

Site work begins for new residential hospice

Expositor Staff

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Fencing has been erected around the site for the new 10-bed, 25,000-square-foot Hankinson House residential hospice. (Submitted Photo)

Fencing is now in place around the property designated for a new residential hospice building in conjunction with Stedman Community Hospice.

Hankinson House will be a 10-bed, 25,000-square-foot facility off Grey Street.

"We are anticipating putting a shovel in the ground by August, with construction to be completed by next summer," said Derrick Bernardo, president of St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre, in a media release.

Bernardo said he is "humbled by the support" of the community for this project.

"They are so committed to bringing this new hospice to life by generously donating to our foundation, which has the huge task of raising millions to make this project happen as there is no government funding for it. We couldn't have come to this stage without their support," Bernardo said.

Fundraising will continue for the project as the \$5-million goal has not yet been met, said Olga Consorti, CEO of St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation, the fundraising arm for the hospice).

"We are definitely getting close and are confident that the community will come through for us by the time the project is completed next year. Cost saving benefits of starting now versus the winter months were too compelling to ignore," Consorti said.

Details of the status of fundraising efforts will be announced at a ground-breaking ceremony to be held in the fall, she said.

Thanks to the community's outpouring of support, substantial enhancements to the initial plans are expected to offer greater access to care and support through an expanded scope of services.

"Never in our wildest dreams did we ever think that we would be in the position to be able to build a brand new facility, increase our beds and expand our day wellness programs and services as well," Consorti said. "Brantford never ceases to amaze me."

Can you help?

Those wishing to donate to the Redefining Hope campaign may give online at www.sjlc.ca, call the office at 519-751-7096, ext. 2475, or mail a cheque or Visa or MasterCard information to St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation, 99 Wayne Gretzky Pkwy., Brantford, N3S 6T6.