

FOUR LISAARD & INNISFREE HOSPICE AWARD RECIPIENTS CELEBRATED AT 2022 HPCO CONFERENCE

Kitchener, ON – We are pleased and proud to share that two of our staff members and two of our volunteers accepted prestigious awards at the recent Hospice Palliative Care Ontario (HPCO) annual conference in Toronto. Three of the award recipients were recognized for 2022 successes, and one was recognized for a 2021 achievement due to the pandemic preempting last year's in-person event.

About our Award Winners

Maria Empringham, our Director of Clinical Services, accepted The Joan Lesmond HPCO Scholarship, an award honoring the memory of a nurse, educator, mentor, and life-long learner. This award reflects Maria's excellence in supporting our team; as a former palliative nurse at the bedside, her guidance as a leader is influenced by her wealth of experience. Maria also demonstrates a personal commitment to continuous learning and mentorship, and places great importance on promoting excellence in our care through growth and education. Maria is passionate about the specialized care our palliative team delivers, and she prioritizes and enables a wide variety of learning opportunities for our team to help evolve both their individual practice and our service to residents and families.

Jackie Young, our PSW Lead at Innisfree House, accepted The Life and Death Matters Personal Support Worker Hospice Palliative Care Scholarship. This award acknowledges the invaluable contribution Personal Support Workers provide in supporting excellent care for the dying and their families, and for helping to move the work of quality hospice palliative care forward. Every day, Jackie demonstrates her strong passion for palliative care in the direct service she provides to residents and their families, and the continuous learning she both engages in and promotes with our team. She excels as an educator, care provider, and mentor, and she supports our hospice well outside her role by working on committees, participating in fundraising events, and raising awareness about our work in the community.

Ray Robbins (2021) and **Marj Goodyear** (2022) were both inducted into the June Callwood Circle of Outstanding Volunteers that acknowledges and thanks outstanding volunteers throughout Ontario. Our volunteers are incredibly special people who are vital to the efficient operation of our hospice Houses. Ray is an invaluable resource for us, sharing his time and many talents doing all manner of handywork inside and outside our Houses to keep things running smoothly. Marj is a warm welcome and a friendly, familiar face at Lisaard House, helping family and other visitors feel right at home when they arrive.

"I am so proud of all of our award recipients," says Andrea Binkle, Executive Director, "We know what a great team of staff and volunteers we have helping us Make Moments Matter at Lisaard & Innisfree Hospice, and it's wonderful to see that it's recognized in front of their peers in the wider Ontario hospice care community as well."

About Lisaard & Innisfree Hospice

We strive to bridge the gap between institutional care facilities and home care. Since 2000, Lisaard & Innisfree Hospice has provided compassionate, tranquil care for patients who don't want to spend their final days in hospital, but require more support than can be delivered at home. Our care goals are aimed at relieving suffering and improving the quality of living and dying for those diagnosed with life-limiting illness. To learn more, please visit lisaardandinnisfree.com.

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