



THE SALVATION ARMY

# AGAPÉ HOSPICE

2025 EDITION

**A**t The Salvation Army's Agapé Hospice, we believe no one should face the end of life without comfort, dignity, and compassion. I feel incredibly fortunate to lead a team of nurses, physicians, and support staff who care deeply not only for our residents and their families, but also for one another. That spirit of collaboration creates a special environment, one where kindness and connection are present in every interaction and every room.

What makes me proud is not just the quality of care our team provides, but the way they speak about this place. Staff often tell me how grateful they are to work at Agapé. That sense of belonging and purpose comes from being part of a mission that matters.

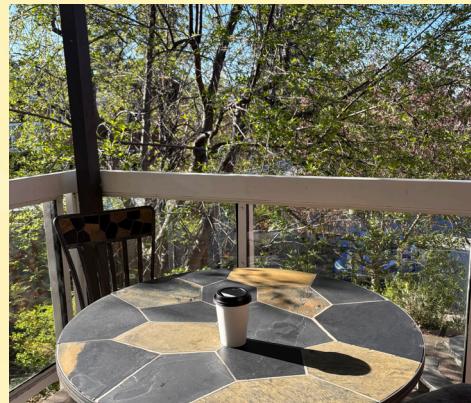
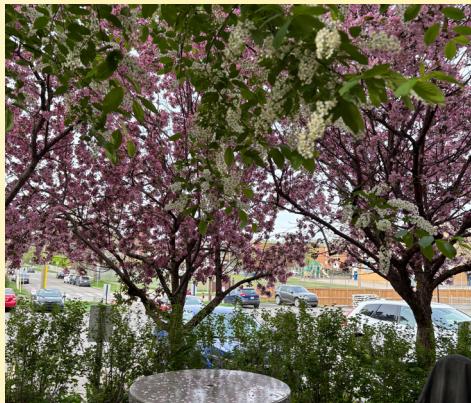
Our community plays a vital role in making that mission possible. Every act of support helps us provide care that goes beyond the basics, creating

a space where people can spend their final days in peace, surrounded by love.

When someone's journey comes to an end at Agapé, they are not alone. That moment is shaped by the care your support makes possible. We couldn't do it without you.



**Pat Wallace | Executive Director**



## Our Mission

Led by Christian values, the community at The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice extends compassionate, holistic care and support to those experiencing the end of life journey.

## Inside

- ❖ Last Wishes
- ❖ Beautiful Death
- ❖ Agapé New Beds

# Last Wishes



The green and orange glow sticks lit up the dim room, and laughter spilled down the hallway as two children splashed in the pool. They darted and weaved with cheerful squeals but couldn't escape the steady stream of water their dad sprayed at them from the edge of the pool. With a wand in hand and a smirk on his face, the young father soaked in the moment from his wheelchair. He would be gone within the week, but with help from The Salvation Army's Agapé Hospice staff, he was able to give his kids one more gift: a lasting memory.

These special moments are what separates Agapé from the typical experience of passing away in a hospital.

"We have a commitment to upholding the dignity of every person we serve, and addressing not only their physical suffering, but their emotional and spiritual needs as well," Dr. Larissa Seredycz, Medical Director of Agapé Hospice said. "When you talk to your patients about death and dying, it's very personal, it's very individualized."

When the young father was admitted into Agapé, he struggled with not being at home with his family all the time. He was carrying the weight of their grief and wanted to be strong for them despite his chronic fatigue.

"He was the first to perk himself up and try to do things like Lego sets with his two boys," Dr. Seredycz said.

"He was an engineer, so he was really big on building something with them. It was an act of legacy to build something with his boys so that they could remember his helpful prompts and his encouragement not to give up when things were challenging."

After he and the staff had built a rapport, the father shared that he hoped to take his kids across the street to Riley Park's splash park in the summer.

Unfortunately, his health rapidly declined in February, and with it being miserably cold outside, the splash park was no longer realistic.

Agapé's staff decided to give him the next best thing. After receiving permission from the other residents and their families to make some noise that was out of the ordinary for a hospice, they bought a wading pool and set it up in the facility's largest shower room.



**The Shower Room**

"Everyone was just full of giving to this young man and his family, and together, we created a safe and joyful indoor experience where he could see his children laugh and play, just as he had hoped," Dr. Seredycz said.

"This was more than a gesture. It's a testament to what happens when a team guided by Christian values really comes together to provide holistic and compassionate care."

After the pool party had concluded, the father was visibly emotional as he shared his appreciation and gratitude with the staff.

This father's story is just one of the many to occur at Agapé. The facility has a bulletin board where families can share their positive experiences about the level of care their relatives receive. They often receive cards and are mentioned in obituaries. Many family members even come back to volunteer.

“We become very involved with our residents, as involved as they would like us to be. Sometimes people are very private, and they don’t want to share, but if they do, and if they if we are able to establish that rapport and that mutual respect, we really feel that we can make such a difference.”

END

# A Beautiful Death



By Sarah Bouckhout

What is a beautiful death? Having worked in hospice for nearly 17 years, I have had many opportunities to ponder this question.

Of course, the seemingly obvious answers to me include to be pain free or free of any troubling symptoms. To be at peace, not worried about what is to come or those people I will leave behind is also a desire. Having those I love surrounding me and of course my beloved pets. There is beauty in that.



**Sarah Bouckhout | Nurse**

I have sat at the bedside countless times in my career where I have witnessed residents’ journey from this life. Many times, I have thought, “yes” this is a beautiful death- there are no physical symptoms causing anguish, family is near and while grieving, they are present for such an important time. In those moments, I feel like I have made a difference, that I contributed to this kind of ending. There is great comfort in that. Comfort knowing that things went well for the resident and their family, but also comfort for myself knowing that there can be beauty in dying. There is relief when things unfold that way.

As health care professionals in palliative care, we strive to ensure our patients experience their own beautiful death. We also know that things do not always go that way.

If ever there was a time, I wanted a resident to have a beautiful death, it was when we welcomed “A” to our hospice in the summer of 2024. From what I had learned about “A”, prior to his arrival, I was very concerned. On top of a rare and painful cancer diagnosis, “A” was living a marginalized life. Struggling with addiction, homelessness at times and next to no social supports, his situation at home was described as horrific. He prayed every night to die in his sleep. I could hear the despair in his home care team’s voices when they shared his story. I will never forget his nurse telling me what “A” needed most was to be treated with dignity- something that he did not receive for most of his life.

How do you help someone have a beautiful death when they don’t have family, comforts of home or the belief that they are deserving of love and care? These were just some of the questions that I asked myself when “A” arrived.

I was amazed however, at how quickly my own worries for “A” and what was to come were eased. His beautiful death unfolded over his 4-month stay with us where in fact he did so much living.

Our team got to know who he was. The RNs treasured their nighttime visits to his room to watch the Summer Olympics on TV. He would share stories of his life when he too was a competitive athlete. The administrative staff were always happy to be greeted with his big smile when he would go outside to smoke. What initially started as a friendly hello from staff evolved into “A” sharing his thoughts, concerns and plans for the day. One day when I stopped by his room, he said, “thank you Sarah, I belong here”.

“A” had many more days filled with sunshine, Mary Brown’s chicken and outings with one of his CAMPP RNs who he fondly referred to as “my friend”.

*Con't next page*

With time Agapé became “A’s” home and all the staff his family. He learned that he could put down his heavy bags of shame and guilt, to lighten his load for the road ahead.

“A” departed this life, rather suddenly but peacefully, nonetheless. He died in the quiet of the night with an RN holding his hand. While “A’s” passing might have looked different then

the beautiful death I described earlier, beauty was there.

Now, when asked, what is a beautiful death I would have a different answer. “A” taught me that the beauty in death is not just about who and what are there at that moment but rather the importance of being seen and of being shown that you are worthy.

END

# The Need for New Beds



The Salvation Army’s Agapé Hospice is seeking donations to help replace its 21 hospital beds. Approximately 200 patients a year turn to us for the best care while their journey on Earth comes to an end. Part of that responsibility is making sure every resident feels comfortable and well taken care of.

Our current beds have become dated, and Agapé is no longer able to purchase replacement parts.

The new beds will last at least 15 years and come with upgraded features, such as better lighting, enhanced maneuverability, and higher-quality mattresses.

“Many of the patients are bed-bound, or they’re spending a lot of time in bed. That means the beds must be comfortable,” Executive

Director Pat Wallace said. “They also need to be very responsive when patients need the call bell system and for staff to be able to maneuver the beds, raising them up or lowering them, depending on the fall risk and so on.”

At Agapé, we value our ongoing promise to offer comfort and dignity when it matters most. The care we provide is a reminder of how deeply community support shapes the final moments of a person’s life, making it possible to surround them with compassion, attentiveness, and peace.

END



The current beds at Agapé Hospice

## We can't do this without you!



Please complete the enclosed donation card and mail it today:

The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice  
1302 8 Avenue NW,  
Calgary, AB T2N 1B8

Or call 403-282-6582 to make a donation using your credit card.



Donate Today

The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice has always been able to count on your kindness and today we are asking that you continue your support. Through your generosity, residents of Agapé will continue receiving compassionate, holistic care and support during their end of life journey.

On behalf of all the individuals we serve through the Agapé Hospice, Thank You!