

Hospice Happenings October 2015

Our Volunteers- The Heart of Hospice!

In October across the globe we salute and recognize the value of hospice palliative care. Representatives from the board of the Olds & District Hospice Society will be heading to the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Conference in Ottawa at the end of October to share in the Canadian journey as we strive to offer the best support for all those facing end of life.

Ultimately, the most important aspect of who we are as a society is captured in the sacred moments shared by our volunteers and the families and individuals whom they support.

Often there is a growing chaos for families walking in the unknown territory of supporting a family member with a terminal illness. Numerous appointments and tests, consultations and specialists can take its toll on support people and navigating through the system can consume all ones time and energy.

O&DHS recognizes all of these challenges and we have made it our priority to support those through the chaos of activity and emotion. We also recognize that adding one more person to the mix of people is intimidating. But we believe that having a constant support, an advocate for the person dying and the family, and to be there after the chaos changes is an important role.

Our trained volunteers are always available to support you and your family. Our program is based on respect for you and your family and to help you navigate through unknown waters by helping you connect with those you need. We also believe in the value of just sitting with you in the space you are in and in whatever situation may arise. Often this is just a couple of hours a few times a week for respite for the caregiver. It has been said by numerous families " I never realized how much I needed a small break until I had it".

Thank you to those volunteers who offer their time and talent to be on the board and the committees with Olds & District Hospice Society. Thank you to our trained volunteers who offer support to individuals and families. You truly are the heart of all we do!