

2012 BRANTFORD - REDEFINING HOPE CAMPAIGN – MAJOR GIFT THE BRANTFORD EXPOSITOR – OCTOBER 15, 2012

Thanks a million!

By [Michelle Ruby](#), Brantford Expositor

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CHRISTOPHER SMITH, The Expositor Elsie Hankinson (centre) presents Bob Peeling, chair of the St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation, and Olga Consorti, the foundation's CEO, with \$1 million from the Lorne and Elsie Hankinson Charitable Foundation for a new 10-bed hospice.

A new 10-bed hospice on the grounds of St. Joseph's will be called Hankinson House in honour of its biggest benefactors whose \$1 million donation was announced Monday.

The contribution comes from the Lorne and Elsie Hankinson Charitable Foundation, established after the couple won just over \$5 million in 2004 with their lucky Lotto 6-49 ticket.

Since that time, "their windfall has become a windfall for the entire community," said Bob Peeling, chair of the St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation.

The \$1-million donation brings the campaign to build a new hospice to 75% of its \$5-million goal.

Organizers are now challenging every household in the community to donate to the cause.

"If every household donated \$32.38, the remaining \$1.2 million can be raised overnight and construction of the new hospice can begin," said Olga Consorti, CEO of St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation.

Consorti said increased demand for the current six-bed hospice and the programs it offers left administration and staff at a crossroads.

"This facility was not built or staffed to accommodate the overwhelming demand," she said. "Our options were to cut services or expand."

The Stedman Community Hospice opened in 2004 and has, over the years, been a pioneer in launching a number of provincial firsts, including the creation of a community outreach program.

The hospice sends a doctor, along with an inter-disciplinary team of experts, to the homes of hospice patients who are in acute crisis and in need of immediate pain and symptom management. They also provide care for families in need of bereavement support.

When the outreach program began, its patient caseload was 30 per month. Now the hospice is visiting 200 patients per month.

In addition, the number of residential program patients has nearly doubled, the day wellness program has had more than 4,400 visits, and use of the bereavement programs has increased significantly.

"We cannot continue at this pace in the current facility," said Consorti.

The new hospice will include 10 private bedrooms for 24-hour care for those with three months or less to live, fully functioning kitchens, large family gathering areas, doctors' living quarters for residents doing their rotations on site, and therapeutic spa facilities.

The current hospice building will be used for bereavement services and expansion of the day wellness programs for those who are well enough to remain at home but in need of some care and support.

All of the hospice programs and services are offered free of charge. The St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation raises in excess of \$1.5 million annually to cover the costs.

Elsie Hankinson has been named honorary chair of the hospice's Redefining Hope Campaign. She said that both she and Lorne, who died last May, shared an admiration for the work done by the hospice.

"We eagerly looked forward to this day," she said.

"We were very much aware of the need and very much aware of the wonderful services of the hospice."

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Want to know more?

For more information, including how to donate to the hospice campaign, go to www.sjlc.ca.