



# Accolades

FROM THE BTHELL HOSPICE FOUNDATION • FALL 2020 ISSUE



## Hike for Bethell Hospice 2020 Goes Completely Virtual

**With heavy hearts, we have come to the disappointing decision that our in-person Hike for Bethell Hospice on September 13 must be cancelled, due to continuing COVID-19 event restrictions.**

We are excited, however, to be able to offer a Virtual Hike experience to continue the event tradition, and raise vital funds to ensure the ongoing operation of Bethell Hospice.

As a Virtual Hiker, you may choose any activity you wish to replace our hike on the Caledon Trailway. Ride your bike, take an online fitness class, walk your dog – it's up to you! Whatever you choose, your support of Bethell Hospice in these difficult times means so much. To everyone who has already signed up as a Virtual Hiker, thank you. If you have not already registered, there is still time to participate and gather pledges of support for this wonderful organization that we all love so dearly.

The Hike for Bethell Hospice website at [bhf.akaraisin.com/ui/hikeforBH2020](http://bhf.akaraisin.com/ui/hikeforBH2020) will remain open until September 30.



Although we cannot all be together this year, we have adapted many of the much-loved aspects of the Hike to a virtual format.

To contribute a photo or inspirational message to our online memory board, email [events@bethellhospice.org](mailto:events@bethellhospice.org) and we will be happy to add it to our Hike website.

Join us online on Sunday, September 13 at [facebook.com/BethellHospiceFoundation](https://facebook.com/BethellHospiceFoundation) for an adapted version of our traditional opening ceremonies, including the reading of our Hike poem and our thanks to each of you during these very challenging times. We are very grateful to every hike team, every person who pledges support, and every sponsor for your belief in the importance of Bethell Hospice in our community.

*Thank you everyone!*



*Here when you need us*

## Impact of the Pandemic

Since our last Accolades newsletter in March 2020, our world has changed. The impacts of COVID-19 have been swift and far-reaching.

But this situation has also reminded us what is truly important. In simple terms, the most important gifts we can give others are compassion, respect, and genuine caring. That's what hospice care has always been about.

Our wonderful and dedicated Bethell Hospice Care Team continues to provide outstanding care to our residents and their families, and has looked for additional ways to ensure the best possible support in these challenging times. Our Clinical Team facilitates Facetime between residents and those unable to visit, and brings around a *Compassionate Care Cart* of coffee, tea and cookies to essential visitors on a regular basis. Our Social Work Team is providing limited in-person support, but extensive virtual support to our residents and families, and to our community clients. The team has also created and distributed comfort kits, for both residents and community clients, to offer activities, resources and extra support.

For Bethell Hospice Foundation Board and staff, the challenges have been immense.

In light of the realities of COVID-19, many of our signature fundraising events have had to be cancelled or postponed, and future impacts remain uncertain.

In 2019, third-party fundraising events and donations from community groups totaled almost \$450,000. We are so grateful to our event organizers and community partners for their generous past support but, so far in 2020, only a handful of small, virtual events have been able to proceed.



Fundraising events represent a significant portion of the revenue needed each year to fund the operation of Bethell Hospice, and allow all the programs and services to be available at **no cost** to residents and their families, and to our many community clients. Because of the substantial drop in fundraising revenue, both Bethell Hospice & Bethell Hospice Foundation have qualified for the federal government wage subsidy program, which has allowed us to keep all staff employed. Still, the significant impact on fundraising, while completely understandable, has been extremely difficult.

The Foundation continues to reinvent our fundraising plans for 2020 and beyond. In the pages of this newsletter, you will find many ways you can make a difference – whether large or small.

Because of your past generosity, the Foundation has been able to utilize funds from our Endowment Fund – money that was put aside in previous years to fund future needs – during the darkest days of the pandemic. But with the reality that the impact of COVID-19 will be felt in the economy for years to come, fundraising will remain a challenge for some time.

We look forward to brighter days ahead, and are confident that, together, we will weather this storm.

We are incredibly grateful for your past support and your belief in the importance of Bethell Hospice in our community.

We hope that we can continue to count on your support, to whatever extent you are able.

*Please know how grateful we are for your compassion and your generosity.*



## Year of the Nurse

**Before anyone knew the term COVID-19, the World Health Organization designated 2020 as the *Year of the Nurse*.**

Never has there been a more appropriate time to celebrate nurses than during these turbulent times. We are so fortunate to have such a compassionate and caring Clinical Team at Bethell Hospice. Here, in their own words, are some of the sentiments that make our nurses so special:

*“It’s an amazing opportunity to help people with their end-of-life care and their final journey. I think that working in this line of work is not something we generally choose — it chooses us. It takes a special kind of person, and Bethell Hospice is a special kind of place.”*

**DONNA SPENCE, RPN**



*“I feel very lucky to be a member of the Bethell Hospice family. Every shift I work, I get to witness the passion for end-of-life care expressed by my fellow team members. During our new, unpredictable ‘normal’, we continue to provide care with love and kindness to our residents and families. Proudly, we can say we uphold the values and mission of Bethell Hospice.”*

**AMITA PATEL, RN**



*“There is so much inner peace that comes from working at Bethell. Not only are we able to gain tangible satisfaction from the compassionate care that we provide, we also continue to always be challenged holistically. The relationships we are able to build here with our colleagues, our residents, as well as with resident families, provide an entirely new meaning to trust and empathy. I am honoured to be a part of this family, having the opportunity to not only influence others, but to be influenced in return. It is a blessing to be here.”*

**ALIYA HASSAM, RN**



*“Bethell Hospice changed my life, and my family’s life. I’m so privileged to be here as a nurse now. I came here 3 years ago with my Mum. Our family was affected by the care given to us by the wonderful nurses at Bethell and, in turn, it really made me think about what I did for a living and wanted to give that back to people who were walking in the same shoes that I had walked.”*

**MICHELE KEELER, RPN**



# Upcoming Opportunities to Help Bethell Hospice



## Bethell Hospice Foundation 50/50 Raffle

**Coming in October**

Check out our new 50/50 electronic raffle, launching in October. Choose 3 tickets for \$5, 10 tickets for \$10, or 50 tickets for \$20, with real-time displays of the growing jackpot. On the draw date, 50% of the jackpot goes to the winner, and the other 50% goes directly to benefit Bethell Hospice programs and services.

Tickets available online at [bhf5050.com](https://bhf5050.com)

## Christmas Market

**Saturday, November 21**

Dependent on COVID-19 protocols, the Christmas Market Committee hopes to be able to offer this hugely-popular event again this year. Since its inception in 2014, the Christmas Market has been the perfect way to usher in the holiday season, featuring a great selection of handmade items, homemade baking & jams, jewelry, Christmas wreaths & décor, and unique gift ideas.

Save the date, and check online as it approaches, to find out all the details on this year's event: [foundation.bethellhospiceorg](https://foundation.bethellhospiceorg)



## Diamond in the Hills Fashion Show

**Sunday, November 22**

Because of COVID-19 protocols, Diamond in the Hills has been rescheduled to Sunday, November 22. The Diamond in the Hills Committee hopes to be able to proceed on this new date. Organized by Bonnie Ledson, Debbie Glover, Judy Petursson, Marj Dennis, Danila Maric, Barb Gough & Barb Goodhand, this popular fashion show is currently sold out. To add your name to the waiting list for an individual ticket (\$135 per person) or a table of 10 (\$1,350), please email Judy Petursson at [judy@sympatico.ca](mailto:judy@sympatico.ca)

For event information, visit [bhf.akaraisin.com/diamondinthehills](https://bhf.akaraisin.com/diamondinthehills)

We remain hopeful that restrictions will have eased sufficiently by the fall to allow us to host some in-person fundraising events but, in these days of COVID-19, nothing is ever certain. Please continue to visit our website at [foundation.bethellhospice.org](http://foundation.bethellhospice.org) for the latest updates.



## Celebrate Light & Love Tree Lighting

Thursday, December 10

As the holiday season approaches each year, friends of Bethell Hospice are encouraged to participate in our *Celebration of Light & Love*, and join us for our beautiful Tree Lighting Ceremony. Each donation honours and remembers a loved one, with a light illuminated in their memory and their name read aloud at the Tree Lighting.

In a year that has been fraught with the uncertainty brought about by the pandemic, this tradition will mean

more than ever – both in the remembrance of all of those honoured at the event, and in the support those gifts will provide to ensure Bethell Hospice care is available for all future families in need.



We are hopeful that COVID-19 restrictions will have eased sufficiently to allow us to proceed with our traditional Tree Lighting event, scheduled this year for **December 10 at 7:00 p.m.**



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
December 10  
7:00 p.m.

For those planning to attend, please remember to dress for the weather, as this is an outdoor event. This year, the reading of the names at our Tree Lighting event will also be available online, for those unable to attend, or if COVID-19 protocols or inclement weather prevent us from gathering in person.



All Light & Love donations are gratefully accepted, with full tax receipts for gifts of \$20 or more. Please give what you can.

To make your donation online, please visit [bhf.akaraisin.com/LightandLove2020](http://bhf.akaraisin.com/LightandLove2020) after October 1, or call the Fundraising Office at **905-838-3534, ext. 2248**.

## Bethell Hospice Foundation *Caring for Our Community* Lottery

Beginning Monday, January 18, 2021

Starting in January, friends of Bethell Hospice will have the opportunity to win great prizes while supporting Bethell Hospice. A series of lottery events will take place throughout 2021. Each lottery will offer a different prize. Win cash, golf or spa packages, thousands of dollars in grocery gift cards, or other great prizes. All lottery proceeds will directly benefit Bethell Hospice programs and services.

Beginning January 18, visit [bhflottery.com](http://bhflottery.com) to purchase your tickets for the first draw.

*Good luck!*



**GREAT PRIZES!**  
Beginning  
January 18



## Saluting & Missing Our Volunteers

**Volunteers have always been integral and highly-valued members of the Bethell Hospice team. Traditionally, over 170 volunteers offer their time and talents each year in many different areas of our Bethell Hospice residence and community programs.**

While a small number of volunteers are still able to work volunteer shifts in areas such as the kitchen, the reception desk and the gardens, and help out virtually, many of our volunteer roles have had to be suspended throughout the pandemic. The safety of our staff, volunteers, residents and community clients remains our highest priority, but we miss our team of volunteers deeply.

In a typical year, volunteers collectively contribute over 17,000 hours of time and expertise to Bethell Hospice.

To those volunteers who have still been able to help out through the pandemic, we owe you a debt of gratitude. You are amazing, and we are forever grateful.



To those volunteers who have had to step away from their roles, we miss your warm smiles. We miss your kind words. We miss your compassionate wisdom and encouragement. We miss everything about you. We look forward to the day when we can welcome you back.



*You are deeply missed.*







*“Over the last 10 years, I have established a routine of coming regularly to Bethell Hospice each week to offer what I can. It is 'routine' in the sense that this happens each week without any real thinking or planning on my part. But if for some reason the opportunity was to cease, I am sure I would feel the loss. In this time of pandemic, with so much challenge, change and uncertainty, I consider myself very fortunate that circumstance has allowed me to continue my Bethell Hospice routine.”*

**NEIL MORRIS**

MAINTENANCE & RECEPTION VOLUNTEER

*“I feel true gratitude to be able to volunteer at Bethell Hospice during the time of COVID-19. Baked goods, cups of coffee and a hot meal will reach a resident or family member I might never meet, but I know that I've contributed in some small way to ease their burden and provide comfort. I know that they feel the love coming from a stranger at the other end. Comfort and compassion – that's what we do. It fills my heart to be part of such an incredible team.”*

**JOANNE PATTISON**

KITCHEN VOLUNTEER

*“Although the atmosphere and character of Bethell has changed, our resident family members' needs have not. I did not realize the effect and importance of a smile, a kind word or just practicing my listening skills, either on the phone or in person. I have had some comments on how it is so nice to hear a cheerful voice, to see a friendly face and just felt the relief when they were being heard. Never underestimate how just a small act of kindness can make such a huge difference for someone.”*

**NANCY MCNEILL-DWHYTIE**

RECEPTION VOLUNTEER



*“I feel huge gratitude that I can still be useful by helping on the 'front lines' by being in the kitchen making food for our residents. Even though I cannot see them, or talk to them about what they'd like me to prepare, I can still communicate with them through the nurses and PSWs, or by them calling the kitchen directly on their phone. We've made it work somehow.”*

**ELIZABETH BIRNIE**

KITCHEN VOLUNTEER

*“In a good way, I think I will always associate COVID-19 with volunteering at Bethell Hospice. Putting on a mask meant taking off some of the growing social anxiety because, amazingly and beautifully, inside Bethell Hospice, life was going on.”*

**JODY BELFORD**

RECEPTION VOLUNTEER

## SAVE THE DATES

Please plan to join us for our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Hike for Bethell Hospice on  
**Sunday, May 2, 2021**

Next year, we will be returning to our traditional spring hike, held in conjunction with National Hospice Palliative Care Week, but retaining our virtual options to make our hike available to the widest possible audience.

*Watch your spring 2021 newsletter for all the details.*



Because of COVID-19, our Bethell Hospice Gala Celebration has  
been postponed to

**Saturday, September 18, 2021**

Please plan to join us at the Pearson Convention Centre to celebrate *Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow*. The evening promises to be elegant and unforgettable, featuring spectacular entertainment, a beautiful dinner, live and silent auctions, and more than a few surprises!

*Tickets will go on sale early in 2021.*



### Donate Now!

Bethell Hospice programs and services are only partially covered by our Ontario health care system. Each year, over \$1,000,000 must be raised through local fundraising efforts.

#### I would like to contribute:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 (Bethell Benefactor) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 (Companion)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 (Leader)              | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 (Friend)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 (Partner)             | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 (Donor)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 (Supporter)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 (Mentor)              |   |

Donor Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(for tax receipt and communication)

### DONATION OPTIONS

- ☐ I have enclosed a cheque (payable to Bethell Hospice Foundation)  
☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express  
Frequency: ☐ One Time Gift ☐ Monthly ☐ Bi-Monthly ☐ Annually

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I would like my gift to remain anonymous.  
☐ I have included Bethell Hospice Foundation in my will.

*To donate today, please complete form and mail to:*

**Bethell Hospice Foundation**  
P.O. Box 75, Inglewood, Ontario L7C 3L6  
or go to [foundation.bethellhospice.org](http://foundation.bethellhospice.org) to give securely online

Charitable Registration #82636 7948 RR0001 Tax receipts are issued for all gifts of \$20 or more.

*Donations should be payable to:*

**Bethell Hospice Foundation**  
P.O. Box 75, Inglewood, Ontario L7C 3L6

*For more information, please call:*

**Tel: 905.838.3534**

**Email: [foundation@bethellhospice.org](mailto:foundation@bethellhospice.org)**



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*Here when you need us*