



Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth

80 Greenwood Drive, Stratford ON N5A 0J1

519.508.4900

www.rotaryhospice.ca

Charitable Reg. #: 72776 0126 RR0001



How it began

In 2013 the Rotary Club of Stratford held a public forum to gauge the interest in a residential hospice for Perth County. 200 people attended and a steering committee was formed.

In 2017 the Ministry of Health approved funding for an eight-bed hospice, Tri-County Mennonite Homes provided 3/4 of an acre for \$1/year and an \$8.5 million capital campaign was launched to build Rotary Hospice.

On June 22, 2019, Rotary Hospice officially opened its doors.



*“You matter because you are you,
and you matter to the end of your life.
We will do all we can, not only to help you
die peacefully, but also to live until you die.”*

Dame Cicely Saunders,
founder of modern day hospice palliative care



A home-like setting

Rotary Hospice contains 10 resident suites, each measuring 20'x20' with a two-piece washroom. Each room is furnished with:

- a hospital-grade bed
- overbed table
- pull-out queen size sofa (for overnight guests)
- reclining chair
- gas fireplace and mantel on which to display favourite photos
- flat-screen tv with unlimited wi-fi allowing for Skype calls or favourite music
- mini-fridge, storage cabinets for personal items
- and more...



Common areas allow visitors to reflect and recharge without leaving the hospice





Floor to ceiling windows allow for calming views of nature's changing seasons





How is Rotary Hospice funded?

Like all hospice residences in Ontario, Rotary Hospice receives only partial funding from the government and that funding is restricted for direct clinical care costs only. This means, in order to cover other operating expenses like utility bills, groceries, building maintenance, training and administration expenses, we must rely on the generosity of our community - people like you - to help raise about \$950,000 a year.

Annual events such as Hike for Hospice, Handbags for Hospice, and Lights of Love raise approximately 30% of the operating costs; the remainder is raised through memorial donations, corporate and individual gifts, foundation grants, and planned gifts.

These donations are vital to our ability to continue to serve our residents, community clients, families and caregivers at one of the most difficult times in their lives. All at no cost. By leaving a gift in your will, you will help ease this ongoing fundraising burden.



The role of the Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation

The Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation is dedicated to raising the funds needed to support the compassionate, end-of-life hospice care offered at Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth.

The Foundation is governed by a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors whose main focus is to secure contributions to support the hospice, foster relationships with donors, act as ambassadors in the community to raise awareness and understanding, and manage the contributions in a responsible and transparent manner ensuring the sustainability of both the building itself and all those who will call it their final home.



Why should I leave a gift in my will to the Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation?

Choosing to leave a charitable donation in your will is the perfect way to let your care and compassion continue for years to come.

Leaving a gift in your will to the Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation ensures that hospice services are available in our community at no cost to our residents and their family. That means your family and friends will have access to hospice palliative care when they need it most.



Leaving a charitable gift in your will - some frequently asked questions & answers:

1. How do I leave a gift in my will to the Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation?

We always recommend having your will written by a lawyer with expertise in Wills & Probate. This is the best way to ensure that your will accurately reflects your wishes and is correctly witnessed.

2. Why is it important to have a will?

By having an up-to-date will you can ensure that the people and causes that matter to you most are looked after. A will is the only way to guarantee that your wishes are followed and your assets distributed to benefit those who matter most to you. You can also use your will to limit the amount of tax that needs to be paid on your estate. If you don't have a will your whole estate could end up belonging to the government.

3. Why should I consider leaving a gift in my will to charity?

Amplify your impact: After your lifetime, it's possible to make a more significant gift than you might otherwise be able to afford.

Enjoy tax benefits: By including charitable gifts in your estate planning, you may eliminate significant taxes payable upon your death.

Honour a loved one: Use your gift as a lasting memory of a special loved one.

Set an example: By sharing your plans with family and friends, you are setting a positive example of generosity for others to follow.

4. What information should I provide to my lawyer or other financial advisors?

Legal name: Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation

Address: 80 Greenwood Drive, Stratford ON N5A 0J1

Charitable Registration Number: 7726 0126 RR0001

Leaving a charitable gift in your will - some frequently asked questions & answers (cont'd):

5. What types of gifts can I leave?

The most common gifts we receive are for a specific cash amount (specific gift) or a percentage share of an estate (residual gift) and you can see suggested wording for these types of gifts below.

Specific Gift:

"My estate trustees shall pay the sum of \$_____ (or transfer assets with an equal value) to Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation (Charitable Registration No. 72776 0126 RR0001), Stratford, ON, for the purposes of supporting its highest priority needs (or other, as indicated on the Donor Information form)."

Residual Gift:

"My estate trustees shall pay _____ (all or %) of the residue of my estate to Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation (Charitable Registration No. 72776 0126 RR0001), Stratford, ON, for the purposes of supporting highest priority needs (or as indicated on the Donor Information form)."

6. Is there a minimum amount I need to donate to include Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation in my will?

No - every donation counts, and gifts in wills come in all shapes and sizes. We are grateful for all gifts received since so much of our work would not be possible without this very special support.

7. Can I change my existing will to include a gift to the Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation?

Yes you can. We advise you to speak with your lawyer about how to make this addition to your will.

Leaving a charitable gift in your will - some frequently asked questions & answers (cont'd):

8. Can I leave a gift for a specific area of work?

Yes, you can and we always do our utmost to honour any wishes. That being said, stipulating conditions can make it more difficult for us to use your gift wisely. (For example, it may be that a current program you wish to support is no longer in existence or requiring funding at the time your gift is made). We'd like to use your gift to have the most impact, so we would suggest that you express a wish, rather than a condition, that your gift be used to support a specific area of work.

9. Can I change my mind after I have left a gift in my will?

We understand that circumstances can change and that's okay. Given you are not actually making a gift until after your lifetime, you can change your mind and your will at any time.

Should you wish to share your intentions to leave a gift in your will to the Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation, please see the attached **Confidential Statement of Intent Form**.

Thank you for considering a legacy gift to support Rotary Hospice: *a home where every moment matters, and every donation counts.*

For more information, don't hesitate to contact us, we're here to help! Thank you.

Lucie Stuart, Fund Development Manager, Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation

lucie@rotaryhospice.ca

519.508.4900 x720

cell: 226.751.2468



Thank you

"When our mother's health landed her in the hospital, we knew it was serious. They said weeks, not more. We were exhausted and very afraid. And then we got a call from you.

When we pictured hospice, we thought of a sort of quieter version of the hospital; nurses in scrubs, dim lights, hushed voices, an overall feeling of sadness. We didn't know what else to expect, but we knew we couldn't do this ourselves, at home.

It was nothing like we had imagined. It was, honestly, magical. We didn't know that a place like yours existed and we feel so lucky that Stratford has this facility. We were surprised and impressed and overwhelmed, and now that our lives have settled a bit, we want to make sure we reach out and tell you how important you were to us.

Thank you. Thank you for telling us it was ok to stay, and that it was ok to go home, and that you'd call us (you did) and that it would be ok no matter what we decided (it was).

Thank you for meeting us where we were, even though we didn't know where we were.

Thank you for looking after all of us, not just Paula - thank you for understanding so beautifully that we were there as a family and doing this together. Thank you for the baked goods and the puzzles, and for embracing our sense of humour and never making us feel like we were too loud, too happy, or too sad.

Thank you for letting us be Paula's children and not her caregivers.

Thank you for knowing that it was about living while she could, and not just about her dying. "

(As shared with us by Paula's family).



For more information:

Lucie Stuart, Director, Fund Development & Stewardship

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