

## 35 Years: COURAGE, COMPASSION AND COMMUNITY | By John Hutton



The genesis of Jocelyn House Hospice goes back to a point even before her death. Jocelyn had been diagnosed with an aggressive form of bone marrow cancer in June of '79, just before her 17th birthday. From June to October she was in and out of Hospital having her right leg amputated, receiving two lung surgeries and several rounds of chemo therapy. Through this time, she had been home for

various periods but the Health Sciences Centre seemed like her permanent residence with home being a place where she came to recuperate between hospital stays.

But all of that changed at Halloween. I remember sitting in the living room with my foster-brother Ed as Dad told us what Jocelyn herself had learned just a few hours before. She would no longer be receiving treatment for her cancer. It took a second or two to understand what he meant – our sister was going to die. As jarring and horrible as that moment was it was also a turning point. No more going back and forth to the hospital, Jocelyn would now be able to spend the rest of her time in the place that was most special to her surrounded by her favorite people and things. And for us, it meant we could share time with her in a place where we were fully comfortable as well, and in charge. No more having to plan visits around hospital rules and schedules in spaces not designed or intended for the sharing of quality time.

I now realize that it was at this point that we all made a shift from 'hoping' to 'coping' with my sister setting the example for the rest of us to follow. Time spent together became much freer as a result – no more awkwardly offering assurances that she would beat the cancer ravaging her body. Instead she helped us come to grips with her new reality which in turn provided her strength as we ourselves got stronger and fully accepting of the situation.

Nurses came out to the house to administer her pain meds and showed me how to do the injections, so they did not have to come as

frequently. Jocelyn moved downstairs to settle into a bed with a view of the river where she could spend time with our cat and her many friends. In a very real way, Jocelyn became the first resident of what has become Jocelyn House, in November of 1979. I am not sure precisely when it occurred to my parents to transform our home into a hospice but the benefits of being out of a clinical, hospital setting for Jocelyn and all of those who loved her became clear almost immediately.

First, there was the house itself which brought us to St. Vital from River Heights in the fall of 1969. Nestled into an acre of land, gently wrapped by the Seine river on two sides it even had its own little forest. With not one but two golf-courses on the other side of the river and a neighbouring house immediately adjacent only on the south side, it was and is an extremely peaceful place. But it wasn't just the house that made her last few months so special – it was the community that Jocelyn created around herself; the friends, neighbours and well-wishers who poured in through the doors on a daily basis. This community of support deeply impacted my parents and was something they consciously set out to replicate as they began the creation of Jocelyn House.

From the earliest stages my parents had a two-fold vision for the Hospice. One, it would have a Chaplain or Counselling component, so every resident could enjoy social and spiritual support as my sister had. And secondly, it was not enough that Jocelyn House be merely allowed or tolerated; it had to be an integral part of and embraced by the surrounding St. Vital/St. Boniface/Windsor Park communities.

Both parts of this vision have come about due to the hard work, dedication and commitment of my parents, hundreds of board members, staff, volunteers and neighbours. The success of the last 35 years is also the result of the hundreds of residents who have made Jocelyn House their home. Each one creating in their own way a community of love and support to embrace them at their end of life, just as my sister did. A community that grows ever stronger and more loving as each resident passes some part of it along to the next person.

## 35 Years OF COURAGE COMBINED WITH COMPASSION *Continued...*

Jocelyn famously said, “why not me” when she learned she wouldn’t reach her 18th birthday. Her focus was to live her life, - all of it, with love buoying her up instead of sadness weighing her down. Had she known that her courage would inspire and propel Western Canada’s first free-standing hospice in our old house, she would likely have said ‘not me, it was all of you who held me up that deserve the credit.’ In truth it was her courage combined with the compassion of the community who came around her and our family that caused Jocelyn House to come into being. And it is the courage and commitment of everyone who has passed through the

front door of 177 Egerton Road since October 20, 1985, that allows Jocelyn House to continue being.

In April my family and I observed the 40th anniversary of Jocelyn’s death an amount of time that seems both impossibly long and unbelievably short. The same can be said for Jocelyn House itself, now twice the age of the person who inspired it, but barely middle-aged with so much more to offer.

My heartfelt congratulations and warmest wishes to the whole Jocelyn House community on its up-coming anniversary – 35 years young.



John & Jocelyn Hutton

## 2020 NURSING WEEK

In the midst of the pandemic the management of Jocelyn House Hospice along with some community partners recognized the contributions of our hardworking and compassionate staff during Nursing Week. Thank you to Boston Pizza St. Vital, Safeway at Fermor and St. Anne’s, Tache Pharmacy, Old Dutch, BDI (Bridge Drive In), Golden Healthcare, Salisbury House and Birchwood Auto Group for acknowledging the important work our nurses and hospice care workers do every day!





# DEVELOPMENT REPORT | By Jacqueline Bouvier

## FROM THE FIRST MOMENT I WALKED THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR

at Jocelyn House Hospice I have admired the sense of community. Residents, their family and friends, volunteers, staff, neighbours and the community-at-large have all contributed to the atmosphere and operation of the hospice for 35 years. This has never been truer than during the 2020 pandemic! During the last few months, in a time of isolation, the feeling of community at Jocelyn House has remained strong. The support for the residents and staff has included a concert in the backyard, "window visits", signs of encouragement in the yard and on the sidewalks, restaurant and

flower deliveries, socially distanced parades through the yard for special events like Mother's Day and birthdays and an outpouring of support for our staff during Nurses Week. Our volunteers continued to play a role, from a safe distance, planting flowers and a little garden, maintained the yard and washing the windows to ensure a beautiful surrounding for our residents to enjoy during this challenging time. Our staff has been creative in maintaining a positive environment with activities like card making, manicures, bingo nights and a concert. The social distancing measures due to Covid-19 have forced the cancellation of all the 2020 fundraising events

planned to support the ongoing operating expenses of Jocelyn House Hospice. We are so grateful to the individuals, corporations and foundations that have made donations to ensure we are able to continue to operate despite the financial challenges the pandemic has caused.

I would like to extend a very special **THANK YOU to Dorais Charities Inc. and The Winnipeg Foundation** for their substantial financial contribution to the work we do at Jocelyn House Hospice! We are also grateful to the **Anderson Family Foundation, Craig and Ross Chartered Professional Accountants, Johnston Group and The Thomas Sill Foundation** for their generous support. Together, we add life to final days!

Thank you for the ways that you have been a part of our community during the last 35 years. We look forward to your continued support and encouragement.

With gratitude,

**Jacqueline Bouvier**  
Manager of Volunteers,  
Spiritual Care and Development



## We gratefully acknowledge these generous donors of \$1000+:

All Charities Campaign  
Anderson Family Foundation Inc.  
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Sheila Bradley  
BMO  
Buller Foundation Inc.  
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Shirley & Ed Mohr Fund - The Winnipeg Foundation  
Spletzer Family Foundation  
The Thomas Sill Foundation  
The Winnipeg Foundation

*Thank you*

## Ways YOU can help, because TOGETHER we add life to final days!

- Make a financial donation
- Donate grocery giftcards
- Become a monthly donor
- Donate your old vehicle through Donate-A-Car
- Make a memorial or milestone donation in recognition of a person or event
- Plan ahead and make a bequest to JHH in your will
- Give a gift of annuities or mutual funds



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Jackie Stephen

At Jocelyn House, we began the year with great anticipation and excitement, with plans to celebrate a milestone; 35 years of providing hospice care in our community. We had a number of events planned to recognize and honour the Hutton family who established the hospice in 1985, in the name of their daughter, Jocelyn.

Unfortunately, present circumstances resulting from the COVID -19 pandemic and the subsequent restrictions, prevent us from celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary on a grand scale with our community and supporters. Nevertheless, it is a momentous occasion and one worthy of recognition and reflection.

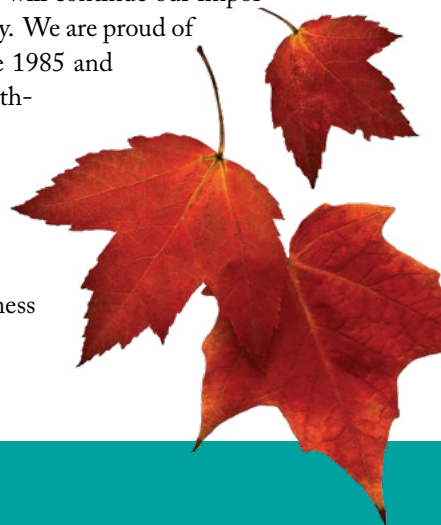
During the pandemic and like everyone, we have had to make many changes and learn to adapt to a "new normal". It was necessary initially, to suspend visitation by family members and all volunteer activity, which challenged our staff to find creative ways to fill the void and provide reassurance and support for the residents. This was an incredibly difficult time for everyone, especially the residents and their loved ones. As the restrictions eased, we were able to accommodate outdoor visits in the beautiful yard of Jocelyn House, surrounded by nature and wildlife. Enjoying the sunshine and fresh air and in the company of family once again, our residents' spirits were lifted and life became

a little bit more normal.

Facing end of life can be a lonely, scary time that brings feelings of isolation and lack of control. The COVID-19 pandemic also created similar feelings for many, as we were forced to self-isolate, practice social distancing and work from home. At Jocelyn House Hospice, we recognize the challenges our residents must face and with kindness, excellent care and compassion, we accompany them on their end of life journeys, encouraging them to *live until they die*.

The past few months have been challenging, but we've adapted and learned to do things differently so we can keep the important things the same. The essence of hospice care is to provide expert medical care for terminally ill patients, in a home-like environment and that hasn't changed. We look forward to the day when we can welcome visitors and volunteers back into our home, but in the meantime we will continue our important work, albeit a bit differently. We are proud of what we've accomplished since 1985 and are excited to embark on another 35 years of service to our community.

From our house to yours, we thank you for your ongoing support and wish you much happiness and good health.



KAREN LIVINGSTON

## Staff Profile

**I STARTED WORKING AT JOCELYN HOUSE HOSPICE IN 2018 AS THE NURSE MANAGER.** I have worked in multiple specialties of nursing, education and management during my nursing career of 34 years. My previous positions have prepared me well for this varied and fulfilling role at Jocelyn House.

Jocelyn House Hospice is and continues to be a very rewarding experience. The nurses, Hospice Care Workers, volunteers and managers make a great team and create a very positive environment for the residents.

One of my favourite parts of this job is the opportunity to connect with and support the residents and their loved ones. Our residents and families all hold a special place in my heart.

I am married with 2 sons, a dog and cat. I like to stay active and I enjoy knitting.

I am pursuing my Master of Nursing in the Fall, with palliative care as a focus of my thesis. My time at Jocelyn House with the residents and staff has inspired me and I look forward to the challenge.

*"One of my favourite parts of this job is the opportunity to connect with and support the residents and their loved ones."*

- KAREN



# Summer at the Hospice



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Sheila received a little pampering with a manicure.



Celebrating Joseph's summer birthday with an ice cream cake.



Chessie enjoying a walk in the neighbourhood.



Pauline received so many flowers for her birthday her room looked like a floral shop!



Our sunroom, overlooking the Seine River, is the perfect place to spend a summer afternoon.



Window visits during the early stage of the pandemic ensured our residents could stay connected with their loved ones.

## DONATE ONLINE! TODAY

at [www.jocelynhouse.ca](http://www.jocelynhouse.ca) or please fill out & mail the following form:

YES, I would like to help Jocelyn House with a gift of: ☐ \$50.00 ☐ \$100.00 ☐ \$150.00 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Cheque

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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By giving my email address I consent to receiving information from Jocelyn House Hospice.

## Thank You

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My donation is made in memory of:

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**ROGER BOUVIER**

# Volunteer Profile

I started volunteering my time at Jocelyn House Hospice because although I'm retired I enjoy something to do on a part-time basis, volunteering has always been a big part of my life, and I love cutting grass!

I have always admired the previous generation who has given so much for us. I love visiting seniors in home care situations because I find that they enjoy the visit and the opportunity to share their past. Often when I am out in the yard a resident will wave to me as I go by or thank me for my help and that connection is greatly appreciated.

I have been happily married to my wife Joanne for over 50 years, father of two and grandfather of two. I have been retired nearly 18 years and love to do volunteer work any chance I get. Cutting grass has always been relaxing for me and great exercise so it benefits me as well as Jocelyn House!

One of my favorite memories at Jocelyn House Hospice is attending the Evening of Christmas Carols each year in December with my wife. It is such a fun night with a great sense of community and I'm grateful to be a part of it.

**THANK YOU TO T & T SEEDS** for their generous donation of flowers and plants and Roger Brown for ensuring that our yard is a beautiful and inviting space for our residents and their outdoor visitors!



At Jocelyn House Hospice, we have a very clear idea of the role we play in our residents' lives and a vibrant vision for what our future holds...

## Our Mission

To carry on the dream of Jocelyn Hutton: adding life to final days for the terminally ill, and their loved ones, by providing care and comfort in a home-like setting.

## Our Vision for the Future

To enhance and expand Jocelyn House Hospice to meet the increasing needs for end-of-life care, while ensuring the mission and values on which our organization is founded are never compromised.