2026 Edition

NEWSLETTER

AGAPE HOSPICE



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the profound impact of our hospice community, I am filled with gratitude for the compassion and generosity that make our work possible. Every day, families come to us during some of life's most vulnerable moments, seeking comfort, dignity, and support. Because of your generosity, we are able to walk alongside them with care and compassion.

Your support does far more than fund programs and services. It creates moments of peace, provides comfort to those at end of life, and surrounds families with the support they need during difficult times. Through your gifts, volunteers, staff, and donors come together to create a community where no one faces their journey alone.

On behalf of everyone at Agapé Hospice, thank you for believing in our mission and for making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Your kindness touches each resident, family member, and caregiver who walks through our doors.

We are honored to share this newsletter with you and to celebrate the impact we are making together.

Thank you for being a valued part of the Agapé Hospice family.

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.

The Most Unlikely of Places



From the Family of Karla P.

Karla arrived at Agapé in mid-2025 much as any other resident might. She was scared, angry, and exhausted, both physically and emotionally, from the sudden weight of her own mortality. There is a light that dims in all of us in these circumstances, and such was the case for Karla. Her friends, family, and general community had by that time worked tirelessly to restore some of the spark that her illness had taken from her.

Truthfully, Karla had no expectations with regards to Agapé; neither did we. We of course expected her physical needs to be met, and for the medical team to provide the care we could no longer manage at home. We did not anticipate how much further the care could extend: beyond the physical to the emotional, and beyond the resident to the family.

This was most striking in how quickly Karla acclimatized to her new surroundings, particularly given the limited time she had. Before long, we saw her begin to open up, let her guard down, and see Agapé less as a hospice and more as a home. We spent our days at her beck and call, wheeling her from one room to another, out to the backyard gazebo, and back again, as she searched for another friend, family member, resident, or volunteer to engage with, tell a joke, or simply introduce herself.

Karla began to see the staff as friends who happened to provide her medical care, and Agapé as just another apartment building. Of course, it was neither, but the emotional comfort she found there allowed her, for a moment, to come alive again.

As a result, we also had the privilege of getting to know other residents and their families. They came from different backgrounds and unique life paths forming unique perspectives. Some had large personal support networks, others very little if any at all. Yet they all shared a common humanity and vulnerability at Agape. More significantly, we saw the staff offer the same gentle compassion to every single resident: showing up daily as the best versions of themselves, regardless of what the residents could offer in return.

It was this consistent, nonjudgmental compassion that allowed Karla to let down her guard, and she wasn't unique. We watched the same transformation in others. Residents who initially arrived guarded, resistant, sometimes hostile, gradually found enough familiarity, comfort, and trust to feel at ease.

This is the truest testament to the staff, volunteers, and the community they have created. It is also what we will carry with us from Agapé. Not simply gratitude for the care Karla received, but a reminder, from the most unlikely of places, of what a community can look like when we are all a little gentler, a little kinder, and a little more focused on our shared humanity.

The Benefits of Therapy Animals

Meet the Mini Horses

The recent visit from the mini horses brought an abundance of smiles, laughter, and heartfelt moments to our hospice. Their gentle nature and calm presence created a special connection with our residents, families, and staff, brightening the day in a truly meaningful way. The mini horses were brought by the ROARR Foundation from RiverCross Ranch, on Robinson's Val Vista Ranch property just west of Springbank High School, AB.



The impact of animal visits reaches far beyond a single day. The warmth, companionship, and unconditional affection the mini horses offered reminded us all of the simple pleasures that can bring such comfort. We are incredibly grateful for this wonderful experience and for the smiles, laughter, and love that filled our halls during their visit.





The mini horses left hoofprints on our floors, but more importantly, they left lasting footprints on our hearts.

Furry friends - The story of Marnie and Sol



We got Sol when we lived in Vienna Austria. He's always been a plucky little fella. We started our journey going to the Clever Dog Lab. It's on the campus of the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna. The med students were working on their theses and conducting experiments to support their research. Sol got to be a test subject several times with the veterinary students there. He loved it! He was also a hit with the students. So, when we left Vienna, and moved back to Calgary, I was looking at what we could do here to give back in some form. Sol is very social, and he sure can read a room. I checked into what was necessary to get him Certified at Companion Paws LifeLine Canada. To get certified with Paws to be a Visiting Therapy dog is quite extensive. The first step is them deciding if he's even a good candidate. Luckily for us, he was! The next step is setting Sol up for success. There are 35 different scenarios that we practice before we go in front of the official judicator each year. He has to be successful at all 35 for a pass.

Shortly after he passed his first time, we met Judy, Volunteer Coordinator at Agapé, through a mutual friend and we were ready to start our volunteer journey. Three years later and Sol is still SO excited to visit Agapé Hospice, share his love, and get loved up by all the residents there. He truly enjoys his time there, and as long as he's excited to go to Agapé, we will keep visiting!

Agapé Hospice truly is a wonderful and necessary service that you all contribute to. Everyone that works there provides such integral parts to the entire service. We feel so grateful to be a small part of the Agapé team. Thank you for everything.

Sue and Jemma

It's a privilege to go to the hospice biweekly to visit with clients and their families. Jemma and I both enjoy our visits and meeting people there.

Jemma was found dangerously thin on a native reserve south of Calgary. I was looking for a smaller dog to adopt, but Jemma's sweet nature and spotted socks won me over. I adopted her in early 2020, just before COVID hit. She loves people so much and is excited to greet everyone, so we join the Pet Access League Society or PALS. We started visiting at Extendicare Hillcrest, but we wanted to visit wherever we could have the most impact. Rather than just being a regular visitor, I wanted to bring some joy into a stressful season of life, and as a Christian, I also wanted to be able to pray with people if they wanted.

Agapé has a special place in my heart because both of my parents spent their last days here and we were so grateful for the kindness and care provided to them. I asked if I could visit alternate weeks at Agapé, but PALS does not visit there, so I approached Agapé on my own and the rest is history! We'll never know for sure, but I believe Jemma is over 10 years old. She and I have been happy to work as a team to bring some smiles and comfort to those at Agapé for many years and hope to keep going for a good while yet!



Quilt of Comfort

The story of this quilt, by Bev Rinehart

This quilt, Words to Live By, was made from a pattern by quilt designer, Lisa Bongean. What drew me specifically to the quilt was its message – Words to Live By – things that we sometimes forget about in this fast-paced world of today… Joy, Love, Hope, Respect, etc. The quilt was on a bed in my guest room for a long time – but no one ever saw it.



Thoughtfully donated by Bev Rinehart as a gift of ackowledgement of the care and compassion that Agapé Hospice provides.

I felt it has such a powerful message that it needed to be shared – and what better place than Agapé Hospice – "a serene, loving and home-like environment". I know from personal experience with Agapé Hospice that all of these "words" are woven into the values and care that is provided within the hospice each day.

Quilts have a special way of expressing something – care, comfort and love. A quilt is made one small piece at a time. In much the same way, a life is made up of countless moments, memories and people who touch us along the way. When those pieces are brought together, they create something far greater than any one piece could create on its own. That is why I felt this particular quilt belonged at Agapé Hospice. Hospice is a place where people are surrounded by compassion, dignity and caring during an important and deeply personal part of life's journey. I hope this quilt can add a little beauty and warmth to that environment –a quiet reminder to residents and families that they are cared for and that their lives are valued.

Quilts have long been made to provide warmth and comfort.

In a hospice setting, this quilt serves not only as a beautiful piece of art, but also as a reminder that every person deserves to be surrounded by warmth, dignity, beauty and compassion. May it bring a moment of peace to those who see it, and may it honour all who are cared for at Agapé Hospice, as well as the families, volunteers and caregivers who walk alongside them.

I give this quilt to Agapé Hospice in the hope that it will bring comfort to those who need it, beauty to those who see it, and a lasting reminder of the kindness and compassion found within this hospice.

Help Us Stay Connected

The Salvation Army's Agapé Hospice is seeking donations to help replace the actual phone system.

At Agapé hospice, communication is more than a convenience. It is an essential part of providing compassionate care, supporting families, coordinating services, and ensuring the safety and well-being of those we serve. Every day, our team relies on our phone system to connect with patients, families, healthcare professionals, volunteers, and emergency services. Whether a family member is calling for support, a nurse is coordinating care, or a staff member is responding to an urgent need, reliable communication is critical.

This year's ask is to replace our current phone system which is aging and no longer meets the demands of modern hospice care. As technology advances and communication needs grow, we must upgrade to a new phone system that will provide greater reliability, improved call quality, enhanced safety features, and better support for our staff and volunteers.

We can't do this without you!

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.

Donate today

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

