

# Hospice Calgary Newsletter



FALL 2024

## Celebrating LIVING

Colleen loves the zoo, and more specifically, Colleen loves hippos. So when she realized her social worker, Joni, had a birthday around the same time, they agreed to celebrate together at the Calgary Zoo. Colleen was told she had a life-limiting cancer diagnosis - that was years ago. For this birthday, she wanted to celebrate how long she's *lived* with this diagnosis.

On a warm summer day in July, Colleen & Joni met at the zoo. They proudly wore birthday pins as they admired the hippos. They decorated their table in the Kitamba Café and ate cupcakes. They didn't talk about cancer at all. Their birthday trip was about *living*.

**"It is such a privilege for us to connect with people that have a life-limiting illness and support what living looks like to them."**

-JONI



*Colleen & Joni at the zoo*

Living with  
Advanced  
Illness  
Centre

## DYING TO KNOW EDUCATION SERIES

[Register for Free](#)

NOV 19, 2024 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Exploring Grief &  
Loss Through Writing



Presented by:  
Paula Holmes-Rodman

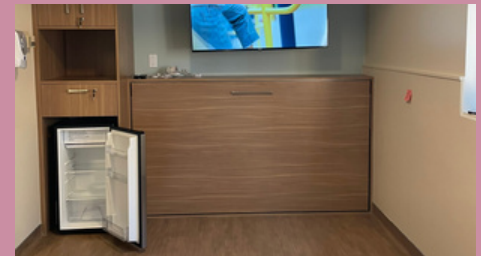
# Rosedale Reno Update



Phase one of three is complete; the first two rooms at Rosedale Hospice have been renovated! In late September, patients moved into the renovated rooms and phase two began the next day. Using the knowledge gained from phase one, the next two phases of the renovation should be faster and better. All seven rooms are expected to be completed by January.

**People using our updated rooms have been enjoying the additions of Murphy beds, 50" Smart TV's, new mini fridges, and bathrooms with much more space and accessibility.**

We are proud that the modern and more comfortable rooms will match the compassionate end-of-life care we provide. Thanks to the generosity and dedication from the *Ernie and Leah Hagel Fund*, the remodeled rooms will benefit our patients and their loved ones for years to come.



*Updated patient rooms at Rosedale*

## Community Spotlight: Tanya

Tanya wears many hats at Hospice Calgary; she is a dedicated full-time employee (often one of the first to arrive at the office), an amazing volunteer, advocate, and fundraiser. But how did Tanya first get involved with Hospice Calgary? Recently, our team had the privilege of interviewing Tanya to learn more about her connection to Rosedale Hospice – one of our three Centres of Care at Hospice Calgary.

Tanya's dad, Tony, was a Rosedale patient. Tanya remembers her father as a kind, hardworking, and goofy person who didn't take life too seriously. His life motto was "don't worry, be happy!".

When Tony required hospice care, Tanya's family looked into multiple facilities to find the best fit and settled on Rosedale. One thing that stood out to Tanya at Rosedale Hospice was that it didn't feel all "doom & gloom".

**"There were so many ways we could make Dad's room as comfortable and personal as possible, which I thought was amazing! We were able to make a room feel like a home".**

One of Tanya's favorite memories of Rosedale is bringing in Reuben, the family's French Bulldog, a bag of potato chips, an ice cold beer, and putting the hockey game on the TV. **It was just like home.**

Another one of her favorite memories was decorating her dad's room for Christmas:

**"We hung Christmas lights, put up a mini tree, and had holiday music playing. It was so heartwarming."**

We are so thankful to Tanya for sharing her story with us. It is an honour to have her on our team as we help families receive the exceptional end-of-life and grief care they deserve!

# The Beautiful Dinner



In early October, our Children's Grief Centre partnered with The Deane House to host The Beautiful Dinner - a special evening for women in our client community. This year, we invited eight amazing grandmothers navigating the unique responsibilities, and often unrecognized layers of loss, that come with parenting their grandchildren after the death of their own adult child.

**The evening allowed these brave grandmothers to connect with others who share a similar journey.**

Our guests shared their grief stories in a way they had been unable to elsewhere. They connected about the unique challenges, joys, and losses they experienced in returning to parenting in the golden years. The women hope the relationships formed at the dinner will be a support for a long time to come and were deeply grateful to Hospice Calgary and our community for this opportunity.

Thank you to our local business community who rallied together to support this meaningful evening. The Dean House, a local florist, Rocky Mountain Soap Company, LUSH, and Southward Wines donated to help the women know they are seen.



*Table Setting at The Deane House*

Interested in hearing more about this special evening? Join us at our 12th annual *Sage Soirée* to hear stories from those who were there!

[Buy Tickets](#)

## CAREGIVER & PARENT INFO SESSIONS:

[Register for Free](#)



### OCTOBER 23

Rituals for Remembering: Staying Connected to the Person Who Died

### NOVEMBER 6

How to Talk With Children About Advanced Illness

PRESENTED BY:

Living with Advanced Illness Centre

### DECEMBER 4

Navigating Grief & Loss During the Holidays

## Vote To Fund The Companion Program!

Field Law Community Fund is an annual online campaign where charities submit their ideas for funding. Bring compassionate care beyond the bedside for adults living with advanced illness by voting for the **Companion Program!**

[Vote Now](#)

(it takes 30 seconds!)



## Sage Soirée

**PURCHASE TICKETS FOR:**  
**Our 12th Annual  
Silent Auction Fundraiser**

- Live music by the Broadview Trio
- Meaningful stories from our client community
- Hosted by local celebrity Dave Kelly
- Curated silent auction items  
(Including Bruce Springsteen Tickets, A Macaron Class, and a Traeger Grill)

[Buy Tickets](#)

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