

Farewell to Our Finance Manager Who Helped Make Hospice What It is Today

Angela VandenBroek reflects on 25 years of service and helping the organization grow, thrive and touch countless lives

When Angela VandenBroek started her career at Hospice Peterborough 25 years ago, she worked in a small office under a set of stairs ('Kind of like Harry Potter,' she jokes with her telltale laugh) and had to pull shut a plastic accordion door and be very quiet when a grief group was in session across the hall.

Angela was an office coordinator back then, one of six employees working in a cramped space on Sherbrooke Street with an annual budget just more than \$300,000.

Over the years, however, she has witnessed incredible growth and transformation as she supported capital campaigns, moves to Rubidge and London streets, expanded programming and a new end-of-life residence. She worked her way up to Manager of Finance and Administration for Hospice, which, under her steady hand, now employs nearly 50 people with an operating budget of more than \$3 million.

"I consider Hospice Peterborough to be like a third child I have helped to raise," says the mother of two. "I will always love and support it."

Hospice Peterborough bid farewell to Angela earlier this month as she accepted a new job with the Peterborough Police Service.

"We would not be what we are today without Angela's skill, expertise, leadership and hard work," says Hospice Manager of Development Alison Casey, her colleague and friend of nearly 15 years.



Angela dedicated 25 years and countless hours supporting Hospice Peterborough with its development and growth.

Angela's cheerfulness and kindness will also be sorely missed, adds Hospice Executive Director Hajni Hős. "We will miss her personality and heart," Hős says. "She's one of those people who can always brighten a room with her smile and positivity."

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After giving birth, Angela and her newborn son stopped in to say hello at Hospice Peterborough, before heading home. The red noses are from a fundraising campaign.

Angela came to Hospice as a young woman eager to try new things and wasn't afraid of a challenge, says former executive director Linda Sunderland.

"She connected well with everyone – staff, volunteers, board members, donors and most importantly the individuals and families who came to Hospice for support," Sunderland says. "I know my role as executive director would have been impossible without her, especially the last five years when we were deep in the period of building, fundraising and organizational change."

When Angela first joined Hospice, she remembers that it used to be a struggle at that time just to get the public to understand what hospice services were.

Over the years, she started to take on more of the finance pieces, including payroll, Ministry reporting, audits and HR; and she credits many wonderful volunteer treasurers for mentoring her along the way.

It was exciting to embark on the first capital campaign, she says, raising \$175,000 to renovate the St. Andrew's Church manse and move to Rubidge Street where there was triple the space and more meeting rooms.

"We had a beautiful new location, hired more staff and our profile and reputation continued to grow as we saw our client numbers jump," she says. "My fondest memories are from my time at Rubidge because our team was so incredibly close."

The job was also a real family affair. Her parents Tony and Mary were trained Hospice volunteers and her two children Nicholas and Ashley would often join the annual Hike for Hospice fundraiser.

When the time came to move to London Street, which was a new build with an end-of-life residence, she says it was a dream come true. She recalls the thrill and pride as nearly 4,000 people joined the open-house events and she proudly toured her own family through the beautiful new facility.

"Those two weeks of open-house events were the most exciting two weeks of my life," she says. "We were all so proud of what we had accomplished together."

While Angela is excited about her new role with the police, as executive assistant to the chief and deputy chief, she plans to stay on at Hospice in a volunteer role by joining the finance committee this fall. Hospice Peterborough, she says, will always be near and dear to her heart.

"I will miss the people of Hospice, who are like my second family," she says. "But I'm also very excited about this next chapter of my life and career."



Ang holding up a token of appreciation from the Hospice staff at a farewell gathering.

A Thank You for the Letter of Support

'We are so humbled by the praise in this recent letter to the editor published in the Peterborough Examiner

Staff and volunteers were honoured to be the recipient of praise after a letter was published in the Peterborough Examiner. We had the pleasure of meeting Vern when he became a resident here.

We want to send our heartfelt thanks to Matthew for taking the time to write this letter and sending it to the paper.

Here is the letter in full:

Peterborough letter: City fortunate to have dedicated Hospice team available

Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022

Peterborough Examiner

A friend of mine once said that the health and well-being of a community could be seen by how it welcomed, respected and cared for their most needy members.

I believe that no one is more in need and fragile than those who are entering their last days and weeks of life and I would like to share with the community of Peterborough that if my friend is indeed correct, then your community surpasses all expectations of a healthy community.

I had the privilege to walk with my brother-in-law, Vern these past two months while he was in Hospice Peterborough. There are not enough adjectives of praise that I could share to come close to expressing Vern's and his families experience of the extraordinary love, commitment, gentleness and fundamental respect that all (from volunteers, to RNs, PSWs, custodians, cooks, doctors and the executive director) the people at Hospice Peterborough showered upon Vern during his final days in this world.

As Vern made his last journey through the halls of the Hospice we played Neil Young's "Heart of Gold." This phrase was as much a testament to Vern's life as it was to the Hospice that you have in your midst.

I encourage you to continue to nurture, support and hold Hospice Peterborough dear to your heart. It is truly a gift and a wonderful sign of the people of Peterborough's humanity. Thank you.

Matthew Marosszky, Aurora, Ont.

(ANOTHER) YEAR OF COVID-19

What a year it has been: First doses, second doses, boosters and then a new variant that threw us all off course. We've created a timeline from March 2021 to March 2022 outlining yet another year that we'll never forget.



MARCH 2021

On the first anniversary of COVID-19 in our community, HP staff are amongst the first in Peterborough to start receiving the highly anticipated first dose of vaccine.

APRIL 2021

As more community members get vaccinated, HP staff continues to work from home with only essential staff permitted in the building. Staff meets with clients virtually and groups continue to meet through Zoom.

JUNE 2021

With hope for a fully vaccinated future but a focus on safety, HP holds its 33rd AGM over Zoom and posts the taped session to YouTube.

JULY 2021

Spirits rise as Ontarians start receiving second doses and HP welcomes double-dosed volunteers back to the building.

AUG. 2021

Ontario appears to be in good shape and restrictions further loosen, allowing HP to welcome visitors back to the Family Great Room and front cafe. Tim and Leslie Keating donate mini fridges for each residence room to help avoid cross contamination.

SEPT. 2021

For the second consecutive year, HP holds a virtual Hike for Hospice and, to stay socially distanced, we post a video of counsellor Sheila Bourgeois reading a book to children in grief.

NOV. 2021

Volunteers are allowed to return to the residence, providing comfort care such as hand massages, while staff eagerly start receiving booster doses. The month ends on a bitter note, however, as Canada detects its first case of Omicron.

DEC. 2021

In a disheartening twist, Omicron sweeps the nation and HP staff are once again ordered to work from home, groups return to Zoom and all HP public spaces are closed to visitors. We light our outdoor evergreens and invite the public to place paper doves on our fence, in memory of loved ones, for a safe holiday ceremony.

JAN. 2022

In a time of uncertainty and bad news, many HP supporters find a smile when we post a photo of nursing staff dressed in donated PPE gowns that are incredibly colourful, fun and funky.

FEB. 2022

With high infection rates but a highly vaccinated population, HP is able to welcome back volunteers, clients and staff to the building but requires each person to pass a rapid test upon entry.

MARCH 2022

On the two-year anniversary of the pandemic, Ontario lifts capacity limits and eliminates vaccine passports. While we don't know what the following year will hold, we know one thing for sure: We will always persevere and innovate to offer our important community services.



Join our In-Person Events Planned for this Summer!

After two years of cancelled and strictly virtual events, three in-person events are scheduled for Hospice Peterborough

Mark your calendars!

After two years we are taking a small step back towards in-person events.

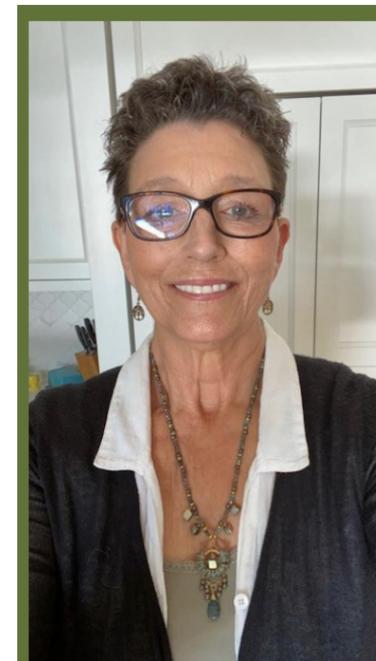
Two new events will be taking place in the summer and a familiar event in September.

In June there will be wine, food, and music at Rolling Grape Vineyard in Bailieboro.

In August we will be having a Hospice Night at 4th Line Theater, including dinner and a show.

Hike for Hospice will once again take place in September. It will be a blended virtual and in-person event.

Keep an eye on our social media and website for details and tickets! Coming soon!



Thanks to Hospice Peterborough's virtual Day Hospice program, community members with a terminal illness have found support throughout an unprecedented time of isolation and social distancing. Chrystine Somerville says joining the program through Zoom has helped her make new friends, feel supported and learn more about her medical condition, all without ever setting foot in the Hospice Peterborough building. Chrystine says she's thankful for the program, which can also direct participants to other Hospice services such as a supportive care counsellor. She's also overwhelmed that this service has no fee, thanks to generous community donations from businesses as well as individuals.

Bob Campbell Wins Outstanding Volunteer Award

Hospice Peterborough board chairman honoured with 2022 June Callwood Award

Bob Campbell is being honoured with the prestigious 2022 June Callwood Award thanks to seven years of volunteerism with Hospice Peterborough and outstanding leadership as chairman of the board.

Bob will be inducted into the June Callwood Circle of Outstanding Volunteers during a ceremony in Toronto on April 24.

“Congratulations to Bob who is so deserving of this award,” says Hospice Executive Director Hajni Hős. “He brings wisdom and an incredible work ethic to our organization and we have been so thankful for his leadership as he guided us through strategic planning and accreditation. He also puts a big emphasis on personal relationships and has created a Board culture that is fantastic and allows for honest conversations.”

Since starting with Hospice, Bob has been a respected, kind and hard-working volunteer who routinely extends himself beyond the role by personally donating to fundraisers and advocating

for better government funding with local politicians.

As board chairman, he always checks in regularly with board members to get feedback and ensures staff feel appreciated by helping coordinate snacks, meals, thank-you videos and letters of gratitude.

Due to the pandemic, Bob may always be remembered as the chairman who never held a single in-person meeting and yet has managed to create an unparalleled culture through humour, well-informed opinions and regular one-on-one check-ins to make sure everyone is coping.

The June Callwood Award was established in 1994 by the Hospice Association of Ontario, now Hospice Palliative Care Ontario, to acknowledge and thank outstanding hospice volunteers throughout Ontario. The award was named in

honour of the late June Callwood, a long-time advocate of hospice, community activist, author and recipient of the Order of Canada. June was the inaugural recipient of the award and, since then, 855 hospice volunteers have been inducted into the Circle of Outstanding Volunteers.



Hospice Peterborough Board chair Bob Campbell showed leadership and compassion in his role throughout COVID-19

Happy Spring!



Thank you *The Florest* for donating Spring flowers to our residence!



Spreading some love on Valentine's Day with a basket of goodies delivered to our friends at the PRHC palliative unit.

Cranberry Candle Sales Support Hospice

Living Local owner Alicia Doris explains why she has supported Hospice for many years

A local community collaboration between artists, local business owners and a graphic designer has translated into a \$350 donation for Hospice Peterborough.

Many of our supporters went to Living Local over the holidays to purchase the Cranberry Crisp Scented Candle, which was paired with a matching Christmas card, as \$2 from each purchase was set aside for Hospice.

Living Local owner Alicia Doris made the donation at the end of the year and says a future donation is coming as she continues to sell the candles into 2022.

Ms. Doris explains that she has supported Hospice Peterborough for many years.

“Shortly after the loss of my best friend, I was drawn to volunteer at Hospice Peterborough,” she says. “Having worked in health care in the city, I knew that Hospice played an important role, but I had never had any personal interactions. While I don't recall it being a deliberate decision, I no doubt chose to spend time at Hospice knowing that my grief would be welcomed and acknowledged there.”

“I volunteered as part of the Every Moment Matters fundraising campaign, and I quickly learned about the Hospice Residence and all that it would offer individuals and families in our community. Over the last several years especially, Hospice's work has been broadening and deepening, and its importance is undeniable. We are so fortunate to know that when we need them, Hospice physicians, staff and volunteers will be there - and it's an honour to be able to support their work.”

Hospice Peterborough executive director Hajni Hős says she is thankful for the donation and loves that the fundraiser was a true community collaboration including Lindsey Irwin, of Old Jar Candle Co.; artist Megan Ward; graphic designer Joanne Ward and Campus Print @Trent.

“We thank all involved for their generosity,” Hős says. “When we work together as a community, we all truly thrive.”



Alicia Doris helped provide support to Hospice Peterborough through sales of the candle.

How you can help

When you donate to Hospice Peterborough you are supporting 26 programs and services.

Please consider making your gift today.

YES, I want to support vital hospice palliative care!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount:

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other: _____

I would like to make my gift by:

Cheque (payable to Hospice Peterborough)

Visa MasterCard AMEX

Card #: _____

Expiry Date: _____

I would like to be an anonymous donor

This gift is in memory of:

For your safety, and the safety of our residence and staff, please consider donating online, or through the mail. We appreciate your understanding.

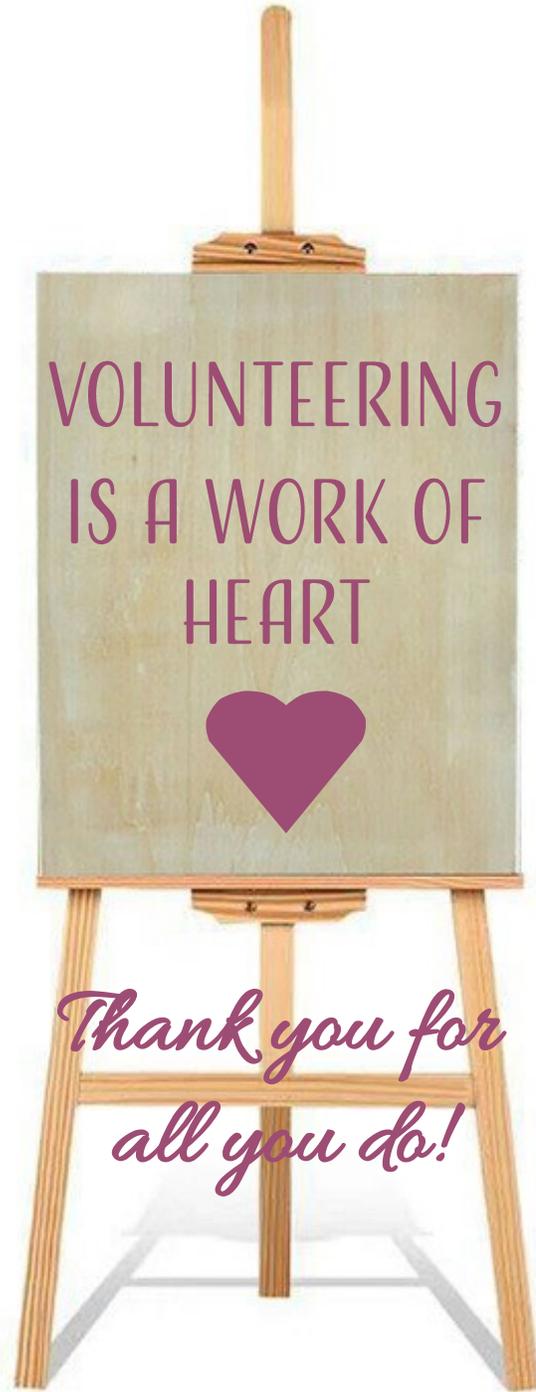
Registered Charity No. 11947 8964 RR0001

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

[Donate online at hospicepeterborough.org](http://hospicepeterborough.org)

Or mail to 325 London St Peterborough, ON K9H 2Z5

THANK YOU!
Donors make our care possible!



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