

Heart House Hospice Celebrates National Hospice Palliative Care Week with Announcement of New Community Education & Wellness Program

More than \$100,000 in grant funding from The Baxter International Foundation to support expanded in-home hospice supports for palliative individuals and their families

Mississauga, ON, May 9, 2014: With the support of a grant of \$100,818.48 from The Baxter International Foundation, Heart House Hospice is pleased to announce the launch of a new Community Education and Wellness Program to expand in-home health and wellness supports to individuals, families and community partners managing life limiting illness. The foundation's grant enables Heart House Hospice to hire a Wellness Coordinator who will coordinate all health and wellness events within the organization including respite and complementary therapies, and individual and group education to support palliative pain management and caregiver stress.

According to the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, only 16-30% of Canadians who die currently have access or receive hospice palliative and end-of-life care services, depending on where they live in Canada. Even fewer receive grief and bereavement services. When asked, most people have indicated that they would prefer to die at home in the presence of loved ones, yet almost 70% of Canadian deaths occur in a hospital.

“The expansion of our programs to include the Community Education and Wellness Program enables us to support individuals and families in our communities who wish to die at home or remain at home as long as medically possible,” says Theresa Greer, Executive Director, Heart House Hospice. “Pain and symptom management is primarily addressed with medication and medication interventions. Heart House Hospice will now be offering complementary therapy programs on a consistent basis that addresses physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness as an additional intervention to these traditional methods. Many times physical pain is exacerbated by emotional and psychological stress. Alternative therapies and spiritual support are often effective in address this existential distress.”

There are three goals associated with the success of Heart House Hospice's Community Education and Wellness Program. Firstly, to enhance in home services through the provision of complementary therapies to palliative individuals that would support them with pain management and in their efforts to die at home. Our second goal is to provide respite and complementary therapies to address caregiver stress. The third goal is to provide education to terminally ill individuals and caregivers through group support and education.

“Founded by a palliative care professional in 1985, Heart House Hospice takes an individualized approach to the health of our clients and community. We are so pleased to take this time to celebrate this grant from The Baxter International Foundation and to honour the vision of our founder, Ms. Laurie Bennett who began assisting people with terminal illness in their homes at her dining room table,” continued Greer.

About Heart House Hospice

Heart House Hospice exists to make a meaningful difference in someone’s end of life experience. We do this by providing the highest quality end of life support to our terminally ill clients. Our services are personalized, focused, flexible and responsive to the individuals and families we support. Our staff is well trained, professional and compassionate. Our services are mindful of cost and focused on providing a service that is valued by the community and the health care system.

About The Baxter International Foundation

The Baxter International Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Baxter International Inc., helps organizations increase access to healthcare worldwide. The foundation, established in 1981, focuses exclusively on increasing access to healthcare, particularly for the disadvantaged and underserved, in and near where Baxter employees live and work. Through its grant program, The Baxter International Foundation funds programs or projects that improve the access, quality and cost-effectiveness of direct healthcare services.

In 2013, the foundation donated nearly \$3 million, including grants to increase access to healthcare worldwide, prize programs that recognize excellence in community service and healthcare research, a scholarship program that contributes to the education of Baxter employees' children, and support of employees' philanthropic efforts through the Foundation's Dollars for Doers and Matching Gifts programs. A full listing of The Baxter International Foundation grants awarded in 2013 is available at www.baxter.com/grants.

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