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Heart-Link: "The best possible place, in the worst possible situation."

Emily's House provided a warm, colourful atmosphere for our family and friends to visit, and the activities offered to us through the play therapist allowed all of Kiera's visitors to contribute to the mementos that we cherish today.

Kyle and I would not have experienced the end of Kiera's life as positively as we did if we had taken care of her at home, or in the hospital. We needed the support, care and expertise that we received at Emily's House. So when I tell people about Emily's house, which I do often, I tell them that it was the best possible place we could have been in the worst possible situation.

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From the C.E.O.'s Desk's: Rauni Salminen

understanding of hospice. Demand for both Emily's House and PAC Community programs is growing, and we are ramping up resources to meet the need.

In December 2016, PAC once again received accreditation from Hospice Palliative Care Ontario (HPCO). Accreditation signifies to health professionals, the public, and funders that an organization is in compliance with industry standards and has been recognized by HPCO based on a rigorous review of overall performance by industry peers. HPCO standards address governance, financial management, fund development and service delivery standards specifically designed for the unique operations of visiting and residential hospice.

Board of Directors, 2016-2017:

Louise R. Summerhill, <i>Chair</i>	Peter Goulos	Larry Moate	Barbara Walkden
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To receive our newsletter electronically, to be taken off our mailing list, or to add your email to our bi-monthly eNews, please contact info@philipazizcentre.ca.



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Twitter: @PACHospice_care | Facebook: www.facebook.com/PhilipAzizCentre



In Your Words:
Client Impact

"I wonder how I would have possibly afforded to send my kids to camp, if it was not for your organization's unfailing support. As busy and sick parents, getting assistance to send my kids to camp is enticing. We also love that the kids get a chance to do things they would have not been able to if it was not for the Philip Aziz Centre."

- a mom of five boys

"I am truly grateful for your weekly visits with Amy* at both home and at the hospice. You gave her the opportunity to re-live and reflect on her life - a real gift."

- a client's loved one



Heart-Link: "The best possible place, in the worst possible situation."

By Erin and Kyle Gross, Kiera's Mom and Dad



Our time with Kiera at Emily's House was our time to truly be a family. It was only when we arrived there, a week into Kiera's life, that we finally felt like her parents. There was such an immediate shift in the care philosophy, and we were viewed as the experts on Kiera, who knew her best. It was refreshing to have conversations with Kiera's medical team in which we gave updates on her condition, as opposed to the other way around. Kiera's doctors and nurses were open, honest and patient with us, and provided us with the space to ask endless questions. We were always made to feel that there were no right or wrong decisions, but rather only what we felt was best for our daughter and our family.

During our two weeks at Emily's House, we were able to parent Kiera to the best of our abilities. We were able to do the normal things that we had always imagined doing, such as changing her diapers, bathing her, taking her for walks, and sleeping with her. Yet we wouldn't have been able to do these things without the support of the staff.

"They helped us turn a terrible moment into a truly beautiful one."

Our first day, our nurse assisted us for two hours while a photographer took photos of Kiera, photos which mean the world to us. Nurses brought us portable oxygen tanks that we used to take her outside. Support staff brought us meals so that we didn't have to leave our daughter for even a minute. Nurses tiptoed into our room in the middle of the night to give Kiera medication so that we could get some much needed sleep. In short, everyone around us worked tirelessly to ensure that our only focus was our daughter, and spending every precious minute we had with her.

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YES! I would like to support difficult days, in meaningful ways.

I would like to give a one-time donation of: \$300 \$150 \$75 Other \$ _____

A monthly gift of \$ _____ to be: charged to my credit card direct bank withdrawal

Please give today to support the following programs:

- In-home Volunteer Visiting Hospice Program
- Emily's House
- Children & Families Programs
- Spiritual/Bereavement Program
- Wherever the need is greatest

Emily's House and the Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care provide respite and palliative care for children and adults living with life-limiting illnesses and their families: **compassionate care, when there is no cure...**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov.: _____

Postal Code: _____ Tel.: _____

Email: _____

Cheque (Please make cheques payable to Philip Aziz Centre)

Credit Card VISA MasterCard

Card #: _____

Exp.: _____ Signature: _____

To donate online www.philipazizcentre.ca
(Tax receipts will be provided for donations over \$20)



PHILIP AZIZ CENTRE
FOR HOSPICE CARE



emily's house
a special place for kids

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For more, visit: philipazizcentre.ca, emilys-house.ca, and/or facebook.com/PhilipAzizCentre/.



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From the C.E.O.'s Desk's: Rauni Salminen

Together, over the past year, we have had the opportunity to offer hospice care, that supports quality of life, lived fully to its natural end, to hundreds of children, families and adults through our two programs – Emily's House children's hospice and Philip Aziz Centre (PAC) visiting hospice.



Rauni Salminen, CEO, with Abigail Lendvai and Julianne De Gara at the University of Toronto, Trinity College - Class of 2016 Charity Ball.

We are excited about what is in store over the coming months for Emily's House, PAC, and all involved in hospice palliative care for children and adults. A national committee has been formed and tasked with creating a sustainable, well-funded and researched framework for a palliative care strategy in this country. This is an opportunity for Canada to demonstrate leadership in the revision and development of current and future evidence-based norms and standards of practice in hospice palliative care. The number of deaths in Canada is expected to increase 33% by the year 2020 and the current number of Canadians having access to hospice palliative care is estimated at 15%. These two **statistics clearly demonstrate that while hundreds of thousands of Canadians will experience the need for access to**

quality, coordinated, integrated, and comprehensive palliative care services, the system will not be prepared to undertake this challenge. This is why an investment in a national strategy needs to be made now to ensure that our health care system can meet these forthcoming demands.

Emily's House/PAC is committed to progressive development in our core capabilities this year, including: communications, innovation, advocacy, outreach, partnership, research, education and strategic service development. Our goal is to ensure skilled, seamless, well-coordinated and timely access to palliative care services in both residential hospice, as well as community visiting hospice settings; and, a greater public awareness and

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Many Compassionate Hands Do Make Light Work! Emily's House / PAC Volunteers



This season volunteers in our PAC Community Client Care Program and at Emily's House have helped more than ever, at events, doing deliveries, grocery shopping and more. Whether a volunteer's valuable time was spent on client visits/care, or preparing for celebrations, their efforts are sincerely appreciated. "There is just so much we can't do without your help!" says Amanda, our Manager of Volunteer Services.

Updates:

1. Our Youth Advisory Council welcomed four new members. They are getting ready for **Hike for Hospice 2017** after helping with Emily's House children's events this season! Thank You to "Princess Parties by Simone" for sending lovely Princesses and Batman to YAC's Fantasy Fundraiser in support of client care programming.
2. Professional Development Days and Volunteer Skills Share Nights are scheduled.
3. Exciting new programs like our HIV and Michael Garron Hospital Volunteer Teams are active and supporting more people in need through PAC.

Stay Tuned for:

1. **Hike for Hospice 2017**, register as a volunteer team!
2. Philip Aziz Centre is taking part in **Opening Doors Toronto** this March 2017 in support of our HIV Program.
3. To volunteer for Emily's House March Break Camp, email amandam@philipazizcentre.ca.
4. Core Training starts on Feb. 15th @ 6 p.m.
5. After winter, the next training sessions are scheduled for May and June 2017.

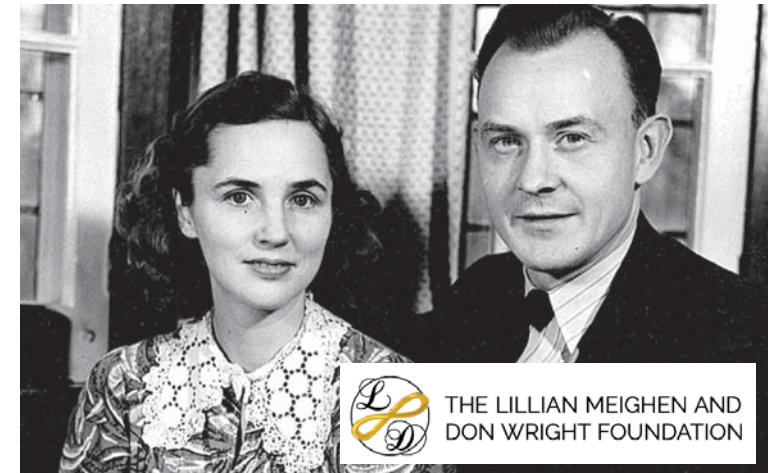
For more volunteer updates, visit: www.philipazizcentre.ca/already-a-volunteer, or <https://www.facebook.com/PhilipAzizCentre/>

Donor Profile: The Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation

The Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation has a mission to relieve suffering and enhance the quality of life of vulnerable people, including women, children, those in need of end-of-life hospice care, and, children with disabilities. Emily's House is grateful to the foundation for their second year of leadership funding at \$74,000+ per year.

The **Emily's House Daily Play and Art Therapies Program**, presented by **The Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation** is funded in its entirety by the foundation in both 2016 and 2017. The foundation is also the lead donor for our **Music Therapy Program**. Their support for our hospice programs helps make play, recreation, art and music therapies available to children, and helps remove barriers to enjoying a "normalized" childhood.

Priscilla Wright, Honorary Patron of The Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation, explains: "I first learned of Emily's House through a newspaper article, and was truly moved. Consequently, I and two other Directors of our Foundation went to see it and were given a full tour. It is hard to describe the aura of caring at Emily's House and we decided that we'd like to assist in some way. The programs we are sponsoring are geared to helping the remaining lives of these precious children, to be full of play and the blessing of music, something my parents



would so fully support. Thank you, Emily's House, for being there and providing such a haven for those in this difficult position."

Lillian Meighen was a Canadian philanthropist and the daughter of Canadian Prime Minister, Arthur Meighen, and his wife Isabel. Lillian was married to music teacher/composer **Don Wright**. With thanks to **The Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation**, we witness daily that recreation is therapeutic for our children, and adds immeasurably to their quality of life.

Events for Your Calendar: Save the Dates and Check Our Website Year-round for Details and Updates



- CTI – Epilogue Winter Outdoor Classic (Feb 23/17)
- Grace Manning Memorial 3-on-3 Hockey Tournament (Apr 1/17)
- Toronto Hike for Hospice (May 7/17)
- Healing Cycle Ride (June 11/17)
- Host Your Own Fundraising Event: If you, your hockey buddies, your work team, school group or collection of friends are considering hosting a fundraiser for Emily's House / PAC, please contact us.

Monthly donations provide year-round support for consistent programming, care and support. Please consider.

For more on fundraising event updates, visit: www.philipazizcentre.ca or <https://www.facebook.com/PhilipAzizCentre/>.