



*They are the hardest goodbyes we will ever make. At Lisaard & Innisfree Hospice, those goodbyes were wrapped in something extraordinary — care, dignity, and compassion beyond what we thought possible.*

*-Hailey, granddaughter of residents Michael & Katharina Bloos*

November, 2025

After fleeing WW2, both Michael and Katharina came to Canada with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. They came separately, each with their own families – full of youthful excitement to start a new life in a foreign country where none of them knew the language.

By chance, Katharina and Michael both settled in Kitchener. Like many other immigrants of that time, they frequently visited the Transylvania Club to share some laughs and enjoy time with others from their German colony in Transylvania.

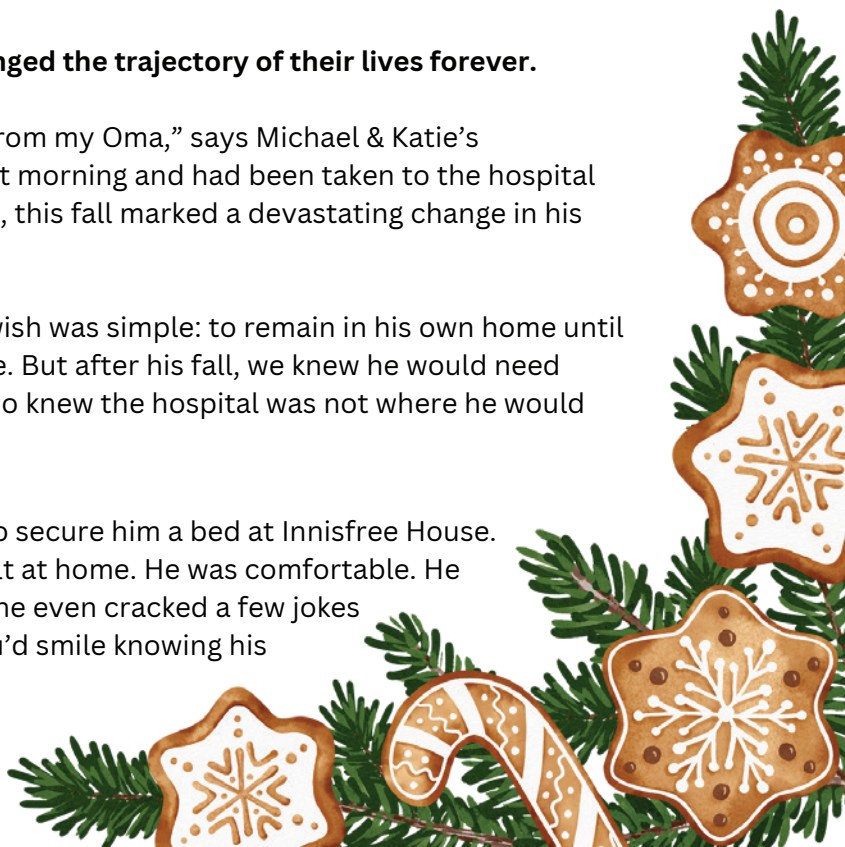
There in that hall, Michael and Katharina (or Katie as he called her), met and fell in love. Over the years, Michael and Katie built a legacy of love that included 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.

### **We met this family after an accident that changed the trajectory of their lives forever.**

“On New Year’s Day of 2024, I received a call from my Oma,” says Michael & Katie’s granddaughter, Hailey. “My Opa had fallen that morning and had been taken to the hospital by ambulance.” After years of declining health, this fall marked a devastating change in his prognosis.

“My Opa was a proud man,” says Hailey. “His wish was simple: to remain in his own home until the very end of his life, with his wife by his side. But after his fall, we knew he would need more care than Oma could provide, and we also knew the hospital was not where he would want to spend his final days.

“After some gentle convincing, we were able to secure him a bed at Innisfree House. What I wasn’t expecting was how quickly he felt at home. He was comfortable. He began eating again. And true to his character, he even cracked a few jokes with the staff. If you knew my grandfather, you’d smile knowing his sense of humor was still with him.





“Although his rally was short lived, it gave our family, especially Oma, a sense of relief. She knew he was comfortable, pain-free, and receiving the very best care. For the first time in years, she felt she could leave his side without worry – she even went to the mall, had a walk, and treated herself to New York Fries, something she hadn’t done in ages. That small joy was only possible because she felt confident that Opa was cared for and safe. She no longer needed to be his caregiver; she could return to being his loving wife.

“Opa was at Innisfree House for two weeks before he passed.

In his final days, our entire family gathered in the sunroom. We laughed, cried, played his favorite music, and reminisced about his remarkable 91 years. He passed away peacefully, with Oma at his side. In a gesture I will never forget, the staff made her a bed in the room so she could remain with him until the very end.

“After his passing, Oma had one healing wish – to return to the place she saw first when she arrived in Canada as a young girl: the Château Frontenac in Quebec City. In June 2024, she gathered the women in our family and made that meaningful trip. We didn’t know then that it would be her last.

**“Only a few months later, Oma fell ill. Her condition worsened quickly, and it became clear she would also need hospice care.** We were comforted to know there was a place for her at Lisaard House, in a room with a beautiful garden view. She spent her final days watching the leaves change and listening to birds sing outside her window. One of the most meaningful moments was our family sharing a Thanksgiving dinner with her – a gift of normalcy and togetherness in the middle of so much change.

“As anyone who has walked alongside a loved one through the final chapter of life knows, those days are full of heartbreak. But they’re also filled with meaningful moments of profound tenderness. They are the hardest goodbyes we will ever make. At Lisaard & Innisfree Hospice, those goodbyes were wrapped in something extraordinary – care, dignity, and compassion beyond what we ever thought possible.

“The staff didn’t just care for my grandparents. They cared for us as a family. They provided comfort when we were overwhelmed, reassurance when we were lost, and gave us the space we needed to simply be together.



*Chateau Frontenac held a special place in Oma’s heart. We’re grateful she was able to see it one last time.*



# HOW DOES MY GIFT HELP?

*We want to ensure hospice care remains free of charge to all who come to us. The government provides funding that covers 48% of our expenses, primarily the bedside care. Your gift today helps make moments matter with the following encompassing supports.*



## Resident care

We care for the physical needs of each resident, as well as their emotional and spiritual well-being.



## Kitchens

It may surprise you to know that all resident food is provided by donation. We could not offer meals in our hospice without support.



## Bereavement Support

After your loved one passes, we walk with you in your grief and provide options for support in bereavement.



## Legacy

We offer gifts of recorded voice, hand molds, photographs, and hug wraps to keep the legacy of your loved one close to your heart.



## Music Therapy

This clinical and evidence-based tool helps families heal through music. We're grateful to have a licensed music therapist on our team.



## Spiritual Care

A safe space for hard conversations and to help redefine a sense of purpose after loss. We're equipped to help each unique spiritual path.

**They honored my grandparents not just as patients, but as people, recognizing their lives, their stories, and their dignity until the very last breath.”**

My heart breaks for Hailey and her family as they said goodbye to both grandparents in such a short time. Michael passed away at Lisaard House on January 20, 2024, and Katharina passed away at Innisfree House, just 9 months later, on October 16, 2024.

Today, after caring for our community for 25 years, we're beginning to see multiple family members come through our doors. It's an honour for us to be a source of comfort for these families who return to our hospice knowing they'll once again receive expert care and unwavering support.

What a privilege for us to walk with this family through that time. I'm grateful Lisaard & Innisfree Hospice could support them as they made meaningful memories and cherished each moment spent together in the final days. Many people are surprised by the relief felt when they no longer carry the burden of care on top of the emotional pain of losing their loved one. People, like Katie, can simply be present and share in both the joy of reminiscing and the sadness of loss.

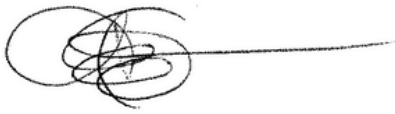
**But we cannot provide this support and compassionate care without you.** Every moment in hospice is provided free of charge to the resident and their family. Even the Thanksgiving meal Hailey mentioned is possible because of donors like you.

As we look towards the holidays, we know there will be families needing hospice care. Yet this time of year is especially difficult for many reasons. We want each individual and family who needs us to feel cared for and supported as we create meaningful moments that remind them of their yearly traditions and bring them closer together in a very difficult time.

Thank you for all your support. I'm grateful and humbled by your generosity at the holidays and throughout the year.

In closing, I want to leave you with Hailey's holiday wish... "in honor of my grandparents, and in honor of all the families yet to walk this path, I ask you from the bottom of my heart: please give generously. Your support helps ensure that when the time comes, everyone in our care can face their final days with dignity, compassion, and peace."

Sincerely,



Maria Empringham  
Executive Director

P.S. This holiday season will look very different for many families in our community. Help serve them with exceptional care that wraps them in warmth and compassion during their final days.



*Michael Bloos*

Feb 6, 1932 - Jan 20, 2024

*Katharina Bloos*

Jan 25, 1937 - Oct 16, 2024

