

LOVE NEVER *Dies*



**DURING OUR STAY AT HOSPICE,
CRYSTAL AND OUR FAMILY RECEIVED
TREMENDOUS SUPPORT.”**

Owen Sound, OHL Attack visit

My wife was a remarkable woman named Crystal Parker. At the age of thirty-nine, Crystal received devastating news - she was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer. This news shook her world and that of our loving family. Crystal was a young mother and wife, and the thought of leaving her loved ones behind was unbearable.

In the beginning, hospice was not something Crystal had considered. She had always been a strong and independent woman, determined to fight through any challenges that came her way. However, her



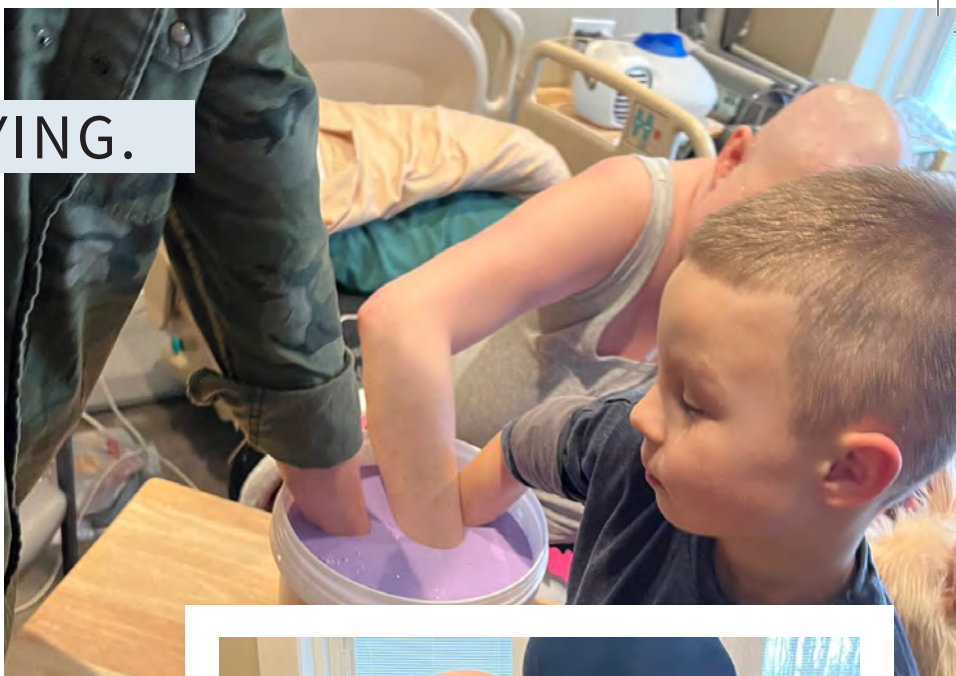
Brodie and Crystal snuggle the cute Shar-Pei puppies

LIVE WELL, WITH DYING.

health took a drastic turn for the worse just after Christmas last year. She found herself in the hospital, fighting for her life. The doctors told us that she was no longer able to receive treatment and to consider hospice care for her comfort and support during this challenging time.

In January 2023, Crystal entered Hospice, and we were unsure of what to expect. But little did we know that this would become a turning point in her journey. Despite her illness, Crystal rebounded and began to enjoy many great days with our family. Chapman House provided her with the care and support she needed to focus on being a mother again.

As Crystal's family, our son Brodie and I were her world. With hospice by her side, Crystal could finally let go of the worries about who would take care of her and the daily struggles of



Legacy project hand mould done by the whole family

being a terminally ill cancer patient. She could cherish precious moments with her boys, creating memories that would last a lifetime.

During our stay at hospice, Crystal and our family received tremendous support. We celebrated Crystal's birthday, filling the room with laughter and joy. Family sleepovers became a regular occurrence, allowing us to cherish every moment together. Even our family dog, Jack Riley, stayed by Crystal's side, providing comfort and companionship.



Brodie and Owen Sound Attack Player, Madden Steen, playing video games in the children's room at hospice.

Turn to keep reading...

During the month of February, the Owen Sound Attack, who were doing a charity game for Grey Bruce Hospice, had some players come to visit Brodie, a huge fan of the Attack. They spent time with him, sharing stories and playing mini sticks and video games in the children's room at Chapman House. The team also joined us for a visit from a litter of Shar Pei puppies! It was a moment that brought immense happiness to Crystal, Brodie, and me.



Celebrating Crystal's Birthday as a family

As Crystal's time in hospice continued, the staff and Crystal worked on a unique legacy project. They helped us create a beautiful mould of Crystal, Brodie, and my hands, capturing the love and bond we shared. It was a tangible reminder of our time together, something Brodie and I could cherish long after Crystal was gone.

Hospice became more than just a place for Crystal and our family. It became a sanctuary - a place where people come to finish living, to celebrate life's precious moments, and to feel the love that never dies. Crystal's journey with Grey Bruce Hospice showed the power of compassion, support, and the strength of a family united in love.



Nixon Wrinkle Ranch's, Sherri & Jeff Nixon along with Crystal, Brodie and Attack players enjoy shar pei puppy snuggles

Celebrate life's precious moments.

Crystal died on April 22nd, 2023, at Chapman House. Three and a half months after almost losing her and thinking that was all the time they had left together. Shea attributes the quality-of-life Crystal and the whole family had during the last 3 months to the outstanding care from the team of dedicated professionals and volunteers at Grey Bruce Hospice, Chapman House.

Crystal's story serves to remind us of the importance of cherishing every moment and embracing the love and support that surrounds us. Even in the face of terminal illness, Crystal showed her family and those around her the true meaning of living, and her legacy lives on, inspiring others to find joy and love in the simplest of moments.

Volunteering

We rely on volunteers to donate thousands of heartfelt hours to take care of this hospice home, its residents, and their families. We have many areas where folks can volunteer including; Resident & Family Care, Reception, Gardening, Fundraising & Events, Kitchen and more!

Thank you so much to all our incredible volunteers! The work you do is pivotal to the care provided by Chapman House.

Bereavement

Our care doesn't end when your loved one is no longer at hospice.

We offer monthly Bereavement support calls for a year after your loved one has passed, memorial services which take place four times a year, and a six-session grief group which runs various times throughout the year.

Our grief groups are open to anyone in Grey Bruce experiencing grief and loss.

Fundraising

Did you know that the care provided at Chapman House is available at no cost to the families thanks to the generosity of our Grey & Bruce communities.

For ever \$1 spent – \$0.43 is funded by the Ontario Government. Which means that \$0.57 needs to be raised from the local community. We are endlessly grateful for the support we receive from individuals and organizations in Grey & Bruce.

How to Make a Referral

Anyone can request a hospice application. The applicant must have a life expectancy of 3 months from the time of admission. Individual care needs will be assessed in collaboration with HCCSS-SW (Home and Community Care Support Services – South West), Hospitals and Physicians to ensure a smooth transition from hospital or home for End-of-Life care at Chapman House. For more information contact our Clinical Care Coordinator Ann Elford at 519-370-7239



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