one day, she was rushed to the hospital with a terrible headache. The cancer had suddenly spread to Pat’s brain and lungs. *“They couldn’t save her,”* says Mike. *“The doctor told us she had about six months to live, and to make the best of her last days.”*

*“So that’s what we did. We made a pact that we would laugh together every day. We knew our sense of humour would get us through the hard stuff. I told her to make a bucket list, and we’d do as much of it as we could.”*

Mike and his sons savoured every moment. They took her to see a horse jumping competition and rented a box at a sports game. When it became clear that time was running out, Pat was admitted to Lisaard House.

Your special holiday gift today ensures we can keep providing these much-needed services in our community that help families through their hardest times. Mike never could have imagined what a comfort our hospice would be for his family when they needed it most.

No one ever knows when they or a loved one may need hospice care. And that’s why the need is so urgent. With a total of 16 beds and daily operating costs of \$310 per day/per room, your holiday gift ensures we can keep providing these much-needed services in our community.

**Because of support from our donors, Pat was able to spend the last weeks of her life surrounded by her dearest loved ones and all the comforts she could wish for.**

She had her craft supplies, her favourite purple popsicles – and even proudly hosted one last Easter dinner in the Lisaard dining room, just like she would have done at home. Always laughing and having fun, Mike and Pat endeared themselves to everyone. *“It’s terrible what you have to do to get out of this place,”* Pat would joke, cheering us all with her sense of humour.

But one thing was still tugging on Mike's heart.

*"When my father died at home," he recalls, "I couldn't fulfill his dying wish to see the sun. It just wasn't possible."* When it came down to his wife's last hours, Mike proudly wheeled Pat to feel the sunshine on her skin, one final time.

**These are the moments that matter, and the things that families never, ever forget.**

When you give today, you will help us continue providing the kind of tender loving care that meant so much to Pat, Mike and their sons.

To show you how important and meaningful your donation is, Mike has shared more about his family's experience in the enclosed note.

I hope that this family's story shows you how much your holiday gift today can do, and how urgently it's needed. And because we'll be welcoming many more families suddenly in need of palliative care this season, please let us hear from you as soon as possible.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Andrea Binkle, Executive Director

P.S. Mike drove by the hospice a million times, never expecting to need it. But when his family did, it meant everything to know that their own community was right there, ready to hold them up and see them through the most difficult moment of their lives. Please help us extend that same compassionate care to many more families this season by giving generously today. Thank you!

[Donate online today and help other families like Mike's](#)