FALL / WINTER 2026

# INSIGHT

Stedman Community Hospice
Unstoppable Compassion

STORIES OF LOVE AND LIFE AT STEDMAN COMMUNITY HOSPICE



## IN THIS ISSUE


**COVER STORY:**
**Art Therapy helps children process sudden death of Mom** */ pages 4-5*

**New studio designed to help heal through creativity** */ page 3*

**Loss of 'Rock Star' dad leads Mom to grief support for boys** */ pages 6-7*

# A new space for healing, connection and expression



Stedman Community Hospice is pleased to announce the launch of a new Art Therapy studio, expanding the supportive care services available to patients, caregivers, families and community members navigating serious illness, grief and loss. Made possible through a Petro-Canada CareMakers Foundation grant, the new studio provides a welcoming and compassionate space where people of all ages can explore creativity, connect with others and find meaningful ways to express what they may be experiencing.

For some participants, the journey may be one of living with a serious illness and learning to navigate the changes, uncertainty and emotions that can accompany it. Others may be caregivers supporting someone they love, often while balancing their own emotional needs. Still others may be experiencing grief and bereavement and learning how to live with a significant loss.

Whatever brings someone through the studio doors, they will find a space where there is no expectation to have the "right" words.

Art therapy is a complementary approach that can support emotional well-being alongside other forms of care. It provides an opportunity to explore thoughts, feelings and experiences through creative expression rather than relying solely on conversation.

Participants might paint, draw, work with clay, create a collage or experiment with other forms of artistic expression. Artistic ability or previous experience is not required. The focus is not on creating a perfect piece of art, but on the process of creating and what that process may make possible.

Sometimes, feelings are difficult to explain. Art can provide another language — one that allows people to express emotions, memories, hopes and experiences that may be difficult to put into words.

For someone living with illness, creative expression may provide an opportunity to explore identity, uncertainty, hope or changing circumstances.

For caregivers, it can offer a moment to pause, reflect and reconnect with themselves. For those experiencing grief, art can create a gentle way to remember, express sorrow and begin to explore what life can look like after loss.

## Gift from German-Canadian Association to fund gazebo on Hospice grounds




Thanks to a gift of $250,000 from the German Canadian Association of Brantford, a beautiful gazebo will be built on the grounds of Stedman Community Hospice. The structure will be a space where hospice families can gather for special celebrations or simply enjoy time with each other in nature. This donation reflects proceeds from the Association's sale of the German Club (Sonnenhof) property. Additionally, a portion of the funds have been used in the purchase of dining and conversation sets for each of the Hospice's two patios.

Pictured L-R from the German Canadian Association of Brantford are Norm Schein, Barb Rowley, Heidi Modesti, and Bernie Korfmann, along with Julie Powell of St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation, and Lynn Leach and Kerri VanSickle of Stedman Community Hospice.

## Celebrating the Difference Our Donors Make

The generosity of our supporters has made a lasting difference at Stedman Community Hospice, and we're pleased to celebrate that legacy.

Our existing Flower Wall will be updated to recognize donors with cumulative giving of $250,000 or more, while a new wall will feature donors with cumulative giving of $10,000 to $249,999.

In the coming weeks, we'll be reaching out to donors in these giving levels to confirm their naming details. We look forward to bringing this special tribute to life and celebrating the lasting impact of these gifts.

If you believe you may qualify and haven't heard from us by the end of January 2027, please contact Kevin Hird at 519-751-7096, ext. 2558.

Stedman Community Hospice Unstoppable Compassion

## Community Impact
### 2025 - 2026

**2313** Grief & Bereavement Sessions

**720** Community Outreach Referrals

**393** In-Hospice Referrals

**Stedman Community Hospice is available by phone 24/7. Please call 519-751-7096, Ext 2500.**

# Hospice Grief Support Program helping Chloe and Kevin process the sudden loss of their young mom

Not all the families who receive care at Stedman Community Hospice have needed a bed for a loved one diagnosed with a life-limiting illness. Some families need grief and bereavement support after experiencing a tragic, sudden loss.

When 25-year-old Taylor Crossman was killed in a car accident on March 4th, 2025, along with Luna, the family's new puppy, she left behind two young children, Chloe, age 9 and Kevin, age 8.

"I was growing concerned because I looked at the clock and thought she should be home by now," says Taylor's mother Stacy. Taylor, her partner Dayton and their two children lived in the same home as Taylor's parents, Stacy and Kevin. The news came from two police officers knocking on the front door.

"I knew by their faces that something was wrong," Stacy shared.

"I said "Oh my gosh, why are you here? My daughter Taylor isn't home yet. Panic set in. They asked if they could please come in and I told them 'No, I don't want you to come in."

Upon entering the officers shared the news that Taylor was in a car accident and was killed instantly.

Stacy, in disbelief, immediately asked all the questions to confirm the officers were correct.

The kids were in their room and didn't witness the visit by police. Stacy called her husband at work and told him he needed to come home. In Kevin's job, you can't just pick up and go, so he insisted his wife tell him what had happened. Once she did, he made his way home along the one route available, where he came upon the scene of the crash.

The trauma Stacy and Kevin felt was difficult enough, but Stacy knew the hardest moment hadn't yet happened. They had to break the news to Chloe and Kevin Jr.

"When my husband arrived home, the kids' dad, my husband, my elder daughter Kayla and her husband Justice, sat down in the living room, and proceeded to give them the news."

"I felt so bad to have to hurt my grandchildren but there was no way around it – they had to know. It hurt me so badly. And I knew that as kids, they would not be who they were before, after I told them."




*Taylor Crossman is pictured here with her two children, Chloe and Kevin at Christmas, 2023. Taylor was killed in a car accident on March 4, 2025, along with the family's new puppy, Luna.*

"After Taylor's passing, Dayton and the kids continue to live with us; it's their home too. We kept the kids out of school for about a month, but they were not doing well. They cried a lot, they talked often about missing her, but they almost pretended like she wasn't gone, they pretended that she just wasn't home."

"As weeks passed, and the kids commented that it has been too long that Mommy hasn't been home, we knew they needed some support beyond what we could provide," says Stacy.

Stacy came across Stedman Community Hospice's grief and bereavement support for children when she searched the internet looking for resources.

"The kids weren't sure if they wanted to go at first, but I asked them to just try, to give it a chance," says Stacy.

"The first day they visited with Sydney, a Supportive Care Practitioner at the Hospice, it went so well, they both asked me at different times when they

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*Kevin and Chloe each wear a chain around their neck with a photo of the two of them snuggled up to their mom, displayed in a heart framed in angel wings.*

could come back and see her again."

"The best thing that ever happened was them coming to the hospice for support, for so many reasons."

"They really responded to Sydney's compassion, her kindness, her gentleness. It's everything about her that a child would need, in a space where they can talk if they want to talk, but they don't have to talk. She makes them feel so cared for and welcomed, that they can't wait to come back and see her again."

During her art sessions, Chloe, who has always enjoyed crafts, has painted rocks and canvasses, and created butterfly mobiles.

"Kevin likes to make crafts that centre around Mommy, either about Mommy or for Mommy, that we then take to her grave."

On Sunday, on the day Taylor would have turned 27, Stacy shared that the family made a big birthday cake, blew up 27 balloons, and visited Taylor in the cemetery for a birthday party.

"We are continually working through things. Chloe is expressive, and at bedtime she will talk about Mommy and allow her tears to flow freely. Kevin has a harder time being vulnerable so he isn't as verbally expressive. It makes him cry to talk about his mom, and because he knows he will cry, and doesn't want to cry, he holds back. We keep assuring him that it's okay to cry, that I cry all the time, Papa cries, Daddy cries, and that it helps to get it out, instead of holding it in," Stacy shared.

"Sydney has helped Kevin deal with his grief through breathing exercises as well as conversation. He is doing better."

"The hospice has done so much to help them. They are young and they will always miss their mom; nobody can change that. What has changed, is that when they come here, whether they are doing arts and crafts or just talking or not talking, it is their time to focus on them about their mom. It's not Grandma, Papa or Daddy, it's just them. It's just their time and their feelings about losing their mom. I don't think there's anything that can replace what they are getting from the Hospice."

"My appreciation for Stedman is beyond what anybody can imagine," Stacy shared.

In addition to their support sessions, Chloe and Kevin attended the Teddy Bear picnic last fall as well as the Hospice's Lift the Light candlelight ceremony at Christmas, both of which were helpful in processing their grief.

Stacy has retired from her job, and has decided that when the kids are older, she would like to volunteer at Stedman Community Hospice.

"I am looking forward to the time when I can give to others what Stedman has done for me and the kids."

One day at a time, Chloe and Kevin are marching forth.

The children recognize that there is no other calendar date on which their mom could have died that would have given them the message to "March forth." Stacy and her family are committed to doing just that.

**Your donation will help support Grief & Bereavement programs and so much more.**

Stedman Community Hospice Unstoppable Compassion

**Visit sjlc.ca or call 519-751-7096, ext 2475 to donate today.**

# Mom sought help for sons through grief support program when their 'Rock Star' dad died of cancer



*Drew and Amy Stevenson are pictured here with their sons Spencer and Brodie in 2023, two years into Drew's colon cancer diagnosis.*

Andrew (Drew) Stevenson was a rock star, maybe not in the traditional sense, but in every other way, he was a rock star to his family, and especially his sons.

From rocking to the tunes of AC/DC with his two boys, Spencer and Brodie, championing them in their various sporting activities, to being an amazing life partner to his wife Amy for 17 years, the term is fitting, says Amy.

When Drew died from cancer in August 2024, Spencer was nine years old and Brodie was three, and through his 3-year cancer journey, Drew was well enough to continue to be fully involved in his sons' lives, Amy shared.

"These boys were Daddy's everything. They fondly recall the wrestling matches they would have in our basement, the many camping trips we took as a family, and all the ways that Daddy was involved in their lives."

Knowing that her sons would feel a profound sense of loss, and working in the mental health field herself, Amy, 39, felt that grief support would be helpful to her boys. She began searching for a grief support program and discovered that Stedman Community Hospice was a local resource that might be able to assist them.

Grief and bereavement support through Stedman Community Hospice is available to anyone who needs it, regardless of whether their loved one received end-of-life care at the Hospice. For children experiencing a loss, that support comes in the form of play and art-based therapy, guided by the Hospice's supportive care team.

The boys each have their separate, individual sessions with Sydney, a supportive care practitioner at the Hospice, and receive help expressing their emotions, including drawing pictures that show their feelings and creating paintings and drawings of their family.

Amy says the Hospice has helped them find ways to work through some of the tougher moments, including at bedtime.

"Drew and I took turns reading nightly with each of the boys," says Amy.

"Bedtime was a time of bonding with their dad, a time when they especially miss him and the tips Sydney has given them is helping."

"During their sessions, Sydney reads books with them that discuss dealing with emotions. The boys also have grief workbooks that allow them to work through their emotions privately."

"Art therapy will give the boys an outlet for all the 'firsts' as well," says Amy.

"It's not just the 'firsts', it's also the 'seconds' and 'thirds' but I do imagine the boys at different points having feelings of wishing Daddy was there to share a moment, as I know, daily, I wish I could pick up the phone to text or call to share how they are doing in school or how they did at sports."

"I also like the art therapy as Drew was very artistic. He didn't do art lots, but when he did, I realized how talented he was. For the boys' birthdays he would make posters of different characters so Spencer has Mario and SpongeBob and Brodie has Sesame Street characters."

Amy, who by anyone's estimation is a rock star in her own right, believes in making new memories with Spencer and Brodie that celebrate the time they had with Drew, in ways that honour his memory. This includes visiting his favourite restaurant on special days, baking a cake, doing a balloon release on his

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*Drew Stevenson wrote letters for his sons to be read at different times in their lives. Brodie opened the first one in September 2025 for his first day of school and it read "When Mommy walks you to school and you get there stand at the school and look up to the sky and know I am there smiling saying hi to you."*

*When Brodie arrived at school, without prompting, he looked up and waved to his Dad as Amy captured the moment.*

birthday and continuing to take family camping trips.

"We grieve because we love. We have our happy days and our sad days and the boys know it is okay to feel all those emotions. They know we will always have those emotions because they lost their Daddy. These were conversations that Drew and I felt were important to have with them. I continue to have those conversations with them, as does the Hospice team," Amy shared.

Amy, too, is working through her grief, recently completing spousal grief and bereavement training at Stedman Community Hospice, hoping to assist other younger adults like her, on their grief journey.

Amy shared that Drew will always be their rock star, and she is thrilled that she and Spencer will be attending an AC/DC concert this year.

"We are very excited and it's going to be a special and emotional night. We know that Daddy will be all around us," Amy smiled.

Stedman Community Hospice Unstoppable Compassion

## Pathways to Support

For support information and registration, please contact Sydney Adams
sadams@stedmanhospice.ca | (519) 751-7096, ext 2512.

***Grief 101:*** An Educational Seminar

1:1 Support Counselling

***Weekly, Closed Group Bereavement Support***

- Partner/Spousal Loss Support Group
- Young Adults Mixed Loss Support Group

***Monthly, Open Group Bereavement Support***

- PAIL Network - Circle of Support Group
- TCF - Bereaved Parents Support Group
- Together In Grief Support Group
- CMHA - Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group

***Weekly, Population-Based Support***

- **Wellness Wednesday** Support Gathering — For those living with a life-limiting illness
- **Care for the Caregiver** Support Gathering — For those caring for someone with a life-limiting illness
- **Coffee & Connection** Support Gathering — For those grieving the loss of a loved one

*Please note that participation in a single support program / service at a time is required.*

# Thank you for making great things happen at Stedman Community Hospice in 2025-2026!

Stedman Community Hospice relies on community support for roughly 50% of the funds needed to deliver compassionate care on a yearly basis. This support is given through memorial and general donations, bequeaths, grants, event attendance and sponsorship. Here are some of the ways your support helped us deliver care over the last year.

*Patios were updated with privacy screens, new outdoor furniture as well as a barbecue for the use of patients' family and friends.*

*Privacy screens are mechanically activated with a wall switch that allows the four blinds to be raised or lowered independently of each other.*



*Aging fireplaces and televisions were replaced, helping to provide a homelike setting for patients and their loved ones.*

*Family and friends often choose to stay at the bedside of a patient around the clock. These creature comforts are helpful in relieving stress and providing tranquility during a difficult time.*



*Two of our 10 beds were replaced during the past year.*

*Each new bed comes at the cost of more than $25,000. They include several comfort and safety features such as motion detection, and monitoring of patient temperature fluctuations. Other features include power steering and soft lighting tracks.*



*A Sara Sit-to-Stand lift is designed to assist individuals with partial weight-bearing capabilities in transitioning from a sitting to a standing position.*

*This device facilitates transfers between various surfaces such as beds, chairs, and toilets, while minimizing manual handling by caregivers.*



Programs and services of Stedman Community Hospice are made possible by donor support.

## Donate online today at sjlc.ca

St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation – We're in it for Life!

Follow us on social media @ StedmanHospice

Stedman Community Hospice

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