

Spring/Summer • 2016

ROGER'S HOUSE

Chronicles

Upcoming Events:

Open House -
Sunday, April 24
1000 - 1200
in honour of
National Volunteer
Week!

10 Year Anniversary
of Roger's House
June 2016 - details
to follow

Lemonade
Standemonium
Friday, June 3 2016



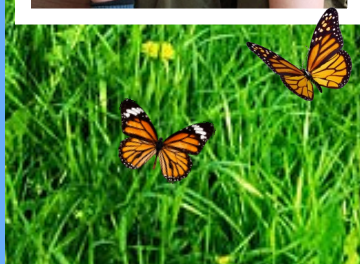
Our Journey: Andrea & David Gumpert-Bell



Our family journey with Roger's House has seen tragedy and challenges, but also resilience and joy. In spring 2011, our son Etienne died after an accident at his daycare. His death left our sunny life shattered. Through the Bereavement Group at Roger's House, we met other parents facing their own painful losses. We began to heal by sharing our grief and anger with them.

Two months after Etienne's death, we welcomed our son Emanuel into the world. Early on, we noticed that Emanuel wasn't meeting the expected milestones. He was eventually diagnosed with "global developmental delay", leaving us to grieve another loss familiar to Roger's House families: that our child would not live the life we dreamed for him. Emanuel began to have epileptic seizures at around two years, which we've worked hard to control ever since. He spends time at Roger's House to give us respite and to give him a safe and fun change of pace. By attending different Roger's House events, we have developed lasting friendships with inspirational parents and extraordinary children.

In late 2013, Roger's House cared for Emanuel while Andrea gave birth to our son Florian. ***Our happiest memory from Roger's House is when we brought newborn Florian to meet Emanuel for the first time.*** Etienne's star in the playroom was shining extra bright that day. We will always cherish that moment and we continue to be grateful and impressed by the Roger's House staff, volunteers and children who guide us on our journey.



A Message from our Executive Director, Megan Wright:

In February we bid a fond farewell to Marion Rattray, Manager of Roger's House. Marion retired after 41 years of service and dedication to Roger's House and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). Marion was instrumental in starting the palliative care program at CHEO and also in the building of Roger's House. She will be missed by everyone. We are very pleased that Helen Yoxon has joined the team as our new Manager. Helen is very committed to exceptional patient care and is excited for this new opportunity to help kids and their families.

The Volunteer Home Visiting service is in full swing. The families accessing this new additional respite service are very happy. The children receiving the one on one care from a volunteer are benefitting from this relationship. For more information please contact Lise Beauchemin, Coordinator of Volunteer Services.

In the coming months, the Roger's House Board of Directors and Leadership Team will be looking to the future and setting the course for work we need to do over the next five years. We will be collecting input from families, employees, volunteers and our partners.

Please stay tuned for opportunities to get involved!

Our 10 year anniversary is coming up this Spring. We will be hosting an open house to thank our community for their ongoing generous contributions and support in providing pediatric palliative care patients and families the best care possible. Invitations will be sent out to all our guests and families, past and present, to celebrate in our collective success.

I would like to thank all of our wonderful staff and volunteers, whose dedication and hard work I am continually impressed with. Thank you! - Megan Wright



Goodbye & Best Wishes; Reflections from Marion Rattray:



It seems like only yesterday that Roger's House was merely a vision. Twelve years have passed since a team from CHEO, The Ottawa Senators Foundation and the Community, came together to make Roger Neilson's legacy a reality.

Within two years, Roger's House was built, the programming was developed and the team was hired. On reflection I am so proud of what has been accomplished since the doors opened in 2006. There have been nearly 20,000 patient days, and hundreds of children and their families have received support through the various programs. Experience and research has led to the development of additional programs. None of this would have been possible without the ongoing commitment and dedication of the incredible staff and volunteers, the support of the families, and the generosity of the community.

As I leave the role of Roger's House Manager I would like to personally thank you all for making Roger's House the success it has become. My vision and dreams have been surpassed. It has been a privilege to work with you all.

- Marion Rattray

I wish Roger's House many more years of success.

Welcome Helen Yoxon, Manager !

Hello Everyone, I am in my first month of my new position at Roger's House and I am so happy to be part of this incredible team. I have been meeting many families, staff and volunteers and I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you.

My door is always open.



I have been learning so much from everyone and want to thank all of you for making me feel so welcome. So far, I have seen that Roger's House is full of compassion and teamwork. I sincerely look forward to the future

- Helen Yoxon



Thumbs up for warmer weather!

Family Advisory Committee Update:

Mindy McHardy

"Hi there!" from the members of your Family Advisory Committee (FAC). The FAC is an important link for families of Roger's House, the Executive Director, leadership team, employees, and volunteers.

We are recruiting new members and would love for you to join us!

The FAC acts in an advisory capacity to provide timely, constructive feedback from a family perspective. Specifically, our mandate includes review regarding policies and initiatives, or advice to help plan, create and enhance programs for Roger's House families. We participate in networking with other pediatric Family Advisory groups and help educate on matters related to pediatric hospice palliative care and bereavement when required.

The FAC is made up of up to 10 family members with an aim to have equal distribution between parents receiving palliative care and those accessing bereavement services.

Please contact Nancy Graham, Admissions Coordinator at ngraham@rogershouse.ca for more information and join us as our newest member!



Changes to Admission & Discharge Times:

Effective January 1, 2016, changes to admission and discharge times were introduced.

****Admissions now occur between 1 & 4 pm.**

Discharges now occur between 9 & 11 am.**



Many families have been able to adjust their routines to accommodate this change. Some, for example, have chosen to admit their children Friday or Saturday afternoon and pick them up early Monday morning. Others have chosen weekday admissions (eg. admission on a Sunday afternoon and discharge the following Saturday morning). Several families have asked if they can book their children until Monday morning but actually pick them up on Sunday evening. We discourage this because it impacts on the House. For example, additional staff may have been hired for a given Sunday night shift or other requests for admission may have been denied based on expected occupancy.

To discuss possible options, please contact Nancy Graham, Admissions Coordinator at 613-523-6300 ext. 619.

Happy Spring!



Sibling  love

In Remembrance of...

WE HONOUR THE CHILDREN WHO WE HAVE CARED FOR AT ROGER'S HOUSE SINCE OUR LAST CHRONICLES

Hala Al Jasem
Khadija Al Jasem
Brock Bennett
Liam Clark
Karam Dhama
Kate Drury
Ryan Foster
Christian Hearty

Kelli Hill
Ezekiel Ilg
Jeremy Kilabuk
Zacharie Lalonde
Alexander Lazore
Gabriel Mihalache-Mwadi
Maellys-Chelsea Niyungeko

Thomas Ntumba
Samuel Pettis
Joseph Qavavau
Ariane Tremblay
Mikens Vainqueur
Griffin Walker
Zoe Schlegel

Visiting Volunteer Service:

Lise Beauchemin

What are parents and volunteers saying about the Visiting Volunteer Service:

"The volunteer is a perfect match for our child and her enthusiasm and creativity is very obvious to me. So pleased to be a part of this new Roger's House program and thank you for including our family in it !" ~ RH Parent

"They are such a lovely family and the home environment is so relaxed. I look forward to my next visit." ~ RH Volunteer

Parents:

Would you like to have a Roger's House volunteer visit your child in your home on a regular basis? Contact Lise Beauchemin, Coordinator of Volunteer Services for more details lbeauchemin@cheo.on.ca or 613-523-6300 ext. 605



What a wonderful match!



Find us on Social Media!

Social media has changed the way the world communicates and we thought it was time for Roger's House to connect with the rest of the world!

Over the last couple of months, we launched our Roger's House Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts and have received lots of positive feedback.

Our Social media project is still in its infancy and we anticipate many changes along the way, however, our primary objective is to create a social media community where information, pictures and resources can be shared. We want our social media accounts to be a true representation of what really goes on in the House, while showcasing the amazing generosity of our selfless volunteers and incredibly generous community that make it all possible. The accounts are maintained by Roger's House staff, (not a media or public relations department) and we would love to have your feedback.

Please email us socialmedia@rogershouse.ca or feel free to interact with us directly on social media.



Twitter [@RogersHouse1](https://twitter.com/RogersHouse1)



Facebook: [Roger's House](https://www.facebook.com/RogersHouse)



Instagram: [rogers_house](https://www.instagram.com/rogers_house)

SPOTLIGHT ON!!!!



All smiles at the “barber shop”

Staff Nurse: **Katie Patterson**

For the last two years I have been extremely fortunate to be a part of the Roger's House family. As many of you know, I began my journey with Roger's House as a student. After my first several days, I quickly fell in love with the children, families and my fellow staff members at the House. Following my placement, I was so excited to find out I was successfully chosen as a registered staff member.

I am very blessed to work with such a dynamic team that is always willing to teach and support each other. Mostly, I have been amazed with the strength every child and family I have had the honour to meet and care for. Besides all the fun and cuddles, I am looking forward to seeing what spring will bring to Roger's House.



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Address: 399 Smyth Road,
Ottawa, ON K1H 8L2
Email: Info@rogershouse.ca

Volunteer: **Isabelle Piché**

We would like to introduce you to Isabelle Piché, Roger's House Volunteer Translator. As you can see, we don't have an accompanying photo to identify Isabelle. She is someone who prefers to give back in a quiet and discreet fashion. This talented and skilled individual has been translating documents from English to French for Roger's House since January 2010. In fact, all the Roger's House Chronicles since 2011 have been translated by Isabelle. Ms. Piché receives the documents electronically, completes the translation according to the deadlines provided by Roger's House and submits by email. We have not seen Isabelle since the interview, but we communicate regularly. On behalf of everyone who accesses Roger's House, **Thank You Isabelle for your dedication and efforts!** The impact of your gift of time and knowledge is priceless. Thank you for helping Roger's House communicate in both official languages.

Merci. *Lise Beauchemin,*
Coordinator of Volunteer Services



Please **WELCOME** our New Employees!

Madelena Arnone
Molly Brown
Debbie Donnelly

Brandy Prevost
Caulette Wiseman

