



## December 2017 Newsletter



Our last Board Meeting for the year was held on Wednesday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> followed by a well-attended Volunteer Appreciation night. The agenda covered many items. There were a number of fundraising events over the Fall – from Carve for a Cause, the Fernie Cardlock, the Ladies Night of Indulgence and the Festival of Trees. In all cases, the sponsors came to Hospice to designate us as their charity of choice – we are moving in the right direction!!

The coverage we've had in the Free Press has served to bring Hospice to the forefront and continues to give us a platform from which to grow in 2018.

The first of three (so far) Palliative Massage Courses was held in November. The paid part of the course was well attended and the free information session a little less so. Without exception, the participants agreed it was a most worthwhile course, even if you don't have someone palliative to care for. In the case of Hospice, our sitters are allowed to massage hands & feet of our clients, and they can use the knowledge they gained in the course to teach family members & friends to massage other parts of the palliative patients. What a great opportunity! The next course will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup> at the College of the Rockies – don't miss it!

Jennifer O'Donnell & Sandra put in a lot of effort to submit a gaming grant application that we hope will be successful this year. Thank you both so much!

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Sandra, Hugh & Elizabeth are working to approach Telus's Fibre for Good to donate the hardware for a Virtual Reality Experience for our clients. Hugh brought a demo to the Volunteer Appreciation, and it ignited everyone's imagination and passion! Thank you Hugh!

Our priorities for 2018 will now be to create the Directory of Services, continuing education for our volunteers, ongoing grant writing and fundraising. We still need to recruit more volunteers to help out at the hospital kiosk to maintain our presence and keep getting the word out. To that end, a big thank you to Pat Moore & Carol Holder for going out into the community to educate our seniors on the availability of Hospice services. Sessions were held at both Tom Uphill & Trinity Lodge, and they are hoping to make another presentation at the Senior's Drop in Center in January. Not only do they create awareness, but hopefully they can recruit some volunteers!

The ceiling for the Palliative Care room is proceeding! The purchase order was completed and sent to the company, so now we just need them to install it. Carol Holder brought to our attention the need for a laptop in room 45, so we are working to get one donated & we will install it in such a way that it cannot be removed.

A huge thank you goes out to Stephanie Rogers & Sandra Boer and Elin & Barb for creating such lovely festive centerpieces for attendees at the Volunteer Appreciation night to take home. And we would be remiss if we didn't thank Birch Meadows for donating the birch wood bases on which the pieces were made!

We missed Board Member Margaret Hinton who facilitated last year's volunteer appreciation night, but we thank her for her ideas to engage & thank our members that were well executed by Stephanie & Sandra in her place. Speaking of gratitude Margaret!! 😊

In the meantime, the members of the Board for Elk Valley Hospice would like to sincerely thank all our volunteers for all their ongoing support and participation. Without you, there would not be a Hospice.

One final note – due to a change in circumstances, a few Board members have announced that they will not be able to stand next May, including your President, Diane Souccar, Volunteer Coordinator Elke Weber, and Board Member Mary Miller. We made the announcement so that you have 5 months to consider joining or trying to recruit new blood to continue to build on the hard work that has been done by all the preceding Boards!

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We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. No matter what holiday you celebrate, we wish you good times with family & friends. May you find peace, joy, good health, and happiness during the holiday season and into 2018.

Your Elk Valley Hospice Board – Diane Souccar, Elke Weber, Elizabeth Bailey, Jennifer O'Donnell, Hugh Tennant, Margaret Hinton, Mary Miller and Dr. Paul Michal.



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