



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LISAARD AND INNISFREE HOSPICE CELEBRATES 25 COLLECTIVE YEARS
OF SERVICE IN WATERLOO REGION**
MAKING MOMENTS MATTER FOR PALLIATIVE PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Kitchener, ON – While it may be difficult to talk about – or even consider – death is actually a normal part of life. When given choices about their end of life journey, a growing number of palliative patients in our community express similar wishes – to be comfortable, surrounded by family, and treated with dignity and care.

Our Story

2020 is a special year for Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice, marking two major milestones in our history. Lisaard House in Cambridge is celebrating 20 years of service, and Innisfree House in Kitchener celebrates its fifth anniversary. In 1996, Sheila O'Donovan, who had experienced the death of a family member to cancer, collaborated with Dr. Charmaine Jones around the philosophy of hospice care. With the encouragement of Margaret Anderson (Anderson House), and the support of dedicated nurses and community members, they began the process of funding and building Lisaard House, the first free-standing hospice residence in Waterloo Region.

Hospice care is not designed to hasten death, but rather to help patients live the remainder of their lives as fully as possible. Patients choosing hospice care typically have a life expectancy of three months or less and have made the decision, along with their doctor and family, to replace cure goals with comfort or palliative goals. Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice offer a tranquil alternative for patients whose death is approaching, and we support patients and their loved ones through the end-of-life journey.

As the only residential hospice in Waterloo Region for the past 20 years, Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice is committed to Making Moments Matter for our residents by providing attention above and beyond what would typically be expected. No resident's wish is too big or small for us to help try to fulfil, from a quiet visit with a therapy dog to arranging a Skype call between a superfan and rock legend Gene Simmons.

And we do it all with no cost to patients or their families.

Andrea Binkle, Executive Director, Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice, states "We are fortunate to have a committed team of nurses, personal support workers, physicians and volunteers that provide expert, comforting care in a lovely setting for people living with life-limiting illnesses. We believe that the end of life deserves the same type of attention, care and respect that is offered at the beginning of life. Making moments matter is not necessarily about big events; rather, it's the



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care and compassion brought to the everyday moments in an individual's life, and the relief of suffering, the provision of dignity, and a celebration of life.”

Week after week, we admit palliative patients who express gratitude for being cared for in such a beautiful, peaceful setting. Over this collective 25 years of service, we have had the privilege of providing compassionate care for 3000 patients at end-of-life, and support for their families as well.

COVID-19 and Fundraising

Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice typically hold two signature fundraising events each year. Our Hike for Hospice, held in June, went virtual for the first time this year due to the pandemic, and we raised over \$80000.

Our annual Hearts for Hospice Gala planned for September has also been transformed into a virtual event. We're excited to announce our Hearts for Hospice "Throwback Telethon" that will air on Rogers TV Channel 20 and stream online. Everyone is invited to join us on Sunday, September 27 from 5pm to 9pm – there will be local entertainment, interviews, local celebrities, family stories, a silent auction, and fund-a-need bidding sessions. More details will be available in the coming weeks, and all proceeds will help us continue to support patients and their loved ones through the end-of-life journey.

About Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice

Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice strives to bridge the gap between institutional care facilities and home care. Since 2000, Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice has provided compassionate, tranquil care for patients who don't want to spend their final days in hospital, but require more support than can be delivered at home. Our care goals are aimed at relieving suffering and improving the quality of living and dying for those diagnosed with life-limiting illness. To learn more about Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice, visit lisaardinnisfree.com.

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