



Upcoming Events:

ROGER'S HOUSE
TELETHON

SENS VS. RED WINGS
FEBRUARY 27TH
7:30 PM



A Message from Susan Richardson, our Board Chair

Roger's House is facing some big and exciting changes in the next few years.

The changes begin with Lloyd Cowin, our Executive Director, retiring on February 28th, 2014. The Board of Directors is working with an executive search firm to hire a replacement prior to his departure.

The Board, employees, physicians, volunteers and the Family Advisory Committee all contributed to the 2013-2015 strategic plan. The breadth of perspectives has helped to provide a rich, exciting plan. The plan includes work to improve access, quality and breadth of services. We look forward to working with our funders, care partners and others to bring the plan into reality.

In 2014 we will be co-sponsoring with Rotary Home and the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre a pilot project with regard to improving the coordination of respite services for children who are medically fragile and/or technologically dependent. Representatives of the Boards of the three organizations met in November to approve the respite pilot project and to begin discussions about social enterprise and how we might jointly explore this potential opportunity.

Much is happening at Roger's House and the Board looks forward to guiding the organization through these important initiatives.



The Basement is Ready!

We are proud to share that the renovation of the Roger's House basement is complete! Our new space accommodates our Social Worker, medical and administrative residents, 2 washrooms (including a shower!), and a room that can be used both as a family suite and a meeting room. Of particular excitement are spaces that will be dedicated as a recreation room geared to teenagers and a staff/volunteer training room that frees up the play room and living room upstairs for the children. One such opportunity was a corporate day of volunteering, when Health Canada employees spent the day in our new space creating bereavement support resources.



A Message from Lloyd Cowin, our Executive Director

After 8 years at Roger's House and 12 years at CHEO, all of which have been very stimulating and rewarding, I announced my retirement to the Roger's House Board of Directors and CHEO Senior Management in September, effective February 28, 2014.

It was not an easy decision - because I enjoy my job, working with a tremendously dedicated team of staff, physicians and volunteers, and because we are entering an exciting time for Roger's House and pediatric palliative care. The next few years will likely bring many positive changes to our services.



Respite Booking

It's that time of year again - to begin planning for guaranteed respite visits at Roger's House for 2014. Remember that 2 months' notice is required for holidays, March break & summer visits so we can plan staffing in advance. We book up very quickly!

In an effort to ensure that more families have access to respite during peak periods, we are initiating some changes for 2014. All families will continue to be entitled to 35 days of guaranteed respite per year. Between June 15th & September 1st, stays will be limited to 10 days. Families will also be entitled to respite for 2 long weekends per year and every other March break. All else will remain the same.

If you'd like to make a booking or discuss these changes, please contact Nancy Graham, Admissions Coordinator, at 613-523-6300 ext. 619.

It is important for my health to retire at this time. Many of you know, I have Parkinson's disease and it is time for me to focus on doing what I can to minimize its impact. All of the families I have met along the way have had a great influence on me and my outlook on life. I thank you all for that.

The Board has hired an executive search firm to help find my successor. I am looking forward to a smooth transition and the opportunity to work with the new Executive Director sometime in the new year.

First Pediatric Palliative Care Symposium Hosted in Ottawa

Roger's House and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) Palliative Care Teams in collaboration with the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) held their first Pediatric Symposium this fall. The symposium was held as a satellite of the national palliative care conference and took place October 30, 2013 at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa, ON.

The event brought together many national and international speakers and professionals of pediatric palliative care to share expertise and experiences. Over 100 individuals participated in sessions that ranged in focus from how society views death and dying in children to international developments in pediatric palliative care and spiritual support, and culminating with a panel of parents offering advice on their experience of having received pediatric palliative care. The day was an overwhelming success!

Roger's House and CHEO hope to be involved in planning and hosting the next Canadian Pediatric Palliative Care Symposium.



A Message from Katt, our Recreational Therapist

Around the World at Roger's House

We have had so much fun over the past couple of months here at Roger's House. This summer we packed our bags, got out our passports, hopped on an airplane, and took a trip around the world! We travelled to see all the wonders of the world. The children of Roger's House travelled to Egypt, Italy, Ghana, Japan, Brazil, England and France. In each country we tried some of the local food, learned to speak a few words in the local language, and participated in fun activities. It was a blast to experience so many places



with all the children of Roger's House and learn about so many different cultures. As summer and our trip came to an end we all had to start to get ready for back-to-school. But soon after back-to-school comes HALLOWEEN!

Halloween was celebrated in full swing at Roger's House with our annual Halloween Party! This year we were greeted at our doors with Ironman, zombies, clowns, minions, cowgirls, and so many more fabulous Halloween characters. Thank you to all of those who celebrated Halloween with us at Roger's House!

We look forward to sharing new adventures with you soon!

In Remembrance of...

We honour the following children who have passed away since Spring 2013 :

Charlotte Baklinski	Makyla Stusko
Lily Beaupre	Sam Tobias
Karine Belisle	Valentina Trout-Colpas
Antoine & Louis Brouca	Grayson Durelle
Catelin Cullen	Noah Nairne
Nathan Daley	India Taylor
Jonathan Desjardins	Eliane Bissonnette
Alexander Ferguson	Jack Thompson

Volunteers:

A Special Gift of Time

Roger's House engages a number of talented volunteers who contribute in so many ways. We could easily write a book on their stories. In Palliative Care we often witness situations which can be attributed to fate; we immediately know "it was meant to be."

Once such example took place this Fall. Bereaved parents can choose to have a legacy quilt made by Volunteer Quilters. The materials used to create these special quilts are the child's clothing, blankets, and other items that were close to them. Recently, Mom Tania was matched with a group of quilters: Cathy, Mary and Janice. The ladies quickly realized there was a special significance to the making of this particular quilt. The quilt was in memory of Morgan, Tania's daughter. Cathy's late husband had shared the same name. The similarities go further: when Cathy gave Tania the quilt on Thanksgiving Monday, she was told it had arrived at a good time. The 3-year anniversary of Morgan's death, October 18th, was coming up that week. Cathy got chills - October 18th was the same day her husband had passed away in a car accident. Now every year on October 18th Cathy will think of her husband and this beautiful little girl who she never met, but has touched her so deeply.

If you know of any quilting guilds who would be interested in helping families have their own legacy quilt, please contact Lise Beauchemin, Coordinator of Volunteer Services. volunteers@rogershouse.ca



FAC Highlight from Sharon Liff

The Family Advisory Committee is a group determined to make a difference.

I joined the Family Advisory (FAC) in order to give back and help others. My son Adam Liff-Neilson was born with a rare disease called Pelizaeus-Merzbacher Disease (PMD). The incidence of PMD is 1 in 500,000. Adam is unable to walk, talk or feed himself and receives supplemental feeding via G-tube.

Roger's House has provided us with needed support over the years. We have used Roger's House for respite and for transition-to-home when Adam has been at CHEO for an extended period of time. We are also able to call and request telephone supports to assist us to keep Adam at home when he is ill. Roger's House has provided us with the support to recover from exhaustion and to try to have a semblance of normal life, to even include sleeping in and house-cleaning ☺.

The Family Advisory Committee consists of parents and Roger's House representatives. We discuss Roger's House initiatives and strategies and provide input, feedback and ideas for upcoming events to enhance the programs at Roger's House. I enjoy being a part of the FAC because our voices are heard and are valued. I also enjoy being with a group of like-minded people who understand our needs and also are passionate about working together. We discuss issues that touch our children and our family lives and we are able to attain a better understanding of how Roger's House functions. In addition, we are provided with an awesome dinner during each meeting!

We meet once every two months during the school year. It is fun but serious work at the same time. Are you interested in joining the FAC? Please contact Marion at rat-tray@cheo.on.ca or Nora at nul-lyot@rogershouse.ca. Childcare is available at Roger's House during the meetings.



Roger's House Founding Sponsors



Roger's House would like to recognize **Angus Systems** for their donation of three 32GB iPod Touches, a speaker docking station and a gift certificate to iTunes for our recreation therapy program. This donation will allow our children to enjoy the therapeutic benefits of music! For anyone wishing to find out more about Angus Systems, their website can be accessed at <http://www.angus-systems.com/>.

The children, families and staff members of Roger's House wish to sincerely thank Angus Systems for their gift of music.



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