



The  
Mark Preece  
Family House

# 2024 Impact Report

Supporting families in times of need.

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## Leadership Message

The Mark Preece Family House provides a safe, affordable, and accessible place to stay for families traveling to Hamilton to be with loved ones receiving care in any of the city's incredible hospitals.

Through 2024, we served almost 700 families who stayed a combined 5,700 nights at the House. Pause for a minute to consider the magnitude of those statistics, and what our mission might mean to those families, who would otherwise be forced to stay in hotels or drive for hours and hours every day to be with their loved ones. Our average stay is approximately five nights, and our longest stay through 2024 was 261 nights. If you've been to the House, you can appreciate the difference that an empathetic environment might make to families in duress.

We're able to fulfil this mission thanks largely to our donors and sponsors. The Mark Preece House receives no public funding, so to uphold the affordable component of our mission, we rely on private, foundation, and corporate support to keep this old but beautiful House running. Annual events like our Golf4Life tournament and Fall for Beer social mixer help bring this community of supporters together, and give us (the House and the Board) a chance to thank them—you—for making our mission possible.

And though it occurred in February 2025, the House is proud and excited to welcome our new Executive Director, Patti Majcher, to our mission. Patti brings a wealth of knowledge and a deep passion for that mission, and her insight and care are already making positive changes that will be seen in these pages next year.

I'd like to thank our volunteers and staff for doing the real work of our mission; our donors and sponsors for making that work possible; our network of referring healthcare professionals for guiding guests to our door; and my fellow Board members for their tireless efforts in the background. We all serve the mission in our own way, and together we make lives better.

**Russ Rowlands** Board Chair



## OUR 2024 IMPACT



668

TOTAL FAMILIES  
SERVED IN 2024



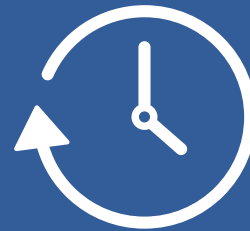
5,724

TOTAL NIGHTS  
STAYED BY FAMILIES



4.65 NIGHTS

AVERAGE STAY



261 NIGHTS

LONGEST STAY



1,360 HOURS

OF VOLUNTEER  
TIME IN 2024



23% OF GUESTS

LIVE OVER  
3 HOURS AWAY





# Finding Comfort Beyond the Hospital Walls

A Survivor's Story at The Mark Preece Family House

When a fire and explosion left him with third-degree burns over 47% of his body, the last thing Kelley Laflamme or his family expected was to find a sense of peace, community, and healing just steps away from the hospital. But that's what they found at The Mark Preece Family House.

After being admitted to Hamilton General Hospital, Laflamme, from Perth, Ontario, spent over six months undergoing intensive treatment and surgeries. The physical toll was immense, but the emotional weight on his family was just as heavy. For his loved ones, being able to stay at MPFH became more than just temporary housing. It was a space to breathe. A space to cope. And a space to connect.

"My sister and my mom would cook with the other guests. They wouldn't talk, but they would cook, and they'd share ingredients, and they'd share each other's meals. There was a language barrier, but it's a good way of coping through cooking and everything."

Though Kelley was in recovery, he was able to visit the House several times. “It gave me a break from the hospital. Just being wheeled over and having coffee here felt like therapy.”

His sister flew in from Japan on short notice, completely panicked after hearing the news. The House gave her a place to stay nearby where she could be close, involved, and grounded. His father, initially so shaken he left his hotel room mid-stay without collecting his things, found calm and comfort at the House.

*“It gave me a break from the hospital. Just being wheeled over and having coffee here felt like therapy.”*

As he healed physically, the relationships he built during his stay helped him heal emotionally. From late-night conversations with other guests to small but profound moments of connection, the House became a haven of humanity.

During a return visit for treatment, Kelley stayed at MPFH and interacted with other guests saying, “Last time, I had a conversation with this lady. Her husband had suffered significant burns as well, and she just recognized some of the injuries and was curious about how it would fare. I told her what to expect attitude wise, reaction to the medication, and everything.” Laflamme continued, “It’s nice to talk to people because it’s like they just want to talk and not necessarily about their problems, but they understand that you are facing problems as well.”

After returning for laser treatment and follow-up surgeries, Kelley sees his visits to Hamilton differently. What was once a city filled with painful memories has become a place of comfort. “The staff and volunteers at The Mark Preece Family House don’t talk to you like a patient or a guest. It’s like getting a call from your aunt, asking when you’re coming by for the weekend. That warmth—that feeling of home—is something I’ll never forget.”

*During his recovery, a total of seven members of Kelley’s family stayed at The Mark Preece Family House before he was released from the hospital.*

*For his loved ones, being able to stay at MPFH became more than just temporary housing. It was a space to breathe. A space to cope. And a space to connect.*





# Raising a Glass for a Great Cause

Fall For Beer at Shawn & Ed Brewing Co.



It was a great evening of food, friends, and beer on November 4th for our 9th Annual Fall For Beer fundraising event. Shawn & Ed Brewing Co. in Dundas provided an amazing venue for the event, with delicious beer on tap.

The evening kicked off with a warm welcome from Mayor Andrea Horwath, and Rockton Lions President, Pat Evangelisto, spoke about the Lions' involvement with the House as one of our longest serving providers for Thyme For Dinner.

The evening featured a performance by local band Corner Pocket, art by caricaturist Cartoon Bob, a photo booth by Betty Lou Photobooth, and a fantastic Silent Auction.

Thank you to our committee members, volunteers, and everyone else who helped make Fall For Beer 2024 such a success! **Together, we raised more than \$15,000** to support The Mark Preece Family House. Save the date for our next Fall For Beer event on November 4, 2025.



# Hitting the Links to Support Our Families

At Flamborough Golf & Country Club



More than 100 golfers took to the links at the Flamborough Hills Golf Club on Thursday, May 30th, 2024 for the 27th Annual Golf4Life fundraising tournament in support of The Mark Preece Family House.

Golfers enjoyed perfect weather and great company, **raising more than \$55,000 towards the day-to-day operations of the House.** The new 'premium package' offered golfers a free mulligan and access to contests such as the Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin, as well as the debut of the Marshmallow Drive.

Golf4Life continues to be a much-loved event as it allows us to reunite with so many of our long-time donors and supporters.







## Cooking with Care



Spending long days at the hospital bedside of a loved one brings immense stress and emotional exhaustion. The last thing on anyone's mind is cooking a meal. That's why returning to The Mark Preece Family House to find a lovingly prepared, home-cooked meal can make such a difference. This is the heart of our 'Thyme for Dinner' program.

Throughout the past year, we have been so grateful to the number of groups and organizations who have walked through our doors to prepare a nourishing meal for our families. After a long and difficult day at the hospital, guests deeply appreciate the comfort of a warm, homemade dinner and the kindness behind it.

Long-time supporters such as the Rockton Lions Club and the Retired ICU Nurses of St. Joe's Hospital have been steadfast in their commitment to the program. In 2024, we were also delighted to welcome new volunteers, including Christian Public Service (Canada).

We also saw a wonderful collaboration in the kitchen with Marisa Mariella of Marisa's Easy Kitchen, who partnered with the YMCA Newcomer Youth Mentorship Program and the Stoney Creek New Horizons Seniors Club to provide several delicious meals.

Volunteers often share how rewarding their experience is. It's amazing to see firsthand how much their efforts mean to families in crisis.

One of the greatest strengths of the Thyme for Dinner program is its flexibility. Whether it's a one-time event or a regular commitment, groups can participate as their schedules allow. **It's a meaningful team-building opportunity for businesses, a fun activity for family and friends, and a powerful way to give back to the community.**



# FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial statements of Hospital Family Houses of Ontario for the year ended December 31, 2024 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 2024 fiscal year, the House generated revenues of \$999,522. Excess of revenues over expenses totaled \$125,799.

## EXPENSES

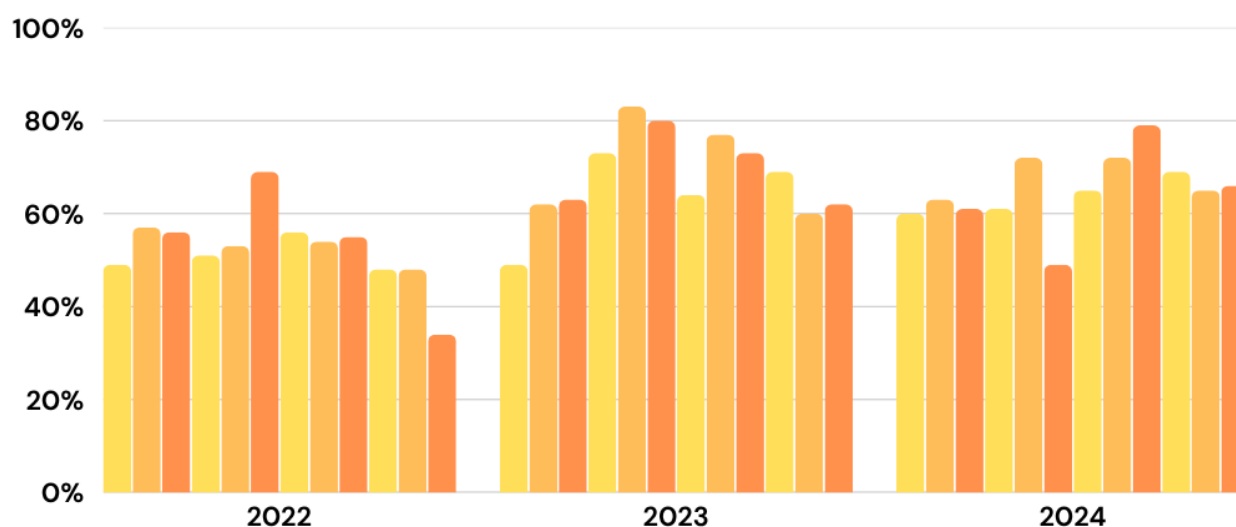
Expenditures incurred during the fiscal year totalled \$873,723.

## MAJOR FUNDRAISING

The 27th Golf4Life was a great success and Fall for Beer continues to be an exciting fundraiser for the House. After expenses, we also raised a total of \$84,037 through community fundraisers.

## HOUSE OCCUPANCY

Occupancy for 2024 averaged 65% over the year, with the highest occupancy in May, August and September.





## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

### \$100,000+

Anonymous

Anonymous

Hewitt Foundation

### \$10,000 – \$20,000

Christine Wilfing

The Carruth Family Trust

### \$5,000 – \$9,999

Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Dr. C. Muhn

Mark Fuller

Bayshore Foundation

Fred Grigsby

The George Lunan  
Foundation

Turkstra Lumber  
Foundation\*

Hamilton Health  
Sciences Foundation

Doane Grant Thornton LLP

### \$2,000 – \$4,999

The Keg  
Hamilton/Waterdown/Brantford

Mark Carruth

StoneRidge Insurance  
Brokers

Craig Smeda

Aird & Berlis LLP

White Pine Waste  
Services

The Sisters of St. Joseph's  
of Canada

CCXIT Computer Services

Baldeep Virk

Shelley Marr-Mouck

Pasquale & Anita Paletta  
Family Fund\*

Rockton Lions Club

AnswerPlus

Nora's Gift Foundation

*\*Donations through the  
Hamilton Community Foundation*

*To make a donation to Mark Preece Family House,  
please visit [www.markpreecehouse.ca](http://www.markpreecehouse.ca)*



## 2024 STAFF

### **Mary Hatt**

Co-Director + Finance & Operations

### **Chris Pelletier**

Communications & Development Specialist

### **Lyn Kinnaird**

Volunteer & Family Service Manager

### **Virginia Cummings**

Family Service Supervisor

### **Family Service Coordinators**

Melissa Adams  
Myka Adams  
Mamode Ayeye  
Kathryn Gammon  
Colleen Murphy  
Crystal Rivers

### **Housekeeping**

Jennifer Lintner (on leave)  
Marites Pangilinan  
Nicole Phillips  
Syris St. Pierre

*List reflects staff as of December 31, 2024.*

## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Russ Rowlands**  
Chair

**Daniel Walzak**  
Treasurer

**David Carruth**  
Director

**Melanie Dugard**  
Director

**Kaitlin Guarasci**  
Director

**Louise MacRae**  
Director

**Shelley Marr-Mouck**  
Director

**Leigh McFadden**  
Director

**Sravanti Mudunuri**  
Director

**Yvonne Rieck**  
Director

**Jenya Tate**  
Director

**Baldeep Virk**  
Director

*In February 2025, we also welcomed our new Executive Director, Patti Majcher.*



## Because of you, we're here when families need it most.

As you've seen throughout this report, every overnight stay, every shared meal, and every moment of comfort at the Mark Preece Family House is made possible by people like you.

Join us in making sure every caregiver has a place to rest, recharge, and feel supported during the most difficult days of their lives.

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**To donate, volunteer, or learn more about how you can help,  
visit [www.markpreecehouse.ca](http://www.markpreecehouse.ca) or scan the QR code below.**



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