

The Toronto Commandery

HOSPICE

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The Genesis of the Hospice

The Toronto Commandery of The Order of Saint Lazarus has supported palliative and hospice care since the 1980's. One notable member, Dr. Dorothy Ley (1925-1994) was a founding director of Casey House and honorary chair of the Dorothy Ley Hospice. By 2004, the Commandery had given over \$500,000 in support of existing organizations. The members of the board were dedicated to community service as members of the Toronto Commandery, but were also founding directors of Fife House and Wellspring, Rotarians and Junior Leaguers and with previous hospice experience.

Members of the Commandery recognized two problems: the shortage of residential hospice care in eastern Toronto and the shortage of hospice beds that were not disease specific. They decided to take action. A new hospice was needed to serve adults east of Yonge Street who were palliative.

They incorporated The Toronto Commandery Foundation Inc. in 2004. CRA gave the foundation both a charitable registration and a seven-year window in which it could raise funds for the planned hospice.

In 2007, The Toronto Commandery Hospice Inc. was incorporated.



What Will The Hospice Do?

The Toronto Commandery Hospice will operate as a working charitable organization.

Its vision is to provide support services in a ten bed, residential style hospice - a home-like environment that will serve as a comfort to both the dying and their families.

The Hospice will not be age, disease or gender specific and will respect spiritual and cultural diversity.

The focus of Hospice care is comfort rather than cure. A team of professionals and volunteers will facilitate a holistic approach to dying where death is affirmed as a natural process and quality of life is a priority. Support, comfort, pain management and dignity for each individual will be maintained.

Is There A Need?

A reported 90% of Canadians wish to remain at home during the final stages of their lives, yet 75% of the deaths still take place in hospital. The cost of that care is considerably more in hospital than it would be in a hospice.

Many individuals would prefer to die at home as they do not require the high tech support of an acute care hospital, but in some cases this is not possible for a variety of reasons.

- There may not be an extended family available locally to support their desire to stay at home.
- Grown children may have left the community and have young families elsewhere prohibiting them from a commitment to support the decision to

die at home.

- Spouses who become caregivers may simply become exhausted.
- Sons or daughters may be torn between the demands of caring for a young family and a dying spouse or parent.

The desire to support the decision to die at home is there, but the human resources may simply not be

available. Financial relief from government does not try to meet the many challenges of the dying process.

A residential hospice provides an option to dying individuals and their families. In the home like setting skilled palliative care team can provide compassionate care. The family is always welcomed and encouraged to take part in the care as much as they desire or are able.

Exceptional Canadians

As our first, annual fund raising event, the Hospice sponsored a dinner speaker series to recognize **EXCEPTIONAL CANADIANS**. On May 14, 2008, Richard W. Pound, OC, OQ, QC, LL.D. was our keynote speaker.

Mr. Pound is well known for overseeing an unprecedented toughening of the drug-testing regimen. He has been an especially harsh critic of widespread doping in sports from track & field to professional bicycle racing. His talk that evening was entitled, "Human Performance; How Much is Too Much?"

Rather than a silent auction, the evening also featured a special sale, **Bricks for the Hospice**. But we didn't stop there. Guests bought hospital beds, memorial windows, bedside tables, bricks and more bricks.



We are indebted to Mr. Pound, all those who volunteered and everyone who participated in the brick sale.

The event raised over \$50,000 for the hospice!

Polo For Palliative Care

In mid-September The Toronto Commandery of The Order of Saint Lazarus and The Toronto Commandery Foundation annually sponsor **The Emerald Chukker**, an afternoon of polo, food and entertainment.

The proceeds of the event go to the Foundation's capital fund for the Hospice.

Our thanks go to the many volunteers who work year after year to organize the event and make everything

run smoothly on the day of the event. We also want to thank the supporters of the event, particularly the companies or individuals who sponsored the event or brought tables of guests.

You can check <http://www.emeraldchukker.org> for photos from past years and information about next year's **Chukker**. Tickets are available via the Internet as early as Spring.

Our Web Sites



The Toronto Commandery Hospice and the Foundation have web sites that you can refer to for information.

Direct donations can be made online using either of the Foundation or the Hospice website.

Hospice:

<http://www.ttch.org>

Foundation:

<http://www.TorontoCommanderyFoundation.org>

How Are We Doing?

At this point our focus is fund raising. We look forward to showing pictures of a lot, a building in progress or an actual hospice operation. As that is not possible yet, here is a snapshot of progress as of October 31, 2008.

The Toronto Commandery Foundation	366,246
The Toronto Commandery Hospice	55,864
Total Assets	\$422,110

The Toronto Commandery Hospice Inc.

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