

FALL 2025

Newsletter

BETHELL HOSPICE • CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Bethell Hospice Resident Story

Despite all the challenges he faced in life, Eric Copeland was fiercely independent. In fact, in December 2024, at the young age of 25, Eric made the decision to spend his end-of-life journey at Bethell Hospice.

Eric was only 10 years old when he was diagnosed with cancer. His fierce determination to live life his own way though led to many incredible accomplishments, including overcoming several learning challenges.



His mom Sharon describes his abilities,

“I knew his potential. If you can drive a car when people say you can’t, pass high school when told you don’t have the ability, and play a set of drums, even though you’re not the most coordinated kid, you just keep defying the odds.”

One of Eric’s last wishes was to be home for Christmas before transferring to Bethell Hospice. Arriving at the hospice on Boxing Day, Sharon explained the ease of the transfer,

“Dr. Gagnon was the palliative care doctor in the community, and he knew Eric before he entered the hospice. It was really an integrated service experience which made the transition to the hospice that much easier. Dr. Gagnon understood Eric and respected his request to die in dignity.”

When he arrived, Eric decided to sit in the Lazy Boy chair rather than transfer to a hospice bed. As a young resident, Eric was welcomed warmly by the volunteers and the care team. On the first morning, Eric surprised the volunteers by asking for toast with marmalade. He explained that his mom’s parents were British so of course he knew all about marmalade.

Sharon believes Eric was a bit of a novelty.

“Being mothers themselves, a lot of the staff and volunteers could relate, and they realized how hard this was for our family, and how hard it was for him. He was a young person dying but he could also articulate his wants and needs.”

One of the hospice volunteers found out that Eric enjoyed appetizers and charcuterie boards and asked him what he would normally do to celebrate New Year’s Eve at home.

Together, the two of them set out to design a special menu and the volunteer stayed late that evening to cook and serve the food. It was a momentous occasion.



Eric died on January 26, 2025, exactly one month after entering the hospice.

Since Eric’s passing, Sharon has had the opportunity to meet with the Bethell Hospice Supportive Care team to process her grief.



Participating in the annual spring Hike for Bethell Hospice also proved helpful for Sharon and her daughter.

“The hike was good therapy and we connected with other families who had also spent time at the hospice.”

Here when you need us

Bethell Hospice
Morning Glory Room

LEAVING YOUR Legacy



Just one phrase written into your Will can make an incredible impact on an organization that is close to your heart.

Since inception, we have been fortunate to receive financial support from donors who have made it a part of their legacy by leaving a gift to Bethell Hospice Foundation. Others have stepped forward to let us know of their generous intentions. In Lisa Speirs case, she made a special point of sitting down to share the details of her decision.

When asked what inspired her to choose the Foundation as one of the beneficiaries of her estate, she explained quite simply,

“I have been a part of Bethell Hospice for over 13 years. I’ve volunteered in many capacities and have been witness to the incredible and compassionate care that takes place here. I made the decision to leave a gift in my Will to ensure the quality of care continues, even after I am gone.”

If you have been considering what your legacy will be, and how you can make a difference to so many, please consider including Bethell Hospice Foundation in your plans. If you have already included us, please reach out to share. There is nothing better than to be able to extend our gratitude while we have the opportunity.



Legal and financial advisors can offer a wealth of knowledge to help you designate a gift for charity, while also providing you with substantial tax advantages. Sharing your plan with family also ensures they are aware of your intentions.



Should you have any questions, or want to learn more about legacy giving, please call Nicole Hand, Executive Director at Bethell Hospice Foundation at 905.838.3534 ext. 2251 or at nhand@bethellhospice.org



Why I Give

Helen Mason

I give because Bethell Hospice is the gift that keeps on giving!

Ten years ago, Bethell welcomed our extended family of fourteen including my husband (resident), kids, and six grandchildren under the age of eleven.

We didn’t stay for two or three days, or even two or three weeks. We stayed for almost eight weeks!

I give as a garden volunteer which gives me satisfaction and happiness, especially when engaging with a resident or family who tells me how much the serenity, beauty and peace of watching the flowers, birds, butterflies, and bees means to them at this difficult time in their lives. Meanwhile, I make friends with other volunteers while experiencing the beneficial therapy of working in nature.

I give as a Foundation volunteer at various fundraising events where I meet neighbours and friends and help to raise awareness of the many blessings and benefits Bethell Hospice provides to our neighbouring communities. These services include hospice care, home visits and counselling, all at no cost.

My favourite event to support is the annual hike where I interact with hundreds of participants who feel as I do about Bethell Hospice.



The camaraderie and excitement of setting up and participating in the hike (especially when there’s a bagpiper involved) and knowing that I belong in this marvelous community, makes everything worthwhile.

I give because it makes people, including me, happy!

Warmest regards, **Helen**

Light & Love at Bethell Hospice



Tree Lighting Ceremony | Thursday, December 4, 2025 | 7:00 p.m.
Inglewood Community Centre – 15825 McLaughlin Road, Inglewood, ON

Celebrate Light & Love Tree Lighting

As the holiday season approaches, we draw close to those we love and cherish the memory of those we have lost.



Our annual Light & Love Tree Lighting Ceremony is a way to offer comfort, compassion, and healing during a time of reflection. The warmth of the light and the embrace of loved ones provides strength to those around us. As guests walk down the Bethell Hospice driveway holding a light of remembrance, and with the choir serenading in the background, it is a tranquil time to honour the memory of a loved one.

Offering words of encouragement and compassion during the end-of-life journey is what makes Bethell Hospice such a special place, and the care team, staff and volunteers, so widely cherished.

“Bethel Hospice in my first few years of practice has been deeply meaningful. Being part of such a warm and compassionate environment – surrounded by kind and dedicated staff and volunteers from every role – has been both humbling and inspiring. The collaborative spirit here allows us to provide truly holistic care during some of the most vulnerable and sacred moments in our patients’ lives. I feel incredibly grateful to be part of this extraordinary community.”

Dr. Mitali Vatsraj

Palliative Physician Lead for Bethell Hospice (William Osler)

This year, as we open our hearts and prepare for the holiday season, we invite you to join us for our Light & Love Ceremony to be held on Thursday, December 4, starting at 7:00 p.m.



Through many generous donations from the community, last year’s Light & Love Holiday campaign and Tree Lighting event raised over \$236,000, directly supporting Bethell Hospice residence care and community programs.

All Light & Love donations are gratefully accepted, with full tax receipts for gifts of \$25 or more.



For those planning to attend the ceremony, please remember to dress for the weather as this is an outdoor event. If inclement weather prevents us from gathering in person, the Light & Love scroll will also be posted and shared on our website.

To make your donation online, please visit bethellhospicelightandlove.ca, or call the Fundraising office at 905-838-3534, ext. 2248.

Upcoming Opportunities to Support Bethell Hospice

Dixie Orchards

August 17 – October 30, 2025

Plan a visit to Dixie Orchards at 14309 Dixie Rd. in Caledon, where fall fun awaits! Stroll through the orchard to pick your own apples, find the perfect pumpkin in the patch, and treat yourself to delicious baked goods and unique specialty items at the charming porch market. You'll find everything from jam, honey, and maple syrup to ready-picked apples and hazelnuts.

The whole family will enjoy the experience – with friendly farm animals, a corn maze, straw jumping, and scenic wagon rides, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

Now through October 30, Dixie Orchards will donate \$1 from every pie purchased, and \$1 from every sunflower bundle to Bethell Hospice Foundation.



Bon Appetit for Bethell Hospice

Fall 2025

This fall, you can support Bethell Hospice Foundation by indulging in delicious local cuisine and beverages. The Bon Appetit for Bethell Hospice campaign invites you to explore featured "Bethell Specials" at participating restaurants where a portion of the sales will support Bethell Hospice Foundation.

Visit our website foundation.bethellhospice.org for a list of participating venues and offers.

Golf 4 Bethell Hospice

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

The 6th Annual Golf 4 Bethell Hospice will be held at the renowned TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley in Alton – proud host of the 2025 Canadian Open. This year's tournament is officially sold out; however, there are still sponsorship opportunities available.

To donate a silent auction item, please contact Shirley Horsley at 905-838-3534 ext. 2228.



PRESENTING SPONSOR



PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



Downey's Farm – Pumpkinfest Opening Weekend!

Saturday, September 20 & Sunday, September 21, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (daily)

Pumpkinfest at Downey's Farm is back for 2025, and it is the perfect time to plan your annual fall adventure. Visit the farm on opening weekend and a portion of proceeds from every pumpkin doughnut sold will support Bethell Hospice Foundation. If you haven't had the pleasure of tasting this delicious treat, now is the perfect time!

For more details on Pumpkinfest, visit www.downeysfarm.com

Your support this year is essential to ensure the care continues.

Bike for Bethell Hospice Sunday, September 21, 2025

Join team captain Bob Mansbridge and the Bethell Hospice team as they cycle along the Caledon Trailway starting in Inglewood and riding 25-50 km on Sunday, September 21 to raise funds for Bethell Hospice Foundation.

To make a donation, please visit foundation.bethellhospice.org, click on Donate and include "Bike for Bethell Hospice" in the *Additional Notes* section.



Udder Tournament

Friday, November 7 to Sunday, November 9, 2025

The Caledon Women's Hockey League proudly presents the return of the Udder Tournament, with all net proceeds to Bethell Hospice Foundation. Come out and support 30 women's hockey teams as they battle for the coveted title of Udder Champion!

Enjoy the excitement on the ice, savour a delicious home-cooked meal, win a raffle prize or bid on a silent auction item.

Interested in sponsoring or volunteering? Please contact UdderTournamentSponsorship@gmail.com or call Lyn at 416-209-8411.

Diamond in the Hills Sunday, November 16, 2025

The Diamond in the Hills Fashion Show and Luncheon is set to dazzle once again! Now in its 9th year, this beloved event will take place on Sunday, November 16 at the beautiful Arlington Estate in Vaughan.

Since its debut in 2017, Diamond in the Hills has raised over \$1.3 million dollars, and we look forward to another great afternoon of fashion and entertainment.

To learn more about this exciting event, visit www.DiamondInTheHills.ca



Bethell Hospice Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 22, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar and get ready to kick off the festive season with some early holiday shopping. The Holiday Bazaar offers gently used treasures, vintage items, home baked treats, plants/greenery, and hand-crafted goods. **NEW THIS YEAR...** the Bethell Bistro where you can enjoy homemade soups, sandwiches, and treats. This year's event will take place at a new location - **Knox United Church, 2976 Charleston Sideroad, Caledon**. There is plenty of free parking near the church and the venue is fully wheelchair accessible. All proceeds to Bethell Hospice Foundation.

To donate items to the Bazaar, please contact Bonnie at bklaassen@bethellhospice.org

EXPRESSING OUR *Gratitude*

Community Champions 2025

2025 has been a year of strong community partnerships and we are grateful to our supporters who held events benefitting Bethell Hospice Foundation.

Memory Bonspiel

The 3rd Annual Memory Spiel at the Orangeville Curling Club was a heartfelt celebration of sport and remembrance. Curlers of all skill levels came together for a day filled with friendly competition while honouring the memories of loved ones. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the abundance of silent auction items, and the enthusiastic turnout, the event successfully raised \$6,220 for Bethell Hospice Foundation. Thank you to those who participated and to the Women's Jitney league for organizing another great event.



Harmony for Hospice

Harmony for Hospice was an afternoon to remember – filled with the sweet, heart-warming sounds of five barbershop quartets.



This special fundraiser was lovingly organized by Cathy Gillespie in memory of her late husband, Don, who had a love and passion for music. Guests were treated to rich harmonies and heartfelt performances, all in support of Bethell Hospice Foundation.

A sincere thank you to Cathy, the talented performers, volunteers, and everyone who attended. This event raised over \$6,500.

IODE Headwaters Euchre Tournament

The IODE Headwaters Chapter in Orangeville hosted a progressive euchre tournament in support of Bethell Hospice Foundation, and the evening was a great success! Thank you to everyone who participated, the event raised an impressive \$1,753.00.



George Sant & Sons Greenhouses and Bethell Hospice Plant Sale



The George Sant & Sons Greenhouses and Bethell Hospice Plant Sale bloomed with success, despite the chilly weather conditions. A heartfelt thank you goes to George Sant & Sons for their generous donation of hanging baskets, planters, fruit and veggie flats, Vito Chiefari for making the beautiful wooden butterflies, and to Lakeside Garden Gallery for providing soil and mulch. Special thanks to the dedicated Bethell Hospice Gardening Committee, who spent many hours preparing for the sale of their perennials. With matching funds from Scotiabank, the sale raised an outstanding \$10,360 in support of Bethell Hospice Foundation.

Glen Eagle Golf Days

The 6th Annual Friends of Bethell Hospice Golf Days took place on July 7 and 8 at Glen Eagle Golf Club in Bolton. Thanks to the generosity of Glen Eagle, a portion of golfer green fees from this two-day event were donated to Bethell Hospice Foundation. We would also like to extend our thanks to Scotiabank for their matching gift sponsorship.



Bethell Hospice 15th Anniversary

This year marks the 15th anniversary of Bethell Hospice, and to celebrate the occasion, we asked several staff members to reflect on the impact Bethell Hospice has had on their work journey.



The answers below capture the thoughts and feelings of those who work as part of the clinical support team as well as administrative staff. Over the next several months, we encourage you to visit our social platforms where we will share more interviews from the team. Visit our Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages for more stories.

Question 1:

How would you describe Bethell Hospice in just a few words?

“For me, Bethell Hospice was profoundly life changing. I came here as a family member when my mom was a resident. It really changed my life and changed what I wanted to do in my career.”



Michele Keeler

Quality & Facilities Manager

“I would say Bethell Hospice has soul. There is a depth and a richness that’s grounded in a powerful story. That powerful story is what gives it an everlasting spirit of energy and hope.”



Steven Janzen

Spiritual Care & Grief Counsellor

Question 2:

Can you describe a time when you felt especially proud to be part of this team?

“Within five minutes of families coming here, you hear ‘My God. It feels like home... I can actually go home and get a good night’s sleep knowing my loved one is in good hands.’”



Clarissa Martin

Personal Support Worker

“I felt especially proud to be part of the Bethell clinical team during COVID, when we had a resident from a different faith who passed away. We did our best to respect their practices, support the family, and honour the resident’s wishes according to their faith. It made me proud knowing we did all we could during the pandemic.”



Amita Patel

Clinical Lead, Hospice Residence

Question 3:

Looking back over the years, what moment or experience has stayed with you the most – something that really reminds you of why we do this work?

“Using my palliative care lens, in the really, really hard moments, I see true love. At the end-of-life journey there’s a lot of grief but also a lot of love in the room.”



Inge Boerma

Registered Practical Nurse

“We like to get to know each of the residents and in one instance a female resident and her boyfriend had a particular wish, which was to get married. We made that happen. She got married on Mother’s Day and a few days later she passed away.”



Dorothy Rankin

Hospice Residence Intake Coordinator



www.facebook.com/BethellHospiceFoundation



www.instagram.com/bethell_hospice_foundation/



www.linkedin.com/company/bethell-hospice-foundation/



www.linkedin.com/company/bethellhospice/

Bethell Hospice Summer BBQ

On June 17, the Bethell Hospice Leadership Team and Board of Directors hosted a summer BBQ at the Cheltenham Community Centre to celebrate and thank the many volunteers and staff at the hospice for their ongoing dedication, compassion, and support.

Volunteers are at the heart of Bethell Hospice and we're so grateful for their time, care, and commitment.

Volunteer opportunities are available as part of our hospice residence and community support programs.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

"As I walk into the house now, I feel like an important part of this team, included and respected. This vital work is so fulfilling, and it is such a privilege to be part of the journey for our residents and their families."

Amanda B – current Bethell Hospice Volunteer



Looking to give back? Make a meaningful impact in your community by becoming a Bethell Hospice Volunteer.

Interested?

Find out more by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator at:

Email: volunteer@bethellhospice.org

Phone: 905-838-3534, ext. 2247

Online: <https://bethellhospice.org/volunteer-3/>

Donate Now!

Bethell Hospice programs and services are only partially covered by our Ontario health care system. Each year, over \$1,800,000 must be raised through local fundraising efforts.

Yes, I want to make a donation.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <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 Annually

Card # _____ CVV # _____

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 to give securely online

Charitable Registration #82636 7948 RR0001 Tax receipts are issued for all gifts of \$25 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



Bethell Hospice
FOUNDATION



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