



# THE SALVATION ARMY AGAPÉ HOSPICE

COMPASSION | EXCELLENCE | INTEGRITY | RESPECT | ACCOUNTABILITY



## *A Message From The Executive Director*



Pat Wallace | Executive Director

As a hospice facility, we are focused on optimizing the quality of life by minimizing the suffering of our residents and families by providing holistic care during their end of life journey.

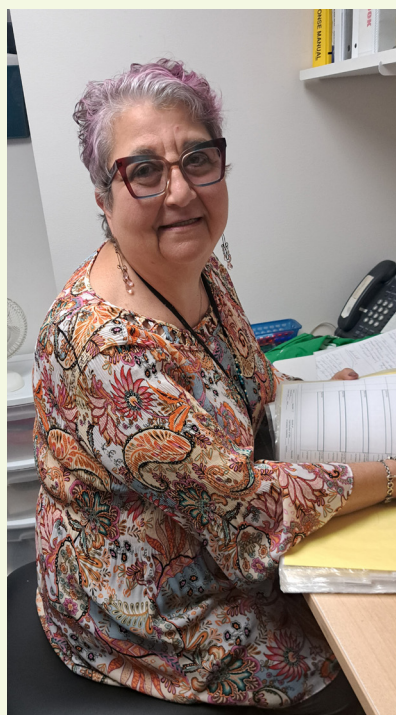
Since the beginning, we have been able to impact the lives of over 6,500 residents and their family members. Our community allows us to continue to do the work we do; you are the reason we can continue providing comprehensive, holistic care.

I'm so proud to have an incredible staff that displays endurance, kindness, and patience. Keeping Agapé Hospice operational is a communal effort, and we're so grateful to be a part of such a generous community.

Thank you to all our funders and donors for continuing to make it possible for us to provide our residents with love and dignity.



# Maria's Dedication: A Story of Compassion at The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice



Maria Costa | Agapé volunteer

For nearly two decades, Maria Costa has been a dedicated volunteer at The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice. Her journey began 18 years ago, when she found herself at the centre visiting a resident. Little did she know that this first encounter would mark the beginning of her dedication and commitment to caring for others during their final moments.

Maria's journey with the hospice has been both demanding and rewarding. She started with basic volunteer training, which included orientation sessions with doctors, therapists, and even courses at a funeral home. This preparation helped her gain the foundational skills and knowledge to learn diverse beliefs and customs, which is necessary for supporting residents and their families during such difficult times.

One of her first experiences as a volunteer was an emotional one. She recalls staying with a gentleman late into the night, holding his hand until the end. "I wanted him to know that someone was there," Maria remembers. Although his passing was difficult, she had comfort in knowing she had provided him with companionship during his final hours. "It gives me some relief that he wasn't alone for the whole time," she says.

Maria volunteers a few days a week at Agapé and performs a wide variety of tasks, from leading tours for families unfamiliar with the hospice to answering phones and helping with orientations.

Her involvement also extends to feeding residents during lunch hours and participating in meetings with the hospice's medical and administrative staff. These meetings are vital for discussing new residents' needs and ensuring that all volunteers are informed on what is expected for each resident.

For Maria, the personal connections she fosters with residents are deeply meaningful. She believes that even simple gestures, like holding a resident's hand or listening attentively, can have a significant impact.

"I get so much more from the residents than I can ever give them," she says.

The emotional toll of working in a hospice is undeniable. Maria acknowledges the difficulty of witnessing the suffering and loss of individuals and their families. Yet, she finds strength in her ability to provide comfort. "Every death is hard," she admits, but she manages to cope with the support of the hospice staff and by allowing herself to grieve too.

Maria's kind nature comes out in her personal life as well. In her family, she's the one to offer chicken soup when someone is sick and make sure their needs are met.

"I have this caring nature in me, that's something that takes a lot out of me," Maria explains. "I want to be there. That's the type of person I am."

# Honoring Grandma: The Farthing Family's Heartfelt Tradition

In the summer of 2022, the Farthing family's beloved Grandma, Shelly Ann, spent three weeks as a resident in our care. This cherished time left a profound impact on the entire family, sparking a heartwarming tradition that has become an integral part of their celebrations. Every five years, the Farthing children embrace a selfless tradition, instead of receiving gifts on their birthdays, they invite friends and family to donate to a chosen charity.

This year, Sterling Farthing, celebrated his 10th birthday in June. Sterling decided to donate outside of their community of Fort McMurray and donate to Agapé in honour of his Grandma.

The family embarked on a journey to Calgary, where Sterling had the opportunity to personally present his impressive collection of \$1,000 to Pat Wallace, our Executive Director. This generous donation not only shows the kind spirit of this young man but shows the values of compassion and community that have defined the Farthing family's tradition.



Pictured: Pat Wallace and Sterling Farthing

## The Salvation Army is There for Everyone

Since 1887, The Salvation Army has been a cornerstone of support in Calgary, dedicated to meeting the needs of the city's most vulnerable individuals. This commitment has remained steadfast over the decades, including during the AIDS epidemic that began in the early 80s.

The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice had its roots in that pivotal time when a group of forward-thinking individuals envisioned a holistic approach to end-of-life care, specifically for those suffering from AIDS and cancer. At a time when fear and stigma led to the marginalization and isolation of individuals with AIDS, there was a critical need for compassionate care that was often unmet.

In response, The Salvation Army established a three-bed hospice unit in 1992, marking a significant step forward in providing dignified and empathetic care to those in need. Over the years, this unit has expanded to accommodate 20 beds, continuing to offer high-quality care even amidst challenges such as the global pandemic.

The ongoing support of generous donors has been crucial in sustaining and enhancing the care provided at Agapé Hospice. With your continued help, The Salvation Army aims to further its mission and extend its services to support families navigating the end-of-life journey with their loved ones.





# A Message from our Divisonal Commander

Dear Friends,

The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice has a long history of compassionate care for those who enter through its doors. Located in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, the hospice offers a range of services including pain management, emotional and spiritual support, and counseling for patients and their families. The hospice operates on the principles of dignity, respect, and holistic care, ensuring that patients receive personalized attention in a peaceful and supportive environment. It is a part of The Salvation Army's broader mission to provide care and support to those in need.

To those who partner with us in Giving Hope Today we say, 'Thank You!' Your generosity is so very much appreciated and necessary to the fulfillment of the greatest commandment to LOVE. May the grace of God be yours and may you continue to prosper in the abundant love of our Lord Jesus Christ!



Divisonal Commanders Donald and Donna Bladen

Lt Colonel Donald Bladen  
Divisonal Commander  
Prairies & Northern Territories Division



*Your past support has helped so many families going through difficult times – please join us again by sending your donation today.*

**The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice**  
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*Donate online*



Or call **403-282-6582** to make a donation using your credit card.  
Online donations can be made at **AgapeHospice.ca**