

*Pat loved popsicles.*

*But she would never eat an orange one. She'd open it, and if it was orange, she would put it back in the box. She only liked pink or purple.*

*The volunteer at Lisaard House had no way of knowing this, but she told us they only had pink and purple popsicles left since no one wants them. Pat happily ordered a purple one. As the volunteer went to get it, my wife said to me, "See...they need me here!" with a great big smile on her face.*

*Pat and I had been married 32 years, and our promise to each other was to laugh every single day. We knew our sense of humour would see us through our final months together.*

*So when she was admitted into hospice, my four boys and I kept that promise. Pat had everyone laughing when she tried to match-make our last eligible son, Tom. She introduced him to all of her new best friends, the nurses.*

*When Pat was asleep, we ventured out to the kitchen area. Someone always asked, "How's it going?" or "Do you need anything?" Sometimes words of consolation,*

*a pat on the back or even a hug was offered. There were always words of kindness.*

*It's that kindness that will always stick with us. We are truly grateful for the last two months of Pat's life spent at Lisaard House. To the the doctors, nurses, PSWs, social worker, volunteers: we can't thank them enough. They are all magical.*

*It was an honour to be in a house full of angels.  
Now, Pat is our angel.*

*Following her example, we try to keep laughing through the hard times, and paying it forward so that other families can have the same experience.*

*If you can, I hope you'll support Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice this holiday season. There is no other place like it and we are so lucky to have it in our community.*

*Thank you for the purple popsicles,*

*Mike*

*Please consider a gift this holiday season so that other families can receive these much-needed services.*