



## *Huron Hospice Volunteer Service – Who Are We?*

Huron Hospice Volunteer Service was established in 1993 as a newly formed agency from existing programs in Clinton, Goderich and Seaforth. The collaborative effort allowed for a broader area to

- Recruit, educate, co-ordinate and support volunteers to provide palliative services
- Provide bereavement support through individual counselling
- Maintain a volunteer base
- Collaborate with other agencies to train volunteers and share resources

The following programs and services are offered

- **Education** for volunteers, community and health care providers and interested parties in Huron County
- **Grief Recovery Outreach Programs** supplying bereavement support by Certified Grief Recovery Specialists
- **Cancer support groups** for residents of Huron County
- **Rainbows**, a bereavement program for children grieving a loss through death, separation, divorce and family transitions

Huron Hospice applied for a venture grant in 1998, becoming a United Way agency. In 2005, Huron Hospice was approached by the Wingham and Area Palliative Care Board of Directors to consider merging the two agencies. It was decided this was a positive solution for both agencies and the WAPC became known as Huron Hospice, Wingham Site. In 2006, Huron Hospice obtained a Trillium Grant to expand visibility and board representation to Wingham and Goderich.

Fundraising and Public Relations remain our main focus as 30% of our budget must be realized through these activities. The *Hike for Hospice* is one of our major events.

The Hospice movement has exponentially expanded in recent years. So too have the demands for Standardization and Accreditation. We have acquired Level Accreditation and have applied for Level II.

Huron Hospice is an active member of Huron County Palliative Care Committee, South West Regional Palliative Care Committee, the Hospice Association of Ontario, the Ontario Palliative Care Association and the Canadian Palliative Care Association.

Our key partners include Physicians, Health Care Professionals, the Canadian Cancer Society, LHINS, C.C.A.C., London Regional Cancer Centre, VON Palliative Care Program, St. Elizabeth Nursing, Alzheimer Society, Victim Services, Care Partners, as well as Clergy/Pastoral Care and Psychiatric Services within our catchment area.