Working to Provide Palliative Care That's Close to Home

PROVIDED BY HOSPICE NIAGARA

As the population ages, home and community care are becoming especially important as people want health care as close to home as possible. Hospice Niagara's services include providing palliative care in client's homes, working in partnership with family physicians, and visiting nurses and their primary care providers.

With the focus to improve access to quality hospice palliative care, Hospice Niagara is partnering with family health teams and physicians, CCAC and the McMaster HOPE Physician group to transform primary care. Last year, more than 21 interdisciplinary professionals were trained by Hospice Niagara specialists in the Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative and End-of-Life Care course. This sets the stage for patients to receive timely palliative care from their primary family physician with support from our palliative care secondary specialists.

For Dr. Brian Kerley, being a champion of hospice palliative care has become a lifelong endeavour. He firmly believes that this much-needed care embodies the essence of what medicine should be: providing comfort and support to patients and their families during the last leg of their life's journey and maximizing their quality of life.

> "We can accomplish our goals by working in partnership with our Niagara health care community."

Through providing care over the past 30 years to patients at the end phase of their lives, this philosophy of care is inherent, so much so that he was recently recognized by his peers with a Niagara Region Distinguished

Dr. Brian Kerley, BSc., MD, CCFP, FCFP, medical director, Hospice Niagara—The Stabler Centre

Physician Service Award based on the work he performs in his own family practice and as the medical director at the Stabler Centre—a 10 bed hospice residence in St. Catharines.

"My passion for providing timely and effective care to my patients has always been at the forefront of my work and will continue to be moving forward," says Dr. Kerley. He further remarks that "The multidisciplinary team at Hospice Niagara—the Stabler Centre has difficult work to do, yet it is done with kindness, dignity and respect, keeping the patient's needs in mind."

At Hospice Niagara, that quality of care is delivered to each and every client, whether served at the hospice or in their homes by our trained teams and volunteers. By putting clients and families at the centre of everything, the organization will continue to strive for excellence so that clients, families and the community are confident that their care is responsive to their individual needs and is efficiently delivered. From experience, we know that we can accomplish our goals by working in partnership with our Niagara health care community.

About Hospice Niagara

Hospice Niagara is an innovative leader in the end-of-life journey providing continuous, person-centred care while advancing knowledge and partnerships within Niagara. Hospice Niagara's vision is to provide exceptional and compassionate care to everyone, everywhere, every time.

The organization focuses on improving the quality of life for people living with life-limiting illnesses, death, dying, grief and loss. Through a variety of programs and services, Hospice Niagara is able to provide compassionate comfort and support to families throughout the care continuum. Visit hospiceniagara.ca or call 905.984.8766 for more information.

As a charity that is only partially funded by the government, Hospice Niagara rallies community support to help fund the delivery of these essential programs and services. Their signature fundraising event is the 5 Car Draw. The Early Bird Draw for a Harley-Davidson is June 19th and the main draw for the five cars will be on August 1st. Call 905.984.8766 to order tickets or visit 5cardraw.ca for a ticket sales location near you for your chance to Drive Your Dream! BL