

WINTER ■ 2013

# ROGER'S HOUSE Chronicles

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT ROGER'S HOUSE!

## A Message from our Board Chair- Susan Richardson

In my new role as Chair of the Board of Roger's House, it is my privilege to thank Erin Crowe for her leadership of the Roger's House Board over the past year. Erin will continue as a Board member, so this isn't goodbye! It is also my pleasure to welcome Robert Houston and Dr. Pranesh Chakraborty as new members of the Board. Pranesh is the Director of Newborn Screening Ontario, a provincial program hosted by CHEO. Robert is a lawyer with the legal firm Burke-Robertson and is a former Chair of the CHEO Foundation Board.



We on the Board have always appreciated the tremendous contributions of the dedicated volunteers at Roger's House. I am very proud to share that our Volunteer Program has received external recognition for their excellence. Lise Beauchemin, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, and her team of 300+ volunteers won the Best Not-for-Profit Volunteer Program at the Volunteer Ottawa 2012 VOscares awards.

**Congratulations to the entire team for the tremendous work you do for Roger's House and our children, youth and families.**

## Worldwide Candle Lighting Celebration

*This is an annual event held in memory of all the Children who left us too soon. At 7:00pm in every time zone, candles are lit in honour of all children who have died. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are lit in the next, creating a 24-hour wave of light that encircles the globe. All parents, families and friends of children who have died from any cause, at any age, are invited to attend a non-denominational celebration of remembrance. Please bring a picture of your child, candles are provided.*

When: Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012      Where: St Paul's Presbyterian Church  
Hosted by: The Compassionate Friends of Canada, Ottawa Valley/Outaouais Chapter  
For further information, please contact: (613) 692-452, [tcfottawa@rogers.com](mailto:tcfottawa@rogers.com)





## A Message from our Executive Director – Lloyd Cowin



Over the past 7 years Roger's House and the CHEO Palliative Care Outreach Team have developed a strong partnership and, as a result, services that are responsive to families' needs. This past summer Marion Rattray, our manager, took the opportunity to add on to her European vacation and visited several British pediatric hospices and palliative care programs. While this was a terrific opportunity to learn what more experienced programs are doing, it also highlighted the fact that we are on the right track and, in fact, leading in some areas of service, education and research.

But, of course, there is always more to do and improvements to make. In April the Board of Directors of Roger's House will be looking toward the future and determining what we might work towards over the next 7 years. We will be collecting input from families, employees, volunteers and our partners over the winter. We welcome your feedback!

I would like to congratulate Lise Beauchemin and her dedicated team of 300+ volunteers for winning Volunteer Ottawa's 2012 Award for the Best Not-for-Profit Volunteer Program in Ottawa. This was not a surprise to us at Roger's House as we have always known how lucky we are to have such a committed group of volunteers with such a variety of skills. It was nice to see your good work recognized. We are very proud of you!

## Volunteer News



### Volunteer Corner

We are very proud to congratulate the Volunteers and staff who completed the 7-week Palliative Care Training.

Our newly trained Family Support staff and volunteers are: **Jen Brisson, Beth Campbell, Sara Doyle, Deirdre Freiheit, Meena Garcia, Kim Gunn, Hannah Lilly, Shirley Huang, Alexis Malone, Sarah Melville, Renée Pelletier, Marina Schneider, Nicole Synowski, Kat Brooks and Helen White.**



### Roger's House Salt Water Aquarium

Many people seem to enjoy the calm and distraction of the Roger's House salt water aquarium. Watching the fish, Nemo and Dory, thrills children and adults alike. It is an important element of the house.

We are fortunate to count on a reliable and expert team of aquarium enthusiasts to help maintain the beauty and health of the tank. This team is made up of volunteers. We are most grateful to the dynamic duo from Reef Wholesale, Ms. Trina Parsons and Mr. Patrick Foster, the leaders in the care of our aquarium. They have been supporting us with technical advice, support with upgrades to the equipment, all of which are donated. In addition, the food and algae is supplied by Reef Wholesale, free of charge! To help with the daily upkeep of the aquarium we have an engaged team of volunteers, Adam, Eric, Joanna, Alanna and Pierre.

The staff, the families, the volunteers and the guests thank you for the gift of the aquarium and its regular maintenance!





## BOOK YOUR GUARANTEED 2013 VISITS NOW!

Now is the time to start planning for guaranteed respite visits at Roger's House for 2013. Remember that 2 month's notice is required for holidays, March break & summer visits so we can plan staffing in advance. We are booking up quickly!

There will be some changes to our guaranteed respite admissions this year as a result of rising occupancy. Effective January 2012, the total number of guaranteed days per family per year will be 35 days and the total number of guests per day booked for guaranteed respite care at the House will be 3. We are confident that by making these changes we can better serve the needs of families whose children's care needs are escalating and who require admissions for end-of-life care or pain & symptom management. We will endeavor to meet the needs of all families we work with by maintaining a waiting list for those seeking additional respite.

If you'd like to make a booking or discuss these changes, please contact:

Nancy Graham, Admissions Coordinator at  
613-523-6300 ext. 619.



**IN MEMORY...**

We honour the following children who have recently passed away:

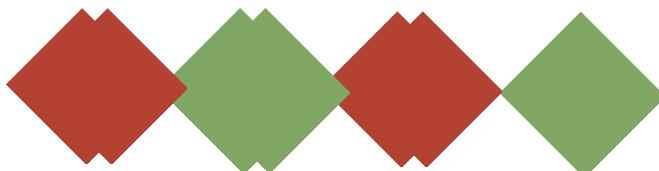
Ivy-Melissa Ryan  
Bryce Jude  
Kianna Laforest  
Jane Pendang  
Nushaiba Tabassum  
Emile Blais-Tremblay  
Mercedes Prud'homme

## Monthly Palliative Parent's Group

Roger's House, in collaboration with OCTC, is pleased to offer all families associated with the CHEO Palliative Care Outreach Team and the

Roger's House program a monthly parents support group. The group is held every second Tuesday of the month, from 10 am to 12 pm in the Roger's House living room.

The group is co-facilitated by Barb Juett (OCTC RSW) and Carol Chevalier (Roger's House RSW). When coming to the group, parents can expect a safe space to share their thoughts, emotions, and coping strategies, as well as a great opportunity to connect with other parents. Topics are planned in advance and in collaboration with group members. Coffee, tea and treats are provided. If you are interested in attending, please contact Carol Chevalier at Roger's House for more details at 613-523-6300 ext. 622



## Research at Roger's House

Roger's House and the CHEO Palliative Care team are embarking on a new research project called:

*Family-Centered Care in a Pediatric Palliative Care Hospice: Exploring Perceptions and Practices.*

Recruitment of participants will begin shortly by mail and email and will include Roger's House staff and CHEO Palliative Care Outreach Team members, Roger's House Board members and Volunteers as well as Families of Roger's House Guests. Should you have questions about this new study please forward them to Lynn Grandmaison Dumond at 613-523-6300 ext.610.

## Bereavement

Bereavement support and Memory-Making Services are available to all families of Roger's House, at any time. Our goal is to ensure that each and every family has personalized support for their child's individual path through illness. We also believe that all families should have access to meaningful and individualized support following the loss of their child. Please feel free to discuss support services available to all families with our social worker, Carol Chevalier. Carol is available to answer any questions you may have and to provide information regarding support services offered at Roger's House. She can be reached by phone at 613-523-6300 ext. 622, or by email [cchevalier@cheo.on.ca](mailto:cchevalier@cheo.on.ca).

Roger's House also offers Memory-Making opportunities for families, and examples of these services include providing families with memory boxes, photography sessions as well as hand and foot print casts. Families also have access to literature to address their emotions related to bereavement and coping.

## Roger's House Staff and Volunteers attend 19th International Congress on Palliative Care

In early October, a distinguished group of Roger's House staff and volunteers attended the 19th International Congress on Palliative Care in Montreal, QC. They participated and contributed to the success of the congress by attending a 2 day Seminar that focused on pediatric palliative care and a day dedicated to volunteers in hospice care.

We would like to note that Dr. Christina Vadeboncoeur gave an oral presentation:

### ***Validation of Pediatric Palliative Care Referral Criteria.***

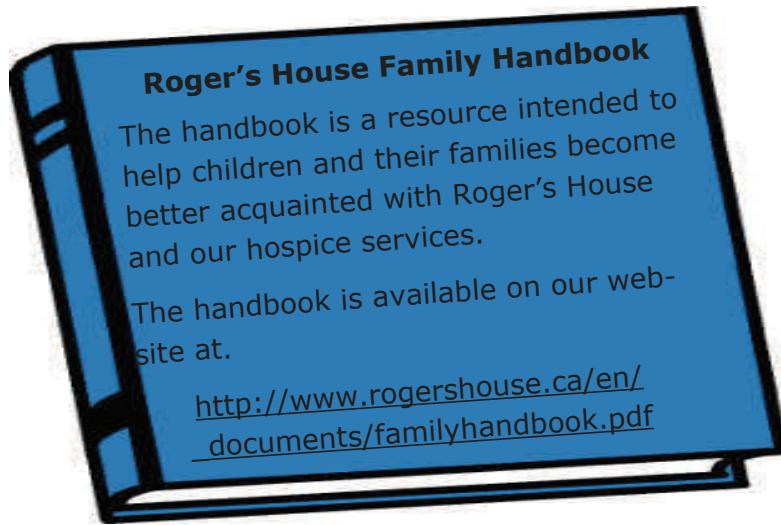
In addition, Lise Beauchemin (Coordinator of Volunteer Services) and Sarah Bolton (RN) shared the posters:

### ***Volunteer Satisfaction and Program Evaluation at a Pediatric Hospice and Parents' and Nurses' Experience of Decision-Making Concerning the Administration of PRN Anti-Seizure Medications to Children with a Seizure Disorder Receiving Respite Care Within a Palliative Care Program.***

The Congress offered opportunity for networking, learning and sharing knowledge.

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## THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDING SPONSORS!

