



2022 Impact Report

Supporting families in times of need.



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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Over the past 11 years we have supported over 7,000 families dealing with unimaginable medical circumstances that require them to travel away from home.

In partnership with our community and friends of our mission, we are privileged to have provided safe, warm, accessible, and affordable accommodation. Thanks to our donors, we provide comfort to families in need – at a considerable savings to those families compared to hotel stays with restaurant meals. We remain committed to our vision of supporting families requiring our unique services, as we are one-of-a-kind in Canada and 100% donor supported with no government funding.

Hamilton hospitals are Centres of Excellence for a variety of medical procedures. People from all over may end up being treated here. If you have come from afar in these circumstances, your best results come from having your family close by to provide emotional support. Our staff and volunteers are exceptional at delivering first class accommodation in a supportive environment, right next to the hospital so each family can focus on their loved one.

Your generosity made this possible, and we couldn't be more thankful for your continued support.

Russ Rowlands
Board Chair

Mary Hatt
Co-Director





OUR STORY

Mark Preece was a young, respected physician working in the Intensive Care Unit at Hamilton Health Sciences until his untimely death in 1997. While undergoing specialized cancer treatment in the United States, Mark's family and friends experienced first-hand the value and support of a welcoming, affordable residence during such a difficult time.

In honour of Mark, friends and colleagues worked for years to bring The Mark Preece Family House into existence. It's an honour to commemorate his life by supporting families in need, just like his who have a loved one in trauma care.

THE ORGANIZATION

Friends and colleagues of the late Dr. Mark Preece formed the organization, Hospital Family Houses of Ontario to achieve their goal of opening The Mark Preece Family House, which opened in April 2011. The organization is incorporated and has attained charitable status.

OUR HOUSE

More than 37% of inpatients who are cared for at the Hamilton General Hospital come from outside of Hamilton. As a regional centre for trauma, burns and cardiac surgery, more than 225 patients are air-lifted to the hospital each year.

Until we opened our doors, there had been no affordable place for patients' families to stay near their bedside. This created an unnecessarily stressful situation for those involved. It is our mandate to alleviate the extra stress and financial pressures of families finding affordable accommodations while dealing with a major health crisis.

OUR MISSION

To provide comfortable and caring, temporary, and affordable accommodations to out of town families attending to a loved one in critical care at a Hamilton hospital.

THE AGGETTS

February marked one year since we received that fateful phone call informing us that our daughter and granddaughter had been hit by a drunk driver. In shock and disbelief, we quickly packed our bags and began a five hour journey that we did not return from for nine months.

When we arrived at the Hamilton General Hospital, our three other children and their families were already there. We learned that we would be saying goodbye to our 12 year old granddaughter and that our daughter had survived surgery to address her multiple breaks and that her head and vascular trauma would need careful monitoring.

The outcome was uncertain. We were frozen, numb and seeking escape from our intolerable present state. But as parents, we had a job to do. Our vigil began immediately and our lives became utterly and irrevocably changed.

A hospital social worker gave our son information about The Mark Preece Family House and he guided us there to register for a room. The House became our ship in the harbour. The staff were there to listen, give assuring words and help in any way they could.

The physical construction of the building had been thoughtfully designed allowing us the privacy of our own bedroom but also the opportunity to share experiences with other guests in the common kitchen and homey living room. These were occasions of impromptu therapy sessions for us. We found hope and strength in their stories and a chance to express our grief in an understanding atmosphere. By their example, we were able to extend the same sincere peace to others traumatized by their circumstances.

By mid-March, our daughter's condition had improved. No longer in intensive care but with a lengthy hospital stay ahead of her, we were told that the General was seeking out an outlying hospital where her convalescence could be accommodated. We panicked. We had gotten into a comfortable routine. The House was one block away from the hospital; we had become friends with the helpful staff, the grocery store was within walking distance and there were laundry facilities on site. Plus, the room rate was reasonable. It had become our home away from home while we spent 11 to 12 hours each day at the hospital.

We were relocated for a month and a half in another community where we lived out of a motel room. Then, our daughter was accepted back to the Regional Rehabilitation Center in Hamilton and we once more took up residence at The House.

Our daughter, Naomi has returned to live in her own home with assistance of PSWs, physical therapy and continued medical care. Progress is slow but she is determined and is now walking with a walker. After nine months of living on the edge, Paul and I returned home to Minden, ON to resume our lives and focus on our self care. **We are forever thankful for the role The Mark Preece Family House played in our lives when life seemed so desperate.** Although we hope to never again need this valued service to those in need, we thank God for its conception and wish every community had one.



OUR IMPACT



7,500

TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED
SINCE OPENING



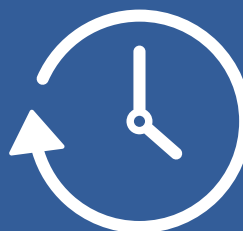
4,582

TOTAL NIGHTS
STAYED BY FAMILIES



5.9 NIGHTS

AVERAGE STAY



249 DAYS

LONGEST STAY



650+ HOURS

OF VOLUNTEER
TIME IN 2022



22% OF GUESTS

LIVE OVER
4 HOURS AWAY

THE SAJKOWSKI FAMILY

When Cheryl Sajkowski arrived at the Mark Preece Family House in July 2021, she had already been in Hamilton with her husband Stephen (Steve) for about a month. She had been staying in a hotel and while he was receiving treatment was referred to The House by staff at the Hamilton General Hospital.

Steve had been diagnosed with a brain tumour, which was then determined to be Lymphoma and was receiving treatment at the Juravinski Cancer Centre. Cheryl stayed with us in one of our two-bed rooms so their children and other families would be able to stay as well from time to time. She visited Steve almost every day during visiting hours, or “until they kicked me out.” During cancer treatments, including chemotherapy and stem cell therapy, he suffered multiple infections, a bout of pneumonia, and a fall, which only exasperated his condition.

Steve was discharged from the hospital after completing his treatments, but unfortunately, he was readmitted in September 2022 after one of his lungs collapsed. During his stay, a new Lymphoma mass was discovered in his brain, and the cancer had returned. It was a shorter stay for Cheryl this time, and Cheryl checked out of The House and returned to Guelph with Steve on September 16, 2022. Sadly, despite his fierce determination, Steve passed away from cancer on Oct 27.

It was a roller coaster of emotions for Cheryl and her family, but she says that staying at The Mark Preece Family House meant “so much to be close to him.” She appreciated that during her stay at The House she got the chance to “take a break” and come back to take a nap or get something to eat. Cheryl was one of the first guests to stay at The House after the shutdown due to COVID-19, and as she describes it, “basically moved in” for 248 days.

If she had not been referred, she would have had to continue commuting for over an hour each way to and from Guelph. Cheryl was grateful to find out that The House had laundry facilities available to her because she had been going home once a week to do it. She says that it was great to have because “I needed it.” She also appreciated having a kitchen available and says having snacks and treats “was wonderful to always have something there” when she left for the hospital in the morning. She also says, “Thyme4Dinner was fantastic” and hosted one herself during her stay.

Cheryl says that she is appreciative for all of the support that she received during her stay, both from the staff and volunteers and from the other guests. She still texts and talks to other former guests and volunteers from her time at The House and says it helped to “have someone to talk to who was in the same boat.” **She says that The Mark Preece Family House has “created a tight-knit family”, and that she will always be grateful to The House for being there for her.**



CHERYL SAJKOWSKI

GOLF4LIFE

The Golf4Life flagship fundraising event pre-dates the building of the House and is our longest standing fundraising event. Golf4Life has been happening for over 25 years and has seen involvement from Mark Preece himself as well as Wayne Gretzky.

Over the years there have been many committee members who have worked tirelessly to make this event a success. We wouldn't be where we are today without our Golf4Life event.



FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial statements of Hospital Family Houses of Ontario for the year ended December 31, 2022 were audited by Pettinelli Mastroluisi LLP and are available on our website. This report should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements.

REVENUE

During the 2022 fiscal year, the organization generated revenues of \$664,897.

EXPENSES

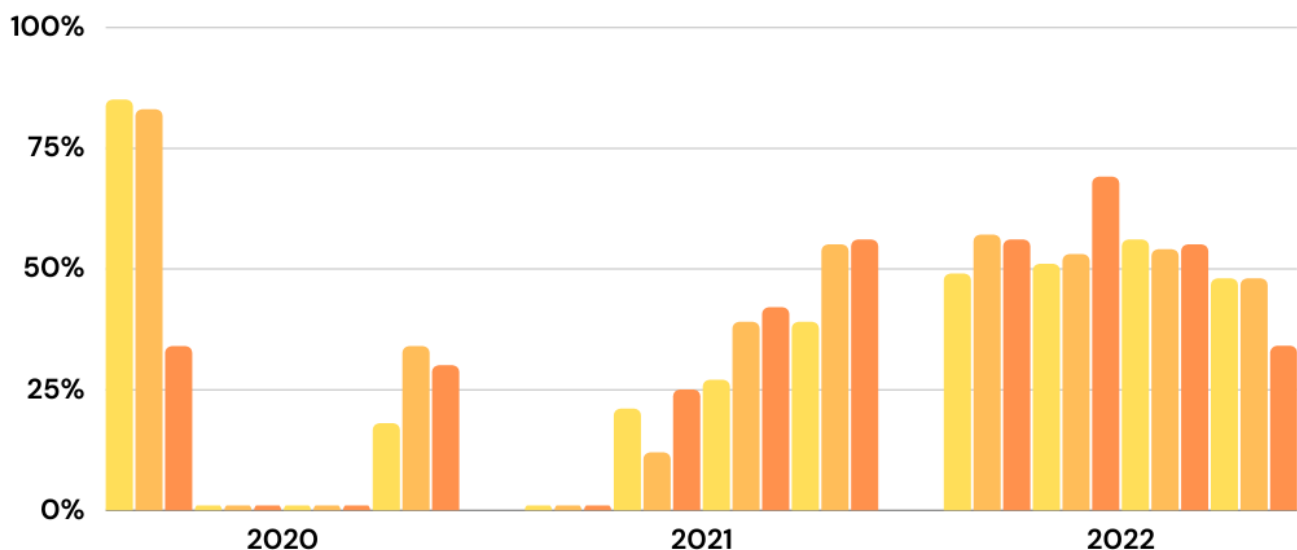
Expenditures incurred during the fiscal year totalled \$801,778. Deficiency of revenue over expenses totalled (\$136,881).

MAJOR FUNDRAISING

The 25th anniversary of Golf4Life was a great success and raised revenues of \$78,500 with a net income of \$52,000 after expenses.

OCCUPANCY RECOVERY

Occupancy for 2022 was at 53% as we continue to recover from the pandemic. This is an improvement over 2021 where occupancy was at 35%. Restrictions to visitors at the hospital meant that we had less people staying at the House than before the pandemic where occupancy would typically be between 75% – 80%.





THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

\$5,000+

Anonymous Foundation
Coombs & Lutz
Fiera Capital Corporation
Mr & Mrs Edward & Carole Walzak
Turkstra Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. David and Annette Carruth
Wagner Turkstra Lumber Company Ltd
Mr. Mark Fuller
Grigsby Family Foundation

\$2,500 – \$4,999

Bayshore Foundation
Losani Homes Ltd
Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP
O.N.E. for Freight
AnswerPlus
Ontario REALTORS Care Foundation
GO Resilient Canada
Virk Personal Injury Law
Nora's Gift Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Blake & Susan Hutcheson

\$1,001 – \$2,499

Golf4Life Auction
J.A.Macdonald (London) Ltd.
Ms Janet Lachance
Mackesy, Smye LLP
EII Limited
Cindy Krul
Canada Online Giving Foundation

To make a donation to Mark Preece Family House, visit

www.markpreecehouse.ca



FOUNDATION REPAIR

The Mark Preece Family House was built more than a century ago and as is usually the case with older buildings, significant capital repairs are required from time to time. In February 2021, it was determined that significant repairs were needed to the foundation of The Mark Preece Family House.

An engineer was brought in to investigate a rodent issue that had been identified in The House. During the investigation, it became apparent that the House's foundation needed repairs to stop water damage, leaking, and potential foundation failure. Years of exposure to sun and weather, along with snow and salt spray, had significantly contributed to the deterioration on the south side of the building.

A further investigation was conducted in late May 2021 to develop recommendations for rodent and pest infestations, ground water infiltration, moisture problems, and structural concerns.

Finally, in the fall of 2022, Cochren Foundation & Repair Company completed construction on the project at a cost of about \$45,000. Thankfully, there were no structural issues with the foundation but if the issues with the water had been allowed to continue, more and more erosion would have occurred and it would have been a much bigger issue.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our House and we simply couldn't fulfill our mission without them. Whether volunteering on the board, serving a meal with Thyme4Dinner, greeting guest families, or helping out at a fundraiser, each and every volunteer is incredibly valuable.

Over the years, the loyalty of our volunteers has kept us going.



CURRENT STAFF

Mary Hatt

Co-Director + Finance & Operations

Kate Tansley *(on leave)*

Co-Director + Development & Communications

Chris Pelletier

Communications & Development Specialist

Lyn Kinnaird

Volunteer & Family Service Manager

Virginia Cummings

Family Service Supervisor

Kathryn Gammon

Family Service Coordinator

Melissa Adams

Family Service Coordinator

Crystal Rivers

Family Service Coordinator

Angela Millar

Family Service Coordinator

Ellen Newman

Family Service Coordinator

Nicole Bertrand

Family Service Coordinator

Jennifer Lintner

Housekeeping

Marites Pangilinan

Housekeeping

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Russ Rowlands

Treasurer

Andy Vanin

Vice Chair

Tim Craik

Director

Meaghan Drury

Director

Michelle Hutton

Director

Louise MacRae

Director

Sravanti Mudunuri

Director

Shelley Marr-Mouck

Director

Domenic Perri

Director

Yvonne Rieck

Director

David Carruth

Director

Kaitlin Guarasci

Director

Leigh McFadden

Director



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