

Walking in Memory. Walking in Support.

One family's story explains why they walk.

The Dhaliwal family are enthusiastic supporters of Abbotsford Hospice Society and were an energetic presence at our Hike for Hospice on September 29, held at Mill Lake park. Balbir was a patient here for 5 months in 2017. Her son, Jason Dhaliwal recently shared their story and explains why supporting Holmberg House is so meaningful to his family.

"On most occasions stories end with happiness, unfortunately ours did not. Our mother Balbir Dhaliwal at only the age of 66 years was taken from us on September 28th, 2017 at 12:04am. This was the most devastating day of our lives. Along with being a mother of 4 she was a sister, aunt, wife, grandmother and most importantly, our best friend. Balbir was always an out going, happy go lucky person who loved to cook. Balbir was our backbone which means she was our strength of character. She was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer on January 17th, 2016, and was only given 8 months to live. She drew her strength from the fact that she wanted to be there for her family until the end. Saying we are now okay would be untruthful, our family still does grieve with tears and pain. But now it follows with smiles because we know our angel that we call mom still watches over us. If my family and I could think of one word to describe Holmberg House (Abbotsford Hospice), it would be HOME. Holmberg House knew our situation and made sure we had our best possible time there. The nurses, along with many others made it feel like home. Holmberg House took us in with open arms and love. We celebrated Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays and anniversaries there. It felt like we did not skip a beat and we were right at home. This is why my family and I continuously donate to this organization and it will forever mean the world to us. My family and I started the bench program as you will see when entering the front of the house and contributed along with others on the Memorial Wall. Serenity Gardens was our mother's favourite place to spend time with family and relax. The kitchen is truly amazing and provided our family with so many memories, it's where we baked cookies and all the kids ate and enjoyed them. Given the circumstances, the memories at Holmberg House will forever be cherished as a positive place which allowed us to deal with the ultimate grief and loss. Holmberg House allowed our family and most importantly our mother to continue to do the things she enjoyed the most in a place we would best describe as home."



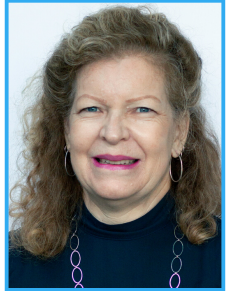
"If I could think of one word to describe Holmberg House, it would be HOME."



Day Hospice Program launches in November.



Cyndi McLeod has joined the AHS team as the manager of The Link. The Link is our newest program, aimed at people living with serious life altering illness in the community as well as caregivers in the community. The Day Hospice Program is designed to provide support, guidance and connection. The Link is a free program available through Abbotsford Hospice Society at Holmberg House focusing on improving quality of life for clients and caregivers.



For information email thelink@abbotsfordhospice.org

COMING EVENTS

OCT 15

Pregnancy & Infant
Loss Remembrance

OCT 17

Annual General
Meeting

Supporting Your
Kids When Their
Friend Dies

OCT 28

Don't Talk About
the Baby - Movie

**For more information
go to our website**

abbotsfordhospice.org/events

grief narratives

Stories. Community. Inspiration.

Josh Neufeld, a photographer from Vancouver has built an online community platform for people to find comfort in the shared experience of death and grief. You can find it at **www.griefnarratives.com**.

Individuals can share and access stories for and from people all over the world suffering from grief. The reality is, death deals each of us our own unique experience, yet grips us all and gives absolute shared fate as a universal truth. It's something we share, a fate we all feel together. By providing a space to share stories and grief narratives, Josh hopes to provide comfort in communion, solace in suffering, and richness in the raw. People must know that though they are walking their grief story individually, they are not walking it alone.



We have made it easier
than ever to support
Abbotsford Hospice Society.

Just return your refundable recyclables to any one of four Return-It depots in Abbotsford and your refund gets credited to us to support our many programs and services offered to our community. The best part - NO SORTING NEEDED!

Go to our website or the front reception desk for more information.