

# Serenity House News

Fall 2004

Volume 1

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## Letter from the President

In the 2 years we have been actively planning our hospice, I have never been more encouraged that we are on the right track. We definitely have had to learn patience in practice but I know we are building a strong foundation which will last. With the completion of the Needs and Feasibility Study and receiving the charitable status, more funding and awareness of the role we intend to play in palliative care is starting

to materialize. We have already been building partnerships within the community and I am encouraged that in the near future, the hospice will be an alternative to staying in a hospital or staying at home. 2004 has been a very active time in the 'behind the scenes' for our Board, 2005 will bring it all public and move us even closer to our goal. The biggest item on our agenda in the coming months is our

Capital Campaign. We are excited and challenged for our future plans. I cannot close without saying I would not be looking back and being so energized for the next phase without the dedication and drive of the other Board Members standing right beside me. Thank you for all your hard work.

*Sincerely,  
Peggy Gillespie, President*

## FACTS

**F**amilies are an integral part of quality end of life care. Currently, nearly 3 million Canadians care for someone with a long-term illness. Serenity House Hospice realizes the importance of families in the decision-making process and aims to make respite care available to family caregivers.

**A**lleviating pain and managing symptoms are only 1 facet of palliative care. Our mission for Serenity House Hospice is to provide physical, emotional, social and

spiritual support to those who are caring for or living with a terminal illness.

**C**urrently 80% of Canadians want to die at home yet 75% of Canadians die in Institutions due to lack of 24 hour home care services. Serenity House Hospice will provide a home like setting with 24 hour care for those who do not want to and music therapy if the need is there.

**T**he survey that was conducted by Western

University for Serenity House Hospice concluded that 94.4% of all Elgin County residents believe that a hospice could be effective in meeting the needs to terminally ill people. Serenity House Hospice looks forward to meeting those needs.

**S**erenity House Hospice needs to raise 2.5 million dollars to build and maintain a hospice for Elgin County residents. Your support today takes us one more step forward. And after all "the sweetest mile is the mile home"



## Hikers Help Hospice

People who pledged to Hike for Hospice can rest assured the money was well earned.

in Elgin County. About \$2,000 was collected in pledges.

for Hospice's ability to raise awareness that counts as much as the dollars it brought in. Elgin County doesn't currently have a hospice facility where people can choose to die on their own terms outside of a hospital setting.

Thirty walkers of all ages braved deplorable cold, windy, wet weather to take part in the hospice fundraiser by trekking three kilometers along the Trans Canada Trail in St. Thomas. "We were just tickled pink, look at the day!" said an enthused Mary Lou Stanley, treasurer for Serenity House Hospice Inc.

It was the first time the Elgin group participated in the national fundraiser which served as a kickoff for the National Hospice, Palliative Care Week. "We had mothers coming out with kids in push carts and wagons and we had older people," said Stanley. For the Elgin hospice group, it's the Hike

"Our goal is to build a residential hospice for residential hospice care. People want a choice," said Stanley.



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*"We had mothers coming out with kids in push carts and wagons as well as older people."*



Barb Modesto, left, who collected \$311 in pledges and Lori Clarke, who netted \$210, sport appropriated headgear Sunday before venturing out on the Hike For Hospice fundraiser. More than 25 walkers participated, raising an estimated \$2,000. (T-J photo\*)

St. Thomas Times-Journal – May 3, 2004

*"A big thank you to the many volunteers, local businesses, and generous individuals whose contributions help make Serenity House happen."*