



Proudly serving the communities of North and South Dundas for 32 years

2025-26 Annual Report



Message from our Executive Director and Board Chair

Dundas County Hospice saw a time of great growth in 2025/26 but as Oprah Winfrey once said, “We can’t become what we need to be by remaining what we are”.

Growth is not always easy. It requires change, reflection, courage, and a willingness to step beyond what feels comfortable. Over the past year, Dundas County Hospice embraced that challenge.

Our volunteers dedicated countless hours this year to education and personal growth — learning new skills, strengthening existing ones, and deepening their understanding of hospice care — all to better support hospice, our clients, and our community.

We were also pleased to welcome several new volunteers who were immediately embraced into the family we have created at Dundas County Hospice. Their enthusiasm, compassion, and willingness to serve have already made a meaningful impact.

This year, our volunteers were recognized both internally through our Diane Annable Memorial Volunteer Service Awards and externally through the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. These recognitions are a reflection of the incredible dedication our volunteers bring to hospice care every day.

As we continue to grow, we remain committed to fostering a strong sense of belonging through regular appreciation, social, and educational opportunities. Our volunteers are truly at the heart of hospice, and their kindness and commitment continue to shape the care we provide throughout our community.

This year, Dundas County Hospice hosted three fundraising events while also participating in the Kin Club of Russell’s Catch the Ace Lottery, which raised an incredible \$63,000 in support of hospice care in our community.

Our Hike for Hospice raised over \$5,000, bringing community members together in support of compassionate care. Our Golf Tournament continued to grow, raising more than \$10,000, and our Memorial Tree Lighting once again provided a meaningful opportunity for individuals and families to gather in grief, remembrance, and reflection during the holiday season.

We were also fortunate to be successful in securing several grants this year. These funds will help further our mission, strengthen our programs, and ensure Dundas County Hospice can continue providing support to our community for many years to come.

Our Board of Directors has always provided steadfast guidance and unwavering support to Dundas County Hospice. Often working quietly behind the scenes, they ensure that important decisions are made thoughtfully and with great care, helping the hospice remain responsive and adaptable to the changing needs of our community.

This year, we said a sad but grateful farewell to Bob Pitruniak and welcomed Christine Thom into the role of Treasurer. Christine has graciously stepped into Bob’s shoes and has already become a valued and wonderful addition to our board team.

As Dundas County Hospice continues to grow and evolve, our Board plays an essential role in shaping the future of hospice care in our community. Their leadership helps ensure that hospice remains focused on community care while also building the strength and sustainability needed to continue serving future generations.

One of the programs that has seen tremendous growth this year is our Grief and Bereavement Program. With the addition of our Bereavement Coordinator, Amy, and the increasing demand for our Men’s Shed program, Dundas County Hospice has expanded its ability to support individuals and families navigating grief and loss.

Message from our Executive Director and Board Chair

(continued)

To meet this growing need, several new bereavement volunteers completed training this year, allowing us to offer support to even more members of our community following the loss of a loved one. These volunteers bring compassion, understanding, and connection to people during some of life's most difficult moments.

In rural communities like ours, grief and bereavement services are often limited or difficult to access. By continuing to grow this important area of our work, we are helping ensure that individuals and families in our community do not have to grieve alone and can access meaningful support close to home.

As Dundas County Hospice continues to grow, so too does the vision for our hospice home. Over the past year, conversations surrounding the future expansion of our facility have continued as we look ahead to the evolving needs of our community.

Growth for hospice is not simply about creating more space — it is about creating more opportunities for connection, support, and education. As our programs continue to expand and demand for services increases, we recognize the importance of ensuring our facility can grow alongside the community we serve.

Future plans for expansion will help create additional accessible spaces for programs, grief support, volunteer education, and community gatherings, while preserving the welcoming and peaceful environment that makes Dundas County Hospice so special.

In many ways, growth has always been at the heart of hospice care. We grow through grief, through compassion, through connection, and through the quiet moments where people come together to support one another. Over the past year, Dundas County Hospice has embraced change while remaining grounded in the values that have guided us since the beginning.

As our organization continues to evolve, one thing remains unchanged: our commitment to providing comfort, dignity, and hope to individuals and families living with life-limiting illness and grief. We are deeply grateful to our volunteers, staff, board members, donors, and community partners who continue to grow alongside us and help ensure hospice care remains accessible close to home for generations to come.

Steve Walsh

Executive Director

Arnold Scheerder

Board Chair



Our Clients



186 Palliative & Bereavement Clients were served by one or more programs
115 were 65+, 71 were younger than 65
55% from North Dundas, 45% from South Dundas

110 Clients Discharged by the following:

5% D/C LTC	16% D/C Client Request	6% D/C Residential Hospice
26% Deceased	1% D/C Retirement Home	26% Service Completed
20% Bereavement		

97% of clients died in the place of their choice (based on client service evaluations received)

303 Community Clients used our Community Equipment Loan Program

900 Total pieces of equipment were loaned to clients

113 Bereavement Clients supported through various programs & events including: Volunteer Visiting, Open Support Group, Ongoing Book Club, Holiday Help Workshop, Walking the Labyrinth, Men's Shed, and Professional Bereavement Counselling

This place saved me"

- Grief & bereavement client

"I am so very thankful for all the help, encouragement , friendships and care I have received at hospice"

-Hospice Client

Our Volunteers

45 Volunteers contributed **3600** hrs in 2025-26



This year's Diane Annable Memorial Volunteer of the Year Awards were proudly presented to Bob Forward and Ian Henderson in recognition of their outstanding dedication, compassion, and commitment to Dundas County Hospice.



A huge thank you to all of our volunteers whose support, compassion, and dedication continue to fuel our passion and create a welcoming, caring, and supportive space for everyone who walks through our doors. The kindness you share with our clients, families, and community each day is what makes Dundas County Hospice so special.

Memberships

DCH enjoys incredible networking opportunities and learning by maintaining memberships with the following organizations at a provincial and regional level.



Statement of Operations and Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2026

Revenues

Provincial community program funding	\$145,555
Donations	186,516
Events	45,537
Other	16,452
Interfund Transfers	<u>237,860</u>
Total Revenue	\$631,920

Expenses

Program	\$214,775
Fundraising & Administration	169,432
Amortization	19,081
Interfund Transfers	<u>237,860</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$641,148</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ (9228)</u>

Balance Sheet March 31, 2026

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash	\$188,924
Investments	40,598
Accounts Receivable	-
HST Receivable	10,918
Prepaid Expenses	<u>7,022</u>
	247,462
Capital Assets	279,162
Long term Investments	<u>225,473</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$752,097</u>

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$20,857
Employee Deductions Payable	4,935
Deferred Income	167,650
Deferred Capital Contributions	<u>105,703</u>
Total Liabilities	299,145
Fund Balances	<u>452,952</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$752,097</u>

Our Mission

To provide a truly accessible and individualized approach to care in order to improve the outcomes of our clients and their loved ones who are living with life-threatening illness or grieving.

Our Vision

All residents of Dundas County who require palliative or grief and bereavement supports will receive them in their own community, close to home.

Our Values

Compassion, Equity, Collaboration

Board of Directors

Arnold Scheerder, Board Chair

Cindy Morgan, Vice Chair

Christine Thom, Treasurer

Arlene Nesbitt, Secretary

Kathy Spruit, Director

Bob Sisson, Director

Dr. Bart Steele, Director

Marc Gervais, Director

Terry Triskle, Director

Staff

Steve Walsh, Executive Director

Jackie Imrie, Director of Client Services

Jen Pretty, Program/Volunteer Coordinator

Amy Clarke, Bereavement Coordinator

Kathryn Boyd, Bereavement Counsellor

Kathryn Mulder, Casual RN



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