



Local business leaders donate \$500,000 to Durham Region Hospice – Clarington
Significant financial contribution will support construction of five-bed residential hospice care centre

October 11, 2018

Clarington, Ont. – Durham Region Hospice (DRH) announced today that it has received \$500,000 in funding from three of Clarington's most established business leaders toward the construction of Durham Region Hospice – Clarington.

These generous donations were announced at an event held earlier today at Algoma Orchards in Clarington with Algoma Orchards President Kirk Kemp and his wife Sheila, and Algoma Orchards Chief Executive Officer Mike Gibson and his wife Carissa, each contributing \$200,000. In addition, Syvan Developments Limited President Ed Vanhaverbeke and his wife Sylvia announced a donation of \$100,000. The funding will be used to support the five-bed residential hospice care centre being built on Cobble Dick Road in Newcastle on land donated earlier this year by the Municipality of Clarington.

"I am thrilled to host this event in support of Durham Region Hospice – Clarington and draw attention to the importance of bringing our community together to raise the funds required to bring this incredibly meaningful project to life," said Kirk Kemp. "There is an urgent need for residential hospice beds in Durham Region, and the support of our local business owners and families is critical to breaking ground on a facility that will positively change the lives of individuals with a palliative diagnosis, and their loved ones, as they live out their final days."

According to the Central East Local Health Integration Network, there is an immediate need for 33 residential hospice beds in Durham Region, a number that will continue to increase as our population grows. Despite this need, the region remains one of the only areas in Ontario without a fully operational residential hospice care centre, meaning that the only option for individuals with a palliative diagnosis is to remain in hospital or go home. Once constructed, Durham Region Hospice – Clarington will help meet this need by offering an important alternative in the form of meaningful care – at no cost to residents or their family members – in a supportive, home-like environment where residents are cared for via an interdisciplinary team of health-care professionals and volunteers who assist with pain and symptom management, comfort measures, counselling, and emotional and spiritual support.

"We are extremely proud to make this donation and today I challenge the Clarington business community to join Sheila and myself, as well as the Gibson and Vanhaverbeke families, in our support," added Kemp. "Whether that means matching our donations or simply giving what you can – every donation counts."

The new centre will offer private rooms, free parking, unrestricted visiting hours and the ability to live freely, including flexible meals based on each resident's choice, continuing to live with pets, bathing/showering at leisure, going outside as desired, and access to a wide range of non-medical service and program options. In addition, it will feature a great room, dining room, multipurpose room, kitchen, bathroom, reception area, spiritual space, family counselling rooms, an outdoor courtyard with a reflecting pool, and walking paths.

“Today we recognize the spirit of community and the generosity of the Kemp, Gibson and Vanhaverbeke families in directly supporting our goal to bring residential hospice to Clarington, where it is so desperately needed,” said Melodie Zarzeczny, chair, Board of Directors, Durham Hospice and co-chair of Durham Region Hospice. “On behalf of everyone at Durham Region Hospice, I thank Kirk and Sheila, Mike and Carissa, and Ed and Sylvia for their commitment to creating a centre that is not just bricks and mortar, but a place where those with a palliative diagnosis, and their family members, can access the best possible experience and care – for generations to come. Together, we can build the residential hospice care centre our community truly deserves.”

The \$500,000 donation will support DRH’s \$15 million ‘Comfort, Care, Compassion’ capital campaign, which launched in February 2018 and is aiming to raise \$10 million toward the construction of Durham Region Hospice – Whitby and \$5 million toward Durham Region Hospice – Clarington.

Hospice is about caring, not curing, and the time to care is now. To learn more about how DRH is bringing residential hospice care to Durham Region, visit www.durhamregionhospice.ca, follow us on Facebook at @durhamregionhospice or contact info@durhamregionhospice.ca.

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About Durham Region Hospice

Durham Region Hospice is a partnership between Durham Hospice and VON Durham Community Corporation that was formed in June 2017 to raise \$15 million toward the construction of residential hospices in Whitby and Clarington via a capital campaign. The campaign is aligned with a provincial government commitment to making it easier for families in Durham Region to access end-of-life and palliative care.

For more information:

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